The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Stearns Electric Association was held on April 23, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. via audio/video conference call due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Vicky Herkenhoff, Ms. Darla Honkomp, and Ms. Cindy Anderson presented information to the directors on the potential financial impacts to the Cooperative as a result of COVID-19. Manager of Member Services, Darla Honkomp shared how the Cooperative is working with its membership to manage the risk that could be associated with member’s inability to pay their electric bills.

Manager of Finance, Cindy Anderson reviewed the March 2020 financial and statistical information with the Board.

CEO Robin Doege reported on extensive communication with the Minnesota Rural Electric Association from both a pandemic planning and legislative issues perspective.

A significant amount of time has been spent on understanding and implementing the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and how it helps employees affected by COVID-19.

The Engineering department reported that members and contractors are moving forward with construction and planning work in the 2020 building season.

Manager of Operations, Glenn Blommel reviewed progress on the first cycle of the right-of-way clearing plan. Several graphs and maps outlined planned and completed units, miles of line and the number of feeders covered by the work for each year. Overall, the work has resulted in fewer tree service orders and related outages.

As a result of the cancellation of the MREA annual meeting in March, voting information related to proposed revisions to ongoing resolutions, 2020 bylaw proposals and membership dues were reviewed by CEO Doege for the directors. A consensus to vote in favor of the official ballot items was submitted by the Cooperative’s delegate, Jerry Fries.

Attorney Scott Dymoke is continuing to prepare for the May 7th meeting to wrap up the Cooperative election. Questions regarding the election were answered by Mr. Dymoke.

Next Meeting: July 30, 2020