

SEC members should study up before vote

A Socorro Electric Cooperative (SEC) meeting Saturday, April 25 at Finley Gym (registration 1 to 3 p.m., meeting starts at 3 p.m.) will be held for members to vote to accept or reject a proposal to change SEC bylaws. The proposal must be either rejected or accepted in its entirety: no picking or choosing various portions.

Background: The board of SEC hired Aaron M. Christensen, attorney at law, of Smith Christensen L.L.P., in Charleston, North Carolina, to analyze the SEC bylaws and make recommendations for change.

Mr. Christensen studied newspaper accounts of the history of board proceedings and interviewed some (number unknown) members and the board.

On Feb. 18 and 19, he presented his recommendations for change to the board, during the day, in the auditorium of Macey Center. The notification of the meeting in the El Defensor Chieftain did not indicate whether the public (members) were allowed to attend or speak. This is very unfortunate as Mr. Christensen outlined in a PowerPoint presentation his revision of bylaws and he did respond to the approximately 20 members who attended.

We are asked to vote on a proposal which most did not hear. What is the proposal? To find out, one can obtain copies (a packet) from the SEC office, 215 Manzanares Ave. The packet contains bylaws, bylaw analysis and policies for the Internal Governance of the Board of Trustees, Ground Rules for the Board, and Analysis of Remaining Issues. This represents the need for a lot of reading.

The bylaws material should be marked proposed bylaws and is best read in conjunction with the Bylaw Analysis. The existing bylaws are not included though the analysis makes reference to their articles and sections. There are major changes. The devil may be in the details. To know what our money bought and how changes could affect us, each of us needs to get and read the packet before voting.

Ruth White

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