

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
TOMBIGBEE ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Tombigbee Electric Power Association met at the Tupelo Headquarters Office, Tupelo, MS, on Thursday, February 10, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. The following directors were present:

Class of 2024

Jim Gray  
Steve Holland  
Don Knight  
Andy Spradling  
Danny Riley

Class of 2022

Pat Carr (A)  
John McFerrin  
Buddy Palmer  
Malcolm Wesson  
T. J. Adams

Class of 2023

Lynn Turner  
Mike Irwin  
Chip Prestage  
Brenda Shumpert  
F. G. Wiygul, Jr.

(A)—Not present  
(P)—Phone/Zoom

Also, present were        Scott Hendrix, CEO  
                                 Jonathan Hagood, Auditor  
                                 Bruce Williams, Tupelo Office Manager  
                                 Michael Dickinson, Fiber Construction/Operations  
                                 Brian Wood, Manager of Fiber Operations  
                                 Jeff Godfrey, Tupelo Electric Operations Manager  
                                 Ken Brown, Fulton Branch Manager  
                                 Matt Fennell, Manager of Fiber Services  
                                 Toby Mask, Manager of Engineering  
                                 Mitzi Hinds, Manager of Member Services

F.G. Wiygul called the meeting to order and called on Buddy Palmer to open the meeting with prayer.

Mr. Wiygul asked Mr. Hendrix to introduce recently hired employees present at the meeting. Each employee told a little about themselves and their work experience. Each new employee told the office and job duty they were being hired to do at Tombigbee EPA.

Mr. Wiygul opened the floor for consideration of the January 2022 Board Meeting Minutes. **Chip Prestage made a motion that the January 2022 meeting minutes prepared and distributed be approved.** Don Knight seconded the motion for approval and upon vote taken, a majority vote was observed.

Mr. Wiygul asked if an executive session was needed. Mr. Hendrix acknowledge that there would be a need at the end of the board meeting.

Mr. Hendrix proceeded with his attorney report. Mr. Hendrix informed the board that Tombigbee EPA had answered the lawsuit that was brought to the board attention at last month board meeting.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Smart Grid/Finance & Loan Committee:** Chairpersons Andy Spradling and Brenda Shumpert turned the details of the meeting over to Mr. Hendrix. Mr. Hendrix detailed the work of both Committees earlier in the week. Mr. Hendrix explained to board the expenditure and budget to date of the broadband project in Tombigbee EPA service area. He also explains how the loan draw would work going forward for phase three of the project. Since this was a recommendation of both committees, it needed no motion. There was a brief discussion of the board, and a vote was duly taken. A unanimous vote of the board was observed, and the recommendation was passed.

Mr. Hendrix reported that the Electric Coops of MS ACRE Program presentation will be postponed until a later meeting.

### **Fiber Update:**

Matt Fennell, Manager of Fiber Services, gave an update of our broadband project. Mr. Fennell stated that there was a total of 7,851 fiber customers connected, an increase of 611, from last month. 413 members are waiting to be installed. The board was also updated on the following: take rate of 36%, 1,478 total number of miles constructed. Mr. Fennell also updated the board on the number of voice customers, 331 and revenue generated by both internet and voice customers.

Mr. Hendrix followed with an update of the RDOF Grant funding and the overall broadband building North MS, including Coop Connect. Mr. Hendrix informed the board he had been asked to join the MEGA POP Board and the National Advisory Board for Calix.

### **Engineer Report:**

Toby Mask, Manager of Engineering, updated the board on the Fulton Primary Substation rebuild and the arrival of steel and insulators for the project. Mr. Mask informed the board that all fiber huts have been installed, with the exception of Shannon. Wet soil conditions had prevented the installation, but drier weather in the coming days would help the situation. Mr.Mask also informed the board bid packets for 46 KVA breakers for North Shannon.

### **Auditor's Report:**

Mr. Haygood presented the board with Tombigbee EPA's audited financial statements for year ending June 30, 2021. Mr. Haygood highlighted some of the differences between the finance statement going forward with the combined audit of Tombigbee EPA and Fiber.

Mr. Hagood provided the board with a copy of the TEPA Monthly Highlights Report, prepared by Franks, Franks, Wilemon and Hagood for the month ending December 2021 and explained various details of the report. Specific details and information where gross margins from electric sales are up more than 7% for the same period last year; net income for this month has increased as compared to the same period last year; kilowatt-hours sales are approximately .59% less than the six months ending December 2021; and operating expenses are approximately 19% more than

December of last year. Mr. Hagood further presented financial statements relative to Tombigbee Fiber, LLC.

**Call Center update and discussion:** Scott Hendrix has signed the contract with an afterhours call center and Tombigbee is presently working with its staff for implementation to begin next month.

**CEO Report:** Scott Hendrix, reported to the board, that the MDEQ and TVA has approved its grant request for an electric vehicle charging station in the mall area. Both grants will pay fully the cost of the EV charging station. Mr. Hendrix shared a letter of thanks form Western Ky Rural Electric Coop and Mr. Hendrix letter to members that he recently released on social media. Mr. Hendrix discussed with the board, TVA's letter relating to MS Marijuana law and its clarification of this release, the day of the board meeting. Mr. Hendrix informed the board of Nettleton Career Day, the day before, new CDL rules that went into effect and the potential sale of a large bush hog

**Matters of Mutual Concern:**

Lynn Turner made a motion to go into Executive Session and Steve Holland second and a vote was duly taken, and a majority vote was observed, and the board went into Executive Session. Don Knight made a motion to come out of executive session and adjourn, John McFerrin seconded, and a vote was taken, and a majority vote was observed, and the board come out of executive session and adjourned.

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Don Knight, Secretary-Treasurer

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F.G. Wiygul-President