

Minutes of Annual Meeting
Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.

April 24, 2024

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Wheatland or Cooperative) was held on April 24, 2024, at the Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th Street, Great Bend Kansas, at 11:30 a.m. CDT. The meeting was held pursuant to notice provided each member of Wheatland. Board President and Chairman, Mark Arnold announced that the annual meeting of the members was also 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 distracted driving has become a deadly epidemic on our roads. In 2021, it was responsible for killing 3,522 people. Cell phone use – specifically, texting, talking, and social media use – has become the most common distraction. Other risky actions include adjusting the radio or GPS, applying makeup, and eating or drinking. By driving distracted, you're robbing yourself of seconds that you may need to avoid a close call or deadly crash.

The luncheon began at 11:30 a.m. and Bob Hiss, Trustee from District 6, provided the invocation.

At 12:05 p.m. Chairman Arnold announced the beginning of the business portion of the annual meeting. The Chairman called to order the 2024 Annual Meeting and welcomed all members and guests. Dave Krallman and Boe Levingston posted the national and state colors, and the attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Students from the Great Bend High School Madrigals sang the National Anthem. Chairman Arnold introduced the trustees of the Cooperative. Bruce W. Mueller, Wheatland's General Manager, introduced the executive staff of Wheatland and other special guests in attendance.

Chairman Arnold announced there were 363 members present in person at the meeting. 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 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 2023 Annual Meeting minutes were provided to the membership when registering at the meeting. Chairman Arnold presented that the 2023 Annual Meeting minutes would also be read verbatim to the membership. However, upon motion made by the members from the floor to waive the formal reading of the minutes and accept the minutes as written and was seconded, it was passed

by unanimous vote to dispense with the formal reading and approve the 2023 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 Finance Report, which was also published in the April 2024 issue of the *Kansas Country Living* magazine and was mailed to each of the members, which also included the official Notice of the Annual Meeting. Upon completion of the Finance Report, the Chairman asked the members if there were questions relative to the 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 Finance Report was approved and adopted.

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

Bruce W. Mueller discussed highlights of Wheatland activity throughout 2023, and specifically mentioned the 2023 rate changes. Alli Conine presented to the members the activities of the Member Services and Corporate Communications department for 2023. She emphasized the American Consumer Satisfaction Index wherein Wheatland obtained the highest rating of any cooperative in the United States. She also highlighted that Wheatland won two national awards for member service programs in 2023. Nicole Semenko presented to the membership that Wheatland won the Kansas Department of Commerce Business award for the best apprenticeship program. Bruce concluded by discussing Wheatland's commitment to Safety.

At the conclusion of the video presentation, Bruce W. Mueller called for questions from the membership. Two members posed questions to Wheatland's staff, and both were thoroughly covered by the staff in response.

Alli Conine announced the winners of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip to Washington DC and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs Colorado. Joshua Fulton from Scott Community High school and Ally Howard from Great Bend High School will attend the Electric Cooperative Youth tour in Washington, DC this summer. Anna Biel from Wichita County High School and Brooke Beck from Conway Springs High School will attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs Colorado this year.

Alli then introduced the 13 scholarships awarded to high school seniors in Wheatland's service territories, including one at-large winner. This year's winners are:

Georgia Fahrmeier	At-large (Garden City)
Maya Jones	Argonia
Jackson Risley	Caldwell
Innslee Albright	Chaparral
Haylee Osner	Conway Springs
Alyssa Smith	Deerfield
Addy Nicholson	Great Bend

Ian Tarman	Tribune
Emily Dryden	Holcomb
Brooklyn Sheetz	Norwich
Alexis Powelson	Scott Community
Alivia Bacon	South Haven
Nevaeh Hahn	Syracuse
Wyatt Gardner	Leoti

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

5 Years

Alex Franco – Garden City
Jesse Harbrige – Leoti
James Swanson – Great Bend

10 Years

Mario Diaz – Garden City
Becky Lopez – Garden City

15 Years

Clint Gulick – Harper
Bob Hiss – Great Bend Trustee
Nate Porter – Leoti
Kyle Strickert – Garden City
Debbie Stonestreet – Syracuse
Trent Suchy – Great Bend

20 Years

Nick Buehler – Scott City

25 Years

Matt Riley – Syracuse

30 Years

Bruce Loy – Leoti
Curtis Peterson – Garden City

Chairman Arnold then requested 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 three 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: John Niehues in District 3; Kevin White in District 3; John L. Sullivan in District 6; and Mark Arnold in District 7. Jim presented that all nominations were made by motion, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote of the committee. Jim announced that there were no nominations by petition. The qualifications for the Office of Trustee were read to the membership verbatim from the Wheatland bylaws.

Chairman Arnold then announced the winners of the Trustee elections, as follows: Kevin White in District 3, John L. Sullivan in District 6, and Mark Arnold in District 7.

Thereafter, the Chairman announced that Alice Bennett from District 7 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. Chairman, Mark Arnold, ordered the meeting be adjourned by motion made, seconded, and carried at 12:52 p.m. CDT.

Respectfully submitted

James M. McVay
Assistant General Manager/General Counsel