

Special co-op members' meeting slated

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by [John Larson](#) | February 26, 2015

Amid repeated objections by District 2 Trustee Charlie Wagner, the Socorro Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees voted to schedule a special meeting of the members.

President Anne Dorough said the sole purpose of the meeting was to accept new bylaws written by consultant Aaron Christensen.

The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 25 at Finley Gym. Registration starts at 1 p.m. with the business meeting starting at 3 p.m.

Wagner asked if the vote was to accept the entire bylaw package as a whole, or if the members would be able to approve or disapprove each of the 96 bylaws individually.

"There will be an up or down vote for the whole package as written," Dorough said.

Wagner then asked if mail-in ballots would be accepted.

Dorough said mail-in ballots would be counted, but that there must also be a quorum of 3 percent – usually about 300 – registered members for the business portion of the meeting for any of the votes, whether by mail or in person, to be valid. The exact number depends on membership as of April 24.

"I just don't know how anyone is going to want to come to that meeting," Wagner said.

Dorough said once approved by members, the new bylaws will go into effect immediately, and the process for adding two additional trustees and redistricting will begin.

In other action, the board approved the new policy handbook prepared by Aaron Christensen. Wagner made a motion not to accept the new policies, but the motion was defeated by 3-2.

Board policies – ground rules for effective, responsive and accountable governance – are not voted on by the membership, but approved by the board itself.

Dorough said the new policies should be approved as soon as possible "as a goodwill gesture." She said it was to demonstrate to the membership that the board is willing to go forward and start making changes.

Wagner argued that some of the policies – specifically 105, 106, 107 and 116 – can only apply to a seven trustee board and they should not be accepted until there is a full seven- member board.

Policy 105 mandates a finance committee which should be made up of four trustees.

Policy 106 mandates forming an ethics committee of four trustees.

Policy 107 mandates a standing committee of four trustees. The standing committee will review, investigate and report to the board concerning the co-op's bylaws, policies on the internal governance of the board, Member Service Rules and Regulations and other matters requiring board attention.

Policy 116 outlines trustee's fees and expense, which is overseen by the yet-be-formed finance committee.

On a 3-2 vote, with Wagner and District 3 Trustee Melissa Amaro dissenting, the Board approved the policy handbook with the stipulation that 105, 106, 107 and 116, would go into effect after the board is up to seven trustees.

The Board of Trustees will meet again on Wednesday, Mar. 25 at 2 p.m. at 310 Abeyta Avenue.