

## OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING

September 19, 2024

9:00 AM

The ARPA Operating Committee met by ZOOM at 9:00 AM on September 19, 2024. Committee members in attendance included Randy Holland (Holly), Bill Jackson (La Junta), Lynn Wright (Las Animas) Houssin Hourieh (Lamar), Heath Piper (Springfield) and Dave Bachicha (Trinidad). Also in attendance was Linda Vigil (Trinidad), Sherri Montoya and Mayor Charles Shupe (Las Animas) and Chris Arguello (La Junta). ARPA staff members Rick Rigel, Aarin Ritter and Arvenia Morris were also in attendance.

**Call to order:** Chairman Hourieh called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

### **Approval of Agenda.**

The agenda was approved as received.

**Distribution System Planning. a. Status.** All the members reported they have received, and are reviewing, their final reports from CLP Engineering. Any comments will be provided to CLPE. **b. Next Steps.** The next step is for each member to identify upgrades that are the highest priorities for each utility.

**Federal and State Funding Opportunities. a. Identifying Projects for Funding.** Members will need to identify what projects they want for the state funding as well as what projects they want to bundle into one grant application for the federal DOE-GRIP Grant. **i. Matching Funds.** The grants require one-third matching funds. A funding commitment (funding security) from the governing boards will be required for the match. The Committee discussed various ways to accumulate the matching funds. **ii. State Funding.** For the CEO Grid Resilience state grant funding, the city/utility will be the named applicant. The applications are due November 1 for the CEO grid resilience state grants. Southeast Colorado Economic Development District (SCEDD) will be available to provide grant writing services. **iii. Federal Funding.** For the GRIP funding, ARPA would be the grant applicant. Each ARPA member will need to identify their highest priority projects to be bundled together into one grant application package. The bundled grant application package must exceed \$10 million of requested funding. The members will need to get direction from their governing boards on the amount of matching funds that will be available. The matching funds can be accumulated over a period of 5 years.

**Cost of Service Study Update.** Those Members interested in moving forward with the Cost of Service Rate Study with JK Energy Consulting were encouraged to inform John of their intentions as soon as possible.

**Miscellaneous.** Houssin Hourieh, Electric Superintendent (Lamar) reported CAMPOS has executed the agreement for the natural gas pipeline abandonment work. NorthRenew Energy has recently been in contact with Houssin Hourieh regarding installing wind generation near Lamar.

**Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be October 23 in Las Animas beginning at 9:30 AM.

**Adjourn.** The meeting concluded at 10:13 AM.



Submitted by Houssin Hourieh, Chairman