

**BYLAWS OF
CLAY COUNTY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE CORPORATION**

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[Amended: 02-06-2006] – Article III Section 2
[Amended: 02-07-2008] – Article II Section 4
[Amended: 02-07-2008] – Article III Section 3
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[Amended: 12-23-2021] – multiple sections

**ARTICLE I
MEMBERSHIP**

SECTION 1. Requirements for Membership. Any person, legally married couple, unincorporated association, partnership, legal entity, trust, or body politic or subdivision thereof shall become a member of Clay County Electric Cooperative Corporation (hereinafter called the "Cooperative") upon receipt of electric service from the Cooperative, provided he, she or it has first:

- a) Made application for membership therein;
- b) Agreed to comply with and be bound by the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws of the Cooperative and any rules and regulations, including board policies, adopted by its Board of Directors; and
- c) Paid the membership fee hereinafter specified.

No member may hold more than one (1) membership in the Cooperative, and no membership in the Cooperative shall be transferable, except as provided in the bylaws of the Cooperative. A

legally married couple may apply for a joint membership, subject to compliance with the foregoing requirements.

SECTION 2. Membership Fees. The membership fee shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). Upon payment of which a member shall be entitled to service(s) existing or to be constructed. Deposits in the amount that the Cooperative shall charge will be determined by the Board of Directors, from time to time as required.

SECTION 3. Purchase of Electric Energy and Grant of Property Rights. Apart from any energy that may be self-generated by the member, each member shall, as soon as electric energy shall be available, purchase from the Cooperative all electric energy used by such member. Each member shall pay therefore monthly at rates which shall from time to time be fixed by the Board of Directors; provided, however, that the Board of Directors may limit the amount of electric energy which the Cooperative shall be required to furnish to any one (1) member. It is expressly understood that the amounts paid for electric energy, in excess of the cost of service, are furnished by members as capital. Each member shall be credited with the capital so furnished as provided in these bylaws. Each member shall pay to the Cooperative such minimum amount per month, regardless of the amount of electric energy consumed, as shall be fixed by the Cooperative Manager, from time to time. Each member shall also pay all amounts owed by one to the Cooperative as and when the same shall become due and payable.

As a result of applying for and becoming a Member of the Cooperative, the Member thereby, as required by the Cooperative for the betterment and best interest of the Cooperative, (i) agrees to provide the Cooperative safe and reliable access to or use of the Member's property; and (ii) pursuant to terms and conditions specified by the Cooperative, and without monetary compensation from the Cooperative, grants, bargains, sells and conveys to the Cooperative an easement and right-of-way over, across and under real property then or thereafter owned, leased by or to, or mortgaged to, the Member.

SECTION 4. Non-liability for Debts of the Cooperative. The private property of the members of the Cooperative shall be exempt from execution or other legal process for the debts of the Cooperative and no member shall be individually liable for any debt or liabilities of the Cooperative.

SECTION 5. Expulsion of Members. The Board of Directors of the Cooperative may, by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members thereof, expel any member who shall violate or refuse to comply with any of the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative or these bylaws or any rules or regulations, including board policies, adopted by the Board of Directors. Any member so expelled may be reinstated as a member by a vote of the members at any annual or special meeting of the members or by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors. The action of the members, with the respect to any such reinstatement, shall be final.

SECTION 6. Withdrawal of Membership. Any member may withdraw, from membership upon payment in full of all debts and liabilities of such membership in the Cooperative, upon compliance with such terms and conditions, as the Board of Directors may prescribe.

SECTION 7. Transfer and Termination of Memberships.

(a) Membership in the Cooperative shall not be transferable, except as herein otherwise provided: upon death, cessation of existence, expulsion or withdrawal. Upon such conditions the membership will terminate. Termination of membership in any other manner shall not release the member from the debt or liabilities of such member to the Cooperative.

(b) A membership may be transferred by a member to himself/herself and his/her spouse jointly, upon the written request of such member and compliance by such husband and wife jointly, upon the provisions of subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 1 of this Article. Such transfer shall be made and recorded on the books of the Cooperative representing the membership so transferred.

(c) When a membership is held jointly by a legally married couple, and upon death of either spouse, such membership shall be deemed to be held solely by the survivor with the same effect as though such membership had been originally issued solely to him/her, as the case may be, and upon the recording of such death on the books of the Cooperative, in the name of the survivor; provided, however, that the estate of the deceased shall not be released from any membership debts or liabilities to the Cooperative.

SECTION 8. Removal of Directors and Officers. Any member in good standing may bring charges against an officer or director by filing written charges with the secretary of the Cooperative, together with a petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the members of the Cooperative requesting the removal from office of the officer or director charged. The written charges shall specify the grounds for removal which shall be limited to:

- a) Habitual failure to attend meetings of the Cooperative or Board of Directors,
- b) Negligence or inattention to the Cooperative business that causes loss or damage to the Cooperative,
- c) Conviction of a felony or other infamous crime, and for acts of dishonesty or acts involving moral turpitude, which reflect unfavorably upon the Cooperative or involve Cooperative business.
- d) Non-compliance with Article III Director Qualifications.

The removal shall be voted upon at the next annual or special meeting of the members and any vacancy created by such removal may be filled by the members at such meeting, having regard, insofar as applicable to the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws pertaining to the selection and election of such officers. The Director or officer against whom such charges have been brought shall be informed in writing of the charges at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting, and shall be informed of the names of the witnesses against one, and shall have an opportunity at said meeting to be heard in person and by counsel and to present evidence in one's own behalf, and the person or persons bringing the charges against one shall have the same opportunity.

ARTICLE II MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1. Annual Meetings. The annual meeting of the members shall be held during June, July, August, or September on a day to be determined by the Board of Directors, having regard for the convenience of a majority of the members and to be designated in the notice of the meeting for the purpose of naming the directors elected; reviewing the reports for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to make adequate plans and preparations for the annual meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting, on a day during one of the aforesaid months, shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

SECTION 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be called by the president, by the Board of Directors, by a petition signed by not less than ten percent (10%) of all the members, and it shall thereupon be the duty of the secretary to cause notice of such meeting to be given as hereinafter provided. Special meetings may be held at any place specified in the notice.

SECTION 3. Notice of Meetings. Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of the annual meeting, and in case of a special meeting, the purpose(s) for which meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting by U.S. Mail to each member of record entitled to vote at the meeting. When mailed, the notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail in a sealed envelope addressed to the member's address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereon prepaid. The secretary, or the secretary's designee, shall be responsible for sending to each member a notice of the meeting, a ballot for all issues to be resolved by mail voting including the election of directors, and a self-addressed, return envelope in a form approved by the secretary. Such notice of meeting shall include an exact copy of all such motions or resolutions to be voted upon by mail, if any, as well as ballots for the election of directors. The failure of any member to receive notice of any annual or special meeting of the members shall not invalidate any action that may be taken by the members at any such meeting.

SECTION 4. Record Date. The record date for determining members entitled to notice of and to vote at an annual or special meeting is 30 days before the first notice of meeting is mailed to members.

SECTION 5. Quorum. A quorum is necessary to transact any business at any meeting of the members of the Cooperative. In order to constitute a quorum, there must be at least one hundred and fifty (150) of the Cooperative members present for the transaction of business at all meetings of the members. As used in this Article II, the term "present" means any member who (1) is present in person, (2) has properly returned a written vote, if applicable, in advance of the meeting, or (3) has properly returned a written acknowledgment of the meeting. If less than a quorum is present at any meeting, the presiding officer at such meeting may adjourn the meeting without further notice. The minutes of each meeting of the members shall contain the number of members present as defined herein. In order to participate or vote in-person at any meeting, a member first must register with a registrar designee of the board present at the meeting and, if a member in any form other than an individual membership, confirm to the registrar's satisfaction

with a writing on letterhead signed by an authorized representative, and on a first-come-first-registered basis, that he or she is authorized to exercise the right to represent, participate, and vote on behalf of the member at the meeting. If a legally married couple holds a joint membership, they shall jointly be entitled to one (1) vote and it shall be exercised by the first of them that registers on behalf of the joint membership.

SECTION 6. Voting. Each member shall be entitled to one (1) vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. No proxies are authorized to be utilized by members in conjunction with voting.

(a) At all meetings of the members at which a quorum is present, all questions on which members are permitted to vote shall be decided by a vote of the majority of the members voting thereon, except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative, or its bylaws.

(b) Members may vote by mail ballot only on matters approved by the Board of Directors.

(c) Members shall vote upon the election of candidates to the Board of Directors by mail ballot only.

SECTION 7. Mail Ballot Voting. All matters which are to be submitted to members for vote by mail shall be voted on by written ballot sent to each of the members by mail except as otherwise may be provided in these bylaws.

Each member shall express a vote thereon by placing a mark in the space provided therefor which shall designate the member's approval or disapproval of each such motion or resolution, if applicable, and for the board candidate(s) chosen as the member's selection(s), if applicable. The member shall enclose a marked ballot sealed in the envelope provided by the secretary, or the secretary's designee, which shall bear the member's number and shall be addressed to a third-party election services provider designated by the Board of Directors. The "third-party election services provider" shall be responsible for receiving, accounting, and tallying all votes dispatched by the members and ensuring that only one vote was cast for each member. All ballots properly postmarked or received by the time specified in the notice of meeting shall be counted as the vote of such member upon the issues and the election of directors. Ballots received which are not in a properly marked envelope shall not be counted. The failure of any member to receive a copy of any ballot shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at the meeting.

SECTION 8. Order of Business. Meetings of the membership shall be conducted by the Cooperative's president or its attorney of record under the latest available version of Robert's Rules of Order. The order of business at the annual meeting and, so far as applicable, at all other meeting of the members, shall be essentially as follows:

1. Call to order.
2. Report on the number of members present in order to determine the existence of a

quorum.

3. Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due publication or mailing thereof, or the waiver(s) of the notice of the meeting, as the case may be.

4. Reading of the unapproved minutes of the previous meeting of the members and the approval of minutes.

5. Presentation and consideration of reports of officers, directors, and committees, if any.

6. Unfinished business.

7. New business.

8. Results of Election of Directors.

9. Adjournment.

Item 3 may be dispensed with by motion and vote of approval by a majority of the members present.

ARTICLE III DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. General Powers. The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of nine (9) directors that shall exercise all the powers of the Cooperative except such as, or by law, by the Articles of Incorporation or by these bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

SECTION 2. Tenure. The Board of Directors shall be divided into three (3) groups; one group consisting of three (3) members, the second group consisting of three (3) members, and the third group consisting of three (3) members. All incumbent directors elected prior to the 2019 annual meeting shall continue to serve their respective unexpired terms until re-election or otherwise until their successor has been qualified and elected, pursuant to the following conditions governing tenure:

Beginning with the annual meeting held in 2019, the director elected to serve in Area 1 Zone 1 shall serve a term of four (4) years, the director elected to serve in Area 2 Zone 2 shall serve a term of three (3) years, and the director elected to serve in Area 3 Zone 3 shall serve a term of four (4) years. These directors shall serve until re-election or otherwise until their successors have been qualified and elected.

Beginning with the annual meeting held in 2020, The director elected to serve in Area 1 Zone 2 shall serve a term of five (5) years, the director elected to serve in Area 2 Zone 3 shall serve a term of four (4) years, and the director elected to serve in Area 3 Zone 2 shall serve a term of four (4) years. These directors shall serve until re-election or otherwise until their successors

have been qualified and elected.

Beginning with the annual meeting held in 2021, The director elected to serve in Area 1 Zone 3 shall serve a term of five (5) years, the director elected to serve in Area 2 Zone 1 shall serve a term of five (5) years, and the director elected to serve in Area 3 Zone 1 shall serve a term of four (4) years. These directors shall serve until re-election or otherwise until their successors have been qualified and elected.

Beginning with the annual meeting held in 2022 and for all annual meetings thereafter, all directors shall serve terms of five (5) years in length until the next re-election or until a successor has otherwise been qualified and elected, subject to the provisions and bylaws with respect to the removal of directors. Directors may be elected by a plurality vote of the members. In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, Directors are to be elected so as to give equitable representation to the geographical area served.

If an election of directors shall not be held in conjunction with a year's annual meeting, a special meeting of the members may be held for purposes of director elections within a reasonable time thereafter.

SECTION 3. Qualifications. A person shall be eligible to become or remain a director provided that such person:

- (a) while a Director, and during the 24 months immediately prior to becoming a Director, is personally a member of the Cooperative;
- (b) while a Director and during the 24 months immediately prior to becoming a Director, maintains an active service account, under his or her personal membership, in the Area and Zone for which he or she is elected or appointed to represent;
- (c) while a Director and during the 24 months immediately prior to becoming a Director uses electric energy provided by the Cooperative at the individual's principal residence; and
- (d) is of proper legal capacity to contract.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative who:

- (a) is not a bona fide resident in the Cooperative's service area;
- (b) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures, or supplies to the members of the Cooperative;
- (c) is the incumbent of or candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary is paid;

(d) is a current employee or former employee within four (4) years from his or her last date of employment with the Cooperative, or the spouse or child of such current or former employee within four (4) years from his or her last date of employment with the Cooperative. "Child" as used in this section shall include biological child, step child, and adoptive child;

(e) is a former employee whose employment with Clay County Electric Cooperative was terminated; or

(f) has been convicted of a felony crime.

Notwithstanding above, no director duly elected and otherwise qualified shall be eligible for re-election if, at the end of his or her first elected term, he or she has not successfully completed sufficient courses offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to be eligible to be a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) under the Association's Director Education Program.

If a membership is held jointly by a legally married couple, either spouse, but not both, may be elected as director; provided, that neither one shall be eligible to become or remain a director or hold any position of trust in the Cooperative unless both shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth.

If a majority of Directors authorized by these Bylaws complies with the Director Qualifications and approves a Board action, then the failure of a Director to comply with the Director Qualifications does not affect the Board action.

Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to invalidate any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors by any *de facto* director.

Geographic areas served by the Cooperative shall be divided into three (3) areas comprised by three (3) zones each as follows:

AREA 1:

1) **Area 1, Zone 1** shall comprise the following territory -- The area served by Clay County Electric Cooperative Corporation, west of a line beginning at the northeast corner of Section 6, Township 21 North, Range 1 West, running in a southeastern direction, a straight line to the southwest corner of Section 13, Township 20 North, Range 1 West, thence a straight line in a southeast direction to the southwest corner of Section 7, Township 19 North, Range 1 West, thence a straight line in a southwest direction to the southwest corner of Section 25, Township 19 North, Range 3 West, all in Randolph County, Arkansas.

2) **Area 1, Zone 2** shall comprise the following territory -- The area served by Clay County Electric Cooperative Corporation north of a line beginning at the northeast corner of Section 6, Township 21 North, Range 1 West, thence running a straight line in

a southeastern direction to the southwest corner of Section 13, Township 20 North, Range 1 West, thence running a straight line in a southeastern direction to the southwest corner of Section 15, Township 19 North, Range 1 East, thence due east along section line to Current River in Section 21, Township 19 North, Range 2 East, thence northeast along Current River to Ripley County, Missouri line, all in Randolph County, Arkansas.

3) Area 1, Zone 3 shall comprise the following territory -- The area served by Clay County Electric Cooperative Corporation south of a line beginning at the southeast corner of Section 31, Township 18 North, Range 3 East in Greene County, Arkansas, thence due north along section line to the southeast corner of Section 7, Township 18 North, Range 3 East, in Greene County, Arkansas, thence running a straight line in a northwest direction to a point on Current River on the north section line of Section 21, Township 19 North, Range 2 East, in Randolph County, Arkansas, thence due west along section line to the southwest corner of Section 15, Township 19 North, Range 1 East, thence running a straight line in a northwest direction to the southwest corner of Section 13, Township 20 North, Range 1 West, thence running a straight line in a southwest direction to the southwest corner of Section 7, Township 19 North, Range 1 West, thence in a straight line in a southwest direction to the southwest corner of Section 25, Township 19 North, Range 3 West.

AREA 2:

1) Area 2, Zone 1 shall comprise the following territory -- The area served by Clay County Electric Cooperative Corporation beginning at the northwest corner of Section 6, Township 21 North, Range 4 East, thence running a straight line in a southeast direction to Black River at a point on the east section line of Section 27, Township 20 North, Range 4 East, thence running along Black River in a southwestern direction to a point on the north section line of Section 35, Township 19 North, Range 2 East, thence running a straight line in a northwest direction to Current River, to a point on the north section line of Section 21, Township 19 North, Range 2 East, thence running along Current River in a northern direction to the Ripley County, Missouri line, thence east along the Ripley County, Missouri, and Clay County, Arkansas line to the point of beginning.

2) Area 2, Zone 2 shall comprise the following territory -- The area served by Clay County Electric Cooperative Corporation north of a line beginning at the northwest corner of Section 6, Township 21 North, Range 4 East, thence a straight line in a southeast direction to Black River, a point on the east section line of Section 27, Township 20 North, Range 4 East, thence in a northeast direction along Black River to a point on the south section line of Section 8, Township 20 North, Range 5 East, thence due east along section line to the southeast corner of Section 10, Township 20 North, Range 6 East, thence a straight line in a northeast direction to the southeast corner of Section 36, Township 21 North, Range 6 East, thence due north along section line to the Butler County, Missouri line, all in Clay County, Arkansas.

3) Area 2, Zone 3 shall comprise the following territory -- The area served by Clay County Electric Cooperative Corporation beginning at the southeast corner of Section 31, Township 18 North, Range 3 East, in Greene County, Arkansas, thence due north along section line to the southeast corner of Section 7, Township 18 North, Range 3

East, in Greene County, Arkansas, thence a straight line in a northwest direction to a point on Black River on the north section line of Section 35, Township 19 North, Range 2 East, thence along Black River in a northeast direction to a point on the south section line of Section 8, Township 20 North, Range 5 East, thence due east along section line to the southeast corner of Section 10, Township 20 North, Range 6 East, thence a straight line in a southwest direction to the southwest corner of Section 22, Township 19 North, Range 5 East, thence a straight line in a southwest direction to the southeast corner of Section 31, Township 18 North, Range 3 East, in Greene County, Arkansas, the point of beginning.

AREA 3:

1) **Area 3, Zone 1** shall comprise the following territory - The area served by Clay County Electric Cooperative Corporation beginning at the southwest corner of Section 22, Township 19 North, Range 5 East, thence running a straight line in a northeast direction to the southeast corner of Section 10, Township 20 North, Range 6 East, thence running a straight line in a northeast direction to the northwest corner of Section 6, Township 20 North, Range 7 East, thence due east along section line to the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 20 North, Range 7 East, thence running a straight line in a southeast direction to the southeast corner of Section 16, Township 20 North, Range 8 East, thence running a straight line in a southwest direction to the southwest corner of Section 22, Township 19 North, Range 7 East, thence due west along Clay County and Greene County line to the southwest corner of Section 22, Township 19 North, Range 5 East, the point of beginning.

2) **Area 3, Zone 2** shall comprise the following territory - The area served by Clay County Electric Cooperative Corporation north of a line beginning at a point on the St. Francis River on the south section line of Section 13, Township 20 North, Range 9 East, thence running due west along section line to the southeast corner of Section 16, Township 20 North, Range 8 East, thence running a straight line in a northwest direction to the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 20 North, Range 7 East, thence running due west along section line to the northeast corner of Section 1, Township 21 North, Range 6 East, thence due north along section line to the Butler County, Missouri line.

3) **Area 3, Zone 3** shall comprise the following territory -- The area served by Clay County Electric Cooperative Corporation east of a line beginning at a point on the St. Francis River on the south section line of Section 13, Township 20 North, Range 9 East, thence running due west along section line to the southeast corner of Section 16, Township 20 North, Range 8 East, thence running a straight line in a southwest direction to the southwest corner of Section 22, Township 19 North, Range 7 East, thence running due south along Clay County and Greene County line to the southwest corner of Section 10, Township 18 North, Range 7 East, thence running due east along Clay County and Greene County line to the St. Francis River.

SECTION 4. Nominations. Twenty (20) or more members of the Cooperative who maintain an active service account in the area and zone in which a director candidate is to be elected may nominate in writing the candidacy of an individual who is qualified in all aspects contained in the Articles of Incorporation and these bylaws of the Cooperative.

The nomination in writing shall be made by the valid signatures of current members of the Cooperative who maintain an active service account in the specific area and zone of which a director is to be elected. The nomination in writing shall be made on a standard uniform petition which shall be prepared and provided by the Cooperative. The Cooperative shall furnish the standard uniform petition to any eligible member requesting same.

The petition shall not be distributed for qualified signatures more than 120 days prior to the annual meeting or such meeting at which directors are to be elected. The completed petition with the valid signatures is to be filed at the Principal office or District office of the Cooperative not less than 90 days prior to the annual meeting or such meeting at which directors are to be elected.

The secretary shall cause to be mailed with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected and the candidates having qualified by the procedure outlined in this section of the bylaws.

Nominations by petition is the only means or method of becoming a candidate for a directorship.

SECTION 5. Vacancies. Subject to the provisions of these bylaws, vacancies occurring in the Board of Directors shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors, and the directors thus selected shall serve until the next annual meeting or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. Any Directors selected to fill a vacancy of an unexpired term shall be selected for the period remaining in the unexpired term.

SECTION 6. Compensation. The Board of Directors shall from time-to-time receive compensation for their services including a fixed sum per-diem, expenses of attendance may be allowed for attendance at meetings of the board, attendance at National, Regional or State meetings concerning matters that effect the Cooperative and in addition may receive compensation by way of insurance coverage. Except in emergencies, no director shall receive compensation for serving the Cooperative, in any other capacity, other than director, nor shall any close relative of a director receive compensation for serving the Cooperative, unless such proper authorization shall be specifically authorized by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the directors.

SECTION 7. Rules, Regulations, and Board Policies. The Board of Directors shall have power to make and adopt such rules and regulations, including board policies, not inconsistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative, or these bylaws, as it may deem prudent for management, administration and regulation of the business and affairs of the Cooperative. The power to make, alter, amend, or repeal the bylaws of the corporation shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

SECTION 8. Accounting System and Reports. The Board of Directors shall cause to be established and maintained a complete accounting system, which, among other things, subject to applicable laws and rules and regulations of any regulatory body, shall conform to such accounting system as may from time to time be designated by the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Services of the United States of America. All accounts of the Cooperative shall be examined by a committee of the Board of Directors that shall render reports to the Board of Directors at least four (4) times a year at regular meetings. The Board of Directors shall also

employ an independent accounting firm who shall conduct a full and complete audit of the accounts, books, and financial condition of the Cooperative. Such audit shall be conducted on an annual basis and shall cover a continuous twelve (12) month cycle which may not necessarily be the Cooperative's fiscal year, but shall in all aspects render an impartial perspective of the Cooperative's financial condition.

SECTION 9. Changes in Rates. Written notice shall be given to the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Services of the United States of America and to National Rural Utility Cooperative Finance Corporation (NRUCFC), not less than ninety (90) days prior to the date on which any proposed change in the rates charged by the Cooperative for electric energy becomes effective.

SECTION 10. Committees. The Board of Directors may establish and appoint such committees from its membership as it may deem expedient to assist the board and/or the manager of the Cooperative in formulating policies and in prosecuting the business of the Cooperative.

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held without notice (other than that of these bylaws) immediately after, and at the same place as the annual membership meeting, and also monthly at such time and place as the Board of Directors may determine.

SECTION 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called by the president or any three (3) directors. The person(s) authorized to call special meetings of the Board of Directors may fix the time and place for the holding of any special meeting.

SECTION 3. Notice of Meetings. Notice of the time, place and, in the case of a special meeting, the purposes for which the meeting has been called, shall be given by the secretary at least three (3) days previous thereto, by electronic or written means in a manner of his or her choosing. The attendance of a director at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except in case a director shall attend a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting shall not have been lawfully called or convened.

SECTION 4. Quorum. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 5. Manner of Acting. The act of the majority of directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors. Though in-person attendance is preferred, directors may participate in meetings of the Board of Directors via telephone or electronic means. No proxies are authorized to be utilized by directors in conjunction with voting at meetings of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 6. Record Date. The record date for determining members entitled to notice of and

to vote at an annual or special meeting is the day before the first notice of meeting is mailed to members.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

SECTION 1. Number. The officers of the Cooperative shall be a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as may be determined by the Board of Directors. The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person.

SECTION 2. Election and Term of Office. The officers shall be elected by ballot annually, by and from the Board of Directors, at the first meeting held after each annual meeting. If the election of officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as conveniently may be. Each officer shall hold office until the first meeting of the Board of Directors following the next succeeding annual meeting or until one's successor shall have been duly elected and qualified, subject to the provisions of these bylaws, with respect to the removal of officers.

SECTION 3. Removal. Any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment the best interest of the Cooperative will be served thereby.

SECTION 4. Vacancies. Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, a vacancy in any office may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

SECTION 5. President. The president

- a) shall be the principal executive officer of the Cooperative and shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors, unless otherwise provided herein;
- b) shall sign, with the secretary, any deeds, mortgages, deeds of trust, notes, bonds, contracts or other instruments authorized by the Board of Directors to be executed, except in cases in which the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or by these bylaws to some other officer or agent of the Cooperative, or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed; and
- c) in general, shall perform all duties incident to the office of president and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 6. Vice President. In the absence of the president, or in the event of one's inability or refusal to act, the vice president shall perform the duties of the president, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the president and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to one by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 7. Secretary. The secretary shall

- a) keep the minutes of meetings of the members and the Board of Directors in one or more books provided for that purpose;
- b) see that all notices are duly given in accordance with these bylaws or as required by law;
- c) be custodian of the corporate records and of the Seal of the Cooperative and see that the Seal of the Cooperative is affixed to all documents, the execution of which on behalf of the Cooperative under its Seal is duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws;
- d) keep a register of the post office address of each member;
- e) have general charge of the books of the Cooperative in which a record of the membership is kept;
- f) keep on file at all times a complete copy of the bylaws of the Cooperative containing all amendments thereto, which a copy shall always be open to the inspection of any member, and, at the expense of the Cooperative, forward a copy of the bylaws and of all amendments therefore to each member; and
- g) in general, perform all duties incident to the office of secretary and such other duties as may be assigned to one by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 8. Treasurer. The treasurer shall

- a) have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the Cooperative;
- b) receive and give receipt for money due and payable to the Cooperative from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such money in the name of the Cooperative in such bank(s) as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws; and
- c) in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of treasurer and such other duties, as from time to time, may be assigned to one by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 9. Manager. The Board of Directors may appoint a manager who may be, but who shall not be required to be a member of the Cooperative. The manager shall perform such duties as the Board of Directors may require of one and shall have such authority as the Board of Directors may invest in one.

SECTION 10. Bonds of Officers. The Board of Directors shall require the treasurer or any officer of the Cooperative charged with responsibility for the custody of any of its funds or property, to give bond in such sum and with such surety as the Board of Directors shall determine. The Board of Directors in its discretion may also require any other officer, agent, or employee of the Cooperative to give bond in such amount and with such surety as it shall determine.

SECTION 11. Compensation. The compensation, if any, of any officer, agent or employee who is also a director or close relative of a director, shall be determined by the members, as provided elsewhere in these bylaws, and the powers, duties and compensation of any other officers, agents and employees shall be fixed by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 12. Reports. The officers of the Cooperative may submit at each annual meeting of the members, reports covering the business of the Cooperative for the most recent fiscal year.

ARTICLE VI CONTRACTS, CHECKS AND DEPOSITS

SECTION 1. Contracts. Except as otherwise provided in these bylaws, the Board of Directors may authorize any officer(s), agent(s) to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Cooperative, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

SECTION 2. Checks, Drafts, Etc. All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, and all notes, bonds, or other evidence of indebtedness issued in the name of the Cooperative shall be signed by such officer(s), agent(s), employee(s) of the Cooperative in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. Deposits. All funds of the Cooperative shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Cooperative in such bank(s) as the Board of Directors may select.

SECTION 4. Investments. The Board of Directors may at its discretion invest its reserve (excess) funds in U. S. Government bonds, or any government securities backed by the Federal government, commercial paper, certificate of deposits (CDs) or securities in banks and savings and loan associations insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or any financial institution as approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII NON-PROFIT OPERATION

SECTION 1. Interest or Dividends on Capital Prohibited. The Cooperative shall, at all times, be operated on a cooperative non-profit basis for the mutual benefit of its patrons. No interest or dividends shall be paid or payable by the Cooperative on any capital furnished by its patrons.

SECTION 2. Patronage Capital in Connection with Furnishing Electric Energy. In the furnishing of electric energy, the Cooperative's operations shall be conducted such that all patrons will, through their patronage, furnish capital for the Cooperative. In order to induce patronage and to assure the Cooperative operates on a non-profit basis, the Cooperative is obligated to account on a patronage basis to all its patrons, for all amounts received and receivable from the furnishing of electric energy in excess of operating costs and expenses properly chargeable against the furnishing of electric energy. All such amounts in excess of operating cost and expenses at the moment of receipt by the Cooperative are received with the understanding that they are furnished by the patrons as capital. The Cooperative is obligated to pay by credits to a capital account for each patron all such amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses. The books and records of the Cooperative shall be set up and kept in such a manner that at the end of each fiscal year, the amount of capital, if any, so furnished by each patron is clearly reflected and credited in an appropriate record to the account of each patron. The Cooperative shall within a reasonable time,

after the close of the fiscal year, notify by publication, the amount of margins to be allocated and the factor which is applied to the patronage for the year of each patron. Each patron may obtain one's individual allocation for each account(s) from the Cooperative in writing or in person at Office of the Cooperative. All such amounts credited to the capital account of any patron shall have the same status as though they had been paid to the patron in cash in pursuance of a legal obligation to do so and the patron had then furnished the Cooperative corresponding amounts for capital. All other amounts received by the Cooperative from its operations in excess of cost and expenses, shall, insofar as permitted by law, be

- a) used to offset any losses incurred during the current year or any prior fiscal year, and
- b) to the extent needed for that purpose, allocated to its patrons on a patronage basis and any amounts so allocated shall be included as a part of the capital credited to the accounts of patrons, as herein provided.

In event of the dissolution or liquidation of the Cooperative, after all outstanding indebtedness of the Cooperative shall have been paid, outstanding capital credits shall be retired without priority on a pro-rata basis before any payments are made on account of property rights of members. If, at any time prior to dissolution or liquidation, the Board of Directors shall determine the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby, the capital then credited to patrons' accounts may be retired in full or in part.

The Board of Directors shall determine the method, basis, priority, and order of making such retirements. The Board of Directors shall also have the power, exercisable in its sole discretion, to retire all or a portion of the capital credits of patrons prior to the time such capital would otherwise be retired under the provision of these bylaws or the policies of the Board of Directors, on a discounted and fair value basis, upon such terms and conditions as the Board shall adopt and provided further that the acceptance of payment in retirement of capital credits on a discounted and fair basis shall be voluntary and not mandatory for patrons. The Cooperative shall deduct and retain from such payment to a patron all monies owed by such patron to the Cooperative at any time together with accrued interest on such owed amount. The discounted portion of the capital credit of a patron, which is not paid to such patrons, shall be reassigned to all other patrons on an equitable basis.

Capital credited to the account of each patron shall be assignable only on the books of the Cooperative pursuant to written instructions from the assignor and only to successors in interest or successors in occupancy in all or part of such patron's premises served by the Cooperative, unless the Board of Directors, acting under policies of general applications, shall determine otherwise.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, the Board of Directors, at its discretion, shall have the power at any time upon the death of any patron, if the legal representative of one's estate shall request in writing that the capital credited to any such patron be retired under the provisions of these bylaws, to retire capital credited to any such patron immediately upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors, acting under policies of general application, and the legal representatives of such patron's estate shall agree upon; provided,

however that financial conditions of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby.

The patrons of the Cooperative, by dealing with the Cooperative, acknowledge that the terms and provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws shall constitute and be a contract between the Cooperative and each patron, and both the Cooperative and the patrons are bound by such contract, as fully as though each patron had individually signed a separate instrument containing such terms and provisions. The provisions of this Article of the bylaws shall be called to the attention of each patron of the Cooperative by posting in a conspicuous place in the Cooperative's offices.

SECTION 3. Patronage Refunds in Connection with Furnishing Other Services. In the event the Cooperative should engage in the business of furnishing goods or services other than electric, all amounts received and receivable therefrom which are in excess of cost and expenses properly chargeable against the furnishing of such goods or services, shall, insofar as permitted by law, be pro-rated annually on a patronage basis and returned to those patrons from who such amounts were obtained.

SECTION 4. First Lien and Right of Set-Off for Capital Credited in Connection with Furnishing Electric Energy or with Furnishing Other Services. The Cooperative shall at all times have a first lien on, and right of set-off against, such capital credited to any patron pursuant to Sections 2 and 3 of this Article VII for all indebtedness to the Cooperative, whether due or to become due, of such patron as shown by the books or records of the Cooperative, which lien or right shall not be lost or prejudiced by reason of the fact that the certificate representing such capital credited, if any, is not in the possession of the Cooperative.

ARTICLE VIII WAIVER OF NOTICE

Any member or director(s) may waive, in writing, any notice of meetings required to be given by these bylaws.

ARTICLE IX DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

The Cooperative may not sell, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of, or encumber any of its property other than

- a) property which, in the judgment of the Board of Directors neither is nor will be necessary or useful in operating and maintaining the Cooperative's system and facilities; provided, however that all sales of such property shall not in any one (1) year exceed in value ten per centum (10%) of the value of all the property of the Cooperative;
- b) services of all kinds, including electric energy; and
- c) personal property acquired for resale, unless such sale, mortgage, lease, or other disposition or encumbrance is authorized at a meeting of the members by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members voting thereon in person and the notice of such proposed sale, mortgage, lease or other disposition or encumbrance shall have been contained in the notice of the meeting; provided, however, that notwithstanding anything contained herein, the Board of Directors, without authorization by the members, shall have full power and authority to borrow

money from the United States of America, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (NRUCFC) and other lending agencies or lending corporations and to incur indebtedness from time to time by the assumption of indebtedness or third parties to the United States of America, to the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (NRUCFC) or other lending agencies or lending corporations, such loans and such assumptions of indebtedness to be in such amounts and upon such terms as the Board of Directors shall deem advisable to finance the construction, acquisition and operation of such electric generating, transmission, distribution and service facilities as the Board of Directors shall from time to time determine upon; and in connection with such borrowing to authorize the making and issuance of bonds, notes, or other evidence of indebtedness and to secure the payment thereof, to authorize the execution and delivery of a mortgage(s), or deed(s) of trust upon, or the pledging or encumbering of, any or all of the property, assets, rights, privileges, licenses, franchises, and permits of the Cooperative, whether acquired or to be acquired, and wherever situated.

ARTICLE X FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Cooperative shall begin on the first (1st) day of January of each year and end on the thirty-first (31st) day of December of the same year.

ARTICLE XI MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Cooperative shall not become a member of any other organization without an affirmative vote of the members at a meeting called as provided by these bylaws, and the notice of said meeting shall specify that action is to be taken upon such proposed membership as an item of business, except, however, that the Cooperative may, by proper resolution of its Board of Directors become a member of the National Association or State Association of Electric Cooperatives, or Generation and Transmission Cooperatives having authority to supply wholesale power to the Cooperative, and of civic organizations organized and existing within the territory served by the Cooperative or contiguous thereto.

ARTICLE XII SEAL

The Corporate Seal of the Cooperative shall be in the form of a circle and shall have inscribed thereon the name of the Cooperative and the words, "Corporate Seal, Arkansas".

ARTICLE XIII INSPECTION OF RECORDS

Subject to applicable laws, any member of the Cooperative in good standing shall, upon written demand stating the purpose thereof and the books and records sought to be examined, have the right to examine, in person or by agent or attorney, at any reasonable time or times,

for any proper purpose, its books and records and, at his own expense, may make extracts therefrom. Any such inspection request shall be initiated by the member completing a records request form developed by the Cooperative for such purposes. Any such inspection, however, may be denied or limited upon one or more of the following grounds:

- (1) The member refuses to warrant and furnish to the secretary of the Cooperative an affidavit that such inspection is desired for a purpose reasonably related to the business of the Cooperative;
- (2) The inspection seeks information the release of which would unduly infringe upon or invade the privacy of any person;
- (3) The inspection is sought for an improper purpose or to gratify mere curiosity, or is otherwise inimical to the lawful interest of the Cooperative or is not reasonably germane to the interest of the member as such;
- (4) The books and records sought to be inspected deal with information which is privileged, confidential, or proprietary; or
- (5) The member refuses to warrant and furnish an affidavit that he, she, or it has not, within the five years preceding the date of the affidavit, sold or offered for sale and does not now intend to sell or offer to sell any list of members of the Cooperative or of any other electric membership corporation, or any list of shareholders of a corporation, and that he has not, within such five-year period, aided or abetted and does not now intend to aid or abet any other person in procuring any list of members or shareholders for such purpose.

If the Cooperative or an officer or agent of the cooperative refuses to permit the inspection, the member demanding inspection may request a hearing before the Board of Directors to show cause why permission should be granted permitting such inspection by the applicant.

ARTICLE XIV MEMBER'S FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Apart from the circumstances permitting a third party's agreement to pay an amount no greater than a member's required deposit or an overdue bill under Rules 4.04 and 6.16 of Arkansas Public Service Commission's General Service Rules, a member may neither designate nor authorize another member as being responsible for paying (i) the member's bills for electric utility service for any account in the member's name or (ii) any of the member's indebtedness to the Cooperative.

ARTICLE XV AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of all of the directors at any regular or special meeting.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

APPROVED March 24 2022

ATTESTATION BY SECRETARY *Concepcion*