

Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

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 6:30 p.m. on September 23, 2024.

Vice President Melinda Hendrix called the regular session meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.

Mr. Kirkling gave the invocation.

The following directors reported present:

Todd Carpenter  
David Kirkling

Shawn Dugan  
Terry McDaniel

Melinda Hendrix  
Michael Williams

Others present were CEO Doug Childs; COO Shane Smith; CFO Michael Sullivan; Engineering Supervisor Johnathan Sutton; Office Manager Lydia Campbell; Member Services Manager Jessica Brown; Dispatch Manager Britt Miller; Collections Specialist Jennifer Field; Amanda Craft of Crafted Communications (virtual); and member Richard Nichols.

Ms. Hendrix called for a motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Cullison. Mr. Carpenter made the motion, Mr. Williams seconded, and the motion carried.

Ms. Hendrix called for additions or corrections to the meeting agenda. Hearing none, Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Kirkling seconded, and the motion carried.

Ms. Hendrix also called for additions or corrections to the minutes of the August 26, 2024, regular session board meeting. Mr. Dugan made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. McDaniel seconded, and the motion carried.

For the Board Education Series, Ms. Brown and Ms. Field presented on The Collections Process and Recent Improvements. The formatting and process of current and delinquent billing statements was reviewed. Delinquent accounts are subject to service disconnection after 60 days of non-payment. Many arrangements and pledges are made each month in the hope to avoid disconnection. Before actual service disconnection, members receive courtesy phone calls notices. Recent improvements include updates to deposit requirements and the availability of a prepaid metering service to assist members with avoiding disconnection. Also, a debt management process has been added to provide an avenue for members to keep active service while paying off past-due billings.

Mr. Sullivan continued a discussion tabled from the August meeting. He highlighted the recommendations for credit card transactions and fees. The Board discussed the suggested options. Mr. Carpenter made a motion to enact a minimum transaction limit of \$1.00 and a maximum limit of \$5,000.00. Mr. McDaniel seconded, and the motion carried.

Crafted Communications continues to assist with both traditional and social media communications. An overview of recent projects was reviewed.

Mr. Sullivan presented the cooperative monthly/quarterly financial reports. In the Statement of Cash Flows, Employee Benefits were up due to rate increases and higher eligible employee count than this time in 2023. Total Disbursements from Operating Activities were \$2 million more than in 2023 due to a \$950,000 increase in tree trimming costs. The number of Right of Way tree trimming contractors was up due to payments to Townsend and Halter. Also, power bill and sales taxes increased by \$940,000 due to higher sales volumes. The ending cash balance was \$1 million. The co-op will most likely borrow from CFC in the Fall to cover upcoming contractor payments and capital credits retirement.

From the Income Statement, revenue was up \$3.9 million. Purchased Power increased by \$879,000. Right of Way Maintenance also increased by \$1 million. The net margin difference was \$430,000 less than 2023.

The Balance Sheet showed a \$3.9 million increase in the electric plant service fees. This was paid for by a \$2.3 million reduction in Hoosier Energy power bill pre-payments and by increasing our long-term debt by \$1.3 million.

The Financial Highlights report showed kWh sales trends over the last five years. The YTD revenue trend is directly driven by the Hoosier Energy power cost tracker. 2024 figures (kWh) increased 4% over 2023 but down by 2% when compared to 2022.

The quarterly Appendix A Rate Adjustment Schedule was presented for approval by the Board. The appendix shows the PCA Tracker rate for member billings effective from October 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024. The new rate calculation is \$.01731 per kWh, a slight increase from the previous quarter. Mr. Williams made a motion to accept and approve the new rate. Mr. Dugan seconded the motion, and the motion was carried out.

Mr. Smith presented the operations department reports. He welcomed the new Customer Service Representative Chelsie Doughty. Otherwise, he stated that the Operations and Engineering Report, Outage Dashboard, and Vegetation Management report stood as previously presented.

Mr. Childs presented the Manager's Reports. He reported on HHM business. The Board of Directors met on September 18, 2024. The Board reviewed and approved the 2025 Operating/Maintenance and Capital Budgets. Within the Budget, a staffing minimum was set at 23 total employees, which will maintain effective clearing goals and improve reliability.

The August 2024 Hoosier Energy invoice was available for review.

The board reviewed the Indiana Electric Cooperatives Certificate of Nomination and Credential of Voting Delegate documents. Ms. Campbell confirmed the forms are necessary for voting at the IEC Annual Meeting. The co-op may choose to elect the same officers as last year. The Board must also nominate a director to serve as a UDWI REMC representative on the IEC Board of Directors. IEC has additionally requested each member co-op complete an Alternate Director Authorization form. After a brief discussion, Mr. Dugan made a motion to elect Mr. Cullison as the voting delegate and retain Mr. Childs as the voting alternate, retain Mr. Williams as the IEC Board Representative, and elect Mr. Carpenter as the alternate IEC Board Representative. Mr. Kirkling seconded and all approved.

Ms. Campbell requested deliberation on the date of the 2025 Annual Meeting of Members. She proposed two dates with preference emphasized for timelines and due dates. The Board reviewed and selected a date. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve April 23, 2025, as the date for the meeting. Mr. McDaniel seconded the motion; the vote passed.

A section of the pole yard has been marked off for use by Mainstream and Tango Fiber. Jared Pyne provided a couple ariel photos of the work progress by using a drone.

Lastly, Mr. Childs also shared notes of appreciation and thanks from members.

Ms. Hendrix called for a review and revision of cooperative and board policies and bylaws.

The Wholesale Net Metering Rider "Schedule WNM" was presented for revision. The schedule required an update to the content and language to allow for 3-phase connections to participate.

The Distributed Generation Tariff "Schedule DGT" was also presented for revision. The schedule required an update to the content and language to include connections other than residential members to participate.

Legal counsel may make minor adjustments over the next few weeks after review. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the recommended revisions subject to any edits made by counsel. Mr. Dugan seconded and all approved. The motion carried.

Ms. Hendrix called for individual Director Committee reports.  
The Community Fund Committee will meet on September 25, 2024, at the cooperative.

District 2 Director Todd Carpenter reported on updates and events at Hoosier Energy.  
The Board of Directors did not meet in September. A special meeting will be held on October 7, 2024, and a Directors Only meeting will be held on October 21, 2024.

Treasurer Michael Williams reported on updates and events at Indiana Electric Cooperative (IEC).  
The Government Relations Committee met last week. The group discussed increasing invitation and inclusion for local and State representatives.

Ms. Hendrix offered reminders for upcoming trainings and meetings.

The next three UDWI REMC board meetings were approved and scheduled for October 28, 2024, November 25, 2024. The group discussed dates for the December meeting and elected to meet on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Indiana Electric Cooperative will host its annual Appreciation Dinner on November 18, 2024, at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse in Indianapolis. Further information to come.

Indiana Electric Cooperatives 2024 Annual Meeting is scheduled for December 9-10, 2024, at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown Hotel. Further information to come.

With no further business presented, Ms. Hendrix adjourned the regular session meeting at 8:21 p.m. to convene into an executive session. The session included Mr. Childs, Mr. Smith, Mr. Sullivan and all directors in attendance. Ms. Hendrix officially adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

APPROVED:

---

W. Edward Cullison, President

---

Melinda Hendrix, Vice President