

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 20, 2026**

President Scott Ury called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. Members present were Kim Bakehouse, William Littrell, Joshua Miller, Nathan Pfaff, Randall Rushing, Toni L. Snell, Brittany Thomas and Gerald Thurston. Staff members present were Executive Vice President/General Manager, David A. Johnston; Director of Administration and Finance, Julie Wilke; Director of Operations and Maintenance, Robert Mayo; Director of Member Services, Brent Goforth; Assistant Director of Engineering-Project Manager, Nathan Hermetz; Assistant Director of Engineering-Project Manager, Hank Stewart and Executive Assistant, Stephanie Theis. Attorney Ron Osman was present. Craig Sondergroth, Nick Reitz, and John Teefey from AIEC and Jonathan Chambers and Carl Meyerhoefer from Conexon were invited into the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Karen Jackson-Furman from WK&T joined via Teams at 10:00 a.m.

INVOCATION

Mr. Bill Littrell gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Mr. Pfaff and seconded by Mr. Littrell to approve the March 30, 2026, board minutes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Mr. Pfaff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Littrell seconded by Mrs. Snell to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a. Memberships
- b. Finance Committee Meeting
 - i. Finance Committee Agenda
 - ii. Finance Committee Minutes
 - iii. Memberships Applied
- c. Written Staff & General Manager Reports

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IFA Grid Resiliency Grant

Mr. Hermetz provided an update regarding the IFA Grid Resiliency Grant and the associated Build America, Buy America (BABA) waiver status. Supplemental to this, Mr. Johnston noted that other Illinois cooperatives with pending waiver applications have not yet received official responses or guidance.

2026 - 2027 Nominating Committee Review

Mrs. Theis reported on the status of the Nominating Committee, specifically the vacancy in Alexander County and the proposed selection of Mr. Brad Dodd for Union County. Per bylaw requirements, the President will formally appoint the committee with member consent at the Annual Meeting on August 6, 2026. Mrs. Theis further advised that the committee is set to meet May 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. to consider nominees for the Board of Directors vacancies.

NEW BUSINESS

1st Quarter 2026 Financial Review-Julie Wilke

Mrs. Wilke presented the 2026 1st Quarter financial report.

Conexon and WK&T Fiber Deployment-Update & Discussion

Mr. Chambers and Mrs. Jackson-Furman provided updates on the status of both of their organization's fiber deployment and presented strategies that could lead to a more efficient and faster deployment.

REPORTS

Attorney Report

Attorney Ron Osman provided a legal report.

AIEC

Mr. Thurston reported there was no meeting in April.

SIPC

Mr. Johnston, President Ury, Mr. Littrell, and Mr. Rushing reported that the SIPC Board meetings was scheduled later in the month and therefore there was not yet any new information to report.

General Manager & Staff

Correspondence & Miscellaneous – David A. Johnston

Mr. Johnston distributed several items of correspondence for Board Members to review.

Mr. Johnston asked the Board Members to review the Safety Report.

Safety

Mr. Goforth provided the Safety report.

OSHA

The OSHA report for March 2026 shows 0 reported accidents and 0 hours of lost time occurring in the current month. There were 0 hours of lost time due to accidents occurring in the previous months.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

April safety training was conducted by Matt Clark from AIEC on 04/10/2026. The safety topic was accidents and the importance of safety culture and reporting close calls. May training will be Pole-Top & Hurt Man Rescue.

EMPLOYEE SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Through 04/03/2026 employees (excluding the General Manager) completed 86,173.14 working hours without a lost time accident.

It was moved by Mr. Littrell and seconded by Mr. Pfaff to approve the Attorney, AIEC, SIPC, General Manager & Staff Reports, and the Safety Report. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Pfaff moved to go into Executive Session at 11:42 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Snell. Motion Carried.

Mrs. Snell moved to come out of Executive Session at 11:51 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion Carried.

By consensus, the Board directed Mr. Johnston to request that Conexon submit a formal proposal detailing the broadband deployment strategy outlined by Mr. Chambers for the Board's consideration.

President Ury adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is Monday, May 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Scott Ury

Gerald P. Thurston

Kim Bakehouse

William Littrell

Joshua Miller

Nathan Pfaff

Randall Rushing

Toni Snell

Brittany Thomas