

**WASHINGTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**June 26, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors, conducted in person and via video teleconference, was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by President Stephen Knowlton. The following Board members were in attendance:

Susan Alexander

Don Douglas

Mary Just Skinner

Betsy Allen

Steven Farnham

Olivia Campbell Andersen

Stephen Knowlton

Also present were General Manager (GM) Louis Porter; Attorney Ron Shems of the law firm Tarrant, Gillies, & Shems, the Cooperative's legal counsel; Director of Engineering & Operations (E&O) Dave Kresock; Director of Finance & Administration (F&A) Teia Greenslit; Director of Products & Services (P&S) Bill Powell; Director of Special Projects & Innovation (SP&I) JJ Vandette; Member Services Supervisor Susan Golden and Administrative Assistant Dawn Johnson. Director Douglas, Staff member Powell, and member Roger Fox of Walden attended remotely. Member Fox joined at 4:17 p.m. and departed at 5:26 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included the minutes of the May 2024 regular Board meeting held May 29, 2024. Director Farnham requested that the minutes be changed to reflect the word contractors be used instead of CUDs in the Other Business section.

*President Knowlton declared the minutes of the regular May 2024 meeting of the Board of Directors, held May 29, 2024, approved as amended.*

**TRANSFORMER POLICY**

GM Porter requested that Board approval to change the Transformer Policy be postponed until the August board meeting. Porter summarized the basic issues as to why WEC's Transformer Policy needs to be changed to a more socialized approach. He explained that a change to the policy would align WEC with how other utilities in the state cover transformer costs. The policy proposal being created will be in line with RUS loan guidelines and will apply to only new transformer requests serving EV and/or Heat Pumps, not for new construction or net metering. GM Porter will talk with VEC about how they monitor members who may falsify their expected load usage to obtain larger transformers without a true need.

**TREE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT**

GM Porter provided information to the Board regarding implementation of the AI Dash pilot project to assist with vegetation management. Porter noted that many utilities, including GMP, currently use AI Dash to assist with vegetation management. The use of artificial intelligence would be a new surveying approach for maintaining WEC's right-of-way corridors for power lines. The one year pilot project would give WEC the opportunity to try out the service and evaluate its effectiveness in WEC's territory. The \$25,000 cost of the pilot project would be paid out of the current Right of Way budget.

Director Alexander requested clarification between The System Optimization and LiDAR for Vermont Energy Resilience (SOLVER) and AI Dash. GM Porter explained that the SOLVER project photographs the territory with low flying planes when leaves are off, so it doesn't provide sufficient information needed for vegetation management. SOLVER would provide the photograph file to WEC for mapping purposes but does not convert the photos into a vegetation management plan. AI Dash is satellite-based and is used to create a 3D image of the lines and trees which then be used to create a plan prioritizing the areas where cutting will do the most to reduce outages.



## WEC ANNUAL MEETING SURVEY

President Knowlton noted that the M&M Committee discussed the survey at the June 13, 2024, meeting. Knowlton briefly reviewed the survey with the Board and noted that Question 4, length of the meeting, and Question 6, the speaker, was enough away from strongly satisfied that attention should be given to those areas. It was noted that two more microphones and two more large screens would improve the members' audio and visual concerns.

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

GM Porter provided a brief overview of the General Manager's Report, including the conclusion of the Kingsbury case. He noted that the PUC directed WEC to change the way WEC was accounting for directly interconnected group net metering systems. The new collection and repayment plan has been approved by the PUC and the necessary changes to member accounts have been completed.

Director Alexander requested clarification as to the status and funders of the ESAP and EVSE grants. GM Porter stated that the funding is federally divided up between the states and then coming to the utilities through the DPS. Director of SP&I Vandette reviewed the barriers to funding the installation of EVSE level 3 chargers in WEC territory.

Director Farnham requested clarification as to why we are changing to Emporia versus Charge Point for EV charger contracts. Director of P&S Powell explained that Emporia will not require WEC to keep EV chargers in stock, but we will keep the contract with Charge Point because we still have 3 EV chargers in stock.

## OTHER BUSINESS

President Knowlton drew the Board's attention to the VPPSA Power report. Knowlton noticed a difference in the presentation of the HQ data. GM Porter will talk with VPPSA regarding the data difference.

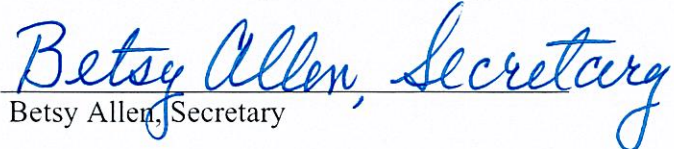
## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered executive session at 5:26 p.m. to discuss the Coventry Air Permit and the Cooperative's future planning strategy for the Wrightsville Hydro plant. The meeting reconvened in open session at 6:28 p.m.

There being no further essential business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Betsy Allen, Secretary

The foregoing record of the minutes was duly accepted by the Board of Directors at a regular meeting held on August 28, 2024, at which a quorum of the Board was present and voting.

  
Betsy Allen, Secretary