

Photos by Sean Vanslyke

Top Photo: Team SEMO representatives reported to the Board on their participation in the fifth annual Missouri Broadband Summit, where broadband leaders from 10 Missouri electric cooperatives, along with the Missouri Department of Economic Development, the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives (AMEC), and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), shared best practices and collaborated to strengthen broadband service for rural communities. Right Photo: Team SEMO's Chris Freed updates the Board on operational accuracy and system improvements while providing an overview of an irrigation service that was intentionally shunted, preventing the meter from accurately recording energy usage.



Board Approves $1 million in Capital Credits

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of SEMO Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Cooperative"), was held on Monday, July 20, 2026, at the Cooperative's office in Sikeston, Missouri. The meeting was called to order by President Richard Faulkner. The following directors were present: Faulkner, John Bledsoe, James Deneke, Carl Eftink, Carla Moore, Myron Hawes, Tim Coppage, Dicky Hanor, Keith Haynes, Field LaPlant, Dennis Fowler, and Von Priggel. No directors were absent. Staff members present were Jared Kelley, Brad Milam, Angie Byford, Amanda Burnett, Loyd Rice, Becky Ivester, and Chris Freed. Also present were Sean Vanslyke, CEO/General Manager, and Megan McCord, attorney for the Cooperative. The Chair called for approval of the agenda. An invocation was offered by Director Deneke. On motion duly made, seconded, and passed, the agenda was approved.

The Board considered its consent agenda, consisting of the minutes of the June 12, 2026, regular meeting; new membership applications; membership cancellations; the initial review of Policy 307 – Sale or Transfer of Assets; and the initial review of Policy 308 – Use of Computer, Software, and Related Equipment. Kelley presented the monthly safety report, including the monthly safety topic, Electrical Safety Around Water, and the lost-time and injury summary for the previous month.

Under old business, the Board reviewed its meeting schedule and confirmed registrations for upcoming meetings. The Board reviewed Policy 304 – Accidental Damage to Poles and Policy 305 – Check Signatures. Burnett reviewed the capital credit retirement options presented at the previous Board meeting. Following discussion, and upon motion duly made, seconded, and passed, the Board approved retiring 40% of the remaining 1988 capital credits and 13% of the 2025 capital credits. Current members will receive a bill credit on bills due in November if the retirement amount is $10 or more. Former members will receive a check by mail if the retirement amount is $10 or more. Amounts less than $10 for either group will be carried forward to the next retirement cycle. Under new business, the Board reviewed and discussed district updates. Sean Vanslyke presented proposed revisions to Policy 103 – Per Diem, Insurance, and Other Benefits. The Board also reviewed a request for a donation to the NRECA International Fund. Following discussion, and upon motion duly made, seconded, and passed, the Board approved a $1,000 donation.

Burnett presented the June 2026 financial summary, including revenue and expense analysis and budget comparisons. Compared to budget, year-to-date electric revenue is down 0.33%, expenses are down 2.78%, and power costs are down 0.35%. She also provided updates on FEMA claims and irrigation billing. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and passed, the financial report was accepted.

Eftink reported on his attendance at a recent meeting of M&A Electric Power Cooperative, highlighting discussions related to safety and reliability. Haynes reported that no Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives meeting had been held since the previous Board meeting.

The Board reviewed and discussed written staff reports, with staff members providing supplemental information. Sean Vanslyke presented a video highlighting employee activities and accomplishments from the previous month. The Board entered Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.