

**REGULAR MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD
APRIL 21, 2025**

A regular meeting of the members of the Board of Trustees of Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held on Monday, April 21, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. at the cooperative headquarters in Blythewood, South Carolina. The following board members were present:

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

Attorney John K. DuBose, III was present.

President Mitch Rabon called the meeting to order.

Robert Entzminger gave the invocation.

President Rabon welcomed and introduced Erik Marsha, VP of Finance, of Fairfield Electric Cooperative.

- Eric presented a detailed summary of present rates and fees of all products, services, and facility charges offered by FEC. He also noted the price increase of power, materials, and operational costs that the Coop has had to bear. He then presented to the Trustees for consideration his recommended rate increase that will facilitate the price increase and be bearable to the members.
- Rate and Fee adjustments will be presented to the Board of Trustees for a vote in June.

Upon motion made by Derial Ogburn, seconded by Bruce Honeycutt, motion carried, the minutes of the **meeting held on March 24, 2025**, were approved as presented.

Upon motion made by Peggy Swearingen, seconded by Ronald Friday, motion carried, **239 new consumers** for the month of March 2025 were accepted as members of Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A list of **delinquent accounts** totaling \$4,607.48 for the month of March 2025 was presented for consideration for write-off as uncollectible. Upon motion made by Derial Ogburn, seconded by Peggy Swearingen, motion carried, authorization was granted to write these off against the cooperative's reserve for uncollectible accounts.

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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 Hopkins, seconded by Cynthia Able, motion carried, the following resolution was adopted.

The estates of 23 deceased members have requested the Board of Directors to consider approving the retirement of \$13,198.86 as an administrative convenience to the estates. After reviewing the Cooperative's financial statements and determining whether such retirement will adversely impact the Cooperative's financial condition, management recommends capital credits totaling \$13,198.86 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 and discussed the financial status of the Cooperative and reviewed accounting reports with the Board.

- Monthly financial statements and year-to-date financials through the month of March were reviewed.
- Controllable expenses have been accurately budgeted.
- Station and overhead line expenses are over budgeted due to timing of work. The budget is in good shape for these categories.
- Operation Round Up will meet today, April 21st at 4:00 PM
- The Den kai Plant in Camden was discussed.
 - Den kai is conveying the plant to another company that will continue the operations.
- The position of the South Carolina Director on the National Rural Electric Cooperative (NRECA) board of directors will be open.
- There was a report of injuries to New Horizons employees from an accident at a substation.
 - OSHA reporting is required, and the results will be reported to the Cooperative Board for informational purposes.
- Capital Credits Disbursement will occur soon.
 - Checks will be mailed on May 2, 2025.
 - If the disbursement is less than \$75.00, this amount will be credited on the next bill. If the disbursement is more than \$75.00, a check will be mailed to the member.
- Operation Round Up Appointments
 - Jack Watts (same as on Member Advisory)
 - Patricia Jackson

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Upon motion made by Keith Lewis, seconded by Bruce Honeycutt, motion carried, the appointments of Operation Round Up were approved.

President Rabon presented the **2025 Summer School for Directors** in Colorado Springs, Colorado for the dates of July 11-16, 2025 for discussion. Upon motion made by Timothy Hopkins, seconded by Bruce Honeycutt, motion carried, the following were authorized to attend:

Robert Entzminger Ronald Friday

President Rabon presented the **2025 Regions 2 & 3 Meeting** in Biloxi, MS for the dates of October 21-23, 2025 for discussion. Upon motion made by Timothy Hopkins, seconded by Bruce Honeycutt, motion carried, the following were authorized to attend:

Mitchell D. Rabon	Robert Entzminger	Peggy D. Swearingen
Cynthia Able	Derial L. Ogburn	
Ronald D. Friday	Robert K. Miles	

President Rabon presented the **2025 Winter School for Directors** in Nashville, TN for the dates of December 12 – 16, 2025 for discussion. Upon motion made by Timothy Hopkins, seconded by Bruce Honeycutt, motion carried, the following were authorized to attend:

Robert Entzminger	Peggy D. Swearingen	Ronald Friday
Cynthia Able	Derial L. Ogburn	William Michael Good

President Rabon presented the **2025 CFC Forum in New York, New York** for the dates of June 30 – July 2, 2025 for discussion. Upon motion made by Timothy Hopkins, seconded by Bruce Honeycutt, motion carried, the following were authorized to attend:

Robert Entzminger	Peggy D. Swearingen
Cynthia Able	Derial L. Ogburn
Ronald D. Friday	

Mitch Rabon and Bruce Bacon provided an **update on Central Electric Power Cooperative**.

- A Class B Membership is still in discussion.
 - FEC consultants are reviewing Class B membership as a due diligence exercise.
 - In July, more clarity will exist as the precise structure of Class B membership will be revealed in legal documents.

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- CEPC is proposing a every five (5) year cycle for Cooperatives to select Class B membership, with a two (2) year advanced notice requirement.
 - FEC will monitor the situation.
- Data Centers were discussed as a developing issue in the energy supply landscape.

Derial Ogburn provided an **update on The Electric Cooperatives of SC**. Mr. Ogburn reported that there was a meeting on April 3, 2025 in Columbia.

- Financial reviewed; 990 Forms; and Committee reports were received.
- Plans for the Training facility in St. Matthews are proceeding.

The lawsuit in Cherokee County with the City of Gaffney was discussed.

- The status of the energy bill pending before the South Carolina Legislature was discussed.

Robert Entzminger provided an **update on CEEUS, Inc.** Mr. Entzminger reported that the grand opening of the new facility has been rescheduled to October 14, 2025.

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

- The upcoming conference is set for May 7-9, 2025. Trustees are encouraged to attend the conference which is a great opportunity for Trustees to discuss common issues.
- Reported on status of budget.
- The Association only meets quarterly so substantive updates to the Fairfield Cooperative Board are limited.

Old Business:

- Ronald Friday notes that many of the FEC policies have not been updated in several years and he suggested a comprehensive review and update of the personnel policy and manual.
- Keith Lewis inquired about RUS and the roles and services RUS provides for FEC operations. Mr. Bacon provided guidance and distinctions between RUS, CFC and CoBank.

New Business:

- New Director's Orientation. Ronald Friday and Cynthia Able reported on the benefit of the conference and the presentations that occurred at the conference.

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- Management of ROW and liability and risk management best practices were discussed.
- Safety practices were reviewed.
- Audit practices were discussed.
- Bylaw processes were discussed.
- Peggy Swearingen:
 - Independent auditor – recommends that CEOs be present during audit.
 - Member input as to proposed Bylaws.
- Ronald Friday was recognized for his Certificate for Credential Cooperative Director Program from NRECA. The Board congratulated Mr. Friday for his diligent work towards his certifications and education requirements.

Conclusion of meeting:

There being **no further business** to come before the Board, a motion was made by Derial Ogburn, seconded by Ronald Friday, carried and approved, the meeting was adjourned.

Signed: _____
Robert K. Miles, Secretary
APPROVED

ATTEST: _____
Mitchell D. Rabon, President