

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
May 18, 2026**

President Scott Ury called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Members present were Kim Bakehouse, William Littrell, Joshua Miller, Nathan Pfaff, Randall Rushing, 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. Toni L. Snell was absent.

INVOCATION

Mr. Josh Miller gave the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Mr. Pfaff and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve the April 20, 2026, board minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

Mr. Thurston moved to approve the meeting agenda. Mr. Pfaff seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Rushing and seconded by Mrs. Thomas 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 unanimously carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IFA Grid Resiliency Grant

Mr. Hermetz and Mrs. Wilke provided an update regarding the IFA Grid Resiliency Grant and the associated Build America, Buy America (BABA) non-availability waiver status.

2026 - 2027 Nominating Committee Review

Mrs. Theis reported on the status of the Nominating Committee. The committee met May 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. The following were nominated for the board election to be held at the August 6, 2026, annual meeting of members:

Kim Bakehouse-Massac County, 3-year term
Joshua Miller-Alexander County, 3-year term
Toni L. Snell-Johnson County-3-year term
Brittany Thomas-Alexander County-2 -year term of unexpired 3-year term

Conexon Fiber Deployment - Update

Mr. Johnston provided an update on Conexon's fiber deployment.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Audit Presentation - Kelso Lynch

Mr. Kevin Kelso from Kelso Lynch presented an unqualified opinion of its audit of SIEC's 2025 financial statements. It was moved by Mr. Rushing and seconded by Mr. Littrell to approve the 2025 audit report as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

2026 Annual Meeting

Mr. Goforth gave a brief update on the 2026 annual meeting to be held on August 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Shawnee Community College.

WK&T Fiber Deployment - Proposal

Mr. Johnston reported on the status of WK&T's fiber deployment which included the possibility that SIEC become a co-recipient on WK&T's ReConnect grant which is administered by the Rural Utility Service branch of the United States Department of Agriculture. If approved, this would allow SIEC to allow WK&T to utilize SIEC's easements in accordance with the Electrical Service Broadband Deployment and Access Law (220 ILCS 20/17 New).

The consensus of the Board was to continue exploring the opportunity to join WK&T as a co-recipient of WK&T's Reconnect grant and utilize SIEC's easements.

Review Wholesale Power Contract

Mr. Johnston reviewed the wholesale power contract and recommended that the Board review the contract during the May board meeting each year as an opt out deadline exists with the first being September 1, 2027, and every five years thereafter.

The consensus of the Board was to review the contract as recommended.

Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program Sponsorship

Mr. Johnston and Mr. Goforth presented a request from Arrowleaf for SIEC to sponsor it for a loan through the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program. Arrowleaf's intent is to renovate a portion of the building located at 463 East Davie Street, Anna, Illinois so that it can be used as a medical respite facility.

After discussion, the Board directed management to proceed compiling information including draft agreement(s) for a pass-through loan for Board consideration.

REPORTS

Attorney Report

Attorney Ron Osman provided a legal report.

AIEC

Mr. Thurston reported the AIEC meeting is scheduled later in the month and therefore there was not yet any new information to report.

SIPC

Mr. Johnston, President Ury, Mr. Littrell, and Mr. Rushing reported that the SIPC Board meeting was scheduled later in the month and therefore there was not 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.

Mrs. Wilke presented a review of ratios in the Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA) for 2025.

Safety

Mr. Goforth provided the Safety report.

OSHA

The OSHA report for April 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

May safety training will be Pole-Top & Hurt Man Rescue to be held on May 29, 2026.

EMPLOYEE SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Through 05/01/2026 employees (excluding the General Manager) completed 92,252.59 working hours without a lost time accident.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Pfaff moved to go into Executive Session at 11:42 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Littrell. Motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Pfaff moved to come out of Executive Session at 12:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bakehouse. Motion unanimously carried.

President Ury adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is Monday, June 29, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.