

*KIT CARSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.*

*MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES*

*July 30, 2024*

*A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc. (KCEC) was called to order by the President, Mr. Bobby Ortega, on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at 9:05 a.m. in the Marcelino Martinez Room of the headquarters building of the Cooperative, Taos, New Mexico. The following Trustees were present:*

*Index*

<i>Russ Coyle</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Martin Dimas</i>	
<i>Cristobal Duran</i>	
<i>Bruce Jassmann</i>	
<i>Manuel Medina</i>	
<i>Bobby Ortega</i>	
<i>Arthur Rodarte</i>	
<i>Bernie Torres</i>	
<i>David Torres</i>	
<i>Luisa Valerio-Mylet</i>	
<i>Sylvia Vigil</i>	

*Also present were Luis A. Reyes, Jr., Chief Executive Officer, Carmella Suazo, Assistant Manager, Richard Martinez, Chief Operations Officer, Michael Santistevan, Public Relations Coordinator, and Brianna Trujillo, Executive Secretary who recorded the day's proceedings. Mr. Shafto was at a conference and did not attend the meeting.*

*It was declared a quorum was present.*

*Quorum*

*Ms. Vigil led the Board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*Pledge of Allegiance*

*Mrs. Valerio-Mylet led the Board in a word of Prayer.*

*Prayer*

*The agenda was presented. It was moved by Mr. Rodarte, seconded by Mr. Duran, and unanimously approved, that the agenda be approved as presented.*

*Agenda*

*The minutes for the Board of Trustees regular Meeting, held June 25, 2024, were presented. It was moved by Mr. Jassmann, seconded by Mr. Medina, and unanimously approved, that the minutes for June 25, 2024, be approved as presented.*

*Minutes for June 25, 2024, Regular Meeting*

*The President announced that the Kit Carson Electric Education Foundation (KCEEF) Board reviewed 12 applications for Community Project funding in June 2024 and welcomed representatives of the five Community Projects selected as recipients for 2024. He recognized KCEC's wholesale power provider, Guzman Energy Inc.,*

*Kit Carson Electric Education Foundation – Community Projects*

*for their generous contributions to the Foundation; \$100,000 per year for community projects and scholarships. Ms. Kim Leach, Board Member for Red River Community House, thanked KCEEF for the award of \$10,000.00. She reported that the Red River Community House has been in service since 1940, where they host dances, bingo, hiking, boat building, yoga and other community events. Red River Community House would use the donation to install LED lighting throughout the building to promote energy efficiency. Ms. Gina Bonner, Treasurer of Eagle Nest Outdoor Learning Lab Committee thanked KCEEF for the award of \$10,000.00. She reported that Eagle Nest Outdoor Learning Lab (OLL) was part of Eagle Nest Elementary & Middle School and designed to help engage students and their families through hands-on learning. OLL would use the donation to complete infrastructure improvements to make the OLL habitable for students, plants & fish, purchase geotechnical cloth to create an outside pathway to the stove's external metal access door, and to purchase trout fingerlings for the fish hatchery. Mr. Robert Nightingale, President of Taos Historic Museums thanked KCEEF for the award of \$7,500.00, which would assist with special events at the museums to educate the public on the values, history and cultural significance of the Northern Rio Grande area. Mr. Clyde Gurule, President, and Mr. Franklin Fernandez, Treasurer, of Rio Lucio Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (MDWCA) thanked KCEEF for the award of \$10,000.00; the donation would help replace old and aging water lines and infrastructure originally installed in the 1960s with new lines to meet capacity for membership. Once the lines are replaced the Rio Lucio MDWCA would connect to the Penasco MDWCA for emergency purposes. Meters would also need to be installed. Ms. Carolina Silva, President of El Salto MDWCA thanked KCEEF for the award of \$7,500.00. which would be used to repair water leaks, install new lines, and road repair.*

*The President welcomed Mr. Daniel Pritchard, Executive Board Member of Renewable Taos. Mr. Pritchard announced that the Taos EV Expo was scheduled to be held Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Taos Public Library. He invited the Board to attend and thanked KCEC for its support of the event in the past; Mr. Reyes reported that KCEC would participate this year.*

*The President introduced Miss Madelynn Quintana, Intern, KCEC Public Relations. Miss Quintana reported that she has worked as an Intern for KCEC for the past two summers, she was attending college at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque for business and was now leaning towards a Marketing degree. She thanked KCEC staff and the Board for the invaluable opportunity.*

Mr. Reyes presented the CEO report for June 2024. He reported \$3 million in margins year to date, Operation and Maintenance expense had increased due to fire mitigation and system upgrades. Mr. Reyes provided the Board with printed maps of the three specific areas that were the focus of KCEC's fire mitigation plan; acreage maps were submitted to the State of NM, for the grant awarded to KCEC by the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD). He reported that KCEC Operations Department had protective devices on non-reclose in high-risk forested areas, and emergency shut offs would be conducted if extreme weather was detected. Mr. Reyes reported that insurance costs were increasing and coverage for fire was decreasing. Discussion was held regarding KCEC's fire mitigation plan; KCEC received a reimbursement of \$38 thousand for fire mitigation, the remaining \$90,000 would need to be reimbursed before the grant expired in June 2025. Ms. Vigil asked if the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NM PRC) had guidelines for emergency shut offs. Mr. Reyes explained that NM PRC was aware of KCEC's fire mitigation plans and would receive a courtesy call of any emergency shut offs; however, KCEC would decide which areas would need to be shut off. He reported he was scheduled to meet with NM PRC that afternoon to discuss KCEC's plans. Mr. Coyle recommended that KCEC provide advance notice of emergency shut offs to members as soon as possible. Mr. Reyes explained that KCEC members would be notified via calls, text messages, emails and social media notifications. Mr. Coyle reported that he and Mr. Jassmann attended the Idlewild Annual Community Meeting and that residents were supportive of fire mitigation and prevention. Mr. Reyes reported that grants for batteries would be available soon and that KCEC would seek funding to add battery storage to support emergency services and members who use medical devices in the event of an outage or wildfire. He reported that KCEC's microgrid project would begin sometime next year. Mr. B. Torres asked if the batteries could be mobile and moved around when needed. Mr. Reyes reported that there were advances in battery technology and some batteries were mobile and had plug-in capabilities. He reported that The North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD Blue Bus) was interested in transitioning to a zero-emission fleet and was considering installing batteries at specific locations. He reported that the State of NM was in favor of electrification. Mr. Reyes reported that he reached out to school districts serviced by KCEC to determine whether they had considered electric buses but had not received a response, there were grants available for electrification and KCEC was prepared to help school districts with their grant application. Discussion was held regarding electrification of transportation and charging batteries in the winter. Mr. Reyes reported that he would discuss EV charging rates,

*fire mitigation, customer charges and credit card fees with NM PRC. Mr. Reyes reported that the Amalia II Solar project permit was ready to be submitted to the Taos County Planning Commission, he encouraged the Board to attend the meeting once it is scheduled by the Taos County Planning Commission. Mr. Ortega asked Mr. Reyes to notify the Board, Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association (RCCLA) and other project partners of the date and time of the meeting so that they could attend and show support for the project. Mr. D. Torres reported that the Safety Committee met July 10, 2024, the Cooperative had 14 days without a lost time accident. There was one lost time accident for the month of June; a KCEC employee was working on a streetlight when a loose wire arched over and caused a flash that burnt the top of the employee's hand. Mr. Martinez reported that the employee was wearing gloves but took them off to work with the small parts of the light; the employee was expected to return to work in about a week. The Committee discussed how deenergizing the light before work was done could have prevented this accident. It was moved by Mr. Duran, seconded by Mr. Rodarte, and unanimously approved, that the CEO report for June 2024 be approved as presented. A copy of the CEO report was included in the Transfer of Documents and is hereby made a part of the minutes of this meeting.*

*The President reported requests had been received from Estates in the amount of \$11,636.49. It was moved by Mr. Rodarte, seconded by Mr. Medina, and unanimously approved, that those payments be made to Estates.*

*Capital Credits  
to Estates*

*The President announced the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Regional Meetings and Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) District Meeting were scheduled for October 22–23, 2024, in Kansas City, Missouri. He asked if any Board members had registered for the meetings. The President tabled the appointment of Voting Delegate and Alternate for NRECA Regional Meetings and CFC District Meeting, since there were no Trustees registered to attend the meetings.*

*Verify or  
appoint voting  
delegate and  
alternate for  
NRECA  
Regional  
Meetings and  
CFC District  
Meeting*

*The President announced the Committee Appointments for 2024/2025 as follows:*

*Committee  
Appointments*

*Mr. Dimas was added to the Electric Bid Committee, the President reported that the Bid Committee had not met this year but would be utilized more frequently to use the Board's expertise related to purchases or leases. Mr. Coyle was removed from the Solar Committee and added to the Finance Committee, Ms. Vigil was added to the Finance Committee; the President reported that the Finance/Audit Committee would be utilized more frequently to assist with the audit and review of Cooperative investments, financial goals, and policies. Mr. B. Torres was removed from the*

*Green Hydrogen Committee, and Mr. Rodarte was added to the Green Hydrogen Committee; all other Committee appointments remain the same.*

*Mr. Jassmann reported the Payables Committee met on July 10, 2024. Mr. Jassmann recommended approval. It was moved by Mr. Duran, seconded by Mr. Medina, and unanimously approved that Payables for June 2024 be approved as presented.*

Payables  
Committee

*Mr. Reyes reported that the Green Hydrogen Committee met on June 11, 2024. KCEC was looking at alternative financing since the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) had placed KCEC in a different category based on financial statements; KCEC requested that RUS review KCEC's Letter of Intent (LOI) again.*

Green  
Hydrogen  
Committee

*Mr. Reyes reported that the Broadband Committee did not meet in July 2024. He reported that the Executive Summary and Kit Carson Internet (KCI) financials for June 2024 would be sent to all KCEC Trustees; KCI had 13,800 subscribers. Mr. Reyes reported that he met with Mr. Joseph Sanchez, Manager, Jemez Mountain Electric Cooperative Inc. (JMEC); JMEC was interested in partnering with KCEC to provide broadband service to JMEC's entire service area, not just Abiquiu. Mr. Reyes reported that an updated memorandum of understanding (MOU) was requested, and a pole attachment agreement would need to be negotiated. Mr. Reyes reported that a groundbreaking ceremony would be scheduled around the third week of September 2024. The President recommended that KCEC Board of Trustees and JMEC Board of Trustees meet informally to improve relationship between KCEC and JMEC.*

Broadband  
Committee

*Mr. Rodarte reported the Solar Committee met July 11, 2024. Mr. Reyes stated that updates regarding the Amalia II Solar Project were discussed earlier, the Taos Pueblo Solar project was slowly progressing. Discussion was held regarding utilization of EV charging stations. Mr. Martinez reported that EV charging costs between \$0.50 – \$0.60 cents per kWh depending on the type of charger, KCEC had 48 EV chargers throughout the system.*

Solar  
Committee

*Mr. D. Torres reported that the Bylaw & Policy Committee did not meet in July 2024. Mr. Reyes reported that he would send the Committee a draft of two policies with recommended changes, regarding the use of cannabis.*

Bylaw & Policy  
Committee

*Mrs. Valerio-Mylet reported that the Public Relations Committee did not meet in July 2024. Mr. Santistevan reported that KCEC would contribute backpacks and various school supplies to drives throughout the service*

Public  
Relations  
Committee

territory. He also reported that improvements were being made to the KCEC website.

Mr. Reyes reported that KCEC may have an opportunity to promote the Village of Questa's Green Hydrogen Project at Legislative Committee meetings scheduled in Questa or Red River in September 2024. He would also monitor the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program for broadband funding and NM Legislature regarding pole attachment.

Legislative  
Information


Mr. Ortega asked if there was an agenda available for CoBank's Director Education Session, scheduled for August 14, 2024. Mr. Reyes stated he would confirm with CoBank and share the final agenda with the Board. Ms. Vigil asked why an agenda for a Town Council Meeting held in June 2024 was included in the packet for the July 2024 Board Meeting. Mr. Reyes explained that he spoke at the Town Council Meeting regarding fire mitigation and included the agenda in the Packet to inform the Board. Mr. Coyle asked about Security Light repairs in Angel Fire. Mr. Martinez reported that three repairs were pending, the delivery of ballasts was delayed and the base of one light needed repair.

Board Member  
Concerns

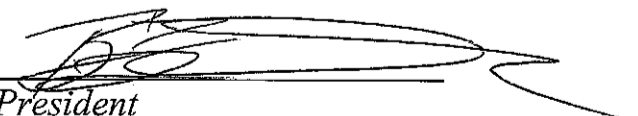
There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Jassmann, seconded by Mr. Duran, and unanimously approved, that the Board of Trustees of Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc. be adjourned until August 27, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. the date and time of the next Board meeting. Unless changed and, thereupon, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The following Trustees were present at the end of the meeting:

Meeting  
Adjourned

Russ Coyle, Martin Dimas, Cristobal Duran, Bruce Jassmann, Manuel Medina, Bobby Ortega, Arthur Rodarte, Bernie Torres, David Torres, Luisa Valerio-Mylet and Sylvia Vigil

  
Secretary

Approved this 27th day of AUG. 2024.

  
President