

Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC  
Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Minutes for April 22, 2024

The Board of Directors of the Utilities District of Western Indiana Rural Electric Membership Corporation met at the office of the corporation, Bloomfield, Indiana, at 6:00 p.m. on April 22, 2024.

President W. Edward Cullison called the regular session meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Kirkling gave the invocation.

The following directors reported present:

Todd Carpenter  
Shawn Dugan  
David Kirkling

Dax Collins  
Sophie Haywood  
Michael Williams

W. Edward Cullison  
Melinda Hendrix

Others present were CEO Doug Childs; COO Shane Smith; CFO Michael Sullivan; Office Manager Lydia Campbell; Member Service Manager Jessica Brown; Dispatch Manager Britt Miller; Amanda Craft; and member Richard Nichols.

Mr. Cullison called for additions or corrections to the meeting agenda. Hearing none, Ms. Haywood made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Collins seconded, and the motion carried.

Mr. Cullison also called for additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 25, 2024, regular session board meeting. Ms. Hendrix made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Collins seconded, and the motion carried.

The next edition of the Board Education Series, Jessica Brown, Member Service Manager, presented on the member experience and reviewed the new member handbook. She highlighted current policy and procedures, debit/credit auto-pay options, and current collection processes. Ms. Brown reviewed the new Member Handbook in detail, spending time on each page and answering questions and inquiries.

Mr. Childs briefly reviewed a presentation pertaining to economic climate, forecasting, end-use projections, and loan growths given by CFC at the Hoosier Energy Annual Meeting on April 3, 2024.

Ms. Craft provided a brief report for the review of both traditional and social media communications. Her team assisted with the current editions of the employe and member newsletters. They also helped with the design of the Annual Meeting presentation. And wrote and distributed the press release for Mainstream Fiber Networks introduction.

Mr. Sullivan presented the cooperative monthly/quarterly financial reports.

From the Statement of Cash Flows, power bill disbursements were down due to a reduction in prepayments to Hoosier Energy in 2024. Ending cash balance was higher after receipt of new track machine in April.

The Balance Sheet for March 2023 & 2024 showed a reduction in prepayments reflected by the change in prepaid power costs and accounts payable purchased power.

The Financial Highlights report indicated Q1 revenue above average while sales remained steady.

The 2024 First Quarter Capital Budget report was reviewed.

Service Upgrade costs are being driven by an upgrade at Westgate for Nhanced.

Miscellaneous Minor Construction costs were high due to fiber make-ready expenses.

Construction Work Plan costs will increase in the second quarter as contractors begin more projects.

The 2024 First Quarter Variance Report was also reviewed.

Wages and Salaries were less than budgeted due to fewer overtime hours and the labor being capitalized rather than budgeted.

Maintenance and Software Support Agreements increased as more functionality for key accounts and solar accounts was added.

Tree Trimming Contractor costs increased significantly by \$140,000 when compared to 2023 figures.

This is due to the addition of two new contractors who began work in February.

Mr. Smith presented the operations department reports.

From the Operations and Engineering Report, he reported on the Construction Work Plan bidding processes. Bids were issued for all projects in 2024. Five out of seven accepted bids were received. The bids were sent to the Building & Equipment Committee for review who awarded three contractors.

The Outage Dashboard continued to show vegetation as the main cause of outages. March was a fairly calm month.

The Vegetation Management report showed 20.4% production above target for line clearance. The target is an estimated goal set by ACRT. The increase is a direct result of utilizing additional contractors.

Mr. Childs presented the Manager's Reports.

First, he reported on HHM business. The Board of Directors met on April 17, 2024.

Production/clearing is steady, and currently surpassing the ACRT average. Staffing holds at 20 with two more to be hired soon.

The March 2024 Hoosier Energy invoice was available for review.

Lastly, Mr. Childs presented employee accomplishments and shared comments from members.

HHM crews were praised by a member, he was happy after they trimmed three trees on his property.

UDWI as a whole and Serviceman Lineman Tracy Deckard were appreciated by a member for the quick response to his outage and service issues. He stated this makes living in a small town a positive thing.

Mr. Cullison called for a review and revision of cooperative and board policies and bylaws.

The board reviewed the changes and updates suggested by cooperative legal counsel.

The following policies were presented for review, approval, or rescission.

- Review – Board Policy No. 401.0 – Community Relations

Mr. Collins made a motion to approve the above policy as presented. Mr. Williams seconded, and the motion carried.

The Wholesale Net Metering Rider Schedule "WNM" was also presented for revision. The schedule is reviewed once per year and is applied to excess energy produced by member-owned generation.

The tariff rate increased to \$0.05336 per kWh and took effect on April 1, 2024. Supporting graphs and figures were provided as well. Ms. Haywood made a motion to approve the recommended revision to the policy. Mr. Carpenter seconded and all approved. The motion carried.

The topic of the board retreat hosted by Solidity Consulting was tabled at the last meeting. The Board requested a sample agenda and complete program overview. It was suggested to table the topic again to allow ample time to gather more substantial program information.

Mr. Cullison called for individual Director Committee reports. No committee met in the last four weeks.

District 2 Director Todd Carpenter reported on updates and events at Hoosier Energy.

The Board of Directors met on March 25, 2024. The managers and directors discussed topics from information from recent committee meetings. A summary of the annual meeting held on April 3, 2024, was also discussed.

Treasurer Michael Williams reported on updates and events at Indiana Electric Cooperative (IEC). The Board of Directors met on April 17, 2024. A safety moment was provided after an accident involving a Hendricks County REMC lineman. The board held the CEO review in the March executive session meeting. They recommended a salary increase for the CEO.

Mr. Cullison offered reminders for upcoming training and meetings.

The next three UDWI REMC board meetings were approved and scheduled for May 20, 2024 (early due to Memorial Day holiday), June 24, 2024, and July 22, 2024.

The 2024 Annual Meeting of Members is scheduled for April 24, 2024, at UDWI headquarters.

The next Member Appreciation Day is scheduled for June 21, 2024, at UDWI headquarters from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The next IBEW Local 1393 Annual Hooligan Open is scheduled for July 13, 2024, with registration closing on June 1, 2024.

IEC will be hosting another Directors' Retreat. This year it is scheduled for July 26-27, 2024, at the French Lick Conference Center.

The Parr Richey 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for August 23, 2024.

A concluding executive session was not required at this time. No further business was presented. Mr. Cullison officially adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

APPROVED:

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W. Edward Cullison, President

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Lydia Campbell, Office Manager