

Linenmen, Facility Updates Highlight Meeting

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of SEMO Electric Cooperative, Inc., (hereinafter referred to as the “Cooperative”) was held on Friday, November 14, 2025, at the Cooperative’s office in Sikeston, Missouri. The meeting was called to order at 10:36 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 were Ron Montgomery, Loyd Rice, Becky Ivester, Chris Freed, Brad Milam, Angie Byford, and Amanda Burnett. Also present were Sean Vanslyke, CEO/General Manager, and Megan McCord, Attorney for the Cooperative. A prayer of invocation was offered by Hawes.

The Chair asked for approval of the agenda. On motion made and passed, the agenda was approved. The Board considered its consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 20, 2025; new membership applications; membership cancellations; initial review of Policy 220 – Employment and Reemployment Rights; and initial review of Policy 222 – Supervisor’s Use of Cooperative Vehicle. Ron Montgomery presented the monthly safety report, providing information on the monthly safety topic related to preparing for winter storm season and the lost time and injury summary for the previous month.

Under old business, the Board reviewed its schedule of meetings and confirmed registrations for attendance. The Board reviewed Policy 218 – Nepotism and reviewed Policy 219 – Out of Area Storm Pay.

Under new business, the Board reviewed and discussed district updates. Vanslyke presented the draft 2026 budget, reviewed assumptions, presented 2026 electric rates, and reviewed proposed board meeting dates.

Under Strategic Planning and Director Education, Linemen Hunter Ivie and Hunter Hardin entered the meeting to report on a training event. Rice provided an update on the Broadband Equity, Access and Development (BEAD) Program. The Board toured the warehouse, viewed the new fiber construction inventory area, and discussed the upcoming conclusion of the off-site fiber warehouse lease. Burnett reviewed the financial summary for the month of October 2025, including revenue and expense analysis and budget comparisons. Compared to the budget, year-to-date revenue is up 1.77%, expenses are down 3.72%, and power costs are up 1.19%. On motion made, seconded, and passed, the Board accepted the financial report.

Eftink reported that no meeting had been held since the last board meeting at the M&A Electric Power (Transmission) Cooperative. Haynes reported that no meeting had been held since the last board meeting at the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. The Board reviewed and discussed written staff reports, supplemented by additional oral presentations from staff members.

Remaining staff members then left the meeting, and the Board entered into Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.



Team SEMO’s Hunter Hardin (left) and Hunter Ivie share highlights from their visit to the Utility Expo in Louisville—the nation’s largest gathering of utility professionals and construction contractors with 1.5 million square feet of equipment and services on display. The linemen attended the event to explore new tools and machinery that improve safety, efficiency, and underground construction performance.



Team SEMO’s Amy, Chris, and Peggy provide the board with an update on closing the Miner warehouse and moving materials into the Sikeston truck bay—a transition that will save the co-op \$72,000 annually. Jared also walked the board through the three intermodal containers on the west side of the Sikeston yard, where new shelving is improving organization and safety.

