

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

**LEXINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA**

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

**January 22, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM # 1**

**CALL TO ORDER:**  
(1:00 p.m.)

Marvin W. Sox, President/Chairman  
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  
Robert A. Wilbur, VP, Operations  
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:** J. David Black

**INVOCATION:** Carey Bedenbaugh

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AGENDA ITEM # 2**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairman Sox called the meeting to order. He then asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes of the last monthly meeting held on December 18, 2024. Mr. Lunsford made a motion to approve the minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bedenbaugh and unanimously passed.

**See Resolution # 1**

**AGENDA ITEM # 3**

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

## 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 \$155,685,601, which is \$3,467,801 under budget at the end of December. The year-to-date cost of wholesale power was \$86,332,730, which is under budget by (\$2,465,777). The year-to-date margins were \$9,628,407, which is \$328,254 above budget. Mrs. Crepes reported that equity was 23.42% at the end of December for a decrease of -0.44%. The deferred credits account balance changed by \$10,519,733, and the ending balance was \$6,358,841.

Mrs. Crepes then presented a rate comparison chart showing an average residential usage of 1,265 kWh in December. Mid-Carolina's average bill was \$180.61 (account charge \$28.50) compared to Dominion's \$180.98 (account charge \$9.50), Duke – Carolina's \$200.79 (account charge \$11.96), and Duke – Progress \$176.80 (account charge \$11.78). She then presented a rate comparison chart showing an average annual usage of 17,585 kWh. Mid-Carolina's average annualized bill was \$2,283.34 (account charge \$346.75) compared to Dominion's \$2,475.08 (account charge \$114.00), Duke – Carolina's \$2,558.91 (account charge \$143.52), and Duke – Progress \$2,535.04 (account charge \$141.36).

Mrs. Crepes reported that Mid-Carolina has received \$5,513,797 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. Wilbur for the Operations report. Mr. Wilbur reported the locations that the Mid-Carolina and Contractor crews worked in December. The right-of-way crews are still working in the Gilbert, Coldstream, and Springhill areas. They have started working in the South Congaree and Leesville areas. Mr. Wilbur stated the System Inspectors are continuing to work on post storm inspections. He reported that the clearing started in early December for the Carolina Crossroads project, and the final plans are due in March 2025. Mr. Wilbur then presented the 2024 Work Order Summary detailing the total for the year of 2,541, with an additional 470 work orders from Hurricane Helene. There were no further questions or comments, and Chairman Sox thanked Mr. Wilbur 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. He stated repairs were made to a high side breaker at Circle Substation for a defect that was found during routine inspection. Clearing and grading for Lake Murray Substation continues, and the foundation work will begin within the month. Mr. Ayers reported that the Apparatus Crews received training from Santee Cooper on operating 115 kV breakers in their Columbia Substation. He next discussed the status of 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 for December was discussed. 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 called on the Manager of Member Services, Mrs. Christina Rish, to present the 2024 Member Services Year-End Review. Mrs. Rish presented the stats on calls presented, answered, abandoned, as well as the after-hours calls. The Member Service Representatives continue to do an excellent job processing the heavy load of calls that come in on a daily basis. Mrs. Rish provided additional stats for the electronic group, which includes online chats, online applications, emails and other services. She also gave the number of bills that were generated in 2024, along with the number of service orders and billing payments received at both offices. Chairman Sox thanked Mrs. Rish for her presentation.

Mr. Simpson reviewed the quarterly schedule for the *South Carolina Living* magazine through the April 2025 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 42,231 accounts enrolled in SmartHub as of January 1, 2025, which represents 69.60% of active accounts enrolled. He stated that 87.37% of all December payment transactions were made electronically. Mr. Davidson reported that an additional 591 members enrolled in TextPower this month, bringing the enrollment total to 49,376. He stated there are now 3,019 members enrolled in Pay-As-You-Go, and 225 payments were made through the new InComm system in December.

Mr. Davidson reported there were 20,356 emails received during the month, and 6,387 emails were blocked prior to reaching Cooperative's email servers. He then gave an update on Cybersecurity. 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. The Trust Board didn't have a scheduled meeting in December. The donation to the five Christian Ministries totaled \$12,561 in December, leaving a balance of \$22,676 in the Trust Fund. Mrs. Ross-Bell presented a chart showing the breakdown of the 2024 donations by type, which showed a total of over \$309,000 that was donated back to the community.

Mrs. Ross-Bell then stated that Mrs. Tonya Rodgers was nominated to represent District 1 on the Trust Board. After a discussion, Ms. Kirkland made a motion to approve Mrs. Rodgers to serve on the Trust Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Best and unanimously passed.

### **See Resolution # 2**

Mrs. Ross-Bell reviewed the Board calendars through March 2025. Mr. Watts made a motion to approve Chairman Sox, Mr. Bedenbaugh, Mr. Best, Mr. Lindler and Mr. Svrcsek to attend the NRECA PowerXchange meeting that will be held in Atlanta, GA from March 9-12, 2025. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kirkland and unanimously passed.

There were no further questions or comments, and Chairman Sox thanked Mrs. Ross-Bell for her report.

## **AGENDA ITEM # 5**

**CEO'S REPORT:** Chairman Sox called on Mr. Paulling for his report. Mr. Paulling discussed that there were no recordable accidents in December, but the number of recordables in 2022 (2), 2023 (5) and 2024 (7) has been trending in the wrong direction. He then reported there was a promotion to the System Meter Supervisor, which opens active recruitment for a Metering Specialist. Mr. Paulling then stated the Facilities Technician and Executive Assistant positions have been filled with a start date in February 2025.

Mr. Paulling presented the 2025 Lee Electrical Construction contract for Board approval. They have requested a 3% increase adjustment to units. Mr. Paulling explained the requested adjustment in detail and answered questions throughout the discussion. Mr. Svrcek made a motion to approve the recommendation, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bedenbaugh and unanimously passed.

### **See Resolution # 3**

Mr. Paulling presented the two 2025 McCall-Thomas Engineering Company, Inc. contracts for Board approval. One contract is for the annual general engineering services, and one is for emergency restoration services. After a discussion, Mr. Risinger made a motion for the Cooperative to use McCall-Thomas Engineering in 2025 pursuant to the proposed contracts. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bedenbaugh and unanimously passed.

### **See Resolution # 4**

Mr. Paulling gave a presentation highlighting the Cooperative's accomplishments in 2024. He then discussed the Strategic Planning meeting scheduled for April 22-23, 2025. Each participant in the Strategic Planning meeting will schedule a phone conversation with the meeting facilitator over the next coming weeks. Mr. Paulling read the series of questions that will be covered during the call. These answers will be compiled for discussion at the meeting in April. There were no further questions or comments, and Chairman Sox thanked Mr. Paulling for his report.

## **AGENDA ITEM # 6**

**LEGAL REPORT:** Chairman Sox called on Mr. Black for the legal report. Mr. Black discussed several pending legal matters. There were no further questions or comments, and Chairman Sox thanked Mr. Black for his report.

## **AGENDA ITEM # 7**

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Chairman Sox read a couple of thank you notes. He then stated that the Board had to appoint a Voting Delegate and Alternate to the NRECA PowerXchange meeting that would be held in Atlanta, GA from March 9-12, 2025. After a reminder of who was attending the meeting, Mr. Bedenbaugh made a motion to appoint Mr. Eddie C. Best to serve as the Voting Delegate. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watts and unanimously passed. Mr. Best made a motion to appoint Mr. J. Carey Bedenbaugh as the Alternate. The motion was seconded by Mr. Risinger and unanimously passed.

### **See Resolution # 5**

Chairman Sox had nothing further to report at this time.

### **AGENDA ITEM # 8**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Chairman Sox called on Ms. Kirkland for the Policy Committee Report. Ms. Kirkland reported that the Policy Committee met just prior to the meeting today. The Committee reviewed a proposed Cybersecurity Policy that will be presented to the Board on February 26, 2025.

Chairman Sox then called on Mr. Risinger for the Retiree Welfare Benefit Trust Committee. Mr. Risinger reported that the Committee had a call just prior to the meeting. The Trust account is still overfunded and there are no recommended changes at this time. The Committee will meet again on May 28, 2025.

The Audit Committee will meet prior to the Board Meeting on February 26, 2025. There were no other committee reports at this time.

### **AGENDA ITEM # 9**

**ASSOCIATED MEETING REPORTS:** Chairman Sox stated that CarolinaConnect's Board Meeting will be held on January 28, 2025.

Mr. Risinger gave an update on Central.

Ms. Kirkland stated the ECSC Communications meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2025. The CEEUS and ECSC Board Meetings are scheduled for February 6, 2025.

Mr. Lunsford stated the ECSC Trustee Association Committee met earlier this month to plan the Spring Trustee Association meeting. This Trustee meeting is scheduled for May 7-9, 2025, at the Embassy Suites in Mt. Pleasant, SC.

Chairman Sox gave an update on Federated. 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. Bedenbaugh made a motion to enter the executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Best 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 4:35 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 December 18, 2024;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby approves the minutes for the last regular monthly meeting held on December 18, 2024.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2025, 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**, the Board of Trustees needs to fill the seat for the unexpired term representing District 1 on the Board of Directors of the Mid-Carolina Electric Trust; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Tonya Rodgers has been nominated to fill the seat; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees discussed and agrees with the nomination;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby appoints Mrs. Tonya Rodgers to fill the seat for the unexpired term representing District 1 until May 2027, on the Board of Directors of the Mid-Carolina Electric Trust Board.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2025, 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**

**# 3**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Paulling recommended that the Cooperative continue to secure electrical construction from Lee Electrical Construction, Inc.; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Paulling presented to the Board of Trustees a proposed contract for renewal with a 3% increase adjustment to units; and

**WHEREAS**, after due consideration, the Board of Trustees concurs with Mr. Paulling's recommendation;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby approves the aforesaid contract with Lee Electrical Construction, Inc. for services rendered during the year of 2025.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2025, 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**

**# 4**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Paulling recommended that the Cooperative continue to secure necessary general engineering and emergency restoration services from McCall-Thomas Engineering Company, Inc. during 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Paulling presented to the Board of Trustees a proposed contract for the Electric System Design and Construction and a proposed contract for Emergency Restoration services with McCall-Thomas Engineering Co., Inc., dated as of January 1, 2025, and recommended that both said contracts be approved and executed on behalf of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.; and

**WHEREAS**, after due consideration, the Board of Trustees concurs with Mr. Paulling's recommendation;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby approves the aforesaid contracts with McCall-Thomas Engineering Company, Inc. dated as of January 1, 2025, and the President is hereby authorized and directed to execute the contract on behalf of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2025, 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**

**# 5**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees is responsible for selecting a Voting Delegate and Alternate for the upcoming NRECA PowerXchange meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees desires to appoint the within-named persons as the Voting Delegate and Alternate to the aforesaid meeting;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby appoints the Voting Delegate and Alternate to the NRECA 2025 PowerXchange meeting, as follows:

**NRECA**

Voting Delegate

Mr. Eddie C. Best

Alternate

Mr. J. Carey Bedenbaugh

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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2025, at which meeting a quorum was present.

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Donette B. Kirkland, Secretary