

Boards Looks to Future

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of SEMO Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the “Cooperative”) was held on Monday, June 16, 2025, at the Cooperative’s office in Sikeston, Missouri. The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by President Richard Faulkner.

The following directors were present: Faulkner, John Bledsoe, James Deneke, Carl Eftink, Myron Hawes, Tim Coppage, Carla Moore, Dicky Hanor, Keith Haynes, Dennis Fowler, Field LaPlant, and Von Priggel. Directors absent: none. Staff members present included Chris Freed, Brad Milam, Becky Ivester, Chas Kersey, Amanda Burnett, Angie Byford, and Dannett Poyner. Also present were CEO/General Manager Sean Vanslyke and Attorney Megan McCord. A prayer of invocation was offered by Kersey. The chair called for approval of the agenda. On motion made and passed, the agenda was approved.

The Board then considered its consent agenda, which included: the minutes of the regular meeting held May 19, 2025; reorganizational minutes from May 15, 2025; new membership applications; membership cancellations; an initial review of Policy 211 – Pre-Employment Examinations and Testing; and an initial review of Policy 212 – Lost Time. Ron Montgomery presented the monthly safety report, which included the safety topic “Eyes on Safety.”

Under old business, the Board reviewed its meeting schedule and confirmed upcoming registrations. The Board reviewed proposed revisions and approved amendments to Policy 208 – Funeral Leave, and reviewed Policy 209 – Holidays. Under new business, the Board reviewed and discussed district updates. Vanslyke presented a letter from the NRECA International Fund requesting donations. Byford presented a slate of candidates for the SEMO Electric Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors. After discussion, and on motion made, seconded, and passed, Jeanne Cowger, Gary Francis, and Nancy Moore were appointed to the Foundation Board.

As part of Strategic Planning and Director Education, directors met with staff to review the Cooperative’s irrigation rates, other rate schedules, and billing cycle information. After discussion, and on motion made, seconded, and passed, the Board approved changes to irrigation rates by amending off-season demand charges.

Nathan Hull and Josh Carmack entered the meeting to share their experiences from completing NRECA’s leadership training program. Following their presentation, Hull and Carmack exited the meeting.

Burnett presented the financial summary for May 2025, including revenue and expense analysis and budget comparisons. Year-to-date, revenue is up 0.50%, expenses are down 6.68%, and power costs are up 1%. On motion made, seconded, and passed, the Board accepted the financial report.

Eftink reported that no meeting had been held at M&A Electric Power (Transmission) Cooperative since the last Board meeting. Haynes provided an update from the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, including reports on Missouri Propane, an NRECA resolution, legislative updates, the Missouri Electric Cooperative Insurance Program, an upcoming directors’ conference, and Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The Board reviewed and discussed written staff reports, which were supplemented by oral presentations from staff members. Staff members were then excused, and the Board entered Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.



Team SEMO’s Dannett Poyner (right) and Amanda Burnett present electric rate updates during the June board meeting, highlighting the impact of monthly demand and capacity charges from SEMO Electric’s power supplier. On average, SEMO pays nearly \$1 million each month in demand charges to support the needs of members who use electricity. What is demand? SEMO Electric is charged by its power supplier based on the highest amount of electricity our members use at one time—not just how much is used over a month. This is called “demand.” Think of it like filling a bathtub: energy is the total water used, but demand is how wide the faucet has to open to fill it quickly. When demand is high, costs go up. By managing demand, we help keep electricity more reliable and cost-effective for all members. For example, running your air conditioner, oven, washer, and dryer all at once creates high demand—even if you don’t use them for long. By spreading out usage, we can lower peak demand, which helps control costs and supports a more reliable electric system for all members.



Team SEMO’s Josh Carmack (left) and Nathan Hull share insights from their recent completion of NRECA’s leadership training program. Their commitment to growth reflects the Cooperative’s focus on developing future leaders and enhancing services and efficiency throughout the organization.