

MINUTES

CHAIRMAN MATTHEW WHITING called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. Chairman Whiting welcomed the members to the 81st Annual Meeting of Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative.

DIRECTOR NICHOLAS REITTER gave the invocation and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHAIRMAN WHITING then advised that the purpose of the annual meeting is to conduct the director elections, announce the results of the election of directors, present annual reports and transact other business submitted following the proper procedure.

CHAIRMAN WHITING announced that the director election ballot box will close at 1:15 PM and directed the members as to the location of the ballot box.

CHAIRMAN WHITING introduced the Board of Directors.

PRESIDENT & CEO CRAIG ECCHER introduced special guests – first and foremost the Tri-County employees for organizing and working the annual meeting, Jeff Fetzer, C&T Enterprises Corporate Communicator, Pete Yastishock, C&T Enterprises Director of Safety & Compliance, Jim Luce, Claverack REC Board Chairman, and Michael Crawford, PREA's Associate Editor.

SECRETARY/TREASURER ALSTON TEETER presented the Proof of Mailing of the Official Notice, a copy of which is filed with the official minutes. Members received a complete copy of the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes in their registration packets. Secretary Teeter asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and asked that the motion include the approval of the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes as circulated. ***A motion was duly made and seconded to waive the reading and approve the 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes as circulated; motion carried.***

SECRETARY/TREASURER TEETER gave the Secretary/Treasurer's Report. Secretary Teeter reported that Tri-County continues to operate in a sound financial condition.

CHAIRMAN WHITING recognized the Tri-County participants in the 2017 NRECA Youth Tour: Megan Empson, Rebecca Morgan, Joel Brelo, Julian Martinez, Christopher Mashula, Erica Nuccio, Brittany Wallace, Shea Roupp, Abby Williams, Alana Castle, Clark Jackson, and Nathan Schoonover. Sarah Homan was a 2016 Tri-County Youth Tour student and was also selected to represent the entire Pennsylvania Youth Tour delegation at the National Youth Leadership Council. Sarah reported on the 2016 Youth Tour and shared her experiences while visiting Washington, D.C.

CHAIRMAN WHITING provided the Chairman's Report. Chairman Whiting briefly reviewed the seven cooperative principles: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training, and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community. One principle that Chairman Whiting focused on was "concern for community" and stated that broadband/high-speed internet is critical to increase economic development in the area. Tri-County is currently researching a broadband project which is a very expensive and challenging venture. Tri-County is working to obtain possible grants with economic development groups and legislators to assist if the project were to move forward. Chairman Whiting touched on the financial health of the cooperative stating that Tri-County's goal is to make reliable electric energy and related services available to the members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economics and good management. Tri-County's rates are second lowest of six surrounding providers. The cooperative has begun and will continue to take measures using electronic means to interact with the membership including director elections.

CHAIRMAN WHITING introduced Craig Eccher, President & CEO of Tri-County.

CEO ECCHER stated that the cooperative is committed to provide safe, reliable, reasonably priced electric service to its members and continues to grow, serving close to 20,000 meters including homes, family farms, and industries. Tri-County covers approximately 5,000 square miles, serves over 3,400 miles of lines which includes over 65,000 poles. Reliability continues to improve due to right-of-way clearing, pole testing, line inspections, and infrastructure upgrades –

such as substations and transmission lines. Tri-County's rates are very competitive compared to others in the region even though the member density is much lower. The cost to maintain a mile of line is much higher due to Tri-County's 5.8 members per mile compared to other utilities close to 34 customers per mile. CEO Eccher reported that the last rate increase was in 2012 but projects a slight increase of approximately 5% by year-end. Tri-County is committed to community projects including the dry hydrant program, school safety training, poles for osprey platforms, and funding to local libraries, 4-H groups, fire and ambulance departments, scouting, FFA groups, etc. This is possible due to the state escheats program and does not affect rates. CEO Eccher touched on the cooperative's fiber optics and broadband internet project. As known, many areas are lacking this infrastructure and it is very much needed in the Tri-County territory. Tri-County is evaluating funding options and as Chairman Whiting reported, is working with economic development organizations and legislators for possible funding.

CEO ECCHER introduced Attorney Terra Koernig.

ATTORNEY TERRA KOERNIG reviewed the election process and introduced the Election and Credentials Committee. Attorney Koernig asked the Election & Credentials Committee Chairman Milton Shatto to come to the podium.

E & C COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MILTON SHATTO addressed the membership and presented the committee report stating that the election was fairly and impartially conducted and that the results were as follows:

District 3	- Nicholas Reitter	184
District 5	- Matthew S. Whiting	193
District 9	- Lowell W. Geiser	402

Therefore, the elected directors for three-year terms are District 3, Nicholas Reitter; District 5, Matthew S. Whiting; and District 9, Lowell W. Geiser. ***A motion was made by Mr. Shatto that the ballots be destroyed after the passing of three working days, given that no protests are received during that interval; motion was seconded and carried.***

CHAIRMAN WHITING recognized the Member Advisory Committee and asked that if anyone was interested in becoming a committee member, they should contact their director.

CHAIRMAN WHITING called for questions/comments from the membership for CEO Eccher.

- A member received an auto-message about her poles/lines being checked. CEO Eccher responded stating that Davie Resources is contracted by Tri-County to collect information for the GIS project.
- A member requested that the annual meeting return to the Denton Hill Ski Resort. CEO Eccher responded stating it's much more expensive – almost double the cost compared to holding it at the Troy Fair.
- A member asked if Tri-County is using a special coating on the wires to prevent ice build-up. CEO Eccher responded stating that ice on trees is a much more substantial problem than on the lines.
- A member asked what to do if they find a dead ash tree near the wires. CEO responded stating to call the office if there is concern with it falling on the lines.
- A member stated that he wished the federal government would take efficient fiscal lessons from Tri-County's management and thanked the cooperative employees for their hard work.
- A member thanked the employees for their dedication following the tornado in the Lawrenceville area.
- A member thanked the employees for restoring the power yesterday in the Coudersport area.
- A member questioned why they had to pay the fair entrance fee to attend the meeting. CEO Eccher responded stating that a bill credit is given to any member registered for the Annual Meeting that paid an entrance fee.
- A member thanked the employees for the spectacular job done during outages!

THERE BEING no further business to come before the meeting, ***a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:26 PM.***

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Secretary

Date