

STEARNS ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

JULY 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Stearns Electric Association was held on July 30, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at the Stearns Electric Association office in St. Joseph.

CEO Robin Doege presented the Cooperative's plan for opening up Stearns Electric offices for appointments. Although both offices remain closed to walk-in traffic, members and guests can schedule an appointment at either office.

Darrick Moe, President and CEO of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), joined the meeting and presented on how the Eco Bill would have accomplished needed reforms to the current Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) program.

The Member Service report, presented by Manager of Member Services, Darla Honkomp, provided a summary of late payments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Honkomp stated that the three-month period of waiving late fees due to the COVID-19 pandemic would expire as of July 31st. In August the usual late fees will apply to delinquent accounts. Mr. Doege added that the Cooperative followed the Governor's request to cease all disconnects and charging of late fees due to COVID-19 for this period of time.

VP of Engineering and Operations, Matt O'Shea, explained how recently, severe thunderstorms had come through the area causing multiple substation outages. He explained how substations are back-fed to restore power until needed repairs were completed.

Mr. O'Shea said the Cooperative's aggressive right-of-way program has really helped during the storm season when vegetation is not in the way of restoration efforts. A three-year comparison of the number of outages and other statistics are reviewed.

Directors participated in an executive session to discuss updates to several board policies that have been under review this year. During the meeting, the Board voted to approve updates to these policies and signed new conflict of interest acknowledgment forms.

Next Meeting: October 29, 2020

