

MINUTES

CHAIRMAN GERALD KRINER called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. Chairman Kriner welcomed the members to the 86th Annual Meeting of Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative.

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

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

CHAIRMAN KRINER introduced the Board of Directors and special guests.

SECRETARY/TREASURER GEISER presented the Proof of Mailing of the Official Notice, a copy of which is filed with the official minutes.

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

CHAIRMAN KRINER provided the Chairman's Report. Chairman Kriner mentioned Tri-County is improving the quality of lives for its members by establishing Tri-Co Connections to provide fast and reliable internet service. Chairman Kriner touched base on the education and training that the Board of Directors are required to take. Chairman Kriner announced the vacancy in the CEO position and the hiring of Co-CEOs, Rachel Hauser and Aaron Young. Chairman Kriner mentioned that CEO Hauser will focus on the electric infrastructure and CEO Young will focus on the broadband infrastructure. Chairman Kriner gave an update on the new headquarters building and mentioned it is expected to be completed by the end of 2022. Chairman Kriner spoke about the cost of inflation and that a Cost-of-Service study is occurring and mentioned the board is concerned about the necessity of a potential rate increase and will keep in focus the impact of any rate increase on members. Chairman Kriner thanked the members for allowing the board of directors to serve for their cooperative.

CHAIRMAN KRINER introduced Rachel Hauser and Aaron Young, Co-CEOs of Tri-County.

Co-CEO HAUSER thanked the Directors in their support in her appointment as CEO. CEO Hauser introduced herself and gave an update to the members on where she grew up and her previous work background. CEO Hauser introduced staff from the engineering, operations, finance, and member services department. CEO Hauser mentioned 1,500 poles were replaced in 2021 to enhance the electric plant and to better support the fiber deployment. CEO Hauser mentioned staff compiled ideas for employee-recommended system improvements for 2022, including line relocation projects and other identified system improvements. CEO Hauser touched base on right-of-way maintenance and mentioned additional cause codes have been added to better detail what causes outages. CEO Hauser mentioned tree trimming is both a reliability and safety issue and it is critical to have a strong right-of-way program. CEO Hauser mentioned that over the past few years significant investment has been made in upgrading the metering infrastructure and utilizing the fiber infrastructure to enhance efficiency. CEO Hauser mentioned the increase in inflation, and challenges presented by the longer timeframes of receiving material and equipment. CEO Hauser said the employees have worked hard to confront these issues and have been able to address these issues in a timely and financially feasible manner. CEO Hauser mentioned a Cost-of-Service study is in process and that there is anticipation that the members will be seeing a rate increase, but the goal will be to minimize impact on the member of any rate increase that is needed.

Co-CEO YOUNG thanked the directors for their support in the appointment of CEO. CEO Young introduced a few employees from Tri-Co Connections and mentioned that if anyone has questions regarding fiber, they can speak to Cat Rush or Ryan Teed after the meeting. CEO Young introduced himself and gave a background history of where he grew up and his previous work background. CEO Young mentioned when the pandemic hit in 2020, the team knew they needed to accelerate the fiber build out project. More miles were built in 2021 than expected and a third more in 2022 than planned for. CEO Young mentioned the cooperative has built over 1,500 miles of fiber optic cable to date, 850 miles are planned to be built in 2022 alone, and over 3,000 underserved members have been supplied with high-speed internet. The original planned 6-year build out has been reduced by a year and a half and should now be completed by mid-2024. CEO Young mentioned the Morris, English Center and Liberty areas will have service soon. The Eastern Tioga and Bradford Counties will see installations starting in 2023.

Co-CEO YOUNG 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 Thomas Socha to come to the podium.

E & C COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN THOMAS SOCHA addressed the membership and presented the committee report stating that the election was fairly and impartially conducted.

All 3 candidates ran unopposed and received a majority vote. Therefore, the re-elected directors for three-year terms are District 2, Valery Robbins; District 6, Alfred Calkins; and District 8, Gerald (Arnie) Kriner.

CHAIRMAN KRINER invited Co-CEOs Hauser and Young to the podium to answer any questions the members had asked during the business meeting. Kriner also mentioned CEO Hauser and CEO Young will be available from 3:00 – 4:00 P.M. to answer any additional questions. Members commented regarding:

- First Citizens Community Bank in Gillet mentioned they do not accept Tri-County REC payments
- A camp member had a question about removal of a leaning tree

- Member complimented staff regarding the Forest Steward article in Penn Lines
- Question regarding certain tree removal/brush contractors

CHAIRMAN KRINER adjourned the meeting at 1:51 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Secretary

Date