

Berkeley Electric Cooperative  
Board Meeting  
January 22, 2024  
Minutes

The Berkeley Electric Cooperative Board of Trustee's meeting was held **Monday, January 22, at 1:00 P.M.** at the Moncks Corner Headquarters.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman DeWitt, Mr. Gourdine gave the invocation and we stood to honor the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Trustees were present:

<b>Connie Shuler</b>	<b>Henry H. Chavis, Sr.</b>	<b>Robert Vandross</b>
<b>Willis Sanders</b>	<b>H. Wayne DeWitt</b>	<b>Lee Clayton</b>
<b>Sam Gourdine</b>	<b>Sheila Powell</b>	<b>Bob Jenkins</b>

President & CEO Michael S. Fuller, Executive Administrator Ashley Edens, and the following staff: VP of Finance Joel Stevens, VP of Human Resources Louise Meade, Director of Energy Services Eddie Plowden, VP of Public Relations Tony Vincent, as well as General Counsel John B. Williams were in attendance.

Chairman DeWitt called for approval of minutes from the December board meeting which was held on December 15, 2023. Upon motion by Mr. Clayton seconded by Mr. Chavis, and unanimously passed; it was

**RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the minutes of the December 15, 2023, as presented.**

## **Committee Reports**

### **ECSC Board Report-Willis Sanders**

Mr. Sanders stated the next board meeting would be held on February 1<sup>st</sup> and the Legislative Luncheon would be held on February 8<sup>th</sup>; a full schedule will be sent out a week prior to the event. Below is the proposed statement of Direction on Securitization.

#### **Proposed Statement of Direction on Securitization:**

“Staff is instructed to pursue legislation during the 2024 legislative session that would enable a securitization of Santee Cooper debt in accordance with the agreements made between Central and Santee Cooper.”

#### **Proposed Statement of Direction on Energy Legislation:**

“Staff is instructed to support legislation that enables the construction of a natural gas generation facility at Canadys proposed by Santee Cooper and Dominion Energy to the extent that the legislation protects cooperative autonomy, preserves cooperative territorial integrity and protects against rates that subsidize one class from another class. Staff is instructed to keep leadership of the GR Committee and the Central Executive Committee and senior staff of Central apprised of the details of proposals and of any changes that occur through the legislative process and to seek guidance from them as needed. The Chairman of the GR Committee will ensure that any proposals that create substantial challenges to these principles are brought back to the GR Committee for its review should circumstances dictate.”

### **Central Meeting Report – Mr. DeWitt**

Mr. DeWitt stated there was a board meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup> and gave a summary of what was discussed.

**CEEUS Meeting Report-Mr. Gourdine**

Mr. Gourdine stated there was not a CEEUS board meeting this month. The CEEUS Equipment Tradeshow will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Audit Committee-Mrs. Shuler**

Mrs. Shuler stated that the audit committee met and approved expense reports and executive staff's credit card statements and there were no discrepancies.

**Financial Reports- Mr. Stevens**

Mr. Stevens reviewed the financial reports from November 2023. Mr. Stevens reviewed over portions of the statement of operations and the balance on the Form 7.

**Bank Services-Mr. Stevens**

Mr. Stevens gave recommendation to Board to move Truist accounts to CoBank due to Truist not providing acceptable service and CoBank matches Truist's tech abilities. We will work with Farmers and Merchants to identify and pursue more interest earning opportunities. We will evaluate how CoBank compares to Farmers and Merchants in one to two years for remaining accounts.

**President/CEO Reports-Mr. Fuller**

Mr. Fuller proposed to the Board to give an additional eight hours of vacation to all employees for all the hard work that contributed to the top ACSI scores in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter for Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. Berkeley also scored second in the nation for the J.D. Power 2023 Electric Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction Study. The Board approved for the employees to have an extra eight hours of vacation.

**Presentation of Leadership Certificates-Mrs. Meade and Mrs. Halverson**

Mrs. Halverson presented the following employee's certificates for completing all leadership course: Lisa Padgett, Teshia Spann, Stephanie Ulam and Missy Koester.

**Rate Study Update- Mr. Plowden, Mr. Vincent, and Mr. Stevens**

Mr. Plowden said that over half of the Coops in the state are doing rate studies. This is done to make sure groups of members are paying the proper portion. Our bill from Central is in a third part rate.

**Energy Efficiency Loan-Mr. Plowden**

The loan will be in the amount of \$7,000,000 has been approved for Berkeley Electric Cooperative by the Rural Utilities Service. The proceeds of the loan are to be used by Berkeley Electric Cooperative to make loans to qualified consumers to implement durable cost-effective energy efficiency measures, as described in the application package dated September 13, 2023, pursuant to the Rules and Regulations published in the Federal Register, Vol. 85, No. 64 on April 2, 2020.

**Member Services Update-Member Services Team**

The member services team gave a brief update on how they support the strategic objectives and the challenges they face.

**Write Offs- Mr. Fuller**

Mr. Fuller discussed the 2022 write-off information to the board. This year we need approval to write off \$128,087.89. Upon motion by Mr. Vandross, seconded by Mrs. Shuler and unanimously passed; it was

**RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approve the write-offs for 2022 in the amount of \$128,087.89.**

**Attorney Report-Mr. Williams**

Mr. Williams discussed a few legal cases that he is working on.

Mr. Williams advised the Chairman that the appointments for the Berkeley Electric Trust Board members also needed to be addressed.

**All Board members elected to retain their current members on the Trust Board.**

<b>DISTRICT NO. 1 -<i>Robert Vandross</i></b>	<b>Queen Wilson</b>
<b>DISTRICT NO. 2 -<i>Sheila Powell</i></b>	<b>Barbara Singleton</b>
<b>DISTRICT NO. 3-<i>H. Wayne DeWitt</i></b>	<b>William Jones</b>
<b>DISTRICT NO. 4- <i>Sam Gourdine</i></b>	<b>Alton Rudy Hood</b>
<b>DISTRICT NO. 5- <i>Denver Clayton</i></b>	<b>Mavon Jernigan Jr.</b>
<b>DISTRICT NO. 6- <i>Willis Sanders</i></b>	<b>Latonia Brothers</b>
<b>DISTRICT NO. 7-<i>Connie Shuler</i></b>	<b>James Donald Graham</b>
<b>DISTRICT NO. 8-<i>Robert Jenkins</i></b>	<b>William Smoak</b>
<b>DISTRICT NO. 9- <i>Henry H. Chavis, Sr.</i></b>	<b>Samuel Brownlee Jr.</b>

Upon motion by Mr. Chavis, and seconded by Mr. Gourdine, and unanimously passed; it was

**RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Berkeley Electric Cooperative, Inc., has approved the proposed list of members for the Trust Board.**

**Executive Session-**

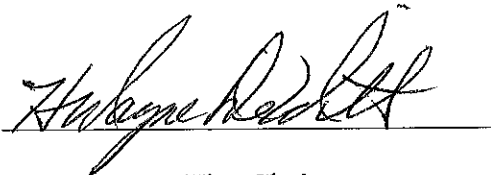
There was no business to discuss in executive session.

**New Business-**

The Chairman then called for new business. There was none.

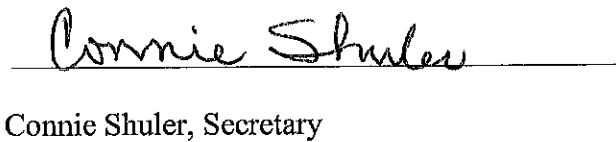
**Old Business – None.**

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made to adjourn.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. Wayne DeWitt", written over a horizontal line.

H. Wayne DeWitt, Chairman



A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Connie Shuler", written over a horizontal line.

Connie Shuler, Secretary