

**MID-CAROLINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**LEXINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**June 26, 2024**

**AGENDA ITEM # 1**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Marvin W. Sox, President/Chairman  
(1:00 p.m.) Alan R. Lunsford, Vice-President/Vice-Chairman  
Donette B. Kirkland, Secretary  
J. Allan Risinger, Treasurer  
J. Carey Bedenbaugh, Jr.  
Eddie C. Best, Jr.  
Kenneth E. Lindler  
Mark A. Svrcek  
Justin B. Watts

**STAFF PRESENT:** B. Robert “Bob” Paulling, President and CEO  
Theresa D. Crepes. VP, Finance and Accounting  
Lee H. Ayers, VP, Engineering  
Troy A. Simpson, VP, Member Services  
Steven G. Davidson, VP, Information Technology  
Vicki E. Ross-Bell, Administrative Services Manager

**ATTORNEY PRESENT:** None

**INVOCATION:** Ken Lindler

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AGENDA ITEM # 2**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairman Sox called the meeting to order and welcomed Mr. Jason Derrick, Project Engineer, in Mr. Wilbur’s absence. He then asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes of the last monthly meeting held on May 29, 2024. Mr. Bedenbaugh made a motion to approve the minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watts and unanimously passed.

**See Resolution # 1**

**AGENDA ITEM # 3**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was no unfinished business to come before the Board at this time.

## AGENDA ITEM # 4

### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTING:**

**FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING:** Chairman Sox called on Mrs. Crepes for the Finance and Accounting report. Mrs. Crepes reported the year-to-date revenue was \$62,422,522, which is (\$2,350,666) below budget at the end of May. The year-to-date cost of wholesale power was \$33,323,348, which is under budget by (\$2,157,432). The year-to-date margins were \$3,931,499, which is \$50,235 above budget. Mrs. Crepes reported that equity was 23.50% at the end of May for an increase of 0.07%. The deferred credits account balance changed by \$150,410, and the ending balance was \$3,700,339.

Mrs. Crepes then presented a rate comparison chart showing an average residential usage of 1,202 kWh in May. Mid-Carolina's average bill was \$136.33 (account charge \$28.50) compared to Dominion's \$171.70 (account charge \$9.50), Duke – Carolina's \$164.77 (account charge \$11.96), and Duke – Progress \$176.20 (account charge \$11.78). She then presented a rate comparison chart showing an average annual usage of 17,223 kWh. Mid-Carolina's average annualized bill was \$1,985.69 (account charge \$346.75) compared to Dominion's \$2,482.09 (account charge \$114.00), Duke – Carolina's \$2,286.51 (account charge \$143.52), and Duke – Progress \$2,500.96 (account charge \$141.36).

Mrs. Crepes reported that Mid-Carolina has received \$2,191,766 from CarolinaConnect year-to-date. There were no further questions or comments, and Chairman Sox thanked Mrs. Crepes for her report.

**OPERATIONS:** Chairman Sox called on Mr. Derrick for the Operations report. Mr. Derrick reported the locations and the service district that the Mid-Carolina and Contractor crews worked in May. The right-of-way crews are still working in the Gilbert and South Congaree areas. Mr. Derrick stated the System Inspectors have finished working in the Friarsgate area, and they are now working in the Irmo area.

Mr. Derrick discussed the Carolina Crossroads, Midlands Connection and Broad River Road projects. He reported that 14 out of 20 service installations have been completed for DOT Facilities. The Broad River preliminary design is in progress and shows that 100+ poles will be affected.

Mr. Derrick presented the Serviced Rules and Regulations SRR 505 – Vegetation Management Program. He discussed the recommended changes to the policy that align with the Cooperative's current work practices. After a discussion, Mr. Bedenbaugh made a motion to approve the updates, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Best and unanimously passed.

### **See Resolution # 2**

There were no further questions or comments, and Chairman Sox thanked Mr. Derrick for the report.

**ENGINEERING:** Chairman Sox called on Mr. Ayers for the Engineering report. Mr. Ayers reported that the routine inspection and maintenance was completed in May. He stated that the permitting for Lake Murray substation upgrades are in progress. The design and drawings are being finalized along with the equipment order. Mr. Ayers next discussed the status of the fiber construction in subdivisions.

Mr. Ayers then showed a chart graphing MWh purchased each month year-to-date from 2020-2024 with a five-year running average. The next chart showed the MW Demand purchased each month year-to-date from 2020-2024 with a five-year running average. The monthly outage report and notes for May were reviewed. There were no further questions or comments, and Chairman Sox thanked Mr. Ayers for his report.

**MEMBER SERVICES:** Chairman Sox called on Mr. Simpson for the Member Services report. Mr. Simpson reported on the different ways the Cooperative is connecting with the Community through the employee's Community Outreach Team and other employee volunteers. He then discussed the internal communication's platform for the employees. Mr. Simpson next showed the Cooperative's Brand Identity on Social Media and reviewed the quarterly schedule for the *South Carolina Living* magazine through the September 2024 issue. There were no further questions or comments, and Chairman Sox thanked Mr. Simpson for his report.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** Chairman Sox called on Mr. Davidson for the Information Technology report. Mr. Davidson reported there were 40,901 accounts enrolled in SmartHub as of June 1, 2024, which represents 67.85% of active accounts enrolled. He stated that 85.62% of all May payment transactions were made electronically. Mr. Davidson reported that an additional 545 members enrolled in TextPower this month, bringing the enrollment total to 41,523. He stated there are now 3,018 members enrolled in Pay-As-You-Go, and 54 payments were made through the new InComm system in May.

Mr. Davidson reported there were 31,124 emails received during the month, and 8,216 emails were blocked prior to reaching the Cooperative's email servers. He then gave an update on Cyber Security. There were no further questions or comments, and Chairman Sox thanked Mr. Davidson for his report.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Chairman Sox called on Mrs. Ross-Bell for the Administration report. Mrs. Ross-Bell referred to the monthly Operation Round-Up report. There were 9 applications approved out of 16 for a total donation of \$24,483. The Trust Fund balance at the end of the month was \$34,754.

Mrs. Ross-Bell reviewed the Board calendars through October 2024. She then reported that the annual compliance examination with the Office of Regulatory Staff was completed earlier in the month. The Lobbyist Principal and Lobbyist Disclosure filing was completed with the Ethics Commission. There were no further questions or comments, and Chairman Sox thanked Mrs. Ross-Bell for her report.

#### **AGENDA ITEM # 5**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Chairman Sox called on Mr. Paulling for his report. Mr. Paulling reported there were no recordable accidents in May. He discussed the five new employees that started earlier in the month. An Engineering Technician II retired during the month with 43 years of service. A Fleet Technician was transferred to a Utility Cable Locator. There was an involuntary termination effective May 30, 2024. Currently, there is active recruitment for a Custodian, Member Services Representative, Engineering Technician and a Fleet Technician.

Mr. Paulling gave a report on the status of the 2023-2024 goals he was given by the Board for the year. He then gave a Central and Santee Cooper update. There were no further questions or comments, and Chairman Sox thanked Mr. Paulling for his report.

#### **AGENDA ITEM # 6**

**LEGAL REPORT:** There was no legal report at this time.

#### **AGENDA ITEM # 7**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Chairman Sox read a thank you note. He had nothing further to report at this time.

#### **AGENDA ITEM # 8**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Chairman Sox stated that the Compensation Committee met just prior to this meeting, and there will be a report in executive session. He then called on Ms. Kirkland for the Policy Committee report. Ms. Kirkland stated that the Board received Board Policy 204 – Consultants to the Board, Board Policy 205 – Board Campaigns and Board Policy 206 – Board Executive Session and Minutes. Board Policies 204 and 206 will reflect that they were reviewed and discussed at this meeting. There were no other committee reports at this time.

#### **AGENDA ITEM # 9**

**ASSOCIATED MEETING REPORTS:** Chairman Sox called on Mr. Paulling for the CarolinaConnect update. CarolinaConnect now has almost 38,000 customers. Mid-Carolina has almost 19,500 members with CarolinaConnect.

Mr. Risinger reported that Central's next Board Meeting will be in July.

Ms. Kirkland reported that Statewide and CEEUS had good Board Meetings at the ECSC Summer Conference. She then gave an update on the *South Carolina Living* magazine.

Chairman Sox reported that he attended the Federated meeting during the CFC Forum. Both meetings were good and provided useful information.

Several Board Members reported that the NRECA course they attended at the ECSC Summer Conference they attended was good and a crossover of other courses previously taken.

There were no other reports at this time.

**AGENDA ITEM # 10**

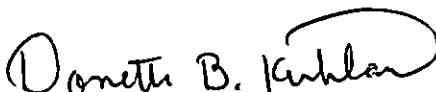
**NEW BUSINESS:** Chairman Sox called for any new business. There was no new business to come before the meeting at this time. Mr. Lindler made a motion to enter executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bedenbaugh and unanimously passed.

**AGENDA ITEM # 11**

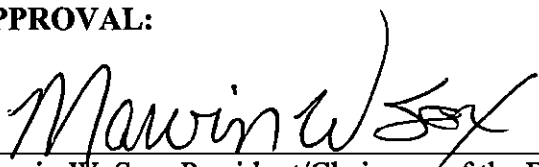
**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was no action taken during the executive session.

**AGENDA ITEM # 12**

**ADJOURNMENT:** There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

  
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Donette B. Kirkland, Secretary

**APPROVAL:**

  
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Marvin W. Sox, President/Chairman of the Board

**S.C. 37 LEXINGTON**

**MID-CAROLINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**RESOLUTION**

**# 1**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees reviewed and had no changes to the minutes of the regular monthly meeting held on May 29, 2024; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby approves the minutes for the May 29, 2024, meeting as presented.

I, Donette B. Kirkland, Secretary of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc. do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc. at a regular meeting duly assembled on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024, at which meeting a quorum was present.

  
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Donette B. Kirkland, Secretary

**S.C. 37 LEXINGTON**

**MID-CAROLINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**

**RESOLUTION**

**# 2**

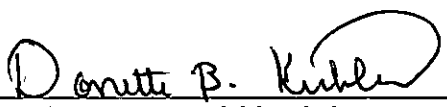
**WHEREAS**, Mr. Derrick presented the Service Rules and Regulations SRR 505 – Vegetation Management Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Derrick made recommendations to the policy to reflect the Cooperative’s current practices; and

**WHEREAS**, after a discussion, the Board agrees with the recommended updates to the policy;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby approves the recommended changes to the Service Rules and Regulations SRR 505 – Vegetation Management Program. The policy is attached hereto.

I, Donette B. Kirkland, Secretary of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc. do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc. at a regular meeting duly assembled on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024, at which meeting a quorum was present.

  
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Donette B. Kirkland, Secretary

## MID-CAROLINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

### SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS

#### 500 MISCELLANEOUS

#### 505 VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

##### New Right of Way Clearing

~~New rights of way will be cleared of trees and vegetation prior to performing line construction activities. The clearing will be in accordance with the specifications of the Cooperative's Engineering and Operations Department as well as National Standards. For primary and un-insulated secondary wires, a minimum of 10 feet horizontal distance from the wire on each side will be cleared from "ground to sky".~~

##### Right-of-Way Clearing for New Lines

We clear trees and vegetation from new rights-of-way prior to performing line construction. Our contract crews meet Mid-Carolina's right-of-way specifications, which comply with the National Electric Safety Code. Wood belongs to the property owner and is left on-site at the edge of the right-of-way. Limbs are ground up on-site. Mid-Carolina does not remove wood from the property.

##### Right of Way Vegetation Maintenance

~~Tree crews will re-clear the Cooperative's rights of way on a continuing basis in support of our ongoing re-clearing cycle. Herbicide spraying on rights of way will be performed in addition to re-clearing to help prevent undergrowth of vegetation and extend our re-clearing cycle. The minimum clearance for 3 phase, 2 phase, single phase primary lines, and open wire secondaries (un-insulated wires) is 10 feet from the wire on each side. The 10' horizontal minimum clearance will be maintained from "ground to sky" on all three phase lines. Effort will be made to eliminate all trees, tree parts, and growth points beneath the wires and all weak, diseased, and dead limbs above the wires which may fall or blow into the wires.~~

##### Right-of-Way Re-clearing Maintenance

Our contract crews re-clear Mid-Carolina rights-of-way on a continuing basis. We use mechanical trimming methods to re-establish proper clearances and herbicides to help prevent undergrowth and extend the period between re-clearing cycles. All herbicides used by Mid-Carolina are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Herbicides are selectively applied to target woody species and are grass friendly. These methods help us reduce outages, especially during storms or inclement weather. Mid-Carolina does not remove wood from the property.



## **Clearance Specifications**

**In all situations, trees near primary lines should be trimmed before they actually touch the power lines. Enough clearance must be obtained so the trees do not cause outages and clearance is maintained until the next re-clearing cycle.**

**Line Clearances - Clearance for three-phase, two-phase, single-phase primary lines and open-wire secondaries (uninsulated wires) is a minimum of 10 feet from the wire on each side, with additional footage often required. The 10-foot horizontal minimum clearance will be maintained from "ground to sky" on all three-phase lines. Maintaining clearance on primary lines helps reduce tree-related outages during inclement weather and storms. The preferred minimum clearance is 3 feet on each side of all service drops and secondary wires (insulated wires). Effort will be made to eliminate all trees, tree parts and growth points beneath the wires and all weak, diseased and dead limbs above the wires which may cause outages.**

**Transformer Clearances - The green box in your yard contains an underground service transformer. Never enclose it or block it with fencing, shrubs or anything that prohibits immediate access. Maintain these clearance minimums around your transformer: 4 feet on the back, 4 feet on each side, and 10 feet on the front. (The front has the door and lock.)**

**If these clearances aren't maintained, Mid-Carolina may need to remove obstructions. Please do not replace them as they cause timely delays in outage restoration.**

## **Tree Removal**

~~Trees that are severely leaning, dead, decayed, or otherwise hazardous to the power lines are classified as "danger trees." The Cooperative will cut danger trees outside of the easement that pose a threat to its power lines. In improved areas such as yards, the dead and danger trees will be cut down, cut up into manageable lengths, left on site, and the limbs will be chipped and hauled away. In unimproved and/or wooded areas, danger trees will be cut down and left as is on-site. The Cooperative will not clean up, remove, or haul away any dead tree debris due to the excessive cost of disposal. Member requests for tree removal will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and performed in accordance with the above policy. The Cooperative reserves the right to refuse to cut or remove any tree which, in its judgment, poses little or no threat to its lines or that can be safely cut or removed by a private tree company with no damage to the lines.~~

## **Dead and Danger Trees**

**Trees that are alive but severely leaning or otherwise pose a threat to Mid-Carolina facilities or equipment are classified as *danger trees*. Trees that are dead or in the process of dying are classified as *dead trees*. In an effort to ensure reliable service for all members, Mid-Carolina cuts dead and danger trees outside of any easement that pose a threat to our power lines. In areas maintained by the property owner, such as yards, we will cut down the dead and danger trees and leave the wood on-site. Limbs will be chipped and hauled away. In unmaintained and/or wooded areas, dead and danger trees will be cut down and left as is on-site. Mid-Carolina will not clean up, remove or haul away any dead and danger tree debris, ~~due to excessive cost of disposal.~~**

## **Notification**

Mid-Carolina uses its phone notification system to contact each member on the circuit prior to re-clearing. The notification will be sent to the primary contact phone number associated with the account. Notifications are sent when a contractor begins work on a particular circuit, which could mean the notification could be is received months prior to the work being done on a member's property. Notification is not possible when tree crews are working on outages, emergencies, or the cutting of dead and danger trees.

## **Vegetation Management Requests**

Members can make specific requests for vegetation management by contacting Mid-Carolina at (803) 749-6400 or (888) 813-8000. We evaluate each request on a case-by-case basis. Mid-Carolina reserves the right to refuse any request that, in our judgment, poses little or no threat to our lines. Mid-Carolina does not remove any wood

## **Debris Disposal**

~~Branches and brush debris from the re-clearing activities in improved areas, such as yards and lawns, will be chipped, cleaned up, and hauled away. Large limbs and wood will be cut into manageable lengths and left on site.~~

~~Material from our chipping operation is available to our members at no charge. When requested, the chips are delivered by the truck load in an "as is" condition to the closest areas where the crews are working. If crews are working in an area where no requests have been made for chips, chipped material will be spread in the easement and mowed as a means of disposal.~~

~~Branches and brush debris that are pruned and left in unimproved areas, such as woods and areas not maintained by the property owner, will be mowed and left on site.~~

~~Branches, wood, and brush debris generated as a result of storms and storm restoration will not be cleaned up by the Cooperative.~~

## **Debris Disposal**

Branches and brush debris from re-clearing activities in maintained areas, such as yards and lawns, will be chipped. Large limbs and wood will be cut and left on-site. Material from our chipping operation is available to our members at no charge. If you would like to have chips for mulch or compost, it's best to ask the vegetation clearing crews when they are working in your area. You can also obtain chips by calling Mid-Carolina at (803) 749-6400 or (888) 813-8000 or emailing [memberservices@mcecoop.com](mailto:memberservices@mcecoop.com). We deliver the chips by truckload in "as is" condition to the closest areas where the crews are working. Small amounts are not delivered.

If crews are working in an area where no requests for chips have been made, chipped material may be spread in our easement and mowed as a means of disposal.

Branches and brush debris that are trimmed and left in unmaintained areas will be mowed and left on-site. Branches, wood and brush debris generated as a result of storms and storm restoration will not be cleaned up by Mid-Carolina or its contract crews.

Storm Debris – Mid-Carolina CEC and its contractors will cut fallen trees and other storm debris to clear our lines. We will only cut what is needed to restore service and storm debris will not be cleaned up or removed from the property.

### **Services and Outdoor Lights**

~~The Cooperative's vegetation crews will prune limbs to maintain adequate clearance around the secondary, service, and outdoor light wires during our re-clearing cycle. Pruning limbs for outdoor light pattern or to improve light output is the responsibility of the member.~~

~~All service wires will only be cleared of small branches not large limbs or trees over the service wires.~~

~~If members, or private tree companies hired by members, feel that it is unsafe to work close to the service wire or to cut or remove trees next to it, the Cooperative will schedule an appointment during regular business hours to disconnect the electric service and re-install it after the tree work is complete. The Cooperative will not charge for this service if performed during regular business hours.~~

### **Service Wires and Outdoor Lights**

Mid-Carolina's contract crews trim limbs to maintain adequate clearance around the service wire to your meter and the service wire to Mid-Carolina's leased outdoor lighting. Trimming limbs for outdoor lights to improve light output is the responsibility of the member. Service wires will only be cleared of small branches not large limbs or trees over the service wires.

If you, or a private tree company hired by you, feel it is unsafe to work close to the service wire or to cut or remove trees next to it, please contact Mid-Carolina at (803) 749-6400 or (888) 813-8000 or email [memberservices@mcecoop.com](mailto:memberservices@mcecoop.com) to schedule a crew to disconnect your electric service and re-install it after the tree work is complete. There could possibly be charges for this service. It will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. is no charge for this service if performed during regular business hours.