

STEARNS ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

MAY 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Stearns Electric Association was held on May 28, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. via audio/video conference call due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Manager of Finance, Cindy Anderson, reviewed the April 2020 financial and statistical information with the Board. The directors asked questions about the effects of COVID-19 on large commercial accounts which were answered by V.P. of Engineering and Operations, Matt O'Shea.

CEO, Robin Doege reported on the current financial condition of the Cooperative's subsidiary businesses. The pandemic has continued to affect the new installation and repair revenue of Heartland Security Services. CEO Doege was elected secretary of the HSS Board. Carr's Tree Service is having a good year due to favorable weather conditions this past winter and because COVID-19 has not affected their workforce as much as other industries.

The past month's Great River Energy (GRE) meetings focused on reviewing resource plans, power supply changes and flexible power purchase contracts.

The Member Service report, presented by V.P. of Administration and Finance, Vicky Herkenhoff, provided a review of updated billing and disconnection practices due to COVID-19.

GRE Board Member Greg Blaine reported on activities related to the acceptance of closing Coal Creek Station in North Dakota by the end of 2022. The use of the adjoined Blue Flint Ethanol Bio-refinery is under review to determine whether it's possible to repower with natural gas. Spiritwood Station, also a coal burning plant in North Dakota, will be refitted to burn natural gas to produce energy. As a result, the change from coal to green energy sources are projected to lower wholesale power costs in the future. The projected savings over the next 20 years is approximately 25%. Overall, converting to green energy sources reduces GRE's carbon footprint by 95%.

Administrative Assistant, Deb Hoeschen, guided the directors through the first review of the proposed modifications to the Cooperative's board policies. No decisions were made as a result of the review. A second review of the proposed policies will take place at the regular June board meeting.

Next Meeting: August 27, 2020

