

Minutes of Annual Meeting  
Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

April 26, 2023

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Wheatland or Cooperative) was held on April 26, 2023, at the Scott Community Building, 600 Fairground Rd., Scott City, Kansas at 11:30 a.m. CDT. The meeting was held pursuant to notice provided each member of Wheatland. Board President, Mark Arnold announced that the annual meeting of the members was being simulcast at seven locations in Wheatland's service territory. Pursuant to Wheatland policy every meeting starts with a Safety Tip. Chairman Arnold explained that 46% of all electrical fatalities are caused by contact with overhead power lines. Always assume all lines are live and dangerous. Carry equipment including ladders horizontally to avoid contact with power lines and stay at least 35 feet away from downed power lines. The luncheon began at 11:30 a.m., and John L. Sullivan, Trustee from District 6 provided the invocation.

Chairman Arnold announced the beginning of the business portion of the annual meeting. The Chairman called to order the 2023 Annual Meeting, celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wheatland's inception, and welcomed all members and guests. Harold Irwin, Daniel Ryan, Jacob Irwin, and Trevor Fisher posted the national and state colors, and the attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Students from the Scott Community High School Encore sang the National Anthem. Chairman Arnold introduced the trustees of the Cooperative, and their spouses. Bruce W. Mueller, Wheatland's General Manager, introduced the executive staff of Wheatland and other special guests in attendance.

Chairman Arnold announced there were 630 members present in person at the meeting and 129 members present by proxy. A list of the members represented by proxy and of their respective proxies for the 2023 annual meeting can be accessed at the Wheatland website location "Annual Meetings & Reports (<https://www.weci.net/annual-meeting>)." Those members present by proxy were also reported and posted to the members by the Wheatland staff. The Cooperative membership exceeds 1,000 members, and therefore, 50 members or more constitutes a quorum. A quorum was announced by Chairman Arnold.

The Chairman again presented that the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting, the Affidavit of Mailing, and the Certificate of Membership would be read to the members verbatim. However, upon motion made by the members from the floor, seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote to waive the formal reading of the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting, the Affidavit of Mailing, and the Certificate of Membership. Therefore, Jim McVay, Wheatland's Assistant General Manager and General Counsel, summarized the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting, the Affidavit of Mailing, and the Certificate of Membership.

The 2022 Annual Meeting minutes were provided to the membership when registering at the meeting. Chairman Arnold presented that the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes would also be read to the membership. However, upon motion made by the members from the floor and seconded, it was passed by unanimous vote to dispense with the formal reading of the 2022 minutes. There were no

additions or corrections to the official minutes, and they were approved and adopted by unanimous vote.

Thereafter, a video presentation was made to the members by Traci Goddard, Wheatland's Director of Finance. She presented the Financial Report, which was also published in the April 2023 issue of the *Kansas Country Living* magazine and was mailed to each of the members, along with the official Notice of the Annual Meeting. Once Traci finished her report, the Chairman asked the members if there were questions relative to her report. The Chairman announced that he would entertain a motion to accept the Finance Report as mailed to each member of the Cooperative. Upon motion made, seconded, and passed by unanimous voice vote, the Financial Report was approved and adopted.

Bruce W. Mueller then introduced a video presentation of the following speakers and subjects:

Wheatland's Assistant General Manager and General Counsel, Jim McVay, informed the members of the change in Kansas law that protects Wheatland's assigned service territory by requiring municipalities to pay just compensation when Wheatland's territory is annexed into their city limits. Jim also informed the members of the success of a lawsuit that paid \$9.4 MM to Wheatland when Garden City Kansas violated Wheatland's service territory.

Jevin Kasselmann, the Wheatland Director of Information Technology, explained to the members what Wheatland is doing to defend against cyber security breaches of its IT system and physical security breaches at Wheatland's substations that could cause electric outages to Wheatland and its members. Jevin requested the help of all members to report suspicious activity to law enforcement.

Luke West provided a summary of the activities of the Corporate Services and Water division in 2022. Numerous repair and construction jobs were performed to enhance the safety, member accessibility, and ergonomics of Wheatland's offices.

Alli Conine, Director of Member Services, summarized the actions of her department in 2022 and informed the members of what to expect in 2023. The Cram-the-Van program had a record year by collecting 54,599 lbs. of food for local food banks. Alli, also introduced the Power the Pantry program for 2023.

Bruce W. Mueller then summarized the actions of Wheatland for 2022 and announced that Wheatland's Board of Trustees has tentatively authorized another Capital Credit retirement for the members of \$1 MM to be paid in December of 2023.

Alli Conine announced the winners of the Youth Tour trip and Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs Colorado. Brinlie Stevens from Scott Community High School and Ashlyn Howard from Great Bend High School will attend the Electric Cooperative Youth tour in Washington, D.C. this summer. Haylee Osner and Mya Scott both from Conway Springs High School will attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs. Two alternates were also selected for both leadership experiences in the event someone is unable to attend; they are

Alexis Powelson from Scott Community High School and Alex Hekel from Conway Springs High School.

Alli then introduced the awards of 14 additional scholarships to area high school seniors. This year's winners are:

Wesley Weishaar	Argonia
Payton Tull	At-Large
Anniston Lee	Caldwell
Madison Haley	Chaparral
Faith Stuhlsatz	Conway Springs
Audrey Musil	Deerfield
Nayomi Olivas	Great Bend
Karlynn Woelk	Greeley Co./Tribune
Kaya Bjurstrom	Holcomb
Teja Samuelson	Norwich
Brooke Strine	Scott Community
Kamdyn Butler	South Haven
Yadira Moreno	Syracuse
Elise Whalen	Wichita Co./Leoti

After the scholarship awards, Chairman Arnold recognized the service awards of Wheatland employees and Trustees, and they were:

**“5 Years”**

Heath Hill – Garden City  
Tara Watson - Tribune  
Jim McVay – Great Bend  
Manuel Gonzalez - Syracuse  
Jeanine Biera – Garden City  
Keith Vrbas – Garden City  
Megan Sneath – Garden City  
Sheena McKinley – Garden City  
Derek Holdt - Harper  
Jessica Preisner – Great Bend  
Andrea Tucker – Scott City  
Riley Waggoner - Tribune  
Stephanie Fontenot – Garden City

**“10 Years”**

Tyler Gehring – Harper  
Kreyton Demel – Great Bend  
Chris Schurle - Harper

Justin Skelton – Garden City  
Chris Oliver - Syracuse  
Katie Eisenhour – Trustee

**“15 Years”**

Lucy Martinez – Garden City  
Paul Aguiniga – Garden City  
Eric Newberry – Garden City  
Jim Welker – Scott City  
Mark Douglas – Harper  
Clay Shelton – Harper  
Jillane Koochel – Great Bend

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**“20 Years”**

Perry Smith – Garden City  
Mike Ille – Great Bend

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**“25 Years”**

Jevin Kasselmann – Scott City

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**“35 Years”**

Chris Huber – Great Bend

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**“40 Years”**

Rick Klaus – Garden City

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Chairman Arnold then request for any old business to come forward. There was no old business to come before the meeting. He then asked if there was any new business, and there was none.

The Chairman announced one item of new business. There were four Wheatland districts up for trustee elections. Jim McVay was asked to present the nomination committee report. Jim McVay read the Nomination Committee Affidavit. The Nominating Committee was composed of Ed Cupp, Milan Reimer, Dale Wetzel, Pat Riley, Jason Dougherty, Lane Moore, and Troy Dierking. The Nominating Committee placed into nomination and selected the following candidates: Katie Eisenhour, District 1; Josh Young in District 2; Stacey Addison-Howland, District 4; and John Kleysteuber, District 5. Jim presented that all nominations were made by motion, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote of the committee. Jim also announced one nomination by Petition in District 1 of Lynn Freese.

The members were once again told that Trustee candidates could be nominated from the floor. The qualifications for the Office of Trustee were read to the membership verbatim from the Wheatland bylaws. Thereafter, Jim asked for nominations from the floor. At the end of the sixty second waiting period there were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made from the floor, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote of the members to accept the slate of candidates from the uncontested districts of the Committee on Nominations for Districts 2, 4, and 5. Therefore, Josh Young in District 2, Stacey Addison-Howland in District 4, and John Kleysteuber in District 5 were each elected for a three-year term as trustee.

Each candidate for the election for trustee in District 1 provided a three-minute speech.

In addition to the election of trustees, the Board of Trustees have proposed changes to Wheatland's Bylaws. The sections of the bylaws in which changes are proposed were included as an insert to the ballot that the members received upon registering for the meeting. The proposed changes were in bold, red print. Jim McVay summarized the proposed changes and stood for questions by the members.

A ballot counting committee was assembled and collected all ballots from the members. The ballot counting committee consisted of Randy Coleman, Larry Brown, Terry Faurot, and Arlen Reed. The ballot counting committee counted the ballots of the members and the results were 358 votes for Lynn Freese and 296 votes for Katie Eisenhower. Lynn Freese is elected in District 1 as a trustee for a three-year term. The proposed Bylaw changes passed on a vote of 320 in favor of the changes and 287 opposed. Chairman Arnold announced the results of the elections and the Bylaw changes to the members.

Thereafter, the Chairman announced that Marilyn Dryer was the winner of the Grand Prize.

The Chairman then announced how other members at the remote locations could obtain their door prizes. He then called for the retirement of the Colors. The Colors were retired. The Chairman, Mark Arnold, ordered that the meeting be adjourned by motion made, seconded, and carried at 2:05 p.m. CDT.

Respectfully submitted

James M. McVay  
Assistant General Manager/General Counsel

SCHEDULE A - Proxies for 2023 Annual Meeting of the Members

<b>NAME OF MEMBER CARRYING PROXY</b>	<b>NAME OF MEMBER REPRESENTED</b>
Cody Ellis	Jordan Unruh
Barbara Kirk	H & R Block Brenda Tucker
Heather Rufenacht	George Rufenacht
Brittney Dirks	Jordan Carter
Rhei Thurman	Sandra Hanson
Bruce W. Mueller	Spenser Thurman
Quinten Wheeler	Tim Percival
John Sullivan	Great Bend Coop Assn. d.b.a American Plains
Mark Arnold	Corbin Rice
Jordan Habiger	Darrin Habiger
Randy Rogers	Platinum H Insurance - Darrin Habiger
Luke West	Jason Baker
James "Jim" McVay	Debra Hodge
Bryan Mulligan	Clay Mulligan
DLS Property Mgmt	Mark Pullian
DLS Underground	Nicholas Jacobs
Dustin Stansbury	Bret Misek
Lindsey Stansbury	N & J Inc.
Kirk Grain	Harvey Tucker
Katie Elsenhour	Isaac Shue
Walt Lovins	Rebecca Hill
Wes Campbell	Lindsay Campbell-Shepard
Stacey Addison-Howland	Poky Feeders
Lynn Freese	Forrest Gough
SM Addison Ltd	Teresa Faber
Josh Young	Stewart Stabel
Melissa Armendariz	Major Roberts
Lauren Apperson	St Joseph Catholic Church
Trophy Wine and Spirits	Patty Wagner
Sarah-Brice Eisenhour	Michele Bates
Alicia Buehler	Judy Stegall
Ed Cupp	James M Minnix
Michael Thon	Dan R Bonine
Margaret Chuck Morrison	Joshua J Gooden
Kelly Conine	Walter Hundertmark
Scott County - Gary Skibbe	Susan Kite
Duane Strine	Debra J Noffsinger
Matthew Metzger	Adam Behrends
Everett Green	Terri Fouquet
Rodenbeek & Green	Kendra Kendrick
Lindsey Singlay	Garee Geist
Heidi Stevens	Myles Vulgamore
Judi Vulgamore	Brian Vulgamore
Zach Conine	Doug Dreiling

**NAME OF MEMBER CARRYING PROXY**

**NAME OF MEMBER REPRESENTED**

TYLER GEHRING

JAMES DROUHARD

DEVAN YORK

MICKY MCCANN

LESLY BLOSSER

RYAN STURM

TAMMY WARD

MORGAN CARROLL

**NAME OF MEMBER CARRYING PROXY**

**NAME OF MEMBER REPRESENTED**

Mary Hoisington  
Judith Welch  
Jillane Koochel  
Bob Hiss

Marissa Hoisington  
Douglas R Kuhn  
Matt Hiss  
Mason Hiss

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<b>NAME OF MEMBER CARRYING PROXY</b>	<b>NAME OF MEMBER REPRESENTED</b>
Megan Sneath	Lance Richardson
Jason Crockett	Brian Crockett
Perry Smith	Matt Lee
Matt Scheeter	Callie Remschner-Dyer
Traci Goddard	Jeff Sterling
Corbin Spellman	Perry Smith
Justin Skelton	Trevor Alexander
Kyle Strickert	Zachary Schultz
Martin Boyles	Kevin Flowers
Darrell Hemert	John Fort

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**NAME OF MEMBER CARRYING PROXY**

Angie Moser  
Krista Norton  
Tone-N-Trim Fitness  
Penny Boltz  
Patrick Riley  
Linzee Buchanan Thompson  
Martin and Griselda Sigala  
Valley State Bank  
Tim Kohart  
USD #494  
Rebekah Seal  
Paul Larkin

**NAME OF MEMBER REPRESENTED**

Angela Talbot  
Syracuse Chamber of Commerce  
Lucinda Ochs  
Cindy & Fred Householder  
Clark Harris  
Nick Squire  
Darrin & Trudi DeWitt  
Linda Steve Dinkel  
Rene Cole  
Jamie Werkowitch  
Kirsten Seal  
Tabatha Grilliot

**NAME OF MEMBER CARRYING PROXY**

**NAME OF MEMBER REPRESENTED**

John Kennedy  
Christy Hopkins

Deborah Kuttler  
Elliott Business Trust

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**NAME OF MEMBER REPRESENTED**

Nathan Porter  
Kelley Burch  
Burch Farm Inc.  
Trevon Burch  
Vic Case

Brent Porter  
Glen Burch  
Keiffer White  
Camron Patten  
Deb Case Prairie Flower

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NAME OF MEMBER CARRYING PROXY	NAME OF MEMBER REPRESENTED
Wade Grumbein	Dale Bebermeyer
Nathan Schrock	Charisse Hostetler # [REDACTED]
Denzil Reed	Justin Mccortney
Anthony Blubaugh	Joe E Blubaugh
Derek Holdt	Desiree Barker # [REDACTED]
Mark Douglas	Logan Zimmerman # [REDACTED]
David Reese	Tamara Pifer # [REDACTED]
Paula Hicks	Connie Easley # [REDACTED]
Andrew Sauer	Glenn Troyer # [REDACTED] Valley Township
Mollie Blubaugh	Kerry Mercar # [REDACTED]
Terry Ghere	Larry Gaug # [REDACTED]
Lindsay Greening	Jeremy Troyer # [REDACTED]
Casey Hodges	Glenn E Troyer # [REDACTED]
Mynor Diaz	Superior Athletcis # [REDACTED]
Lester Young	Jim Meyeres # [REDACTED]
Shelly Hansel	Terese Beal # [REDACTED]
Dennis Holdt	Bob McNott # [REDACTED]
Dan Blanchat	Midwest # [REDACTED] MACHINE
Justin Kreieller	Kevin Albright # [REDACTED]
Beth Coslett	Stanley Ediger # [REDACTED]
Gary Ummel Jr	Shirley Ummel # [REDACTED]
Steve Adelhardt	Kayla Ediger # [REDACTED]
Scott Blubaugh	Randy Blanchet \$ [REDACTED]
Glenn Barker	Francis Olivieu # [REDACTED]
Gary Coffey	vogt by Tamara x
Ronald Steele	Ida Steele # [REDACTED]
Daren Drouhard	A&A Auto Supply # [REDACTED]
Millaturn Machine	Garred Sollers # [REDACTED]
Albert Drouhard	Sue Williams # 1 [REDACTED]
Connie Teal	Jordan Moritz # [REDACTED]
Ken Ley	m&m AUTO BODY # [REDACTED]
Ellen Olivier	MARTIN MORITZ # [REDACTED]
Tamara Schrack	rOYCE vOGT # [REDACTED]
kenneth Andra	Ed Helms # [REDACTED]
Kerry Schroeder	Jaclyn Pinkston # [REDACTED]
Scott Miller	Donald Mitchell # [REDACTED]
Karen Befort	Sherry Albright # [REDACTED]
Scott Easter	William Willson # [REDACTED]
Larry Easter	Aletha Russell # [REDACTED]
alex McClure	Eugene Rich # [REDACTED]
Jim Robb	Ray Allen # [REDACTED]
D&M carwash	Petrus Gritzalis # [REDACTED]
Ricke's Home Renter	Brian Evans # [REDACTED]
Doug Ricke	Darren Cook # [REDACTED]
Shannon Hamilton	Bret Misk # [REDACTED]
Josh WEst	Tim rinke# [REDACTED]

Shelley Hodges  
Tiffany Hartson

Rick Rhoades #  
Weston Botkin #

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[Illegible handwritten notes]