

**WASHINGTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**September 27, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors, conducted in person and via video teleconference, was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by President Stephen Knowlton. The following Board members were in attendance:

Susan Alexander	Steven Farnham	Stephen Knowlton
Betsy Allen	Roger Fox	Mary Just Skinner
Don Douglas	Jean Hamilton	

Also present were General Manager Louis Porter; the Cooperative's legal counsel Ron Shems of the law firm Tarrant, Gillies & Shems; Director of Engineering & Operations (E&O) Dave Kresock; Director of Finance & Administration (F&A) Teia Greenslit; Member Services Supervisor Susan Golden; and Administrative Assistant Rosie Casciero. The Board was joined by Vermont Electric Power Company leadership Tom Dunn (President & CEO), Dan Nelson (Vice President of Technology), and Kerrick Johnson (Chief Innovation & Communication Officer); and Pam Allen and Adam Houghton of ControlPoint Technologies, the Co-op's consulting engineering firm. Directors Alexander, Fox, and Hamilton attended remotely. Director Hamilton left at 5:20 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda included the minutes of the August 30, 2023 regular Board meeting. President Knowlton reviewed minor edits to the minutes.

*On a motion by Director Farnham, seconded by Director Allen, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the regular August 30, 2023 meeting as amended. The motion passed 8-0.*

In addition, the Board wished Director Douglas a very happy birthday.

**PRESENTATION BY VERMONT ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY (VELCO)**

Knowlton welcomed leaders from Vermont Electric Power Company (VELCO), the state's transmission utility, Tom Dunn (President & CEO), Dan Nelson (Vice President of Technology), and Kerrick Johnson (Chief Innovation & Communication Officer).

Mr. Dunn provided an overview of VELCO's activities, including the complexities presented by distributed generation's effects on the electric grid and transmission. He noted that VELCO is working toward a representative view of how small-scale generation affects electrical transmission throughout Vermont. He stated that VELCO is reviewing the role of the Hydro-Quebec hydroelectric in Vermont's power portfolio, and is interested in the bidirectional power flow between the Vermont grid and Quebec, as power generated throughout Vermont may be transmitted to Canada at times.

Mr. Nelson, with input from Mr. Johnson, described VELCO's cybersecurity and information technology projects focusing on data from the sub-transmission infrastructure, as well as fiber deployment in WEC's substations and throughout Vermont in relation to the electrical grid. More data gathered about grid performance is useful for both VELCO and distribution utilities like WEC. He noted that fiber allows for communication options that would assist in monitoring, anticipating, and addressing transmission and distributed energy resource issues. Additionally, VELCO has added WEC to its statewide radio system, which will help improve communication in the field for WEC line crews. He applauded the pilot project of stringing fiber to WEC's East Montpelier substation. This now provides both WEC and VELCO with information about the substation and the transmission lines connected to it. Discussion with the Board followed.

## **PRESENTATION BY PAM ALLEN OF CONTROLPOINT TECHNOLOGIES**

Porter introduced Pam Allen and Adam Houghton of ControlPoint Technologies, who perform engineering consultation for the Co-op. They specialize in electric utility distribution and transmission planning, design, and assessment. Porter described ControlPoint's role of reviewing WEC's transmission and distribution systems to inform the preparation of the Long-Range Plan (LRP) and Construction Work Plan (CWP).

Lead engineer Allen, whose eighteen-year career as a distribution planner includes work with several Vermont utilities, described ControlPoint's work for WEC. Their main focus was to assess WEC's system for supporting projected load increases and existing reliability needs. A thorough review of WEC's substations recommended a number of needed upgrades over the next ten years. The Mount Knox and Jackson Corners substations would need rebuilding in the next four years due in part to the increasing level of distributed generation on the lines. Allen and her team also proposed upgrades for improved reliability, stability, and adaptability across WEC's system.

## **CAPITAL CREDITS CHECKING ACCOUNT**

The Board conducted its annual review of opening the capital credits checking account and the forms necessary to complete the process.

*On a motion by Director Skinner, seconded by Director Douglas, the Board voted to approve execution of the Corporate Authorization Resolution enabling WEC to open an account at the Northfield Savings Bank to facilitate capital credit payments. The motion passed 8-0.*

## **NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION (NRECA) STATE DIRECTOR ELECTION**

In a long-held informal agreement, Vermont Electric Cooperative and WEC share the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) state director responsibilities in alternating 8-year terms.

*On a motion by Director Skinner, seconded by Director Allen, the Board voted to authorize General Manager Porter to vote for Director Douglas as the NRECA state director for Vermont. The motion passed 8-0.*

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

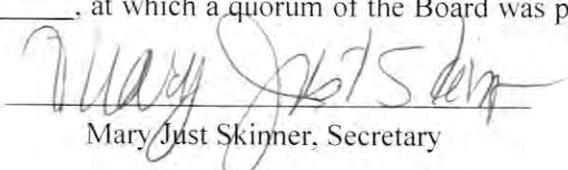
### *Winter Weather Workshop*

The Board requested a status update on the Public Utility Commission's inquiry into Vermont utilities' response to the winter storms of December 2022 and March 2023. Porter explained that while the workshop has met to discuss the matter, no formal steps have been taken.

There being no further essential business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Mary Just Skinner, Secretary

The foregoing record of the minutes was duly accepted by the Board of Directors at a regular meeting held on October 25, 2023, at which a quorum of the Board was present and voting.

  
Mary Just Skinner, Secretary