

Annual meeting attendees hear about climate change, expected rate increase

Members of Clay Electric Co-operative were updated on climate change legislation, electric rates and about Touchstone Energy®'s benefits to the membership during the organization's 66th Annual Meeting held Thursday, Sept. 2 at Charley Brown Park.

At last year's annual meeting Cooperative Vice President/General Manager John Meng told the membership to expect a rate increase on January 1 of this year and another in 2011 due to a projected increase in wholesale power rates. Because of colder than anticipated weather in January and February, the 2010 rate increase was delayed until March 1. Because wholesale power rates were not as high as expected no increase is anticipated in 2011.

The climate change issue continues to be an incredibly important matter for co-ops and their members. While cap and trade is basically dead for 2010, it is likely that it will be revisited in the future. Under this legislation Congress would set a national cap on the amount of carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants each year, and that cap would decline over time. Among other concerns, co-ops from across the nation have been concerned that the caps set under legislation passed by the House in 2009 would be too low and the timeline too aggressive, likely resulting in substantially higher rates for



Retired Board member Howard Poehler (center) and Glenda Poehler (left) accept tokens of appreciation from President Frank Czyzewski (right) for Howard's 30 years of service on the Board of Directors, at the September 2nd Clay Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting.

co-op members.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is set to begin regulating greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act in 2011. This has been a hotly debated issue and one that cooperative members across the country addressed through the "Our Energy, Our Future" cooperative grassroots campaign this year. As part of this campaign more than one-half million co-op members asked their Congressmen to step up and prevent EPA from using the Clean Air Act as a tool to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. The premise was that the Act was never

intended nor designed to deal with climate change, and Congress is the body that should set climate policy. Meng said, "Since the beginning of the climate debate, co-ops have voiced their support for comprehensive climate legislation, but only if it is fair, achievable and affordable. We appreciate the efforts that each of you made with cards, letters and phone calls directed to the members of Congress through the Our Energy Our Future campaign."

Earlier this year Clay Electric Cooperative became a member of

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Minutes of Board of Trustees Meeting

July 26, 2010

Trustees present were: Frank Czyzewski, Bill Croy, Neil Gould, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Danny Schnepfer and Greg Smith. Also present were Executive Vice President/General Manager John Meng, and Cooperative Attorney Melanie Pearce. The invocation was given by President Czyzewski.

Approved the minutes of the regular meeting held June 28, 2010.

Accepted 16 new members for service.

Canceled 12 members no longer receiving service.

Approved work orders in the amount of \$32,323.69.

Accepted the disbursement list for the month of June 2010.

Approved the financial and maintenance reports for the month of June 2010 as presented by Gen. Mgr. Meng along with an invoice from SIPC labeled "Power

Delivered in June 2010." Also referenced by Gen. Mgr. Meng was the "Manager's Overview July 26, 2010".

Informed that the AIEC is requesting a list of Cooperative Directors who are military veterans.

Heard a report by Trustee Logan concerning the AIEC financials as no monthly Board meeting was held.

Heard a report by Trustee Herman concerning the recent SIPC Board meeting.

Reminded of the upcoming AIEC Annual Meeting.

Discussed various items concerning the upcoming Clay Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members.

Appointed Trustee Logan as the NRECA and CFC Delegate and Gen. Mgr. Meng as the Alternate for the upcoming Region 5 & 6 meeting.

Informed that Nancy Nixon

would like to schedule a training session on Touchstone Energy for the Board Members and Employees.

Informed by Gen. Mgr. Meng that there will be no increase in the 2011 Pension Contribution.

Heard a report by Gen. Mgr. Meng regarding the status of 2 Cooperative line trucks and possible replacement of a 10-year old bucket truck with mechanical issues.

Viewed a demonstration of the new video equipment installed in the board room.

Informed of various damages related to recent lightning strikes.

Disbursed Energy Education Council (EEC) 2009 Annual Report and were Informed that Gen. Mgr. Meng was elected as Board Chairman of EEC for a 2 year term.

Adjournment.

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Touchstone Energy®, which is a branding alliance of more than 700 cooperatives across the country. The benefits of the alliance are to clearly communicate the value of co-ops, share resources among cooperatives,

create solutions for common problems and effectively use new technology.

A common issue among cooperative members is the need to become more energy efficient. Meng elaborated on Touchstone Energy's "Together We Save"

campaign, which demonstrates how little changes consumers make can add up to big savings. He said the Together We Save website offers a variety of interactive activities including a home tour where site

visitors can perform energy efficiency actions and immediately see the savings. A counter adds savings as the visitor moves from room to room. The site also includes how-to videos, an energy saving forum, and more. The site and other Touchstone Energy resources can be accessed by logging onto Clay Electric Cooperative's website and double clicking on the links at www.cecicoop.com.

During the meeting three area men were re-elected to the cooperative's board of directors. The re-elected directors are Neil Gould of Bible Grove, Frank Herman of Xenia and Kevin Logan of Edgewood.

Logan elected Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. board member Kevin Logan of Edgewood was elected secretary of the board of directors by the members of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) at the association's 69th annual meeting July 30 in Springfield. Co-op leaders discussed future power supply, renewable energy and climate change legislation and regulation.

In addition to electing new officers members of the AIEC also passed several resolutions. The resolutions will be recommended to the full membership of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association at its annual meeting later in March.

One resolution passed by the members asks Congress to establish climate change policies through new legislation that keeps electricity bills affordable, does not allow Wall Street speculators to set electricity rates by treating CO2 allowances as another money-making commodity, establishes emission allowance allocations for new generation facilities already permitted such as Prairie State Energy, supports legislative proposals that stop the use of the Clean Air Act to regulate green-



house gases from stationary sources, and exempts biomass generation resources from U.S. EPA green house gas regulations because biomass generation is carbon neutral from a fuel source standpoint.

Duane Noland, President/CEO of the AIEC asked the co-op leaders to stay involved in the legislative process. Through a national electric cooperative grassroots program called "Our Energy, Our Future" Noland said more than 530,000 co-op members across the country have contacted members of Congress through the website www.ourenergy.coop, asking for fair, affordable and achievable climate change legislation.

"Nationally, we are only 10 percent of the industry and we are consumer owned, not profit drive,"

said Noland. "Co-op members, directors and employees need to stay fully engaged. I also encourage you to continue to help co-op members keep electricity affordable through energy efficiency."

Noland said Illinois electric cooperatives have almost completed distributing \$1.5 million in stimulus money to help co-op members upgrade the energy efficiency of their homes. Illinois electric co-ops have also promoted geothermal heat pumps through another \$1.25 million grant program for non-profit organizations. And recently Illinois electric cooperative energy experts gave an energy efficiency demonstration to Congressional staffers in Washington, D.C. using an "energy wall" that shows where energy is wasted and how it can be saved in today's home construction.

Noland recently received a home energy audit from his cooperative, Shelby Electric Cooperative. He said, "Energy efficiency has always been a focus for our cooperative program and our federal government is now on the bandwagon too."



Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Clay County water update

Clay County Water (CCW) is getting close to the end of construction of Phase 2. It includes parts of the following townships; S.E. Songer, North Harter, South Louisville and North Stanford. Tri S Excavators of Odin IL is the contractor. Please contact us if you are interested in the water or have any questions.

We have also turned in the funding application for the Phase 3 project which includes Southeast Xenia, South Stanford, South Harter, and South Clay City Townships.

We are now finalizing the map of where exactly the line will go. If you have not been contacted, or would like to sign up for water service to your location, please call. Do not put this off any longer.

Doug Hockman 662-6666
Sue Pettit 662-4305,
Bob Pierson 662-7471
Kye Hemphill 662-4590
Bill Seelman 662-8479
Dwight Edgington 678-2782
Kevin Henry 618-838-6123
Hank Hilmes 662-2388.



Check out our Web site!

Our site offers information about the history of our cooperative, bill payment options, our youth programs (such as Youth to Washington and Youth Day), the Clay County Water, Inc. project, and more.

Visit us online today!

www.ceci.coop



An Energy Efficiency Program for Clay Electric Cooperative Members

With our new HomE program, you can earn up to \$1,500 in rebates for making energy-efficient improvements to your home. Call for more details on this program 618-662-2171 or 1-800-582-9012.

The Rebates

- \$1,500 – Geothermal heat pumps closed loop (14.1 EER or 3.3 COP)
- \$1,500 – Geothermal heat pumps open loop (16.2 EER or 3.6 COP)
- \$1,000 – Air source heat pumps (16 SEER)
- \$350 – Natural Gas or LP furnace (95% efficiency)
- \$350 – Central air conditioner (16 SEER)
- \$250 – Heat pump water heater (2.0 Energy Factor)
- 30% of cost of insulation and weatherization (max of \$500)

Maximum rebate per household is \$1,500. Rebates began May 10, 2010, and will continue until the money is exhausted.



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