BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
April 15, 2019

The Board of Directors of Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation (BRMEMC) met in Regular Session on April 15, 2019, in the Board Room at the BRMEMC Headquarters building. Board Chairman Ray Cook called the meeting to order at 6:06PM.

After the invocation led by Director Rogers, the Pledge of Allegiance was led Director Trull.

The following Directors were present at Roll Call as noted by Board Secretary Perren and were in attendance during the Board Meeting:

Ray Cook, President/Chair  
Danny Henson, Director  
Jack Lance, Director  
Jeff Ledford, Director  
Gene Mason, Director  
Cory Payne, Director  
Roy Perren, Director  
Bert Rogers, Director  
Gayland Trull, Director

General Manager Nelms presented a Safety and Logistical Briefing for members in attendance.

The following Staff were recognized by the Chair and were present during Regular Session:

Jeremy Nelms, General Manager  
Charles Autry, Board Attorney  
Daniel Frizzell, Director of Engineering  
Amanda Holdaway, Director of Finance and Accounting  
Fred Gray, Director of Operations  
Byron McCombs, Communications Specialist  
Sonny Mahan, Director of Member Services

Upon request of Chairman Cook, the Meeting Agenda for April 15, 2019 was considered. A motion to approve the Agenda was approved by unanimous vote upon Motion by Director Lance, seconded by Director Ledford.

Upon request of Chairman Cook, the Minutes of the Board Meeting of March 18, 2019, were considered and approved by unanimous vote upon motion by Director Payne, seconded by Director Rogers.

Chairman Cook asked for any declarations of conflicts of interest by the Directors and none were found.
Director Payne presented the Finance Committee report of the Committee meeting on April 15, 2019, at 5:00 PM, to the Board, which was noted by the Chair as received and to be filed with the minutes of the meeting for subsequent audit (See Copy attached as Exhibit “A”).

The Policy and Public Relations Committee discussed Policy 530 – Financial Assistance for Education and Training. Director Rogers presented this as a motion from the Policy Committee. After discussion the policy was adopted by unanimous vote of the board.

Staff Reports were presented in the board packet as available for review by members of the Board. General Manager Nelms discussed various financial metrics, demand and sales statistics, and other department-focused issues. Staff is available to answer questions board members may have about items in the board package.

Member Comments:
Thomas Libby – Discussed that he feels his bills are high (avg. $300 for 1800 sq. ft. home). Asked what is the average bill. Asked if power from Chatuge Dam and Solar is sold to TVA.

Jeffery Rogers – Discussed Customer Charge & Fixed Costs. Concern about those who are on fixed income and poor. Suggested looking at a progressive rate on fixed charge.

Linda Joyce – Discussed customer charge. Feels it is unfair and protests the Fuel Adjustment Fee. Concerned about fixed cost and changes to the TVA Green Power Program.

Randy Mazie – Asked that the board put member comments after new business. Asked that BRMEMC make the Rate Study public. Asked that infrastructure cost be passed on to all customers. Asked that staff reports be placed on the website.

Old Business: None

New Business:
Resolution to Establish Broadband Affiliate – presented by General Manager Nelms in response to passage of SB2 by the Georgia General Assembly. A motion was made by Director Perren to adopt the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Henson. After discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Community Connect Grant Amendment – presented by General Manager Nelms. Director Henson made a motion to execute the USDA Community Connect Grant Agreement upon satisfactory legal review. The motion was seconded by Director Ledford. After discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Revision of Director Candidate Form – General Manager Nelms presented the revised Director Candidate Form to be used by prospective candidates for this year’s board elections. There was no need for board approval of the form.
Director Reports:

Manager Report:
General Manager Nelms thanked employees for working to restore power after the storms of April 14. 6,723 members were affected by the storm. Due to the work of our employees, the average outage was less than 75 minutes.

General Manager Nelms addressed concerns voiced by members. Unless there is a need for additional revenue, the plan to increase the service charge would be offset by a reduced energy charge. Average user would see no increase in their power bill. BRMEMC has energy consultants to address high bill complaints of individual members. Said the customer charge would go to $21.37.

TVA will pass on a 1.5% rate increase in October. BRMEMC has to decide by June 1 what we plan to do. General Manager Nelms will bring three options to the board at the May meeting.

SB2 passed and awaits the signature of Governor Kemp.

The resolution passed by the board tonight allows BRMEMC to begin formation of a broadband affiliate.

There is also broadband legislation pending in North Carolina.

Fiber expansion is underway. Locations have been staked and construction should be completed by June 1. Staff is working to identify areas for broadband expansion in FY2020.

BRMEMC is Top Performer in the TVA Green Power Providers Program with 15.4MW installed. TVA will be sun setting the Green Power Providers Program beginning in 2019.

BRMEMC will begin to evaluate USDA ReConnect Program.

Engineering and Metering Staff visited Choptak Electric Cooperative in Maryland to review its advanced metering system.

Legislation in the US Congress to protect the tax exempt status of EMCs.

General Manager Nelms presented results of the TSE Membership Survey. While overall scores were down from last year, the marks were considered good.

Working to drain a 1950’s water tank located on Mineral Springs Road in Young Harris. After the tank is drained it will be demolished with the cooperation of the City of Young Harris and the current property owners.

Construction of the Hwy 66 Bridge will require relocation of transmission poles. BRMEMC will be reimbursed by the Georgia Department of Transportation for the cost of moving the poles.
The BRMEMC Board will name the nomination and credentials committees at the May board meeting.

Other Business: None.

Announcements:
The Neal’s Gap Fiber Project will be dedicated on Wednesday, April 24.

After a break to thank members for attending the meeting, the board went into Executive Session at 8:04 PM.

The board came out of Executive Session.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:13PM.

Respectfully submitted, this, the 7th day of May 2019.

Roy Perren,
Secretary of the Board of Directors, BRMEMC

ATTEST: The undersigned EMC officers attest that the foregoing minutes of the Board Meeting on the 15th day of April 2019, were approved in Regular Session of the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors meeting on the 13th day of May, 2019.

Ray Cook, Board Chairman

Roy Perren, Secretary
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 15, 2019

The Finance Committee of Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation met at 5 P.M. on April 15, 2019, for the regular meeting. Committee Chairman Cory Payne called the meeting to order. The following were present:

Cory Payne
Jeff Ledford
Roy Perren
Gayland Trull

Also attending: Amanda Holdaway, Director of Finance & Accounting

The following reports were reviewed by the Committee:

(a) Operating Statement for February 2019, giving a net gain of $2,777,243.43.
(c) Cash Position as of April 1, 2019.
(d) Disbursements—February, 2019

A motion was made by Jeff Ledford, seconded by Roy Perren, to accept the reviewed reports. Also reviewed were the following reports:

(e) Memberships Issued and Cancelled — March, 2019
(f) Payment Contracts — None
(g) Aged Trial Balance — March, 2019
(h) Accounts Written Off — March, 2019 in the amount of $7,124.62
(i) Directors—Account Status

A motion was made by Jeff Ledford, seconded by Gayland Trull, to accept the reviewed reports.

The Finance Committee reviewed the General Manager’s expense report.

We, the Members of the Finance Committee, do hereby recommend acceptance of the Finance Committee Minutes, the reports and actions contained therein as action by the Board.

Cory Payne, Chairman
Jeff Ledford
Roy Perren
Gayland Trull

EXHIBIT "A"