

JCE CO-OP Open Board Meeting

October 30, 2024

Board Meeting Minutes Summary

The open board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held on Wednesday, October 30, 2024.

Safety Moment – Director Senn shared safety tips on the importance of being mindful while driving during the harvesting season, noting that you should always be conscientious of slow-moving farm equipment and suggested using your hazard lights when following behind to alert other drivers.

Approval of Agenda – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the meeting agenda.

Consent Agenda – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

Presentations – Brandon Sebena, JCE Director of Utility Operations presented an overview of the storm restoration process and natural gas and electric operations, which included projects completed in 2024. In addition, Jesse Shekleton, Director and General Manager of Broadband provided an update of Fiber construction projects completed in 2024 and plans for 2025 and beyond.

Governance Topics and Board Policy Review – None.

CEO/Financial Operating Report

CEO Report – President and CEO, Mike Casper reported that preliminary results of the Cost-of-Service Study will be introduced in Executive Session. During the November board meeting any proposed rate changes will be presented and in December the proposed 2025 budget will be presented, discussed, and considered for approval.

Financial Operating Report – Chuck Woods, Chief Financial Officer, provided a summary of the September financial operating report. Revenue year-to-date (YTD) is approximately \$51.4 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses are approximately \$40.7 million, which is (\$1,474,813) under the budget of approximately \$42 million. Margins are approximately \$2.6 million. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

Operations and Regulatory/Legislative Update

Operations Update – Senior V.P. and Chief Operating Officer had nothing to report outside of his written report.

IT Technology Report – Dan Marcure, V.P. and Chief Technology Officer provided information on how we protect our systems using cyber security programs tailored for the specific needs of the cooperative. In addition, noted that we do have several cyber security services available to our members.

Member Services Update – Jennifer Meyer, V.P. of Member Services shared the JCE Co-op Strategic Plan update, which included the strategic goals and objectives and initiatives that included; enhancing co-op value and providing member value, stabilizing rates, improving efficiencies and reducing costs.

External Affairs/Legislative Update – President and CEO, Mike Casper, shared legislative topics that included proposed funding for the low-income home energy assistance program or LIHEAP, which stands at about \$4 billion for 2025. LIHEAP provides assistance to households at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. He also shared lame duck legislation priorities that are important to co-ops.

Executive Assistant Update – Amy Johnston, had nothing to report outside of her written report.

Board Issues and Action Items

Capital Credits General Retirement – A motion was made by Director Hendren to approve the Capital Credits General Retirement of approximately \$1.6 million, which was seconded by Director Meyer and carried unanimously.

Review of the Energy Assistance Position Statement – The Energy Assistance Position Statement was reviewed with the board, senior staff and members. The goal of the Energy Assistance Position Statement is to provide support to our membership during times of hardship via various energy incentive and assistance programs.

Reports/Updates

Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) Report – Director Senn, shared highlights from the AIEC Board Meeting.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) – Director Mattingley shared news from Dairyland Power Cooperative, which included the announcement of the New Era Grant totaling \$579 million in funding to advance low-carbon goals while maintaining a reliable, affordable energy supply.

American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report – Director Carroll discussed topics affecting the Natural Gas Industry noting that APGA recently met with the Fire Protection Agency regarding fuel gas detector use. Casper shared that APGA and its members are in support of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Reauthorization. PHMSA is under the Dept of Transportation (DOT) and regulates ~3.3 million miles of natural gas pipelines in the U.S. PHMSA's priority is protecting infrastructure of pipelines and enhancing safety.

Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report – Director Kuhns shared highlights from the PPI Board Meeting and noted that Prairie State Energy Campus facility supplies approximately 60% of PPI member's power needs.

Board Issues and Action Items

Schedule the November Board Meeting – The November Board Meeting was set for November 26th.

Select Attendees for BLC Course 903/The Role of the Board Chair in Conducting Effective Meetings – Attendees were selected to attend BLC Course 903/The Role of the Board Chair in Conducting Effective Meetings.

Member Comments – Members of JCE Co-op had an opportunity to address the board with comments/concerns.

Into Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:18 A.M.

Out of Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 2:00 PM.

Action Resulting from Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously that the Board of Directors of Jo-Carroll Energy declares they have reviewed the President & CEO's performance and found that it exceeds expectations. With that finding, and pursuant to the terms of the President & CEO's employment contract, the board authorizes the execution of certain obligations therein.

Other Business – None.

Adjournment – Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 2:02 PM.

Secretary