Minutes of Annual Meeting

Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. April 14, 2021

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Wheatland or Cooperative) was held on April 14, 2021, at the Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th St., Great Bend, Kansas, at 11:30 a.m. CDT. The meeting was held pursuant to notice provided to each member of Wheatland. Board President William “Woody” Barnes announced that the annual meeting of the members was being simulcast at Wheatland’s seven offices in its territory. Chairman Barnes discussed the extra precautions taken in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, pursuant to Wheatland policy, every meeting starts with a safety tip. President Barnes warned all members that ticks can carry potentially life-threatening infectious disease. They are most active during warmer months and reside in grassy areas. This puts outdoor workers at risk for exposure. The luncheon began at 11:30 a.m. and Charles Ayers, former Board of Trustees member, provided an invocation.

President Barnes served as chairman throughout the meeting. The Chairman called to order the 73rd Annual Meeting and welcomed all members and guests. Cub Scout Pack 7184 posted the national and state colors, and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Great Bend High School Madrigal Pop Singers sang the national anthem. Chairman Barnes introduced the trustees of the cooperative and their spouses. Bruce W. Mueller, Wheatland’s CEO and general manager, introduced the executive staff of Wheatland and special guests in attendance which included Stuart Lowry, president and CEO of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation; Larry Detwiler, director of loss control, safety and compliance at Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.; Bob Epperson and Pete Hisel of Eby Construction.

Chairman Barnes announced there were 193 members present in person at the meeting and 25 members present by proxy. Those members present by proxy were 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 Barnes.

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 and seconded, it was passed by unanimous vote to waive the formal reading of the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting, the Affidavit of Mailing and the Certificate of Membership. Jim McVay, general counsel for Wheatland, summarized the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting, the Affidavit of Mailing, and the Certificate of Membership.

The 2020 Annual Meeting minutes were provided to the membership when registering at the meeting. Chairman Barnes presented that the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes would 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 reading of the 2020 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 Radona Smythe, director of finance for Wheatland. She presented the financial report, which was also published in the April 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 Smythe 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 report as mailed to each member of the cooperative. Upon motion made, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote, the financial report was approved and adopted.

Mueller began a video presentation to the members and stated that all area Wheatland offices were participating in the annual meeting by video conference. All Wheatland members attending the concurrent annual meeting at each district office were permitted to vote and participate fully. Mueller presented on Wheatland’s response to the February 2021 winter weather event that caused a sharp increase in the power cost adjustment. This additional cost was put into a Winter Weather Event Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) line item on each bill. Mueller discussed Wheatland’s online presence and all actions taken to keep the membership informed at the time and after the event. Mueller lauded the decision of the Wheatland Board to allow the members to pay their bills over a 12-month period. Mueller closed by informing the members that Wheatland once again plans on retiring $1 million in capital credits during 2021, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

Rick Klaus, director of operations for Wheatland, then discussed Wheatland’s efforts to enhance construction, safety and reliability in District 6. These efforts included the building of new facilities, upgrading outdated facilities, and replacing a large quantity of power poles. Alli Conine, manager of member services, provided the members with a summary of all Wheatland’s efforts to stay connected and communicate with its members during the February 2021 Winter Weather Event. She also discussed Wheatland’s local donation programs and the Cram the Van actions in 2020.

At the close of the video presentation, Mueller called for any questions from the members. One member inquired about the timetable for the new Great Bend facility. Mueller provided a detailed answer and there were no other questions.

Trey Grebe, Wheatland’s assistant general manager, announced the cooperative’s winners for the KEY Leadership Conference in place of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The leadership conference winners were Judson Hibbs of Norwich High School and Tamara Rodriguez of Scott Community High School.

Wheatland also sponsors the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. COVID-19 restrictions canceled this event in 2020 and 2021.

Grebe then presented the annual Wheatland scholarship awards. $14,000 in scholarships are provided to high school (HS) seniors who plan to pursue post-secondary education from the 13 schools in the Wheatland territory and one at-large member. The recipients are:

1. Savannah Shively — Argonia HS

2. Alexa Lightner — At-Large (Ingalls HS)

3. Kari Dvorak — Caldwell HS

4. Kamon Haydock — Chaparral HS

5. Owen Balman — Conway Springs HS

6. Maria Ramirez — Deerfield HS

7. Cal Dunekack — Great Bend HS

8. Macie Lehman — Greeley County HS

9. Zaccerie Penka — Holcomb HS

10. Brittany Gosch — Norwich HS

11. Paige Vulgamore — Scott Community HS

12. Madison Smith — South Haven HS

13. Gunnar Upson — Syracuse HS

14. Cambree Koehn — Wichita County HS

The service awards were also then announced by the chairman to Wheatland employees as follows:

40 Years — Denzil Reed

30 Years — Walt Lovins, Curtis Lamb and Kelley Burch

25 Years — Dax Walk

20 Years — Matt Scheeter

15 Years — Barbara Kirk, Mark Dinkel, Luke West, Francis Lobmeyer and Matt Hosler

10 Years — Derek Callaway

5 Years — Julie Stoss, Corbin Spellman, Rochelle Irwin, Michael Doyle, Kris Lehmann, Traci Goddard, Devan York and Jesus Villegas

Chairman Barnes then inquired of the members whether there was any old business to come before the meeting. There was no old business to come before the meeting. He then asked if there was any new business; there was none.

The chairman announced one item of new business. There were three Wheatland districts up for trustee elections. Jim McVay read the Nomination Committee Affidavit. The Nominating Committee was composed of Ed Cupp, Milan D. Reimer, Dale Wetzel, Pat Riley, Jason Dougherty, Matt Hoisington and Kim Miller. The Nominating Committee placed into nomination and selected the following candidates: Mike Thon, District 3; Dan Bonine, District 6; and Mark Arnold, District 7. McVay presented that all nominations were made by motion, seconded and passed by unanimous vote. 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, the chairman asked for nominations from the floor. At the end of the 60-second waiting period and awaiting any response from the remote locations, 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 Nominating Committee for Districts 3, 6 and 7. Therefore, Mike Thon, District 3; Dan Bonine, District 6; and Mark Arnold, District 7; were elected to three-year terms as Wheatland trustees.

After the new business results were announced, Chairman Barnes called for the retirement of the colors. Cub Scout Pack 7184 retired the colors.

Thereafter, Chairman Barnes announced that Crissy Charles was the winner of the grand prize Traeger grill.

The chairman also asked for and found that there was no additional new business to be presented at the meeting. Chairman Barnes ordered that the meeting be adjourned by motion made, seconded and carried at 2:03 p.m. CDT.

Respectfully submitted

James M. McVay, General Counsel