

## REGULAR MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

August 26, 2024

A regular meeting of the members of the Board of Trustees of Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held on Monday, August 26, 2024, at 12:30 p.m. at the cooperative headquarters in Blythewood, South Carolina. The following board members were present:

Cynthia E. Able	Timothy L. Hopkins	Mitchell D. Rabon
Robert Entzminger	Donald Keith Lewis	Peggy D. Swearingen
William Michael Good	Robert K. Miles	Ronald D. Friday
Bruce E. Honeycutt	Derial L. Ogburn	

Attorney Ken DuBose was present.

Chairman Mitchell Rabon called the meeting to order. Robert Entzminger gave the invocation.

Swain Whitfield made a presentation and presented information as to rate issues facing cooperatives.

Upon motion made by Derial Ogburn, seconded by Robert Entzminger, motion carried, a Special Called meeting will be set for Monday, September 16, 2024 @ 10:00 AM for the board to receive information as to rate issues, discuss rate issues and any other matter on the agenda.

Upon motion made by Robert K. Miles, seconded by Bruce E. Honeycutt, motion carried, the **minutes of the meeting held on July 22, 2024**, were approved as presented.

Upon motion made by Cynthia Able, seconded by Peggy D. Swearingen, motion carried, **276 new consumers for the month of July** were accepted as members of Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A list of **delinquent accounts totaling \$2,905.05 for the month of July** was presented for consideration for write off as uncollectible. Upon motion made by Bruce E. Honeycutt, seconded by Peggy Swearingen, motion carried, authorization was granted to write these off against the cooperative's reserve for uncollectible accounts.

A list of **deceased patron's estates requesting payment of their capital credits** was presented for consideration. After discussion and upon motion made by Timothy L. Hopkins, seconded by Cynthia Able, motion carried, the following resolution was adopted:

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The estates of 10 deceased members have requested the Board of Directors consider approving the retirement of \$7,436.54 as an administrative convenience to the estates. After reviewing the Cooperative's financial statements and determining whether such retirement will not adversely impact the Cooperative's financial condition, management recommends capital credits totaling \$7,436.54 be approved for payment. In addition, it should be noted that such approval does not obligate this Board or any future Board to retire the capital credits of the estates of deceased members presented at any future date.

**Bruce Bacon, Chief Executive Officer, reviewed, updated, and discussed the following:**

- Monthly financial report. July was a good month for the cooperative financially. Mr. Bacon reported that the cooperative is sound financially and is meeting budget targets for the year.
- Operation Roundup Meeting – at the August 19, 2024, meeting, donations were made to four families and four organizations. The next meeting will be on October 21, 2024. Trustees, Ronald Friday and Cynthia Able, attended the Operation Roundup meeting. These trustees for FEC reported the following regarding Operation Round Up: the meeting was informative, the Round Up board was very engaged and vocal, and did a commendable job.
- Winnsboro & Blythewood Offices will be closed on Monday, September 2, 2024, for Labor Day. Standby personnel will handle outages.
- Upcoming Events:
  - FEC's Christmas Party is set for Saturday, December 7, 2024, at The Columbia Country Club.
  - Regional 2 & 3 meeting is set for October 7-9, 2024, in Columbia, SC.
  - ECSC Winter Conference is set for December 9-11, 2024. Registration is currently not open.
  - Winter School for Directors is set for December 13-17, 2024, in Nashville, TN. Registration is currently not open.

Mitch Rabon presented the Board of Trustees' Committee Appointments for the year 2024-2025 for review. Committee appointments are made by Mr. Rabon as board president and are attached as Exhibit A. The board members reviewed and acknowledged the appointments made.

Mitch Rabon and Bruce Bacon provided an update on **Central Electric Power Cooperative (CEPC)**

- Central plans to engage in mediation as to the Cook settlement regarding accounting disputes and disagreements.

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- Mediation is voluntary and if not successful in resolving issues presented by Central as to Santee Cooper's accounting practices, then the issues would be litigated.
- Wage and Salary increases for Central employees included adjustments to pay grade ranges, cost of living, merit, high performance and promotion, and employee goal achievement program bonuses.

Derial Ogburn provided an update on **The Electric Cooperatives of SC.**

- Discussed and reviewed recommendations by ORS to clarify responsibilities as to anonymous complaints made to ORS concerning cooperative board members posted on-line without any due diligence or verification.
- Anonymous complaints should not be posted on the ORS website unless it is a legitimate verified complaint after investigation and discussed that proposed ORS rules to address the issue appear inadequate.
- Anonymous complaints against a Coop member should not be allowed to be posted on ORS website without due diligence and disclosure.
- Would like the Electric Cooperative Association to request a change to the ORS procedure.
- Mr. Ogburn presented information as to a lack of transparency to members of the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina regarding CEO compensation, expenses, and other related benefits they may have. Other related associations including Central and CEEUS should practice transparency as it is a requirement of Cooperative trustees.

Upon motion made by Derial Ogburn, seconded by Timothy L. Hopkins, motion carried, the following Motion was made:

**MOTION**

That Fairfield Trustees motion for Statewide to adopt a policy of full transparency as to Trustee compensation and expenses and transparency as to the CEO compensation, benefits, and expenses at Statewide and individual cooperatives and cooperative associations. That Statewide sponsor legislation requiring transparency of CEO compensation, benefits, and expenses for Statewide and individual cooperatives and cooperative associations and all related organizations state and national as a result of employment by or a member of a cooperative.

Robert Entzminger provided an update on **CEEUS.**

- There are new CEEUS Cooperative members spread out in Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. The expanded CEEUS cooperative serves an additional 700,000 cooperative members.

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- CEEUS refuses to provide transparency as to the top five (5) employees as to salaries and benefits and this information is not available to members.

Tim Hopkins provided an update on the **Trustee Association**.

- The next Trustee Association meeting will be set sometime in October.
- Mr. Hopkins will set up a meeting with other adjacent cooperative trustees to discuss mutual concerns and issues.

**OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Bruce Bacon presented requests for state office political contributions. Requests were made by candidate Jeffrey Graham, Senate District 35 containing portions of Kershaw County, Sumter County, and Richland County and candidate Russell Lott, Senate District 26 containing Calhoun County and portions of Richland County.
- Mr. Hopkins discussed having a resident senator in Kershaw County.
- Discussed contributions from other coops. FEC will contribute \$1,000.00 to candidate Jeffrey Graham and \$1,000.00 to candidate Russell Lott.

Upon motion made by Keith Lewis, seconded by Ronald Friday, motion carried, the contributions of \$1,000.00 to candidate Jeffrey Graham and \$1,000.00 to candidate Russell Lott, was approved.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Keith Lewis, seconded by Robert Entzminger, motion carried and approved, the meeting was adjourned.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Robert K. Miles, Secretary  
APPROVED

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mitchell D. Rabon, President

EXHIBIT "A"

Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Committee Appointments for The Board of Trustees - 2024 to 2025  
(Note: The Budget Committee Meeting will be held on November 12, 2024)

**Audit & Planning Committee**  
(Engineering & Material)

11:00 AM

Chairperson	Bruce	Honeycutt	
Trustee	Cynthia	Able	
Trustee	Tim	Hopkins	
Trustee	Peggy	Swearingen	
Trustee	Kenny	Miles	
Trustee	Mike	Good	
	Ronald	Friday	

**Budget & Finance Committee**  
(Administrative, General, Office, Security Business & IT)

11:45 AM

Chairperson	Bruce	Honeycutt	
Trustee	Cynthia	Able	
Trustee	Robert	Entzminger	
Trustee	Peggy	Swearingen	
Trustee	Derial	Ogburn	
Trustee	Mike	Good	

**Policy & Operations Committee**  
(Right of Way, Construction & Fleet Management)

1:15 PM

Chairperson	Kenny	Miles	
Trustee	Robert	Entzminger	
Trustee	Derial	Ogburn	
Trustee	Keith	Lewis	
Trustee			
Trustee			

**Public Relations Committee**  
(Member Services & Public Relations)

2:00 PM

Chairperson	Robert	Entzminger	
Trustee	Cynthia	Able	
Trustee	Tim	Hopkins	
Trustee	Keith	Lewis	
Trustee	Ronald	Friday	
Trustee			

**Single Member Districts & By Laws Committee**

2:45 PM

Chairperson	Derial	Ogburn	
Trustee	Keith	Lewis	
Trustee	Tim	Hopkins	
Trustee	Peggy	Swearingen	
Trustee			
Trustee			
Attorney	John	DuBose	

**Benefit Review Committee**

3:30 PM

Chairperson	Tim	Hopkins	
Trustee	Cynthia	Able	
Trustee	Robert	Entzminger	
Trustee	Peggy	Swearingen	
Trustee	Derial	Ogburn	
Trustee	Mike	Good	

**NOTE: Mitch Rabon, the Board Chairman, is the Ex-Officio Member for all committees.**  
Updated per the Board of Trustees Meeting of August 26, 2024.