

WHETSTONE VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Thursday, September 24, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Thursday, September, 24, 2026 commencing at 8:02 AM at the Whetstone Valley Electric Headquarters.

The meeting was called to order by President, Joel Adler who presided and Secretary, Matt Cameron, acted as Secretary.

Directors Present: Joel Adler, Matt Cameron, Wayne Jarman, Krista Atyeo-Gortmaker, Tom Berens - Virtual , Dave Behrns, Paul Tostenson,

Directors Absent: Paul Nelson, Jason Ackerman,

Staff Present: Page, Anderson, Christensen

Others Present: None

Review and Consideration of Agenda

- A motion and second was made to approve the agenda . The motion passed.

Review and Consideration of Minutes

- A motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 27, 2026 was seconded and carried.

Review and Consideration of estate and special capital credit retirements:

- A motion to approve the estate and special capital credit retirements was seconded and carried.

General Reports

The Board reviewed and discussed general reports including the Loss Control Report, Check Listing, Credit Card statement, Cash Flow, Cybersecurity Summary, and Capitalized Construction Work Orders.

Managers Report

General Manager Page submitted a written and verbal report to the Board. He reported that August energy sales were 8.4% above the monthly budget and that year-to-date energy sales through August were 4% above the same period last year. Overall, the Cooperative's year-to-date financial performance remains favorable. Page also reported on East River and Basin Electric's sales and margins for the January through July 2026 period, including the return on investment from transmission assets in the RTO. He advised the Board of a projected increase in wholesale power costs for 2027 and reviewed July fuel purchases. Page provided an update on the condition of the new east lot, followed by further discussion with the Board.

Operations Manager, Jon Christensen submitted a written and verbal report. He reported that crews continue work on power line construction projects and that the number of new services is slightly higher compared to last year. Pole testing has been completed, and line crews have begun replacing rejected poles. Jon discussed archaeological surveys required by RUS for projects in specific locations. He also reported on the successful replacement of a large transformer serving a key account, which included the use of local crane operators. He reported on activities of Member Services and the Contracting departments. Jon also discussed the annual statewide cooperative motorcycle charity ride and expressed his support for the event, in which he and other Cooperative employees participated.

Office Manager, Bridget Anderson submitted a written and verbal report to the Board. She reported on an issue involving compromised corporate credit cards and the steps taken to address it. Bridget discussed the format of the Cooperative's new electric bill and the explanation letter that will be sent to members. She also explained the difference between capital and operating expenses. Operating expenses remain under budget, while more labor hours have been capitalized due to favorable construction conditions and an increase in new services and service upgrades. Bridget reported that higher-than-budgeted energy sales and lower-than-budgeted expenses have resulted in strong margins and have had a positive effect on the Cooperative's equity ratio. She also provided an update on the ongoing, budgeted replacement of load controllers.

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Association Reports:

East River Director Behrns reported on East River's activities, including their participation of a nuclear energy study group and a recap of the annual and Board reorganizational meetings. He noted East River's strong year-to-date margins and discussed a potential increase in NRECA dues for 2027. Burns also provided updates on SPP studies and PUC dockets.

SDREA Director Krista Atyeo-Gortmaker reported on activities of SDREA, including updates on the budget process, financials, and audit. She noted that the association board decided not to pursue discussions regarding a new facility and will continue holding five board meetings annually. Krista also reported on participation and costs associated with the association's youth excursion and tour. She advised that in 2027, association dues will increase 13%, and Connections Magazine rates will increase 40% due to higher production and postage costs.

Other Business and Action Items:

- A motion was made and seconded to hold the 2027 annual membership meeting on March 25, 2027 at the Milbank High School. After discussion, the motion passed.
- Following a discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to decline the invitation to a informational meeting regarding shared service. The Board may address the opportunity at a later date.
- Manager Page reported that concerns had been received from restaurant patrons regarding the condition of potholes located on cooperative property adjacent to the neighboring restaurant. He noted that a cooperative employee had placed gravel in two of the larger potholes in response to the immediate safety concerns. Operations Manager, Christensen also presented bids for the addition of black dirt and grass seed in the east lot area. The Board discussed the ongoing driveway maintenance issue, the filed easement, and the use of cooperative property by the neighboring restaurant's employees and patrons for access and parking. Following discussion, the Board reached a consensus not to add black dirt nor pursue a land survey at this time. The Board directed Manager Page to consult with the cooperative's attorney about liability concerns and regarding discussions with the restaurant owners concerning maintenance responsibilities under the recorded easement and the continued use of cooperative property for access and parking purposes.
- There was a motion and second to accept the bid from Dewey's Landscaping to install erosion control blankets and seed the non-paved area of the east lot to grass. The motion passed.

Executive Session:

No executive session was held.

- The Board reviewed upcoming events and meetings.

Resolution for Next Regular Board Meeting:

- The next regular board meeting was set for Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 8:00 AM at the Cooperative Headquarters .

Adjournment:

- A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and carried.

President

Secretary