

**CRISP COUNTY POWER COMMISSION
CORDELE, GEORGIA**

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2:00 P.M.
April 25, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Crisp County Power Commission was held on the above-mentioned date and time in the Power Commission Board Room at 202 South Seventh Street.

There Were Present:

Ray Hughes, Chairman
Alissa Wilkerson
Rusty Slade
John Pridgen
Mark Crenshaw
James Dowdy
Larry Felton

Others Present:

Chris Hewitt, General Manager
Ladreka Daniels, Secretary
Rick Lawson, Attorney
Sam Farrow, County Commissioner
Rick Vaughn, Staff Engineer
Blake Manning, Operations Manager
Becky Fitzgibbons, Office Manager
Ronnie Miller, Plant Manager
Troy Gilliam, Resource Manager
Clint Branch, Tech Services Manager
Chad Young, IT Director
Grant Buckley, IDC Director
Clark Harrell, County Administrator
Joe Rogers, CCPC Customer

Absent:

James Nance, County Commissioner

Media Present:

Dee Sinha, WSST-TV

Call to Order

Chairman Hughes called the meeting to order and welcomed all present. Larry Felton will be sitting as a voting member for James Nance.

Minutes

A motion was made by Rusty Slade, seconded by John Pridgen and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the regular March 28, 2023 meeting.

General Manager Position

Interim General Manager Fitzgibbons reported the remaining candidates for the General Manager's position are Chris Hewitt, Manager of Technical Services and Troy Gilliam,

Resource Manager. She reported, Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 50-18-72(a)(11) the list of remaining candidates was published in the April 5, 2023, Cordele Dispatch and the 14-day waiting period has passed. Therefore, without further discussion about the candidates, which would need to occur in Executive Session, the board may proceed with (a) ratifying the finalists and (b) voting for their candidate of choice.

A motion was made by John Pridgen, seconded by James Dowdy and unanimously carried to ratify Chris Hewitt and Troy Gilliam as the two remaining candidates for the General Manager's position.

A motion was made Larry Felton, seconded by John Pridgen, and unanimously carried to appoint Chris Hewitt as the General Manager, with an annual salary of \$140,000, and approval to drive a company vehicle to his residence.

Interim Manager Fitzgibbons presented a resolution authorizing the Chairman and General Manager, Chris Hewitt to execute MEAG Trust and other documents requested of MEAG.

A motion was made by James Dowdy, seconded by Alissa Wilkerson, and unanimously carried to authorize the Chairman and General Manager, Chris Hewitt to execute MEAG documents.

Interim General Manager Fitzgibbons presented a resolution authorizing the Chairman and General Manager, Chris Hewitt to execute ECG voting requirements and other documents requested of ECG.

A motion was made by James Dowdy, seconded by John Pridgen, and unanimously carried to authorize the Chairman and General Manager, Chris Hewitt to execute ECG documents.

Review of March 2023 Financial Statement

Operating Revenues	\$3,338,264.56
Operating Expenses	\$5,707,545.07
Net Revenues	(\$2,259,126.55)
Net Revenues (After Adjustments)	(\$596,117.75)
Year to Date Net Revenues	\$1,616,965.99
Total Funds On Hand	\$5,307,479.24

Manager Hewitt noted that sales for March were overall greater than the same month last year due to an increase in the Industrial Class although there was a decrease in the Residential and Commercial Classes primarily due to mild weather. Energy sales for the month of March were up 6.2% and revenue was up by 7.1% compared to the same month last year. YTD MWh sales is 7.4% below budget. He reported HDDs for the month of March 2023 were 219 compared to the average of 251-degree days.

River flows in the Flint for March were above average with high flows occurring at the end of the month due to heavy rain in the Flint River basin north of Lake Blackshear. The National Weather Service had projected a peak of 25 feet (70,500 CFS) at Montezuma and we lowered the lake approximately 7 feet in anticipation of these flows. The actual peak was 22.22 feet (49,000 CFS) which was lower than projected and the lake was returned to

normal pool. We experienced some local flooding in the areas near Campers Haven and the Hwy 27 bridge.

Manager Hewitt reported hydroelectric production was 6.5% less than the long-term average and 2.2% less than the same month last year. SEPA generation was 17.5% above budget. Hewitt reported Unit#2 is still out of service for maintenance.

It was reported that cash available for operations as of March 31st was \$5.31 million which is an increase of \$35,000 from the prior month and includes the transfer of \$2 million from the MCT that was approved at the last meeting and expenditures of \$1.54 million for ash remediation and Pateville Sub. There are no large expenditures for ash remediation or Pateville Sub expected in May. The available cash is lower than our recommended reserve level of \$7.9 million ~ \$9.5 million. We recommend a transfer of \$2 million from the MCT to bring the available cash back up close to our recommended minimum.

A motion was made by John Pridgen, seconded by Larry Felton and unanimously carried to approve the \$2 million transfer from the MCT account.

A motion was made by James Dowdy, seconded by Larry Felton and unanimously carried to approve the March 2023 Financial Statements.

Consideration of Employee Compensation Changes

Manager Hewitt reported the change in the cost of living for 2022 was 5.0% based on information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)/CPI Rate. He recommends a 5.0% cost of living with a 1% merit increase to be disbursed to employees in accordance with the Commission's Wage and Salary Plan.

A motion was made by Larry Felton, seconded by John Pridgen, and unanimously carried to approve the 5.0% cost of living increase with a 1% merit increase distributed in accordance with an employee's merit review, effective the first full pay period in May.

Report on April's MEAG Board of Directors Meeting

Manager Hewitt reported there was an update given on the projected forward price curves, fixed and variable costs. Natural gas and wholesale market prices remain below budgeted expectations due to continued strong gas storage levels and mild weather. Prices are expected to remain low through the remainder of 2023. Gas storage is 19% above the 5-year average. Nuclear units ran 1.2% below budget. Though they are both back online now, Unit #2 at Plant Hatch was offline for maintenance and Unit #1 at Plant Vogtle was offline for refueling. Coal generation increased due to the nuclear unit outages and the coal inventories but was still 38.1% below budget.

Hewitt reported the CC plant had a planned outage but its return to service delayed resulting in generation 11.1% below budget. MEAG expects higher than budget generation for the remainder of 2023 due to low gas prices. SEPA was 7.3% above budget due to wet weather. Off-system purchase volumes were higher due to unit outages but were 30.5% below budget due to low market prices. Total MEAG energy sales were 6.4% less than March 2022 and 6.9% below budget for the year with weather being the primary factor.

Manager Hewitt gave a report on the corporate affairs that are happening around our local areas and on federal and state levels. He reported the APPA National Conference will be held June 16th – June 21st and the MEAG Power Annual Meeting will be held July 10th – July 12th. Hewitt reported the Lineman's Rodeo will be held at Camp John Hope in Perry, Ga on Saturday, May 6th. He presented a slide presentation on the Vogtle Project update and progress.

Current Projects

- ❖ Becky Fitzgibbons gave an update report on our FEMA reimbursement status. She also reported she received the actuary report and hopes to report on that at the May meeting.
- ❖ Ronnie Miller reported we had the high flow event; however, there were no reported issues because we had prepared for a projected level of 25 feet and we only received 22 feet. He gave a report on the progress of the Ash Pond removal. He hopes parts for Unit #2 will be shipped this Friday. He expressed his appreciation to the line crews and the maintenance crews on working together to assist at the Hydro.
- ❖ Rick Vaughn reported we had 38 outages, 2,809 customers that were affected by the outages with 2,812 customer interruptions, and a total of 210,344 customer minutes. He reported the recent tornado we experienced broke 8 transformer poles and 1 distribution poles. He also reported all our customers were back on by 4/14/2023 by 5 pm.
- ❖ Clint Branch was announced as the new Tech Services Manager and he reported his crews are working on four big projects to include the Pateville substation, Southwest sub switch, MEAG working at West Fraser, and in the Industrial Bank on the east side. He also reported Osmose will begin in the area of Raines Station and Hwy 280 inspecting 2,500 to 3,000 poles.
- ❖ Troy Gilliam reported there was a customer on the Lake that took advantage when the lake was down and worked on their seawall. He reported one application of spraying has been completed and new buoys are in. He hopes to get those before the next major holiday.
- ❖ Blake Manning reported crews continue to stay busy with daily work, Osmose pole change outs, and assisting with the gas turbine. He also gave a brief report regarding the tornado and expressed his appreciation for the assistance from the City of Albany. Blake reported we had around 39,000 feet of line affected by the tornado. He reported since there has been monitoring of the city lights that are out around town, crews have repaired 60 lights and they are working to decide how often they will perform future searches for other lights that are out. Blake reported for Gary Youngblood, our ECG Representative that the upcoming E&O Conference will take place June 7th-9th. He also reported there will be a Foreman Supervisors Series that will begin 07/23 ~ 12/23 that occurs 2 days/month for six months and a customer service training series that will begin 05/23~11/23.
- ❖ Grant Buckley briefly reported on the HR Roundtable event that many industries around the city are participating in. He also gave a brief report on old Owens Corning Building and the recent ribbon cutting at the Harris Group expansion.
- ❖ Ray Hughes attended the SGTC's Donor Appreciation Dinner and received the President's Award for 2022 for annual donation and the donation of one of our used bucket trucks to the Lineman's program.

Other Business

None

Meeting Adjourned

Chairman Hughes announced that there was no further business to come before the Commission and declared the meeting adjourned.



Chairman



Secretary

Approved this *23rd* day of *May* 2023