



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE  
DELTA-MONTROSE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
October 24, 2023**

**Regular Board Session.** On October 24, 2023, the Board of Directors of Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) met for a Regular Meeting at the cooperative's Read Service Center located at 21191 H 75 Rd. in Delta, CO 81416.

<b>During its regular meeting, the DMEA Board:</b>
<b>1.</b> Approved the September membership and meter report as well as the September 2023 Regular Board Meeting minutes with one minor amendment.
<b>2.</b> Reviewed committee reports.
<b>3.</b> Received a CEO report.
<b>4.</b> Received a legal report.
<b>5.</b> Received Board representative reports from WUES and the CREA as well as reports from those who attended conferences and trainings.
<b>6.</b> Approved updates to the Retirement Security (RS) plans for employees via resolution.
<b>7.</b> Reviewed upcoming meeting dates and times.
<b>8.</b> Reviewed member comments.
<b>9.</b> Entered executive session to receive confidential corporate, litigation, and regulatory updates.

**Regular Board Session**

- I. **Call Meeting to Order.** President Cannon called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

- **Directors present:** Stacia Cannon, Damon Lockhart, Enno Heuscher, Jock Fleming, Emily Sanchez (left at 4:40 p.m. after IX-Member Comments), Kevin Williams, Jacob Gray, Bill Patterson
- **Directors absent:** None
- **DMEA staff present:** Mateusz Pena (Chief Engineering & Energy Resources Officer), Tiffany Stewart (HR Manager/Interim CRO), Amy Taylor (CoS), Bob Farmer (CIO), Kent Blackwell (CTO/Acting CEO), Cody Carver (COO) Gayle Gouker (CFO), Luke Young (Member Services Supervisor)
- **Others present:** Sarah Abbott (Attorney), Joseph McGill (member) (via Zoom) (left prior to X-Executive Session), Tim Lund (member) (in for IX-Member Comments), Paul Silzell (member) (in for IX-Member Comments), Wyatt & Diane Stoll (members) (in for IX-Member Comments), Tony Hoag (member, representative from the Citizens Climate Lobby) (in for IX-Member Comments), Tom Anderson (member) (in for IX-Member Comments), Kent Cloward (member) (in for IX-Member Comments), John Nichols (member, representative from Area Best Property Management) (in for IX-Member Comments), David Stueck, (member) (in for IX-Member Comments), Rick & Kathy Weaver (members) (in for IX-Member Comments), Tim Lund (members) (in for IX-Member Comments)

II. **Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Director Gray.

III. **Determination of a quorum.** President Cannon confirmed the presence of a quorum to conduct business.

IV. **Approval of the agenda.** The Board unanimously approved the agenda posted on October 12, 2023.

V. **Introductions.** Board members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

VI. **General Business.**

**1. Consent Agenda.** Upon motion from Director Williams, seconded by Director Patterson, the Board approved the September 2023 membership report as presented and adopted the September 2023 Regular Meeting minutes with one minor amendment 1) clarify under the CEO report that it will be the Member Relations committee reviewing the member/customer survey results when the summary is ready.

**2. Committee Chair Reports.**

**a. Finance, Audit & Rates.** Chair Lockhart reported the committee met prior to the Regular meeting today. At this meeting, the committee discussed the capital and operating budgets for 2024 and the 990-form information.

The budgets will be reviewed further at another committee meeting in November prior to the Regular Board meeting. The 990 will be posted to the DMEA website after the filing has been completed.

**b. Engineering, Construction & Energy Services.** Chair Cannon reported the committee met on November 19, 2023. At this meeting the committee reviewed: the 2024 construction work plan; a PURPA 111 (d) hearing update to consider updates to demand response and EV charging regulations; a Garnet Mesa purchase power agreement (PPA) update; and a load forecast. There will be a special meeting on November 9, 2023, for the PURPA hearing.

It was noted DMEA is hiring a consultant to develop a secondary load forecast for additional consideration. Director Williams asked for clarification from the meeting report regarding a discussion on large scale growth; he asked for a definition of what would be considered large scale growth. Chief Engineering and Power Resources Officer Pena noted it would be something like the construction of a new residential subdivision.

**c. Member Relations Committee.** Chair Patterson reported the committee had not met since the last regular meeting. There will be a meeting in November to discuss the 2024 annual meeting and election as well as to review the results of the recent member survey.

**d. Executive Committee.** Chair Cannon reported the committee has not met since the last regular meeting.

**3. CEO Report.** Acting CEO Blackwell presented the CEO report. DMEA received a Department of Energy (DOE) Hydroelectric Incentive payment for 2021 and 2022 for South Canal Hydro Drops 1 & 3 totaling \$1,545,054. It was noted DMEA has been receiving these payments since 2013. These payments were for 10-years; DMEA will receive its last payment in 2024 for the 2023 year. Regarding reliability, DMEA had a better monthly System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) for September than compared to the last two years.

Vegetation management contractor Asplundh's contract expired at the end of September. DMEA did not renew Asplundh's contract and is now contracting with Arbor Works. Arbor Works has already started and has

four crews running. It was noted that DMEA recently did helicopter aerial patrols of its 46 kV lines.

Chief Engineering and Power Resources Officer, Pena, presented at the recent Western Colorado Energy Futures Conference held at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction. The Spark n' Park Member Appreciation events went well with great attendance. The Read Service Center front office is now staffed Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; previously it was just open on Wednesdays.

Blackwell provided an update on the Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) letter stating it is in a holding pattern at present. The New ERA grant is currently under review. DMEA applied for a Colorado Wildlife Technology grant with a consortium of other entities which was not funded. However, the Colorado Energy Office did note the application would be a solid candidate for resubmission to a new program coming up soon.

- 4. Legal Report.** Attorney Abbott provided the legal report. Work continues on policy updates and revisions along with assistance on vegetation management contracts. There are no pending litigation matters. On the regulatory front, Abbott and staff are preparing for the public hearing in November for the Board to consider the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) amendments section 111(d)(20) and (21) standards amendments (section 111 (d)(20) & (21)) regarding demand-response practices and EV charging programs.

Abbott also attended the CREA attorney meeting this month. There were presentations from both the NRECA and CREA general counsel on cooperative case law both nationally and at the state level. There were

discussions on what will be addressed during the upcoming legislative session with net metering highlighted. The next meeting will be in May 2024 which Abbott volunteered to co-chair. Abbott asked to defer the remainder of her report to Executive Session.

## 5. Director Reports.

**a. Western United Electric Supply (WUES) Report.** Director Fleming reported there will be a meeting on Friday he is not able to attend. Director Lockhart will attend in his stead.

**b. Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) Report.** Director Lockhart noted he will be attending the next Board meeting this Saturday in conjunction with the CREA Annual Innovations Summit. Directors Fleming and Patterson and CEO Johnston will also be attending the Summit.

Director Lockhart noted he participated in a virtual budget committee meeting. Members will see a dues increase of 5% this year. There was a discussion on the safety aspect of the CREA membership offerings with it noted some cooperatives are seeking less safety services from CREA.

**c. Conference, Webinars, & Meetings.** Director Williams noted he completed a virtual offering of the NRECA 2620 course on Board Operations & Processes. This is the final course necessary for Director Williams to obtain his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD). Director Lockhart and President Cannon met with DMEA's lobbyist, CTO Blackwell, and Representative Marc Catlin on Monday

to discuss the upcoming legislative session.

**6. Informational Items.** There were no additional general business information items to address.

**7. Action Items.**

**a. Vote on Retirement Security (RS) Plan Changes.** Upon motion from Director Williams, seconded by Director Fleming, the Board unanimously approved resolution DMEA 2023-8 regarding the changes to the employee retirement security (RS) plans.

**VII. Future Meetings.** The next regular Board meeting will be on November 28, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. There will be a special Board meeting on November 2, 2023, at 8 a.m. to interview the District 2 seat appointee candidates. There will be a special Board meeting on November 9, 2023, to appoint the District 2 Board seat and to hold a PURPA hearing. There will be a Member Relations committee meeting on November 7, 2023. The December regular Board meeting will be one week earlier on December 19, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. to accommodate the Christmas holiday.

**VIII. Recess/Form Reconciliation.** The Board took a brief recess at 4:40 p.m. The meeting resumed at 5:01 p.m.

**IX. Member Comments.** John Nichols from Area Best Property Management, along with several landlords his agency represents, were present to articulate concerns over recent changes to the landlord agreement process. Staff and the Board acknowledged the concerns presented noting they would work on a plan to address these based on this and other recent feedback.

Tony Hoag, a representative from the volunteer group the Citizen's Climate Lobby that works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, addressed the Board. It was noted by staff that Mr. Hoag recently aided DMEA by informing staff of state grants relating to energy efficiency.

Another member inquired about the Garnet Mesa Solar Project. He asked if the panels would be a fixed or single-axis array with staff noting it will be a single-axis array. Construction on the project will start mid-2024. This same member also inquired about pump storage technology.

**X. Executive Session.** At 5:17 p.m., upon motion from Director Lockhart, seconded by Director Patterson, the Board unanimously entered Executive Session to receive confidential corporate, litigation, and regulatory updates. At 6:04 p.m., upon motion from Director Fleming, seconded by Director Williams, the Board unanimously approved exiting Executive Session.

**XI. Reconvened Regular Meeting.**

**1. Other Executive Session Items (if required).** There were no additional items from Executive Session to address.

**XII. Adjournment.** Having no further business to conduct, the Board adjourned its regular meeting at 6:04 p.m.



---

Kevin Williams, Secretary/Treasurer