

Electric Cities of Georgia, Inc. (ECG)  
Board Meeting  
September 22, 2021

A meeting of the Electric Cities of Georgia was held on September 22, 2021, beginning at 11:00 m, at the Acworth Community Center, Acworth, GA.

Board Members Present:

Lamar Hill  
Tim Houston  
Mark Fitzpatrick  
Jeff Lewis  
Craig Mims  
Jay Bartlett  
Gary Youngblood

Board Members Not Present:

Chris White  
Rod Prince

Others in Attendance: John Giles, Walter West, Daryl Ingram, Sabrina Milner, Rita Hillhouse, Sallie Coleman, Grant Cagle, John VanBrunt, Chau Nguyen, Gary Ballard, ECG; Peter Floyd, Alston & Bird; Angie Luna, David Ross, Lindy Tisdell, Diana DeSanto, Alex Almodovar, James Albright, Tim Richardson, Rebecca Keefer, Acworth; John Dooley, Cartersville, Ginni Harris, Tammy Garvis, Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC.

Chairman Jay Bartlett called the ECG September Meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

---

The minutes from the August 4, 2021 and August 25, 2021 meetings were presented.

**On motion by Tim Houston and seconded by Lamar Hill, the Board approved the minutes from the August 4, 2021 and August 25, 2021 meetings as presented.**

Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Statements, Year-end Settlement, Contract Payment and Audit Report

---

Tammy Gavis, Nichols, Cauley & Associates, LLC presented the FY21 ECG Audit. Ms. Gavis noted that the audit has been completed according to the Government Auditing Standards and been given a clean opinion. There were no instances of significant deficiencies or material weakness in the internal accounting controls used by ECG and staff and no instances with non-compliance of laws or regulations.

Sallie Coleman presented to the Board the FY21 Year-End Settlement. Sallie stated that ECG had a net Year-End Settlement of \$364,085. All services were over-collected with the exception of Legislative Monitoring and Aggregated Services. Sallie stated a form will be sent to members with three options to choose to receive the FY20 YES: 1) Education, Training & Development Fund (specific to your utility), 2) refunding the entire portion back to the Member or 3) refunded via credit on ECG Bill.

Sallie Coleman presented the net 3<sup>rd</sup> party revenues for FY21. Sallie gave a brief overview of the process of how the contract payment will be paid back to ECG members. Sallie stated \$58,469 will be disbursed to members according to their initial contribution to the Contract Payment when ECG spun off from MEAG in 2009.

**On motion by Jeff Lewis and seconded by Gary Youngblood, the Board approved the following: Fiscal Year 2021 ECG Audit Report as presented; the FY21 Year-End Settlement as presented giving Members receiving the YES the option to choose 1) deposit funds into a Participant-specific Education, Training and Development Fund, 2) refund the entire portion back to the Participant via check or 3) refunded via credit on ECG bill, and the FY21 ECG Contract Payment as presented.**

### *Financial Update*

---

Sallie presented the financials through August 31, 2021. Sallie stated through August ECG had \$27,000 over-recovery.

### *Summary Reports*

---

#### *Hosted Solutions*

- Signed City of Troy, Alabama
- PSD development of Hiperweb billing software

#### *Customer Choice*

- Large projects are driving some members energy deficit; ECG is working with members and MEAG to address the issue and to close risk issues for members
- Shifting to a cost plus model for many large loads

#### *Engineering & Energy Services*

- Fielding many cryptocurrency calls
- Territorial maps assistance
- Newnan/Milsoft integration in progress
- Working with PAS staff for Sylvania Joint Use Inventory
- Cryptocurrency Projects:
  - Sandersville, 60MW phase 2 project, along with 16MW temp project, existing customer expansion into new building in LaFayette (20MW), existing customer expansion into new building in Fitzgerald, expansion in East Point

#### *Analytical Services*

- Electric: in-progress – Hampton, Cartersville (rate design), Norcross (assess rate plan), Monticello (COS & rate)
- Water/Sewer: in-progress – Monticello (COS), Hampton (rate design)

#### *Joint Purchasing & Aggregated Services*

- HiperWeb Function 1.2 was rolled out – pricing is accessible in HiperWeb, positive feedback
- HiperWeb Integration part 2.2 – project for completion is scheduled for October 2021
- September 2021 Bidding – Tree Trimming, Padmount Inspection and Pole Inspection
  - Award Term: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

#### *Pole Attachment Service*

- Permits – 164 permits covering 2,876 poles
- Inventories – Sylvania, Fairburn, Thomaston, Forsyth
- Invoicing – Calendar 2021 Non-Rental Revenue - \$535,253
- New PAS Members – Lawrenceville (rejoined)

### *Economic Development and Legislative*

- FY21 – 25.59% of total statewide project announcements occurred in ECG communities
- Active Projects: Retail 26, Industrial 37
- Property Submissions: 29 ECG, 37 non-ECG, Prospect Visits: ECG 9, non-ECG 4
- July 2021-August 2021 ECG Announcements: Target (Lawrenceville) distribution center
- Technical Solutions: 72 Technical Solutions projects with 41% ECG members utilizing
- Community Development: DCA's Rural Zone Designation Assistance – Cordele-Crisp County, LaFayette, Camilla, Thomaston; Housing Initiative – Completed Community Housing Survey; Webinar Series – Rural Zone Designation Best Practices – June 2021, Crypto Data Center Information Session – September 202
- Save the Date: ECG Economic Development Summit – April 27-29, 2022
- GA General Assembly 2021 Session
  - Proposed SB 299 – Amendment of the Georgia Cogeneration and Distributed Generation Act of 2001 and Solar Power Free-Market Financing Act of 2015
    - Raise Residential from 10 KW to 20 KW
    - Raise Commercial from 100 KW to 125% of peak demand
    - Increase Cap of solar capacity from 2% to 5% of utility's annual peak
    - Mandate net metering
    - Allow tax exempt customers to aggregate their load with a solar developer
- Georgia Public Service Commission
  - Notice of Intent (NOI) – Public comments on the Dispute Process for large-load customers pursuant to the Georgia Territorial Electric Services Act
    - May 5, 2021 – PSC Workshop was held
    - July 6, 2021 – responses filed from ECG, GPC, GEMC and GAM
    - August 6, 2021 – reply comments due
    - GPC – recommending greater clarity on destroy, dismantled and reconstructed; recommending promulgation of new rules
    - ECG & GEMC – recommending dispute process improvements
    - GAM – cautious – generally aligned with GPC

### *Training & Safety*

- Progression Chart was presented for the Powerline School

### *Communications*

- ECG will be strategically focusing on internal and external communications
- ECG will focus on ECG member hosted board meetings, member visits, increase presence at utility expo's and conferences, and provide ECG 101 at conferences

### *Discussion of Recommendation and Next Steps for Cost Allocation Modification to Joint Purchasing*

John Giles gave a brief update on the Joint Purchasing service shortfall. John stated in the IPC Agreement for the Joint Purchasing service has a logical fault that requires that the maximum amount a member would pay is 7.5% of the total Joint Purchasing budget. John asked the Board to consider modifying the Inter-Participant Contract (IPC) – Joint Purchasing service allocation by removing the cost caps of any single member's fiscal year's cost. By removing the caps, the appropriate allocation of Joint Purchasing fiscal year service costs will be divided equally among all member of Joint Purchasing. John will send out new language to the members of the Joint Purchasing Service modifying the cost allocation. An update will be given to the Board at the next meeting.

*Update on MEAG Solar Project / Walmart*

---

Walter West gave a brief update to the Board regarding Walmart's corporate solar initiative. Walter stated a meeting has been scheduled with Walmart and ECG members on October 5, 2021 in LaGrange, Georgia.

*Adjourn*

---

With a motion and second, the meeting was adjourned.