

CRISP COUNTY POWER COMMISSION
CORDELE, GEORGIA

2:00 P.M.
February 25, 2025

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:

Alissa Wilkerson, Chairwoman
John Pridgen
William Edwards
Eli Tinsley
James Dowdy
Sam Farrow
Larry Felton

Others Present:

Chris Hewitt, General Manager
Ladreka Daniels, Secretary
Rick Lawson, Attorney
Sarah Howell, Business & Finance Manager
Rick Vaughn, Staff Engineer
Ronnie Miller, Production Manager
Blake Manning, Line Division Manager
Troy Gilliam, Resource Manager
Chad Young, IT Director
Clark Harrell, County Administrator
Ann Barefoot, Public Agenda Requestee
Joseph Wright, Public Agenda Requestee

Absent:

Mark Crenshaw
James Nance

Media Present:

De'Andra Jacobs, CBS 44
Chris Lewis, Cordele Dispatch

Call to Order

Chairwoman Wilkerson called the meeting to order and welcomed all present. Sam Farrow will be sitting as voting member in the absence of Mark Crenshaw and Larry Felton will be sitting as a voting member in the absence of James Nance.

Public Agenda Requestee: Customers Joseph "Joe Joe" Wright and Ann Barefoot,

Chairwoman Wilkerson announced that Cheryl Fisher had requested to appear; however, she was not able to attend. Ms. Barefoot expressed thanks to the Linemen in the field who quickly restores the power. She then addressed the Board stating it has been operating since 2021 with an operational and cashflow problem. She stated she had viewed the board

meeting minutes and quickly studied the financial statements. She referenced the rate adjustment letter that was mailed to all customers that addressed the coal ash removal that had a cost of approximately \$13.6 million with expenses only spread over a couple of years that has been passed along to the customers. She hopes there is a grant associated with this major project. She also referenced the 95 year old Power Dam. She hopes that the past three years of costly repairs at the Power Dam would mean things are good at the Power Dam. Barefoot mentioned the rate increase schedule that was proposed a few years ago but was not implemented and a 4% rate increase in January 2024 that was not enough to offset costly projects. She stated this year's knee-jerk reaction of implementing a 45% base rate increase which makes our bills increase approximately 26% was probably needed to continue business as usual which will not allow CCPC to continue operations much longer without assistance and major changes. She reported a small pool of customers will not be able to sustain because this a low-income community. She rhetorically asked, how many extensions and discounts are offered, how many cut-offs are done for non-payment, and how many write-offs are at year-end? She stated this rate increase has her and others thinking of relocating. She asked that when rate increases are done, will CCPC let their customers know? She asked the Board to please look at her and others as neighbors not customers. She asked the Board to reduce the rate increase and some budget expenses, not to proceed with capital projects that are not needed this year, not to donate funds to other organizations, not give a typical COLA this year. She asked rhetorically are there relief funds, settlement funds, lawsuit funds, federal/state funds that may be coming. She asked for the Board to get back to the primary focus of providing reliable and economic service and reduce the rate increase.

Mr. Joseph Wright expressed that we have a problem and as in all small communities that it will behoove everyone than to try to not fight each other. He stressed that no one on the board, in the room, including himself enjoyed getting a rate increase on their power bill. He stressed there is a dignity that must accompany anything like this. He stated all the people present is an aunt, uncle, grandmother, grandfather, niece, nephew, friend, neighbor, one small community. He stated he was related to many people in the room. He rhetorically asked is there a fix for this problem, probably so, but it's not a short-term fix that is going to happen overnight. He stated a lot went into the rate increase which he will not discuss; however, he stressed that everyone should be dignified in the way that we talk and conduct ourselves. He expressed his appreciation to the crews that are out in the weather and the hometown service they provide. He expressed that he and the Board understands that everyone has a right to complain but let the heads come together to correct the issues brought before the Board today. He hopes that all be gentle with each other without lashing out.

There were others not on the Agenda that began to speak and ask questions. One customer asked considering the circumstances, would the Board allow the public to express what's on their minds and listen to what they (the public) has to say.

Commissioner Felton stated he is aware that there are several people present today and there was only a couple on the agenda and he thinks some people did not know how to get on the agenda and he's not going to ignore the fact that the people are here today for answers. He stressed that everyone can't talk at the same time and if the Board could allow one or two more people to speak; however, he stated the Board may not be able to give an answer today but the issue will be revisited. After he was done, several other customers

began to speak either by asking questions or expressing concerns and likewise Management and the Board responded or attempted to respond to the questions and concerns.

After the concerns were expressed, the Board agreed they will discuss the concerns brought before them.

Chairwoman announced the meeting will resume in five (5) minutes.

Approval of Minutes from January 2025 Meeting

A motion was made by John Pridgen, seconded by Larry Felton, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the regular January meeting.

Review of January 2025 Financial Statements

Operating Revenues	\$5,734,047.98
Operating Expenses	\$5,092,872.79
Net Revenue	738,059.12
Year to Date Net Revenues	\$738,059.12
Total Funds On Hand	\$1,534,761.02

Manager Hewitt reported energy sales for January were greater overall than January of last year. Compared to last year this time, sales in each Class were greater except for the Industrial Class. Revenue from sales was greater than the same month last year by 25.7%.

For total MWh sales, the Commission is now 11.1% above the YTD budget. Energy consumption is currently 1.43% greater than January 2024. Heating/Cooling Degree Days for the month of January 2025 were 696 compared to 569 days in January 2024 and long-term average of 518-degree days.

River flows in the Flint for January were slightly below normal. Hydro-electric production for January was 57.9% less than the long-term average and 19.5% less than January 2024. Unit#2 is still out of service due to re-assembly and Unit #3 is out of service due to wicket gate maintenance. Unit #1 should be back on tomorrow.

Available cash for operations as of January 31st was \$1,534,761 which is an decrease of \$202,274 from the prior month. The available cash is lower than our recommended reserve level of \$9.0 million ~ \$10.9 million. We will continue to monitor the bank account. Hewitt recommends an approval to possibly transfer up to \$2M from the MCT before or by next month's meeting to bring available cash back up close to our recommended minimum, if needed, as a precautionary measure.

A motion was made by William Edwards seconded by John Pridgen, and unanimously carried to authorize a transfer, not to exceed \$2M from the MCT account crediting Project M charges on our MEAG bill, if necessary.

A motion was made by James Dowdy, seconded by Sam Farrow and unanimously carried to approve the January 2025 Financial Statements.

Report on MEAG February 2025 BOD Meeting

Manager Hewitt reported during the MEAG BOD meeting it was reported the fixed and variable costs were above budget by about 3.56 cents per kWh for the month and 0.35 cents per kWh under budget YTD. The variable costs were under budget by \$25.8M by project. Fixed costs were under budget by \$63.3M by category. Renewal and replacement expenditures were over budget for the month by \$5M and were \$9.9M above budget YTD by project. He presented the Board with MEAG's preliminary YES.

Manager Hewitt reported the NG prices were above the budgeted amount due to the cold weather and gas pipeline constraints. The price has increased and the revised update depicts an expected increase of gas prices for the remainder of the year. The spot market prices for January averaged \$65.02/MWh for purchase prices and the average sales price for January was \$162.77/MWh. \$424.64/MWh was the highest price per hour for the month. Nuclear units ran 7.6% above budget. Hatch Unit #1, Vogtle #1, 2, 3, and 4 all ran at 100% output. Hatch #2 was in coast down preparing for refueling outage (scheduled for March return). Vogtle #2 is scheduled for refueling in March.

Coal generation ran 35.8% below budget due to the nuclear units running at full output with the coal units dispatched during the colder days to ensure adequate system and reliability. The Wansley Combined Cycle plant ran 30.7% below budget at a 63.2% utilization factor. The below budget performance was due to pipeline restraints and higher MMBtu prices. SEPA was 22.7% below budget for the month due to minimal rainfall ending 2024 but more recent rainfall has allowed the lake levels to stabilize and return to normal pool and will allow for SEPA to return closer to budget performance moving forward. Off-system purchase volumes were 194.9% above budget because of reduction of use of higher cost units. The total power resources were 57% non-emitting for January 2025 and 60% non-emitting for the rolling 12-month period. The total MEAG energy consumption was 10.4% more than January 2024 and 1.0% above budget.

Hewitt also gave a brief report on the High Density Load Study (HDL) and some of the activities that are taking place in the State, Federal, and local communities.

Report on Current Projects

- ❖ Sarah Howell expressed thanks to the Customer Service Department for their hard work during this time. She mentioned that we do offer and has always offered Levelized Billing to customers with a zero balance that looks at the current bill plus eleven prior bills. She did mention usage has gone down on some bills.
- ❖ Blake Manning reported crews finished the last MEAG pole transfer on Farmers Market Road, they're working on a line relocation on McKenzie Road, the EV charging stations at four hotels has been completed, and set some DOT cameras along I75 and Hwy 300. He reported the incident that happened on February 5th that involved a tractor trailer or some type of big equipment that brought down some power lines that had to get power lines back up. He also reported that on Sunday, February 16th we had a high wind event that led to about 90 customers

- being out. Crews worked until around lunch to get them back on. He reported crews continue to work on maintenance and daily work. Larry Felton asked about a S/L in a business plaza verifying that the owner of the plaza will have to contact CCPC to inquire about installing lights on his/her property.
- ❖ Rick Vaughn reported there were a total of 37 outages, 1,591 customers were affected, and a total of 1,657 interruptions. He reported he's working substation test results and several energy audits.
 - ❖ Rick Vaughn reported for Clint Branch that crews are still working on Pateville Sub 3rd phase and switching out Southwest Sub. He reported they are waiting on Perlis Truck Stop for staking. They are relocating around three irrigations on McKenzie Road/Hwy 90. Several temp services for new construction going on. City waste water treatment facility is installing a back-up generator and will need to relocate transformer conduit. Alissa Wilkerson asked about energy audits. Rick responded we go and try to find problems that can possibly be water heaters or heat strips staying on. Also, a full blown energy audit they go through and provide energy tips for energy savers which could be needing new air conditioners, heat pumps, or new insulation. Larry Felton asked have we had any problems with our meters. Rick responded we have not had any problems with accuracy of the meters only with the meters communicating back in to report the reading. Chris reported he is not aware of any meter problems. He stated the worse the meter gets, the less accurate it will report and that means it is reporting less than 100%. He reported we get a report of any meters that are not reporting accurately.
 - ❖ Troy Gilliam reported three docks are being worked on. He reported contractors are coming in for spraying late March or early April.
 - ❖ Ronnie Miller reported Unit #1 is back on line this morning after it's been out to have the trash racks replaced. He brought an old piece (around 100 years old) in to show how back it looks compared to a piece of the new one. He reported they completed other maintenance. Working on Unit #3 now.
 - ❖ Clark Harrell reported Express Disposal will be the new waste collection company for Crisp County. He reported the bill amount will be around \$.60-\$.62 less than our previous bills. New cans are being delivered and new service will beginning on April 1, 2025.

Other Business

Hewitt reported due to the unforeseen weather patterns over the last several months with extreme cold temperatures and the new rate increase that was effective in January 2025, he is requesting the Board to approve authorization to increase the number of extensions on customer bills from the current number of three (3) to four (4) per year to help alleviate the hardships.

Larry Felton expressed his concerns about the rate increase and he thinks the Board may need to approve more extensions.

A motion was made by John Pridgen, seconded by Larry Felton to approve the number of yearly extensions from three (3) to four (4).

After discussion and before the motion was approved, Larry Felton recommended approving a total of five (5) extensions per year and each extension has to be paid before the next extension is granted.

A motion was made by Larry Felton, seconded by John Pridgen, and unanimously carried to amend the first motion to approve the number of yearly extensions from three (3) to five (5) and each extension has to be paid before the next extension is granted.

Larry Felton asked instead of the 21%, could we break the residential rate down to half of the 21%? Hewitt responded that we have done the numbers and if we do that, we will be out of money; however, he will do what the Board wants. He reported we have \$7.6M in MCT and if we do nothing, we will be out of money by March. If we do half, we will be out of money by July. He reported the least percentage was 21% and that's what was voted on and that percentage is not building reserves and is not making a profit. It is allowing us to break even. Felton responded that the public also will be out of money and without lights because they were not warned. William Edwards stated there was an increase; however, there was more consumption and everything compounded at a bad time. He thinks we should see how the bills look in the upcoming months. Hewitt stated that the rate structure is 21% cumulative on residential and the winter saw more because it was already less and that's why the increase was added on the winter rates to keep summer from being so high. It was an unpredicted and unexpected colder winter. He mentioned there was 22 days when it was below freezing and no matter what means the customers used to heat, those means did not shut off. He gave an example of one customer that had five space heaters to heat a house which uses so much more energy. He expressed the point that if customers would call to ask these questions, we can help. Felton verified that the rate did not begin until January 2025. Hewitt responded yes and the customers' usage was from December and it was cold. He stated customers are comparing the bills they paid in December 2024 which was consumption from November saying and thinking their bills were extremely low to the bills they're receiving in January which has the new rate and cold weather from December to January consumption on their bills. John Pridgen stated that we had the cold weather and new rate increase. He asked if we could give it three (3) months to see if the bills will level out a little and then at the end of three (3) months they can review the rates and if our position is better to see if we can realistically roll back the rates and still meet our obligations. He just do not think we can make that decision at the moment because one month is not enough to see what accumulative affect the rate increase has done. Hewitt agreed with John Pridgen and stated if anything can be done after these months, it can be adjusted in the summer. The bills are starting to drop because people are using less and these upcoming months the weather is expected to be milder. Hewitt reported this was discussed and we went as less as we could and we trying to sustain a company. He reported the cost of service study stated we needed to increase our rates by 39.8% for residential and we did 21% and we backed off from that higher percentage because we knew we couldn't do that. We may not have to do a rate increases for the next couple of years and if we don't have to adjust as much over the next five years, this rate increase we just had averages out to be 5 to 6%. Pridgen reported we are non-profit and we are trying to break even so we can deliver service to our customers. He stated he is concerned about those that are having trouble paying their bills this month; however, there is a limit as to what we can do to keep the doors open. Our goal is to give good quality service. Hewitt stated if he's given the time to do the trend maybe we can adjust summer

rates. This discussion on rates will be revisited at the next two (2) meetings, at least three (3) bills.

Felton and Wilkerson expressed thanks to those that came out and stated they were heard and understood and the Board will look into their concerns.

A motion was made by Larry Felton, seconded by Williams Edwards, and unanimously carried to go into Executive Session to discuss pending or potential legal matters, including potential litigation and legal strategy.

Executive Session

No actions were taken.

At the conclusion of the Executive Session, a motion was made by William Edwards, seconded by Eli Tinsley to reconvene in regular session.

The Chairwoman called the meeting of the Crisp County Power Commission back into regular order.

Meeting Adjourned

Chairwoman Wilkerson announced there was no further business to come before the Commission and declared the meeting adjourned.


Chairman

Secretary

Approved this ^{25th} ~~1st~~ March day of March 2025

GEORGIA, CRISP COUNTY

Personally appeared before the undersigned officer authorized to administer oaths, the undersigned chairperson of the Crisp County Power Commission, who in oath, states that he/she presided over the meeting of said organization on the date specified below, that he/she is an adult, competent to testify to the statements herein contained, is laboring under not disabilities and makes this statement to the best of his/her knowledge and belief, aware of the fact that this statement will be made part of the record of said meeting.

A portion of said meeting was closed to the public (held in "Executive Session"), and that the subject matter of the closed portion thereof was devoted exclusively to matters within the exceptions to the "Open Meeting Law" (OCGA section 50-14-1, et seq), and that the specific relevant exception(s) thereof is indicated below by a check mark in the blank immediately preceding said exception.

☒ Attorney/client privileged matters concerning pending or potential litigation.

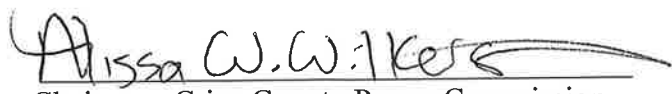
☐ Tax matters made confidential by a state law.

☐ Staff meeting held for investigative purposes under duties or responsibilities imposed by law.

☐ Discussions concerning the future acquisition of real estate.

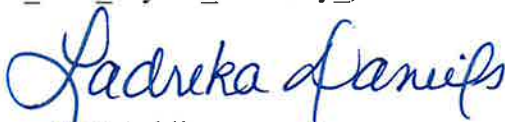
☐ Discussions or deliberating upon the appointment, and employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluations or rating of a public officer or employee.

This 25th day of February, 2025


Chairman, Crisp County Power Commission

Cordele, Georgia

Sworn to and described before me this
25th day of February, 2025.



Notary Public

My Commission Expires 10/22/2028.

SEAL

