

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
TOMBIGBEE ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION HELD JULY 11, 2019

The Board of Directors of the Tombigbee Electric Power Association met at the Tupelo Headquarters Office, Tupelo, MS, on Thursday, July 11, 2019, at 5:00 p. m. The following directors were present:

Class of 2019

Pat Carr  
John McFerrin  
Jimmy Gray  
Buddy Palmer  
Malcolm Wesson

Class of 2020

Lynn Turner  
Guy Harris  
Chip Prestage  
Brenda Goff Shumpert  
F. G. Wiygul, Jr.

Class of 2021

Jim Gray  
Steve Holland  
Don Knight  
Andy Spradling  
Cecil Weeks

(A)—Not present

Also present were: Scott Hendrix, Attorney  
Jonathan Hagood, Auditor  
Ken Brown, Fulton Branch Manager  
Stevie Humble, Tupelo Operations Manager  
Bruce Williams, Tupelo Office Manager  
Steve Tarpley, Member Services Director  
Mitzi Hinds, Member Services Director (elect)  
William Long, General Manager

Chairman Carr called the meeting to order and called upon F. G. Wiygul to offer an opening prayer.

Mr. Carr then opened the floor for consideration of the June 2019 regularly scheduled Board Meeting Minutes. **Don Knight made a motion that the June 2019 board meeting minutes be approved as prepared and provided to Directors for review.** Lynn Turner seconded the motion and upon vote taken a majority vote was observed.

Mr. Carr then inquired of Directors and Mr. Hendrix if there was a need for an executive session. Mr. Hendrix responded that he was not aware of a need for executive session.

**Committee Reports:**

Continuing with the agenda, Mr. Carr then called on those committee chairmen having information to report to the Board:

**Nominating:** Jim Gray, Chairman, reported that a review by the committee of the director ballot for use this year produced changes to the ballot delivery envelope. Color highlights are being added to the envelope mailed to members for voting in hopes that members will more readily identify the envelope and take time to vote the ballot inside.

**Public Relations and Bylaws:** Jimmy Gray, Chairman, asked John McFerrin to report on behalf of the committee study for providing information to TEPA members through the use of the Today in Mississippi. This publication has been available for many years and its production

is coordinated through the Statewide organization of electric cooperatives. Mr. McFerrin further reported that **the committee recommendation is that the TEPA Board approve and participate in the production of one (1) issue, to be published in August 2019 issue. The TEPA issue is to contain the following TEPA news items to members with a method for members to provide feedback to the TEPA Board and staff indicating members preference for receiving future issues: special emphasis, announcement and invitation to members to attend TEPA's annual meeting that will be held on August 10, 2019 at the Association auditorium in Tupelo; that a recap of TEPA sponsorship of area high school youth participating in the Youth Leadership Program conducted by the Statewide; and, that a report be provided to update members concerning TEPA's study and evaluation of improved high speed broadband to members.** Discussion ensued and various questions about participation including the one-time cost were directed toward the Committee and the staff. Upon completion of the recommendation of the committee supporting participation and upon a vote taken, a majority vote for approval of the committee recommendation was observed.

**SmartGrid:** Buddy Palmer, Chairman, reported on several matters being studied by the Committee and presented details of a trip planned for the entire Board's participation. The recommended trip details include a visit to two (2) electric member cooperatives in Missouri who have existing fiber optic and broadband networks in place and operating at the present time. All directors were encouraged to attend. An invitation to area Mississippi electric cooperative association neighbors will be extended to participate in the 3-day trip to Tipton and Sikeston, Missouri.

Mr. Palmer also provided a summary of the meeting sponsored by the SmartGrid Committee and planned for listening to area economic and industrial developers. This meeting was held to learn of their experience within the TEPA area footprint to identify if there is a need for improving the high-speed broadband service in the region for use by industry.

**Auditor's Report:** Jonathan Hagood provided Directors with a copy of the TEPA Monthly Highlights Report, prepared by Franks, Franks, Wilemon and Hagood for the month ending May 2019. Mr. Hagood explained various details of the report. Generally, financial indicators and key statistics remain on a good trend when compared to last year's fiscal year data. For the same period last year, Gross Margins from all Sources are approximately 6.5% higher; and Operating Expenses are approximately 0.1% lower. Energy Sales and Net Income remains on a good track for completion of the fiscal year. New member account growth remains steady at 336 as tracked on an annual basis and compared to the same period as last year.

Directors had questions for Mr. Hagood to verify that expenses due to labor and equipment cost incurred by TEPA to assist other cooperatives are being reimbursed to TEPA. Financial information and other details relating to this billing and receipt of payment was provided by Mr. Hagood that satisfied the question.

**Manager's Report:** Long reported to the Board on the following matters:

- Provided the Board with a summary of assistance provided to West Kentucky EMC as requested through the Mississippi Statewide Emergency Assistance Program. TEPA provide 18 workers and line construction equipment during a 3-day work activity to the Mayfield, Kentucky area.

- We are expecting additional requests for assistance due to the tropical storm (and possible hurricane) building in the Gulf of Mexico this week.
- Employee meetings are scheduled for July 30 and 31 for the Tupelo and Fulton offices respectively. The meetings are being held to present information to employees and to explain planning and study that is occurring within the Board and staff for possible participation in an area broadband construction program and offering to members. The meetings are also planned for the purpose of obtaining employee questions concerning TEPA's possible participation in providing high-speed broadband services to members. All employees are required to attend.
- Informed the Board of several check forging activities occurring recently. The TEPA staff is working with our local primary bank on a solution to prevent TEPA funds from being tapped.
- Provided to the Board additional details for the session to be conducted with area economic and industrial development agencies. The meeting is scheduled for July 16. Lunch will be provided and a list of general topics to be discussed with the attendees was provided.
- Provided to the Board information concerning a family and member of TEPA requesting that their electric meter on their home be changed from the existing RF type to a mechanical meter. Information will be provided to the homeowner outlining the options available to the member.

**Matters of Mutual Concern:**

There being no further business topics expressed, **F. G. Wiygul made a motion that the August 2019 Board meeting be held at the Tupelo Headquarters.** Buddy Palmer seconded the motion and upon vote taken a majority vote was observed.

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Pat Carr, President

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Don Knight, Secretary-Treasurer