



JO-CARROLL

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  **HI-LINES**



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Michael Hastings

It's annual meeting time!

On behalf of Jo-Carroll Energy, I'd like to personally invite you to join us on Saturday, April 18 for our 76th Annual Meeting of Members.

We look forward to seeing you, to catch up and share information about what has been happening at your cooperative. This year we are holding the meeting at St. Malachy's School Hall in Geneseo.

The event is not only a chance to visit with your co-op friends, it is also a great opportunity for you to learn about programs offered by Jo-Carroll Energy and get to know your board of directors and co-op staff.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with the meeting beginning at 10 a.m. Before the meeting, we will have displays about cooperative services and some of our participating Co-op Connections® Card businesses will be on hand, too.

Our Annual Report that includes the annual meeting program, financial reports, bylaw proposals and candidate profiles was mailed in mid-March.

During the meeting we will have various reports, voting on proposed bylaw amendments and votes of acclamation for directors in Districts 5, 7, 8 and 10. Prize drawings will be held at the end of the meeting, and, yes, you do have to be present to win. Every membership attending will receive a \$10 bill credit.

At the meeting, we'll also have information about South View Solar Farm, our community solar project, and continue the discussion about our new unbundled bills.

New bill design

Each of you should have received a letter in March with information about the

unbundled rates, and many of you attended our member meetings. I want to thank you for your questions and comments.

As a reminder, April energy use is the first month that will be affected by the new structure. When you receive your bills in May you will see the new bill design.

Remember that the current bill "bundles" some items together; we are not adding new fees or charges—they have been redefined and separated into new categories. Bills will now have the main categories of "Purchased Energy Costs" and "Distribution Charges".

Some costs that were formerly covered in the energy charges will now be recovered in the distribution charges. We thought it was important to break down those costs so you can see what is for purchased energy costs and what is involved for our co-op to deliver those services. Our distribution costs include costs incurred for carrying energy over the cooperative's infrastructure (poles, pipes, lines, substations) to your home or business as well as expenses associated with member account management.

Although we redesigned the rates in order to provide you with more information about your energy costs, I know the changes will take some time to get used to and that you may have questions. More information is found on 16g and on our website at www.jocarroll.com where we have detailed information about each of the rate classes and bill design as well as account management. If you have questions or are wondering how these changes will impact you, please contact our office at 800-858-5522 or info@jocarroll.com.

Reader Prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll Energy member who is eligible to win a monthly \$25 readership prize. If your name is printed in this month's edition, and not a part of any article, contact Jo-Carroll Energy and claim your prize no later than the 10th of the month following publication.



Resume of Minutes

Regular Board Meeting • January 29, 2015

For your information

Your Board of Directors:

David Senn
Chairman
District 7

Chris Stadel
Vice Chairman
District 4

Marcia Stanger
Secretary
District 3

Martin Werner
Treasurer
District 1

Joseph Mattingley
District 2

Patricia Smith
District 5

Thomas Lundy
District 6

Russell Holesinger
District 8

Larry Carroll
District 9

Robert Kuhns
District 10

Douglas Darby
District 10

Ronald Hallendorff
District 10

Office Hours: Monday-Friday

Elizabeth
793 U.S. Route 20 West
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Savanna
103 Chicago Ave.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Geneseo
1004 S. Chicago St.
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1:30 - 4 p.m.

Services and Billing Questions:

(800) 858-5522
www.jocarroll.com

**For emergencies
and outages call:**
(800) 927-5254

The board met on Wednesday, January 29, 2015, at the Jo-Carroll Energy Headquarters. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The Agenda and the Consent Agenda were approved.

Chairman's Report – Chairman Senn commented that the Cooperative should continue to embrace technology, as well as new sources of power, in order to meet the needs of the Members. Going forward, communication with Members will be the most important aspect of dealing with changes in the energy industry.

Dairyland Report – Director Stadel reported on the Dairyland financials, noting that margins are above budget for the year-to-date.

AIEC Report – Director Senn reported the Association does not have a sense yet of what the new governor will have in-store for our industry and whether he will be responsive to the needs of rural energy cooperatives.

APGA Report – Director Carroll provided a report on the APGA board and committee meetings that he recently attended. Some of the topics covered at the meetings included regulatory filings, residential furnaces, and hydraulic fracturing.

PPI Report – Director Hallendorff and CEO Hastings reported on the PPI Board Meeting. Director Hallendorff reported on the Prairie State plant's performance improvement.

Monthly Committee Review

(a) Policy Report – Policy 136 – Member Rates-Request for Different Rates. Policy 136 was approved as presented.

(b) Policy Committee Report – Director Smith reported on the following Bylaw Revisions reviewed at the Committee Meeting:

(i) Joint Membership: Article II, Section 4 "Joint Membership" was updated to conform to recent Illinois laws regarding same-sex marriage and civil unions.

(ii) Termination of Membership: Article II, Section 8(a) was amended to further clarify how the Cooperative will provide notice to a Member in the unlikely event of termination of their membership.

(iii) Conflict of Interest – Directors/Candidates: Article IV, Section 4(d) was amended to include a provision that a conflict of interest exists for current directors, as well as director candidates within the 1 year preceding their election, if they are a party

in legal proceedings against the Cooperative. Discussion was had among the directors, noting that in the event of such a conflict, the board would still have to take separate actions to resolve the issue and it would not automatically disqualify someone from serving as a director.

(iv) Election and Credentials Committee: Article IV, Section 5(n) was amended to expand the eligibility of Members to serve on the Election and Credentials Committee.

(v) Electronic Delivery of Meeting Notice: Article V, Section 3 "Notice" was amended to provide for electronic delivery of notices to directors for special meetings of the board. The board approved the recommended changes in the Bylaws for a vote by the Membership at the next Annual Meeting of the Cooperative.

Director Smith also reported on the following:

Board Policy 135 – Prepayment of Capital Credits to Estates was revised to simplify the language of the policy and to align it with the hybrid retirement method that was approved by the Members and implemented by the board. Policy 135 was approved as revised.

Reducing the Numbers of Directors on the Board: The committee discussed possible outcomes of reducing the number of directors on the board. It was the decision of the committee to not make any recommendation to the board at this time.

Member Districts: The committee discussed the future size and composition of districts within the Cooperative, based on the new District 10 and broadband-only Members. The board adopted the committee's recommendation that the board direct the President and CEO to begin work on a proposal for the board with regard to Member Districts.

CEO's Report – The CEO reported on the following in addition to his written report:

a. Financial Operating Report – Hastings reported that the Cooperative had an unaudited loss of over \$2 million dollars for 2014, but noted that \$1.8 million of that loss represents the deferral of revenue from 2014 to 2015, pursuant to a Board Resolution in December. The board accepted the December Financial Operating Report for filing by general consent.

b. Power Supply Report – CEO Hastings reported that we are getting close to finalizing agreements with Morgan Stanley on amend-

(Continued on page 16h)



UNITY

of

PURPOSE

Join Jo-Carroll Energy at your 76th Annual Meeting of Members April 18, 2015 • Geneseo, IL

St. Malachy's School Hall (595 E. Ogden Ave., Geneseo)

8:30 a.m. Registration

10 a.m. Annual Meeting

11:30 a.m. Pork Chop Sandwich Luncheon

Prepared by the Henry County Pork Producers

Each membership attending receives a \$10 bill credit

Drawings for additional prizes

Bring your Co-op Connections® card
and show at our display for a small gift



Members to elect five directors

Five directors will be elected to the Jo-Carroll Energy Board at the 76th Annual Meeting of Members to be held Saturday, April 18, in Geneseo. Election will be by a vote of acclamation. *Nadine Nieland*

A bylaw change approved in 2011 provides that ballots will be mailed to members only in districts where more than one candidate has been nominated for an open board position. In districts with only one candidate, election is by a motion of acclamation at the annual meeting.

One director will be elected in each of Districts 5, 7 and 8. Two directors will be elected in District 10, which comprises the former Farmers Mutual Electric Company service territory. Three directors currently represent District 10 as a result of the merger; that number reduces to two with this election and to one in the 2018 elections.



DISTRICT 5

Pat Smith

712 Park Ave., Galena, IL

Pat Smith currently serves as Jo-Carroll Energy Director for District 5. She has completed the required courses to become a Credentialed Cooperative Director and has earned Board Leadership Certification.

Pat and her husband Ron are lifelong residents of Galena. Both graduated from Galena High School. They have been married for over 53 years and have three children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

For over 40 years the Smiths owned and lived in the Strohmeier Shoe Factory apartments. Over a period of years they renovated the building, doing much of the work themselves. Twelve years ago they

purchased and renovated the house on Park Avenue where they currently reside. Pat retired from the Galena School district after 23 years of service as a Primary School aide for six years and at the High School as a library aide for 17 years.

She enjoys being involved in her community. She was an organist at St. Michael's Church for many years. She is a member of the Turner Hall Committee. She served as a Director on The Galena Foundation Board for nine years, including six as secretary. Pat has volunteered at the Galena Country Fair for over 34 years. She is currently Vendor Chairperson for the Fair.

As a Jo-Carroll Energy Director, Pat has served on the Policy Committee, Power Supply Committee, New Director Selection Committee and Annual Meeting Committee. She has also served as a Voting Delegate for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Pat has been involved in the important decisions and changes that Jo-Carroll Energy has experienced in the past five years. "Jo-Carroll Energy will continue to be a positive and supportive organization in the economic development of our service area," she said. "The building of a community solar farm and a comprehensive plan to provide high speed internet are just two examples of Jo-Carroll's commitment to its members."

She would like to continue to represent her community in this organization that provides services that are vital to the progress and growth of our business community, and that "exists to enhance the quality of life for our members."



DISTRICT 7
David H. Senn
13575 West Point Road,
Mount Carroll, IL 61053

David Senn has been a member of Jo-Carroll Energy since August 1982. David has been on the Jo-Carroll Energy board of directors since the fall of 2007, and currently serves as Chairman of the Board.

As a director, he has completed all 15 courses to achieve both the credentialed cooperative director certificate and the board leadership. Currently, he represents Jo-Carroll Energy on the board of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. There he serves on the statewide scholarship committee, is Chairman of the resolutions committee, and Vice Chairman of the board self-evaluation committee. He has represented Illinois at the national level by being involved in the rewriting of the resolution process, as well as being a presenter at the annual national meeting of electric cooperatives.

A graduate of Northern Illinois University in 1968, David received a B.S. degree in accounting. After graduation from NIU, he became a naval aviator and

achieved the rank of lieutenant. Upon separation from the Navy, he entered into a career in the brokerage industry that included a five-year stint in New York City. He completed a two-year program and achieved the Certified Financial Planner designation in 1994. He worked as a financial planner for the same firm until his retirement in 2007.

"Having had the opportunity to attend national and state meetings, sessions with our elected officials and education training sessions, I realize I have been given a leg up and placed in a position where my experience will permit me to be able to deliver to the members of Jo-Carroll Energy innovative, diversified energy products, which will enable them to grow and prosper in the century ahead," he stated.

"We as a nation stand on the threshold of change. The future of energy consumption and the availability of things we have come accustomed to appear to be in a state of turmoil," David stated. "I believe Jo-Carroll Energy is positioned to provide stability during these trying times and I hope to be a part of this process as we move forward."

A member of the Lions Club International, David has served as a District Governor on the Executive Board for the State of Illinois as well as having held all the positions of office with the local club in Mount Carroll. He is actively involved in many conservation groups such as the National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. David has a son who is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. After a 27-year courtship, David married Shirley Dykema on June 2, 2010. He enjoys golf and hunting.



DISTRICT 8
Russell Holesinger
825 Middle Road,
Fulton, IL 61252

Russell Holesinger has been a member of Jo-Carroll Energy since the cooperative acquired the Alliant Energy territory, and was elected to the board of directors in 2009.

Russell is a 1969 graduate of Fulton High School. He received a B.A. degree from Calvin College in 1973 and a J.D. degree from the University of Illinois Law School in 1976. He has been a practicing attorney since 1977, with a general office practice—Holesinger Law Offices—with locations in Fulton and Morrison.

Russell has served two terms as president of the board of Unity Christian School, Fulton, four terms as vice president of the Council at Bethel Christian Reformed Church, Fulton. He is a board member, officer and one of the owners of Holesinger Farms, Inc. He has also served on the Community Fund Board of Fulton.

Russell and his wife, Janice, have two sons; Douglas

and David, and one daughter, Sara Houzenga. They have also been blessed with eight grandchildren.

“Serving on the Board allows me an opportunity to contribute to my community and to learn more about the benefits of a co-op,” Russell said.

“I am interested in community development as well as supporting agri-business, in particular adding industries and jobs,” he said, adding, “I am also a strong supporter of Christian education.”



DISTRICT 10
Robert (Bob) Kuhns
19789 E. 1650 St.,
Geneseo, IL 61254

Robert (Bob) Kuhns has been a cooperative member since 1975, and became a Jo-Carroll Energy member at the time of the merger with Farmers Mutual Electric Company. Bob served on the Farmers Mutual Board of Directors for nearly 20 years, and was secretary/treasurer for most of that time.

A graduate of Milliken University with a B.A. degree in Music Education and with two summers of graduate study at the University of Iowa, Bob taught instrumental and vocal music for 13 years in Iowa and Illinois. Bob also served as a rural mail carrier in Geneseo for 15 years. Now retired, Bob had his own piano tuning business for 46 years, and was a registered piano technician and member of the Piano Technicians Guild for 43 years. In addition, he has 30 years as an emergency veterinary assistant and maintenance man for his wife's veterinary practice.

Bob has served on the Charitable Foundation, GIFT (Geneseo Is For Tomorrow), as a board member, treasurer and president.

Appointed to the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors in 2014, Bob stated, “I enjoyed the experience of serving on the Farmers Mutual board and look forward to continuing that service on the Jo-Carroll board.”

“My wife's grandparents were some of the first to sign up for the newly formed Farmers Mutual Electric co-op in 1936,” he noted. “Her parents were co-op members through their lifetime. When we moved back to the area in 1975, it was an easy decision to choose our local electric co-op over the investor owned utility.

“Some years later, one of my neighbors approached me about running for a board position as he was about to retire. I accepted, was successful and served on the Farmers Mutual Electric Board until the merger with Jo-Carroll. Now that I am—mostly—retired I will have more time to devote to Board duties and responsibilities,” he said.

Bob and his wife of 50 years, Barbara, have no children but between them have 10 brothers and sisters and many nieces and nephews. They also have a dog, two cats, three horses and a cockatoo from Australia. Bob has several interests, many involving music as he enjoys playing musical instruments, singing and writing music. He also flies his own airplane, enjoys

pickleball, bicycling, horseback riding and walking as well as being a home handyman.



DISTRICT 10
Ronald C. Hallendorff
60 Longview Drive,
Geneseo, IL 61254

Ronald C. Hallendorff was a 37-year member of Farmers Mutual Electric Company prior to the merger with Jo-Carroll Energy three years ago. He has been a member of the board of directors since the merger, and served as a Farmers Mutual director for six years.

Ronald currently represents Jo-Carroll Energy on the Prairie Power, Inc. Board of Directors.

Retired after 30 years with the Department of the Army as a civilian electrical engineer, Ronald worked at the U.S. Armament Munitions and Chemical Command in Rock Island as a staff manager in support of the management of Research and Development Programs. In addition, during the period 1986 through 1995 he functioned as a part-time instructor at both Scott Community College and Blackhawk College. From 1974 to 1987, he worked for the U.S. Army Armament, Munitions, and Chemical Command, Rock Island as a special assistant, staff manager, and product engineer, during which time he introduced the use of the electronic workplace to the day-to-day business of weapon system management. Early in his career, 1962 to 1974, he worked for the U.S. Army Electronics Command, Fort Monmouth, N.J., as an Electronic Engineer in the Optics and Electro-optics area on projects involving Remotely Piloted Vehicles, Laser Scanning Equipment and Lightweight Target Location hardware.

In 1993 he retired as a civilian engineer with the Department of the Army. From 1993 to July 2001, he worked as a Realtor, insurance producer and performed PC maintenance on the local network at Lohman Brothers, Geneseo.

Ronald noted he enjoys the activity surrounding the process of providing utilities to the co-op members. “Finding ways to improve our service to the members is a rewarding endeavor,” he said. “We recently introduced a solar program to provide our electric members the opportunity to subscribe to a clean energy source.”

“We have helped reduce the consumption of energy, have encouraged pursuit of renewable energy, have committed to state-of-the-art generation of power, and are actively involved with communicating with our government to ensure a reasonable goal oriented plan for the future,” he added. “I want to continue to bring the co-op business into the present and future.”

Ron and his wife, Wanda, have four children, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He enjoys fishing, gardening, computers, high-tech toys, gourmet dining, old movies and TV.



Galena IL Vacation Rental Homes, LLC Galena



The Comfort House is nestled at the end of a cul-de-sac over-looking a wooded ravine that is home to deer and other native wildlife. Sandra Gordon owns this home at 15 Washburn Lane in The Galena Territory.

The serenity of being in the Comfort House and the quietness it brings is what Gordon loves most about the property. However, she does not live in this house on Washburn Lane, but rather rents it to guests to the Galena area.

Fully furnished with three king beds, a trundle bed for two, three bathrooms and a fully stocked kitchen, this house makes a great getaway rental for up to eight people at a time.

When Gordon purchased the home 10 years ago, she decided to add a few amenities her guests have come to love. "I constantly upgrade. Every year I do something

to improve the house," she said.

An eight-person hot tub under the gazebo and the fire pit are two guest favorites. The gas grill and outdoor sink make for perfect summer barbecues.

The Comfort House is designed for almost everyone. The large, paved parking area accommodates several vehicles and allows guests stair-free access to the home. The home's open-concept living room and kitchen make entertaining easy and enjoyable.

The master bedroom and bathroom are located on the main level of the home along with the kitchen, patio and upper deck access. Two more bedrooms and bathrooms, as well as the laundry area, are downstairs.

Gordon cares about her guests. Because she knows that sleep is essential to a relaxing stay away from home, extra comforters and

pillows are provided in each bedroom. Security is also fundamental to her guests' comfort. Every time a guest stays at the Comfort House they are given a new passcode for the keyless entry.

With plans to retire in the Galena Territory, Gordon cares for the Comfort Home because it is her home. "It is so beautiful here. This place rejuvenates me," Gordon stated.

She recalled this feeling during her many drives to and from her current home in Westmont. She expects you will feel the same with your visit to the Comfort House.

Members of Jo-Carroll Energy can save on their stay at the Comfort House. With your Co-op Connections Card, stay two nights and receive ten percent off rates, excluding the cleaning fee. Call 630-971-2042 or visit www.vrbo.com/323494 to reserve your stay.

Unbundled rate structure goes into effect

A new unbundled rate structure goes into effect for energy used in April and will be reflected in your May bills with a new bill format.

Unbundled rates and redesigning the monthly billing statements were key considerations in a recent detailed study. Currently, some line items on your energy bill are made up of a handful of detailed expenses, or are “bundled” into line items. The unbundled bill breaks these items down into defined parts.

This change takes your cooperative toward a more cost-based approach, and provides members more information and improved transparency about energy costs. Ultimately, it is fairer and more equitable to all members. This design also allows members to reduce their energy use without impacting the revenue the cooperative needs to operate efficiently, make needed system improvements and maintenance to keep our systems safe and reliable.

The unbundled bill details the energy costs, including generation and transmission, and our distribu-

tion costs in separate sections.

For many years, it has been common practice for utilities to recover a portion of “fixed costs” in per kilowatt-hour or per-therm energy charges. Jo-Carroll Energy’s former rate structure followed this method. Revenue collected through the energy charge is dependent on sales that fluctuate with changes in weather, economic conditions, lifestyle choices and energy efficiency practices.

By separating these costs into the monthly flat charges of the facility charge and member service charge, the co-op can better plan and manage operations when the revenue needed to provide for these costs is not dependent on use. The two flat monthly fees do not completely recover our costs as determined by the cost of service study; that is why you also see the per-kilowatt or per-therm delivery charge.

These are not new items we are charging for – you have been paying them all along. The new bill design makes it easier to see and to know where your energy dollars are going. This does mean that the minimum

monthly charge increases. Formerly, the monthly minimum was the facility charge. The majority of our members are single-phase electric accounts, and the minimum was \$26. The new minimum, if no electricity is used, is now the combination of the facility charge and the member service charge, or \$33 per month. We recognize this will result in an increase to the total monthly bill for our members with smaller than average use. Other accounts, due to the changes in the energy charges, will see a decrease in their total bill.

Compared to other cooperatives in Illinois, this is close to the average fixed monthly charge. Some cooperatives are in the \$40 to \$50 range, or higher.

Detailed information about the new rate structure and bill design can be found on our website at www.jocarroll.com. Included are the rate policies, a “How to Read Your Bill” graphic, answers to frequently asked questions, sample bill comparisons of the old and new structures and definitions of each of the charges.

When it comes to severe weather... hope for the best, **but prepare for the worst.**



You can begin your preparation by assembling an emergency preparedness kit, which includes items to help keep your family safe and comfortable during a power outage. Your kit should include items such as water, non-perishable food, flashlight, batteries, blankets, and a first aid kit.

- ___ Drinking water & food
- ___ Blankets, pillows, & clothing
- ___ Basic first-aid supplies
- ___ Medications
- ___ Basic toiletries
- ___ Flashlights
- ___ Battery-operated radio
- ___ Extra supply of batteries
- ___ Cell phone with chargers
- ___ Cash and credit cards
- ___ Basic tools (duct tape, wrench, etc.)
- ___ Important documents & numbers
- ___ Toys, books, & games
- ___ Baby supplies
- ___ Pet supplies

Learn more at:



MINUTES - Continued from page 16b

ing the PPA beginning in 2018. Work also continues on the capacity agreement with Dairyland for the PPA.

c. Rentech Report – CEO Hastings reported that a meeting is scheduled with Rentech.

d. CFO Report – Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Heidenreich reported that there were issues with natural gas capital credit retirements and that we are working with SEDC to resolve them. The CFO also reported on the Post Retirement Benefits Evaluation Report.

e. Sr. Vice-President and Assistant General Manager Report – Sr. Vice President and Assistant General Manager Buros reviewed the status of strategic planning with the board. Buros also updated the board on the East Dubuque Substation and the status of possible facility expansion.

f. Culture of Excellence and Communications – Merri Sevey, Vice-President of Human Resources reported that Mike Tate, Strategic Planning Consultant, would be at Jo-Carroll Energy in February and that she would be working with him on succession planning.

g. Member Services – Jennifer Skien, Vice-President of Member Services, gave a summary of upcoming energy efficiency programs at the Cooperative.

h. External Affairs Update – Chris Allendorf, Corporate Counsel, and John Cox, Board Attorney, reported on a number of legislative issues, including the State's pension crisis and the political climate in Illinois under a new governor. Allendorf reported on several new businesses that Lisa McCarthy, Executive Director of TCEDA, continues to assist. Attorney Cox gave an update on the Campbell Center and a meeting with Congresswoman Bustos.

Board Issues

a. Strategic Planning Meeting Date – By consensus, the board chose June 29, 30 and July 1st as the dates for the 2015 Strategic Planning sessions.

b. 2015 Annual Meeting theme & Report Cover - Peggy Francomb, Manager of Communications and Media Relations, presented two choices for the report cover of the 2015 Jo-Carroll Energy Annual Meeting Booklet. A cover with a group of Members and employees on it received the board's approval.

c. Approve Names of Nominees for the Election Committee - Names submitted for the Election Committee by Directors Holesinger, Senn, Smith, Darby, Kuhns, and Hallendorff were approved.

d. NRECA Course 901.1- Rules and Procedures for Effective Board Meetings –Attendees were identified.

e. July Board Meeting Date - The board discussed changing the date for the July Board Meeting and it was the unanimous consensus to leave the July Board Meeting date as July 22, 2015.

Executive Session – An Executive Session was held to discuss pending and possible litigation and employment matters.

Consideration of Matters discussed in Executive Session -There were no votes taken on matters discussed in Executive Session.

Reports – Report was heard on NRECA Course 2600.1 – Director Duties and Liabilities.

Upcoming Meetings – The following meeting/events were discussed: NRECA Course 2610.1, Dairyland District Meeting, and NRECA Annual Meeting.

Other Business – Conflict of Interest Forms and copies of Directors current vehicle insurance coverage/certificates were submitted.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Make 811 a part of your Spring Plans

Know what's below. Call before you dig.

With spring almost here, many homeowners are gearing up to plant and garden this season. Any digging projects in the ground should be thought through before digging. Jo-Carroll Energy hopes you make the decision to call before you dig.

Every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. In Illinois, the one-call center is JULIE that can also be reached at the toll-free number 800-892-0123 or online at www.illinois1call.com.

When calling 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to JULIE, the local one call center, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of their intent to dig. Professional locators are then sent to the requested digging site to mark the approximate locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both. The legal start date and time will be 48 hours from the time that JULIE processes your locate request. Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages. Every digging project, no matter how large or small, warrants a call to 811. Installing a mailbox, building a deck, planting a tree and laying a patio are all examples of digging projects that need a call to 811 before starting.

