## KIT CARSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

July 29, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Kit Carson Electric Index Cooperative, Inc. (KCEC) was called to order by the President, Mr. Bobby Ortega, on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at 9:06 a.m. in the Marcelino Martinez Room of the headquarters building of the Cooperative, Taos, New Mexico. The following Trustees were present:

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

Present

Also present were Luis A. Reyes, Jr., Chief Executive Officer, Carmella Suazo, Assistant Manager, Cletus Stoflet, Chief Financial Officer, Michael Santistevan, Public Relations Coordinator, and Brianna Trujillo, Executive Secretary who recorded the day's proceedings.

It was declared a quorum was present.

Quorum

Mr. Rodarte led the Board in reciting the Pledge of Pledge of Allegiance.

Allegiance

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

Prayer

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

The minutes for the Board of Trustees regular Meeting, held Minutes June 24, 2025, were presented. It was moved by Mr. Medina, seconded by Mr. Duran, and unanimously approved that the minutes for June 24, 2025, be approved as presented.

Mr. Reyes presented the CEO report for June 2025. He CEO reported \$2.3 million in margins, year to date, versus \$3 Report million last year. Discussion was held on cost of power and transmission expenses. Transmission costs are passed on to the customers through the fuel adjustment. Mr. Medina recommended that an explanation of the fuel adjustment be included in the newsletter. Ms. Vigil recommended that a video explaining the fuel adjustment be created and displayed on the website. Discussion was held on monthly

maintenance and a recent outage caused by a family of racoons. Mr. Reyes reported that the electric system in high fire risk areas was placed on one shot/non-reclose until September, which increases the outage time. He also reported that new services connected increased and that *Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers would be placed at the Smiths* parking lot and the Storyteller Theatre parking lot in Taos and at Taos Ski Valley; KCEC was working on a draft rate for electric vehicle charging. Mr. Reves stated there were about 100 work orders that were pending; however, KCEC had sufficient material in inventory to complete the work orders. He reported that special projects were discussed at the work session, Mr. Richard Martinez, Chief Operations Officer, was not present since he was in Questa discussing the Clean Hydrogen Project with U.S. Representative Teresa Leger Fernandez. Senator Martin Heinrich introduced a Bill to reform the insurance industry and Artificial Intelligence (AI) cameras were being installed for fire mitigation purposes. Mr. D. Torres reported the Safety Committee meeting was held on July 14, 2025. One vehicle accident was reported; an employee was driving on a narrow driveway when the wheel chocks hit the fence. Mr. D. Torres reported that a link is available for employees to report hazards. Mr. Reyes reported an increase in employee engagement regarding safety and that low lines constitute a safety infraction. He also reported that the Safety Committee continues to discuss the importance of promoting a safety culture and will continue to enforce the Member Code of Conduct. It was moved by Mr. Duran, seconded by Mr. B. Torres, and unanimously approved that the CEO Report for June 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 Capital Estates in the amount of \$20,903.36. It was moved by Mr. Rodarte, seconded by Ms. Vigil, and unanimously approved Estates that those payments be made to Estates.

Credits to

The President stated item 9 b. Verify or Certify Voting NRECA Delegate & Alternate for the 2025 National Rural Electric Regional Cooperative Association (NRECA) Regional Business Business Meeting and item 9 c. Verify or Certify Voting Delegate & Alternate for 2025 National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Districts 8 & 10 Meeting would be tabled until August since the 2025 NRECA Regional Business Meeting and CFC Meetings were scheduled to be held October 27-25, 2025, in Round Rock, Texas.

Meeting

The President reported the Committee Appointments for 2025/2026 would remain the same.

Committee **Appointments** 

The President reported the Kit Carson Electric Education Kit Carson Foundation met on July 23, 2025. He reported that the Electric Questa Citizens Ditch Association was awarded \$10,000, Education Mr. Duran reported that the Penasco Mutual Water Foundation Association was awarded \$10,000, Mr. Jassmann reported that the Village of Angel Fire was awarded \$10,000. The President reported that the Kit Carson House was awarded \$3,000, and that the Community Association of Arroyo Hondo was awarded \$7,000 contingent on whether the facility was currently being used by the public; if not the New Life Pregnancy Center would be awarded \$6,000 and that the Kit Carson House would be awarded \$4,000. Mr. Reves reported that Mr. Ray Trujillo, Board Chairman of the Community Association was contacted and stated that the restrooms had to be restored/repaired by Taos County. Mr. Rodarte reported that property has been acquired by Rio Arriba County in Ojo Caliente for a playground/park public environment; therefore, a Community Project will be submitted in the future. The President reported the Foundation has decided to only fund tangible projects at this time and that Progress Reports would be requested for Community Projects awarded in 2024.

Mr. Jassmann reported the Payables Committee met on July Payables 14, 2025. Mr. Jassmann recommended approval. It was Committee moved by Mr. Rodarte, seconded by Mr. Medina, and unanimously approved that Payables for July 2025 be approved as presented.

Mr. Reyes reported that the Hydrogen Project was discussed Hydrogen at the work session.

Committee

Mr. Reyes reported that the Broadband Committee met on Broadband July 25, 2025, and that discussion was held at the work Committee session. He stated that Mr. Marcos Tafoya, Accountant, was now responsible for completing Kit Carson Internet (KCI) financials.

Mr. Rodarte reported that the Solar Committee met on July Solar 18, 2025. He reported that once the Amalia Solar II array is Committee completed, KCEC would have 51 megawatts of solar and that the microgrid projects were in progress. Mr. Rodarte stated that a tour of Shallow Basket Solar facility near Dulce, NM was scheduled for August 14, 2025.

Mr. D. Torres reported that the Bylaw and Policy Committee Bylaw & met on July 18, 2025. He reported there were no Policy recommendations for the full Board.

Committee

The President reported that the Public Relations Committee Public and Bid Committee didn't meet in July.

Relations & Bid Committees

The President reported that the Employee Relations Employee Committee met on July 28, 2025, and would be discussed Relations during Executive Session.

The following Committee Meetings were scheduled:

Committee Meetings

Payables Committee; August 11th at 3:00 p.m. Hydrogen Committee; August 15th at 9:00 a.m. Broadband Committee; August 21st at 8:00 a.m. Bid Committee; August 25th following the work session

Mr. Steve Meyer, Member of Renewable Taos, requested to Mr. Steve address the Board. He stated that Renewable Taos Meyer, conducted a study that had determined pumped hydro as a Member feasible electric storage option at the Questa mine. He indicated that the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) modeling tool was used. Mr. Meyers reported that Renewable Taos met with Mr. Chris Madrid, Taos County, and indicated there would be a Request For Proposal in the future regarding a \$2.07 million grant that was awarded to Taos County to build 950 homes over the next 10 years for low income. Mr. Meyers invited the Board to a free Crooked Creek Music Festival scheduled to be held August 9, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. near Valle Escondido. The President reported that KCEC was sponsoring a Buckaroo Ball in Red River scheduled for August 22, 2025, to raise funds for grants and scholarships.

The President called for an Executive Session to discuss the Executive CEO's Appraisal and compensation. It was moved by Ms. Session Vigil, seconded by Mr. Jassmann, and unanimously approved that the Board enter Executive Session at 10:09 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened by order of the President at CEO 11:52 a.m. It was unanimously approved that Mr. Luis Appraisal Reyes, Chief Executive Officer's, annual salary increase 5% retroactive to May 8, 2025, the anniversary date of his employment contract.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it Meeting was moved and duly seconded that the Meeting of the Board Adjourned of Trustees of Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, Inc. be adjourned until August 26, 2025, 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 11:54 a.m. The following Trustees were present at the end of the meeting:

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

KIT CARSON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, July 29, 2025, CONTINUED...

J----Secretary

Approved this  $20^{TH}$  day of 400. 2025.

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