Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
May 28, 2026
Greenville, IL

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the office of Southwestern Electric Cooperative headquarters in Greenville, IL pursuant to notice given. President Jerry Gaffner called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The following directors were present constituting a quorum:

Jerry Gaffner
Sandy Grapperhaus
Annette Hartlieb
Bill Jennings
Brad Lurkins
Amy Marcoot
Ann Schwarm
Jared Stine
Marvin Warner

Staff members present were Chief Executive Officer Bobby Williams, Chief Operating Officer Vic Buehler, Chief Financial Officer Nathan Taylor, Manager of Business Development Erin Jurke, and Manager of Member Services Brooke Scott.

Report on Nominations Committee Meeting:

Scott presented the 2026 slate of candidates for Districts I, II, and III as submitted by the 2026 nominations committee. Scott reported that G. Moore was appointed chairperson and D. Joachimsthaler was appointed secretary. The following names were submitted by the nominations committee:

District I: Marvin Warner

District II: Clayton Hilderbrand and Brad Lurkins

District III: Cassie Abendroth, Annette Hartlieb, and Vance Moore

Grapperhaus moved to approve the 2026 slate of candidates for Districts I, II, and III as submitted by the 2026 nominations committee. Marcoot seconded; motion carried.

Business Development Update:

Jurke provided an update on ongoing Business Development initiatives, including data center inquiries, membership education efforts, legislative matters, and current project expansion opportunities. Her report also highlighted progress on the development of a Key Accounts Program. Jurke left the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Member Relations:

The board discussed recent correspondence with members regarding Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), facilities, bill structure, and demand related topics. They also discussed communication campaigns and measuring effectiveness.

Strategic Plan:

Stine is working on developing the key performance metrics to track the Strategic Plan. He gave a verbal update on the top four priority areas including the facilities, Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), financial balance and rates. Additional topics discussed included member communications, system planning, workforce and succession planning, legislative efforts, and partnerships. Stine will give an update quarterly.

Approval of Minutes:

On a motion made by Warner, seconded by Marcoot, and carried, the minutes of the regular board meeting held on April 23, 2026, were approved as corrected.

On a motion made by Hartlieb, seconded by Schwarm, and carried, the minutes of the special board meeting held on May 18, 2026, were approved as presented.

Executive Session:

At 7:25 p.m., Marcoot made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters. Grapperhaus seconded; motion carried. At 8:05 p.m., Lurkins made a motion to leave executive session. Jennings seconded; motion carried.

Staff Reports & Presentations

Report of Operations and Construction:

CFO Nathan Taylor's report included:

- Financial metrics
- Financial Summary as of April 30, 2026
    - Revenue
    - Total Operation and Maintenance Expense
    - Total Cost of Electric Services
    - Net Operating Margins
    - Non-Operating Margins
    - DSCR
- Revenue by rate class
- Cost of Power
- YTD cashflow summary
- Capital summary
- Write-offs through April
- Financial reporting calendar
- Annual Meeting

A motion was made by Grapperhaus to approve the absentee voting schedule for the 2026 Annual Meeting as follows: Absentee voting will be available at the Greenville Office from August 28 through September 11, excluding Labor Day, during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with extended hours until 7:00 p.m. on September 2 and September 10. Absentee voting will also be available at the St. Jacob warehouse from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on September 1 and September 9, and at the St. Elmo warehouse from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on September 3 and September 8. The motion was seconded by Marcoot and carried.

April's list of membership applications and May's list of terminations were sent to the board prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Warner, seconded by Stine, and carried to accept 42 applications for membership for April 2026, in accordance with Section 2 of the bylaws, and to formally acknowledge the termination of 20 memberships for May 2026, effective as of the date on which the cooperative ceased furnishing services, and the release of capital credits to members and members' estates totaling to $53,873.50.

Warner made a motion to approve the Operating Report and Work Order Summary in the amount of $1,977,159.94 for April 2026. Stine seconded; motion carried.

CEO's Report:

CEO Bobby Williams's report included:

- CRGA
- IRP
- NextEra
- New website platform
- MISO
- REDLG Loan
- NiSC Special Meeting
- Anderson Hospital new ER

COO's Report:

COO Vic Buehler's report included:

- Full Inventory
- Barcodes
- StormMode notification process
- GPS
- AMI

AIEC Board Meeting Report:

Schwarm gave a report on the AIEC board meeting, which included updates on finances, an increase in dues, and a review of the statewide strategic plan. Discussion focused on the relationship with AIEC and the services they provide.

Committee Reports:

The Member Engagement Committee met to discuss organizational needs and the development of a formal written member engagement plan. The committee is working on assessing needs. Jennings noted the committee is assessing the need of a member focus group.

The Emerging Technology Committee will meet after August.

The Policy & Bylaws Committee can meet over the summer to review policies.

The Facilities Committee gave an updated. he management team has scheduled onsite meetings to begin the initial design phase.

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business discussed.

New Business:

A motion was made by Jennings, seconded by Marcoot, and carried to approve the 2026 NRECA dues.

The board agreed to appoint Williams as the voting delegate for NiSC's Special Meeting.

Adjournment:

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

For

Annette Hartlieb, Secretary

Attest:

Jerry Gaffner, President