

**BYLAWS  
OF  
NAVASOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.  
FRANKLIN, TEXAS**

**ARTICLE I**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1.01**

**Eligibility**

Any natural person, firm, association, corporation, business trust, partnership, Federal Agency, State or political subdivision thereof, or any body politic (each hereinafter referred to as “person”, “applicant”, “him” or “his”, whether male or female) shall be eligible to become a member of, and, at one or more premises owned or directly occupied or used by him, to receive electric service from, Navasota Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter called the “Cooperative”). No person shall hold more than one membership in the Cooperative.

**SECTION 1.02**

**Application for Membership; Renewal of Prior Application**

An application for membership – wherein the applicant shall agree to purchase electric power and energy from the Cooperative and to be bound by and to comply with all of the other provisions of the Cooperative’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and all rules, regulations and rate schedules established pursuant thereto, as all the same then exist or may thereafter be duly adopted or amended (the obligations embraced by such agreement being hereinafter called “membership obligations”) – shall be made in writing on such form as is provided therefor by the Cooperative. With respect to any particular classification of service for which the Board of Directors shall require it, such application shall be accompanied by a supplemental contract, executed by the applicant on such form as is provided by the Cooperative. The membership application shall be accompanied by the membership fee provided for in Section 1.03, together with any service security deposit, service connection deposit or fee, facilities extension deposit, or contribution in aid of construction that may be required by the Cooperative, which fee and such service security deposit, service connection deposit or fee, facilities extension deposit, or contribution in aid of construction, if any, shall be refunded in the event the application is denied by Board resolution. Any former member of the Cooperative, by paying a new membership fee and any outstanding account plus accrued interest thereon at the Texas legal rate on judgments in effect when such account first became overdue, compounded annually, together with any service security deposit, service connection deposit or fee, facilities extension deposit, or contribution in aid of construction that may be required by the Cooperative, may renew and reactivate any prior application for membership to the same effect as though the application had been newly made on the date of such payment.

### **SECTION 1.03**

#### **Membership Fee; Service Security and Facilities Extension Deposits; Contribution in Aid of Construction**

The membership fee shall be as fixed from time to time by the Board of Directors. The membership fee, together with any service security deposit, service connection deposit or fee, facilities extension deposit, contribution in aid of construction or any combination thereof, if required by the Cooperative shall entitle the member to one service connection. A service connection deposit or fee, in such amount as shall be prescribed by the Cooperative, together with a service security deposit, a facilities extension deposit or a contribution in aid of construction or any combination thereof, if required by the Cooperative shall be paid by the member for each additional service connection requested by him.

### **SECTION 1.04**

#### **Joint Membership**

A husband and wife, unless otherwise requested in writing, will be accepted in to joint membership or, if one of them is already a member, will automatically convert such membership into a joint membership. The words "member", "applicant", "person", "his" and "him", as used in these Bylaws shall include a husband and wife applying for or holding a joint membership, unless otherwise clearly distinguished in the text; and all provisions relating to the rights, powers, terms, conditions, obligations, responsibilities, and liabilities of membership shall apply equally, severally and jointly to them. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing-

- (a) the presence at a meeting of either or both shall constitute the present of one member and joint waiver of notice of the meeting;
- (b) the vote of either or both shall constitute, respectively, one joint vote: PROVIDED, that if both be present but in disagreement on such vote, each shall cast only one-half (1/2) vote;
- (c) notice to, or waiver of notice signed by, either or both shall constitute, respectively, a joint notice of waiver of notice;
- (d) suspension or termination in any manner of either shall constitute, respectively, suspension or termination of the joint membership;
- (e) either, but not both concurrently, shall be eligible to serve as director of the Cooperative, but only if both meet the qualifications required therefor; and
- (f) neither will be permitted to have any additional service through their one joint membership.
- (h) joint members shall notify the Cooperative in writing of a cessation of the legally recognized relationship. Upon determining or discovering the cessation of the legally recognized relationship:
  - (1) if one joint member remains qualified to be a Member and continues to use a cooperative service at the same location, then the joint membership converts to a membership comprised of this person;

- (2) if more than one (1) joint member remains qualified to be a joint member and continues to use a cooperative service at the same location, then the joint membership converts to a membership comprised of these persons;
- (3) if all joint members remain qualified to be joint members and continue to use a cooperative service at the same location, then the joint membership converts to a membership of persons determined by Cooperative; and
- (4) if no joint member remains qualified to be a Member and continues to use a cooperative service at the same location, then the joint membership terminates.

## **SECTION 1.05**

### **Acceptance into Membership**

Upon complying with the requirements set forth in Section 1.02, any applicant shall automatically become a member on the date of his connection for electric service; PROVIDED, that the Board of Directors may by resolution deny an application and refuse to extend service upon its determination that the applicant is not willing or is not able to satisfy and abide by the Cooperative's terms and conditions of membership or that such application should be denied for other good cause consistent with the Cooperative Rules and Regulations filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

## **SECTION 1.06**

### **Purchase of Electric Power and Energy; Power Production by Member; Application of Payments to All Accounts**

The Cooperative shall make all reasonable efforts to furnish its members with adequate and dependable electric service, although it cannot and therefore does not guarantee a continuous and uninterrupted supply thereof; and each member, for so long as such premises are owned or directly occupied or used by him, shall purchase from the Cooperative all central station electric power and energy purchased for use on all premises to which electric service has been furnished by the Cooperative pursuant to his membership, unless and except to the extent that the Board of Directors may in writing waive such requirement, and shall pay therefor at the times, and in accordance with the rules, regulations, and rate schedules (including any monthly minimum amount that may be charged without regard to the amount of electric power and energy actually used) established by the Board of Directors and approved by the Public Utility Commission of Texas and, if in effect, in accordance with the provisions of any supplemental contract that may have been entered into as provided for in Section 1.02. Production or use of electric energy on such premises, regardless of the source thereof, by means of facilities which shall be interconnected with Cooperative facilities, shall be subject to appropriate regulations as shall be fixed from time to time by the Cooperative. Each member shall also pay all other amounts owed by him to the Cooperative as and when they become due and payable. When the member has more than one service connection from the Cooperative, any payment by him for service from the Cooperative, shall be deemed to allocated and credited on a pro rata basis to his outstanding accounts for all such service connections, notwithstanding that the Cooperative's actual accounting procedures do not reflect such allocation and pro-ration.

## **SECTION 1.07**

### **Member-Furnished Capital**

All amounts paid for electric service in excess of the cost thereof shall be furnished by members as capital, and each member shall be credited with the capital so furnished as provided in Article IX of these Bylaws.

## **SECTION 1.08**

### **Wiring of Premises; Responsibility Therefor; Responsibility for Meter Tampering or Bypassing and for Damage to Cooperative Properties; Extent of Cooperative Responsibility; Indemnification**

Each member shall cause all premises receiving electric service pursuant to his membership to become and to remain wired in accordance with the specifications of the National Electric Code, and applicable state code or local government ordinances, and of the Cooperative. **EACH MEMBER SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR – AND SHALL INDEMNIFY THE COOPERATIVE AND ITS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS AND INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS AGAINST DEATH, INJURY, LOSS OR DAMAGE RESULTING FROM ANY DEFECT IN OR IMPROPER USE OR MAINTENANCE OF – SUCH PREMISES AND ALL WIRING AND APPARATUSES CONNECTED THERETO OR USED THEREON.** Each member shall make available to the Cooperative a suitable site, as determined by the Cooperative, whereon to place the Cooperative’s physical facilities for the furnishing and metering of electric service and shall permit the Cooperative’s authorized employees, agents and independent contractors to have access thereto safely and without interference from hostile dogs or any other hostile source for meter reading, bill collecting and for inspection, maintenance, replacement, relocation, repair or disconnection of such facilities at all reasonable times. As part of the consideration for such service, each member shall be the Cooperative’s bailee of such facilities and shall accordingly desist from interfering with, impairing the operation of or causing damage to such facilities, and shall use his best efforts to prevent others from so doing. Each member shall also provide such protective devices to his premises, apparatuses or meter base as the Cooperative shall from time to time require in order to protect the Cooperative’s physical facilities and their operation and to prevent any interference with or damage to such facilities. In the event such facilities are interfered with, impaired in their operation or damaged by the member, or by any other person when the member’s reasonable care and surveillance should have prevented such, **THE MEMBER SHALL INDEMNIFY THE COOPERATIVE AND ITS EMPLOYEES, AGENTS AND INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS AGAINST DEATH, INJURY, LOSS OR DAMAGE RESULTING THERE FROM, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE COOPERATIVE’S COST OF REPAIRING, REPLACING OR RELOCATING ANY SUCH FACILITIES AND ITS LOSS, IF ANY, OF REVENUES RESULTING FROM THE FAILURE OR DEFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF ITS METERING EQUIPMENT.** The Cooperative shall, however, in accordance with its applicable service rules and regulations, adjust the member’s account for any overcharges for service that may result from a malfunctioning of its metering equipment or any error occurring in the Cooperative’s billing procedures. In no event shall the responsibility of the Cooperative for furnishing electric service extend beyond the point of delivery, which shall be defined as the “weather-head”. The Cooperative shall provide Cooperative Services to Members

in a reasonable manner. **THE COOPERATIVE, HOWEVER, DOES NOT INSURE, GUARANTEE, OR WARRANT THAT IT WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE, CONTINUOUS, OR NON-FLUCTUATING ELECTRIC ENERGY OR OTHER COOPERATIVE SERVICE. THE COOPERATIVE IS NOT LIABLE FOR DAMAGES, COSTS, OR EXPENSES, INCLUDING ATTORNEY FEES OR LEGAL EXPENSES, CAUSED BY THE COOPERATIVE PROVIDING INADEQUATE, NON-CONTINUOUS, OR FLUCTUATING ELECTRIC ENERGY OR OTHER COOPERATIVE SERVICE, UNLESS THE DAMAGES, COSTS, OR EXPENSES ARE CAUSED BY THE COOPERATIVE'S GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR WILLFUL MISCONDUCT.** The Cooperative's responsibility and liability for providing a Cooperative Service terminate upon delivery of the Cooperative Service to a Member.

#### **SECTION 1.09**

##### **Member to Grant Easements to Cooperative and to Participate in Required Cooperative Load Management Programs**

Each member shall, upon being requested so to do by the Cooperative, execute and deliver such lands owned or mortgaged to the member, and in accordance with such reasonable terms and conditions, as the Cooperative shall require for construction, operation, maintenance or relocation of the Cooperative's electric facilities for the furnishing of electric service to him. Each member shall participate in any required program and company with related rates and service rules and regulations to enhance load management, more efficiently to utilize or conserve electric energy, or to conduct load research.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **MEMBERSHIP SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION**

#### **SECTION 2.01**

##### **Suspension; Reinstatement**

Upon his failure, after the expiration of the time periods prescribed either in a specific notice to him or in the Cooperative's Public Utility Commission approved rules and regulations, to pay any amounts due the Cooperative or to cease any other non-compliance with his membership obligations, a person's membership shall automatically be suspended; and he shall not during such suspension be entitled to receive electric service from the Cooperative or to cast a vote at any meeting of the members. Payment of all amounts due the Cooperative, including any additional charges required for such reinstatement, and/or cessation of any other non-compliance with his membership obligations within the final time limit provided in such notice or rules and regulations shall automatically reinstate the membership, in which event the member shall thereafter be entitled to receive electric service from the Cooperative and to vote at the meetings of its members.

#### **SECTION 2.02**

##### **Termination by Expulsion; Renewed Membership**

Upon failure of a suspended member to be automatically reinstated to membership, as provided in Section 2.01, he may, without further notice, but only after due hearing if such is requested by him, be expelled by resolution of the Board of Directors at any subsequently held regular or special meeting of the Board. Any person so expelled may, by delivering written notice to that effect to the Cooperative at least ten (10) days prior to the next meeting of the members, appeal to and be present and heard at such meeting, which may vote approval of such expulsion or disapproval thereof, in which latter event such person's membership shall be reinstated retroactively to the date of his expulsion. After any finally effective expulsion of a member, he may not again become a member except upon new application therefore duly approved as provided in Section 1.05. The Board of Directors, acting upon principles of general application in such cases, may establish such additional terms and conditions for renewed membership as it determines to be reasonably necessary to assure the applicant's compliance with all his membership obligations.

### **SECTION 2.03**

#### **Termination by Withdrawal or Resignation**

A member may withdraw from membership upon such generally applicable conditions as the Board of Directors shall prescribe and upon either (a) ceasing to own or directly occupy or use all premises being furnished electric service pursuant to his membership, or (b) except when the Board of Directors specifically waives such condition, abandoning totally and permanently the use of central station electric service on such premises.

### **SECTION 2.04**

#### **Termination by Death or Cessation of Existence; Continuation of Membership in Remaining or New Partners**

Except as provided in Section 2.06, the death of an individual member shall automatically terminate his membership. The cessation of the legal existence of any other type of member shall automatically terminate such membership; PROVIDED, that upon the dissolution for any reason of a partnership, or upon the death, withdrawal or addition of any individual partner, such membership shall continue to be held by such remaining and/or new partner or partners as continue to own or directly to occupy or use the premises being furnished electric service pursuant to such membership in the same manner and to the same effect as though such membership had never been held by different partners: PROVEDDED FURTHER, that neither a withdrawing partner nor his estate shall be released from any debts then due the Cooperative.

### **SECTION 2.05**

#### **Effect of Termination**

Upon the termination in any manner of a person's membership, he or his estate, as the case may be, shall be entitled to refund of his membership fee (and to his service security deposit, if any, theretofore paid the Cooperative), less any amounts due the Cooperative; but neither he nor his estate, as the case may be, shall be released from any debts or other obligations then remaining due the Cooperative. Notwithstanding the suspension or expulsion of a member, as provided for in Sections 2.01 and 2.02, such suspension or expulsion shall not, unless the Board of Directors

shall expressly so elect, or unless the rules of the Public Utility Commission of Texas so allow, constitute such release of such person from his membership obligations as to entitle him to purchase from any other person any central station electric power and energy for use at the premises to which such service has theretofore been furnished by the Cooperative pursuant to such membership.

#### **SECTION 2.06**

##### **Effect of Death, Legal Separation, or Divorce upon a Joint Membership**

Upon the death of either spouse of a joint membership, such membership shall continue to be held solely by the survivor, in the same manner and to the same effect as though such membership had never been joint: PROVIDED, that the estate of the deceased spouse shall not be released from any debts due the Cooperative. Upon the legal separation or divorce of the holders of a joint membership, such membership shall continue to be held solely by the one who continues directly to occupy or sue the premises covered by such membership in the same manner and to the same effect as though such membership had never been joint: PROVIDED, that either spouse shall be released from any debts due the Cooperative, and service to the premises may be terminated in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Cooperative, if any bills for service to the premises are unpaid.

#### **SECTION 2.07**

##### **Board Acceptance of Members Retroactively**

Upon discovery that the Cooperative has been furnishing electric service to any person other than a member, it shall cease furnishing such service unless such person applies for, and the Board of Directors approved, membership retroactively to the date on which such person first began receiving such service, in which event the Cooperative, to the extent practicable, shall correct its membership and all related records accordingly.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **MEETING OF MEMBERS**

#### **SECTION 3.01**

##### **Annual Meeting**

For the purposes of electing directors, hearing and passing upon reports covering the previous fiscal year, and transacting such other business as may possible come before the meeting, the annual meeting of the members shall be held on a Saturday during the months of October or November each year, at such place in one of the counties in Texas within which the Cooperative is certified to render service, on such date and beginning at such hour, as the Board of Directors shall from year to year fix. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to make adequate plans and preparations for, and to encourage member attendance at, the annual meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time and place shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

## **SECTION 3.02**

### **Special Meetings**

A special meeting of the members may be called by the President, by resolution of the Board of Directors or a majority thereof, by any three (3) directors upon written request to the Board of Directors signed by all requesting directors, or by petition signed by not less than ten (10%) percent 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 in Section 3.03. Such a meeting shall be held at such place in one of the counties in Texas within which the Cooperative serves, on such date, not sooner than forty (40) days after the call for such meeting is made or a petition therefore is filed, and beginning at such hour as shall be designated by him or those calling or petitioning for the same.

## **SECTION 3.03**

### **Notice of Member Meetings**

Written or printed notice of the place, day and hour of the meeting and, in the case of a special meeting or of an annual meeting at which business requiring special notice is to be transacted, the purpose or purposes of the meeting shall be delivered to each member not less than ten (10) days nor more than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the President or the Secretary (and, in the case of a special meeting, at the direction of him or those calling the meeting). Any such notice delivered by mail may be included with member service billings or as an integral part of or with the Cooperative's monthly newsletter. No matter which, as provided by law, or by the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws requires the affirmative votes of at least a majority of all the Cooperative's members shall be acted upon at any meeting of the members unless notice of such matter shall have been contained in the notice of the meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the member at his address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereon prepaid and postmarked at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting date. In making such computation, the date of the meeting shall not be counted. The accidental and non-intended failure of any member to receive a notice deposited in the mail addressed to the member at his address as shown on the Cooperative's books shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at any such meeting, and the attendance in person of a member at any meeting of the members shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting unless such attendance shall be for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business, or one or more items of business, on the ground that the meeting shall not have been lawfully called or convened. Any member attending any meeting for the purpose of making such objection shall notify the Secretary prior to or at the beginning of the meeting of his objection.

The Cooperative shall maintain a record of current Members in a form permitting the Cooperative to: (1) alphabetically list the names and addresses of all Members; and (2) indicate the number of votes each Member is entitled to cast ("Membership List"). Except as otherwise



provided by these Bylaws or the Board, a person may not inspect, copy, or receive a copy of the Membership List or a similar list of Members.

Upon thirty (30) days prior written notice or request to the Cooperative, a Member who has been an unsuspended Member during the immediately preceding twelve (12) months may: (1) inspect and copy the Membership List at a reasonable time and location determined by the Cooperative; or (2) pay the Cooperative a reasonable charge determined by the Cooperative covering the labor and material cost of preparing and copying the Membership List, and the Cooperative must provide the Member a copy of the Membership List. A Member may inspect, copy, or receive a copy of the Membership List only if, as determined by the Cooperative: (1) the Member's notice or request is made in good faith and for a proper purpose; (2) the Member describes with reasonable particularity the purpose for which the Member will use the Membership List; and (3) the Membership List is directly connected with the Member's purpose. Except as otherwise provided by the Board, a Member may not: (1) use the Membership List for a purpose unrelated to the Member's interest as a Member; (2) use the Membership List to solicit money or property unless the money or property is used solely to solicit Member votes; (3) use the Membership List for a commercial purpose; or (4) sell the Membership List.

#### **SECTION 3.04**

##### **Quorum**

Business may not be transacted at any meeting of the members unless there are present in person at least one hundred (100) members, except that, if less than a quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of those present in person may without further notice adjourn the meeting to another time and date not less than forty (40) days later and to any place in one of the counties in Texas within which the Cooperative serves: PROVIDED, that the Secretary shall notify any absent members of the time, date, and place of such adjourned meeting by delivering notice thereof as provided in Section 3.03. At all meetings of the members, whether a quorum be present or not, the Secretary shall annex to the meeting minutes, or incorporate therein by reference, a list of those members who were registered as present in person.

#### **SECTION 3.05**

##### **Voting**

Each member who is not in a status of suspension, as provided for in Section 2.01, shall be entitled to only one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at any meeting of the members. Voting my members other than members who are natural persons shall be allowed upon the presentation to the Cooperative, prior to or upon registration at each member meeting, of satisfactory evidence entitling the person presenting the same to vote. At all meetings of the members, all questions shall be decided by a majority vote of the members voting thereon, except as otherwise provided by law or by the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws. Members may not cumulate their votes.

#### **SECTION 3.06**

##### **Proxies**

At all meetings of members, a member may vote by proxy executed in writing by the member. Such proxy shall be filed with the Secretary before or at the time of the meeting. No proxy shall be voted at any meeting of the members unless it shall designate the particular meeting at which it is to be voted, and no proxy shall be voted at any meeting other than the one so designated or any adjournment of such meeting. No member shall vote as proxy for more than one (1) member at any meeting of the members. No proxy shall be valid after sixty (60) days from the date of its execution. The presence of a member at a meeting of the members shall revoke a proxy theretofore executed by him and such member shall be entitled to vote at such meeting in the same manner and with the same effect as if he had not executed a proxy. In case of a joint membership, a proxy may be executed by either husband or wife. The presence of either husband or wife at a meeting of the members shall revoke a proxy theretofore executed by either of them and such joint member or members shall be entitled to vote at such meeting in the same manner and with the same effect as if a proxy had not been executed.

### **SECTION 3.07**

#### **Credentials and Election Committee**

The Board of Directors shall, at least ten (10) days before any meeting of the members, appoint a Credential and Election Committee. The Committee shall consist of an uneven number of members not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) who are not members of the Nominating Committee or existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors, or known candidates for director, and who are not close relatives (as hereinafter defined) or members of the same household of members of the Nominating Committee or existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors, or known candidates for director. In appointing the Committee, the Board shall have regard for the equitable representation of the several areas served by the Cooperative. The Committee shall elect its own chairman and secretary prior to the member meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the Committee to establish or approve the manner of conducting member registration and any ballot or other voting, to pass upon all questions that may arise with respect to the registration of members in person, to count all ballots or other votes cast in any election or in any other matter, to rule upon the effect of any ballots or other vote irregularly or indecisively marked or cast, to rule upon all other questions that may arise relating to member voting and the election of directors (including but not limited to the validity of petitions of nomination or the qualifications of candidates and the regularity of the nominating and election of directors), and to pass upon any protest or objection filed with respect to any election or to conduct affecting the results of any election. In the exercise of its responsibility, the Committee shall have available to it the advice of counsel provided by the Cooperative. In the event a protest or objection is filed concerning any election, such protest or objection must be filed during, or within three (3) business days following the adjournment of, the meeting in which the voting is conducted. The Committee shall thereupon be reconvened, upon notice from its chairman, not less than seven (7) days after such protest or objection is filed. The Committee shall hear such evidence as is presented by the protestor(s) or objector(s), who may be heard in person, by counsel, or both, and any opposing evidence; and the Committee, by a vote of a majority of those present and voting, shall, within a reasonable time but not later than thirty (30) days after such hearing, render its decision, the result of which may be to affirm the election, to change the outcome thereof, or to set it aside. The Committee may not affirmatively act on any matter unless a majority of the

Committee is present. The Committee's decision (as reflected by a majority of those actually present and voting) on all matters covered by this Section shall be final.

### **SECTION 3.08**

#### **Order of Business**

The order of business at the annual meeting of the members and, insofar as practicable or desirable, at all other meetings of the members shall be essentially as follows:

- (1) Report on the number of members present in person in order to determine the existence of a quorum;
- (2) Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due giving thereof, or of the waiver or waivers of notice of the meeting, as the case may be;
- (3) Reading of unapproved minutes of previous meeting of the members and the taking of necessary action thereon;
- (4) Presentation and consideration of reports of officers, directors, and committees;
- (5) Election of directors;
- (6) Unfinished business;
- (7) New business; and
- (8) Adjournment.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Directors or the members themselves may from time to time establish a different order of business for the purpose of assuring the earlier consideration of and action upon any item of business the transaction of which is necessary or desirable in advance of any other item of business: PROVIDED, that no business other than adjournment of the meeting to another time and place may be transacted until and unless the existence of a quorum is first established.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **DIRECTORS**

#### **SECTION 4.01**

##### **Number and General Powers**

The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board of nine (9) Directors. The Board shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law or by the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

#### **SECTION 4.02**

##### **Qualifications**

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative who is a close relative of an incumbent director or of an employee of the Cooperative, or is not a member in good standing of the Cooperative and receiving service there from at his primary residential abode: PROVIDED, that the operating or chief executive of any member which is not a natural person, such as a corporation, church, etc., or his designee, shall, notwithstanding that he does

not receive service from the Cooperative at his primary residential abode, be eligible to become a director, from the Directorate District in which such member is located, if he or such designee (1) is in substantial permanent occupancy, direction, or use of the premises serviced by the Cooperative, and (2) is a permanent and year-round resident within or in close proximity to an area served by the Cooperative; BUT PROVIDED FURTHER, that no more than one (1) such person may serve on the Board of Directors at the same time. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of, or to hold any other position of trust in, the Cooperative who is not at least eighteen (18) years of age or is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise, or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures, or supplies to, among others, the members of the Cooperative. Upon establishment of the fact that a nominee for director lacks eligibility under this Section or as may be provided elsewhere in these Bylaws, it shall be the duty of the chairman presiding at the meeting at which such nominee would otherwise be voted upon to disqualify such nominee. Upon the establishment of the fact that any person being considered for, or already holding, a directorship or other position of trust in the Cooperative lacks eligibility under this Section, it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to withhold such position from such person, or to cause him to be removed therefrom, as the case may be. Nothing contained in this Section shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors, unless such action is taken with respect to a matter which is affected by the provisions of this Section and in which one or more of the directors have an interest adverse to that of the Cooperative.

#### **SECTION 4.03**

##### **Election**

At each annual meeting of the members, directors shall be elected by a majority vote of those members present at the meeting in person or by proxy voting thereon, and, except as provided in the first provision of Section 4.02 of these Bylaws, from among those members who are natural persons.

#### **SECTION 4.04**

##### **Tenure**

Directors shall be so nominated and elected that one director from or with respect to each of nine (9) Directorate Districts shall be elected for three-year terms at the annual member meeting beginning with the year 1985. The same procedure will be followed for each successive year, so that there shall be at least four (4) different Board vacancies filled for a term of three (3) years. Upon their election, directors shall, subject to the provisions of these Bylaws with respect to the removal of directors, serve until the annual meeting of the members of the year in which their terms expire or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. If for any reason an election or directors shall not be held at an annual meeting of the members duly fixed and called pursuant to these Bylaws, such election may be held at an adjournment of such meeting or at a subsequently held special or the next annual meeting of the members. Failure of an election for a given shall allow the incumbents whose directorships would have been voted on to hold over only until the next member meeting at which a quorum is present.

## **SECTION 4.05**

### **Directorate Districts**

The territory served by the Cooperative shall be divided into nine (9) Directorate Districts. Each District shall be represented by one director.

Not less often than every five (5) years the Board of Directors, not less than ninety (90) days prior to the first date on which the annual membership meeting may be scheduled pursuant to these Bylaws to be held, shall review the districts and directorates and if determining that the districts should be altered as to boundaries, so as correct any substantially inequitable factors regarding the residence of members or the number of geographic location of districts, shall appropriately amend these Bylaws, giving due consideration to the equality of the representation of the members of the Cooperative. The Board of Directors shall cause all such amendments to be noticed in writing to the members by posting in the Cooperative's headquarters offices or by mail not less than ten (10) days prior to the date on which the committee on nominations for the next annual meeting shall first convene.

After the date of the notice of amendments, these Bylaws shall have been effectively amended accordingly: PROVIDED that, no such amendment shall become effective so as to cause the vacancy of any director's office prior to the time his term would normally expire unless he consents thereto in writing.

## **SECTION 4.06**

### **Nominations**

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than sixty (60) nor more than (90) days prior to the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a Committee on Nominations, consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members of the Cooperative who are not existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors, or known candidates for director, who are not close relatives (as hereinafter defined) or members of the same household of such existing employees, agents, officers, directors, or known candidates for director, and who are selected from different geographical sections so as to insure equitable representation, including at least three (3) members from the Directorate Districts to be filled at the election. The Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting a list of nominations for directors to be elected, listing separately the nominee(s) for each Directorate District from or with respect to which a director must, pursuant to this Article, be elected at the meeting. The Committee may include as many nominees for any director to be elected from or with respect to any Directorate District as it deems desirable. Any fifteen (15) or more members of the Cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures, listing their nominee(s) in like manner, not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the Committee is posted. The Secretary shall mail to the members with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting, a statement of the names and addresses of all nominee(s) for each Directorate District from or with respect to which one or more directors must be elected, showing clearly those nominated by the Committee and those

nominated by petitions, if any. At such meeting, all nominations so made shall be duly announced, and no further nominations shall be made or taken from the floor. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in the Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election of directors.

#### **SECTION 4.07**

##### **Voting for Directors; Validity of Board Action**

In the election of directors, each member shall be entitled to cast one vote for each director to be elected, which directors shall be elected by majority vote of the members at large present at the meeting in person or by proxy. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board or Directors after the election of directors.

#### **SECTION 4.08**

##### **Removal of Directors by Members**

Any member may bring one or more charges for cause against any one or more directors and may request the removal of such director(s) by reason thereof by filing with the Secretary such Charge(s) in writing together with a petition signed by not less than ten (10%) percent of the total membership of the Cooperative, which petition calls for a special member meeting, the stated purpose of which shall be to hear and act on such charges and, if one or more directors are recalled, to elect their successor(s) and specifies the place, time and date thereof not less than forty (40) days after filing of such petition, or which requests that the matter be acted upon at the subsequent annual member meeting if such meeting will be held no sooner than forty (40) days after the filing of such petition. Each page of the petition shall, in the forepart thereof, state the name(s) and address(es) of the member(s) filing such charge(s), a verbatim statement of such charge(s) and the name(s) of the director(s) against whom such charge(s) is (are) being made. The petition shall be signed by each member in the same name as he is billed by the Cooperative and shall state the signatory's address as the same appears on such billings. Notice of such charge(s) verbatim, of the director(s) against whom the charge(s) have been made, of the member(s) filing the charge(s) verbatim, of the director(s) against whom the charge(s) have been made, of the member(s) filing the charge(s) and the purpose of the meeting shall be contained in the notice of the meeting, or separately notice to the members no less than ten (10) days prior to the member meeting at which the matter will be acted upon: PROVIDED, that the notice shall set forth only twenty (20) of the names in alphabetical order of the members filing one or more charges if twenty (20) or more members file the same charge(s) against the same director(s). Such director(s) shall be informed in writing of the charges after they have been validly filed and at least twenty (20) days prior to the meeting of the members at which the charge(s) are to be considered, and shall have an opportunity at the meeting to be heard in person, by witnesses, by counsel or any combination of such, and to present evidence in respect of the charge(s); and person(s) bringing the charge(s) shall have the same opportunity, but must be heard first. The question of the removal of such director(s) shall, separately for each if more than one has been charged, be considered and voted upon at such meeting, and any vacancy created by such removal shall be filled by vote of the members at such meeting without compliance with the

foregoing provision with respect to nominations, except that nominations shall be made from the floor: PROVIDED, that the question of the removal of a director shall not be voted upon at all unless some evidence in support of the charge(s) against him shall have been presented during the meeting through oral statements, documents, or otherwise. A newly elected director shall be from or with respect to the same Directorate District as was the director whose office he succeeds and shall serve the unexpired portion of the removed director's term.

#### **SECTION 4.09**

##### **Vacancies**

Subject to the provision of these Bylaws with respect to the filling of vacancies caused by the removal of directors by the members, a vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors shall be filled by the Board of Directors. A director thus elected shall serve out the term of the director whose office was originally vacated and until a successor is elected and qualified: PROVIDED, that such a director shall be from or with respect to the same Directorate District as was the director whose office was vacated.

#### **SECTION 4.10**

##### **Compensation; Expenses**

Directors shall, as determined by resolution of the Board of Directors, receive, on a per diem basis, a fixed fee, which may include insurance benefits, (a) for attending meetings of the Board of Directors and, when such has had prior approval of the Board of Directors, (b) for the performance of other Cooperative business. The fee fixed for attending Board meetings need not be the same as the fee or fees fixed for performing other Cooperative business. Directors shall also receive advancement or reimbursement of any travel and out-of-pocket expenses actually, necessarily and reasonable incurred in attending such meetings and performing such business. No director shall receive compensation for service the Cooperative in any other capacity, nor shall any close relative of a director receive compensation for serving the Cooperative, unless the payment and amount of such compensation shall be specifically authorized by the Board of Directors upon their certification of such as an emergency measure: PROVIDED, that a director who is also an officer of the Board, and who as such officer performs regular or periodic duties of a substantial nature for the Cooperative in its fiscal affairs, may be compensated in such amount as shall be fixed and authorized in advance of such service by the Board of Directors.

#### **SECTION 4.11**

##### **Rules, Regulations, Rate Schedules, and Contracts**

The Board of Directors shall have power to make, adopt, amend, abolish, and promulgate such rules, regulations, rate schedules, contracts, security deposits, and any other types of deposits, payments or charges, including contributions in aid of construction, not inconsistent with law or the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws, as it may deem advisable for the management, administration and regulation of the business and affairs of the Cooperative.

#### **SECTION 4.12**

## **Accounting System Reports**

The Board of Directors shall cause to be established and maintained a complete accounting system of the Cooperative's financial operations and condition, and shall, after the close of each fiscal year, cause to be made a full, complete and independent audit of the Cooperative's accounts, books, and records reflecting financial operations during, and financial condition as of the end of, such year. A full and accurate summary of such audit reports shall be submitted to the members at or prior to the succeeding annual meeting of the members. The Board may authorize special audits, complete or partial, at any time and for any specified period of time.

### **SECTION 4.13**

#### **"Close Relative" Defined**

As used in these Bylaws, "close relative" means a person who, by blood or marriage, including half, foster, step, and adoptive kin, is a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother, or sister of the principal.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **MEETINGS OF DIRECTORS**

#### **SECTION 5.01**

##### **Regular Meetings**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held, without notice, immediately after the adjournment of the annual meeting of the members, or as soon thereafter of the members, or as soon thereafter as conveniently may be, at such site as designated by the Board in advance of the annual member meeting. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall also be held monthly at such date, time, and place in one of the counties in Texas within which the Cooperative serves as the Board shall provide by resolution. Such regular monthly meeting may be held without notice other than such resolution fixing the date, time and place thereof, except when business to be transacted thereat shall require special notice: PROVIDED, that any director absent from any meeting of the Board at which such a resolution initially determines or makes any change in the date, time, or place of a regular meeting shall be entitled to receive written notice of such determination or change at least five (5) days prior to the next meeting of the Board; AND PROVIDED FURTHER, that, if a policy therefor is established by the Board, the President may change the date, time, or place of a regular monthly meeting for good cause and upon not less than five (5) days' notice thereof to all directors. Without a Board Meeting, the Board may take an action required or permitted to be taken at a Board Meeting if the action is: (1) taken by all Directors; and (2) evidenced by one or more written consents ("Director Written Consent"): (A) describing the action taken; (B) signed by each Director; and (C) included with the Cooperative's Board Meeting minutes. Except as a different effective date is provided in the Director Written Consent, action taken by Director Written Consent is effective when the last Director signs the Director Written Consent. A Director Written Consent has the effect of, and may be described as, a Board Meeting vote.



**SECTION 5.02**  
**Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President, Board resolution, or by any three (3) directors, and it shall thereupon be the duty of the Secretary to cause notice of such meeting to be given as hereinafter provided in Section 5.03. The Board, the President, or the directors calling the meeting shall fix the date, time, and place for the meeting, which shall be held in one of the counties in Texas within which the Cooperative serves, unless all directors consent to its being held in some other place in Texas or elsewhere. Special meetings, upon proper notice as otherwise provided in Section 5.03, may also be held via telephone conference call, without regard to the actual location of the directors at the time of such a telephone conference meeting, if all the directors consent thereto.

**SECTION 5.03**  
**Notice of Directors Meetings**

Written notice of the date, time, place (or telephone conference call), and purpose of purposes of any special meeting of the Board and, when the business to be transacted thereat shall require such, if any regular meeting of the Board shall be delivered to each director not less than five (5) days prior thereto, either personally or by mail, by or at the direction of the Secretary or, by him or those calling it in the case of a special meeting or by any director in the case of a meeting whose date, time, and place have already been fixed by Board resolution. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the director at his address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with first class postage thereon prepaid, and postmarked at least five (5) days prior to the meeting date. The attendance of a director at any meeting of the Board shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting unless such attendance shall be for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business, or of one or more items of business, on the ground that the meeting shall not have been lawfully called or convened.

**SECTION 5.04**  
**Quorum**

The presence in person of a majority of the directors in office shall be required for the transaction of business and the affirmative votes of a majority of the directors present shall be required for any action to be taken: PROVIDED, that a director who by law or these Bylaws is disqualified from voting on a particular matter shall not, with respect to consideration of and action upon that matter, be counted in determining the number of directors in office or present; AND PROVIDED FURTHER, that, if less than a quorum be present at a meeting, a majority of the directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time, but shall cause the absent directors to be duly and timely notified of the date, time, and place of such adjourned meeting.

**ARTICLE VI**

## **OFFICERS: MISCELLANEOUS**

### **SECTION 6.01** **Number and Title**

The officers of the Cooperative shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, and such other officers as may from time to time be determined by the Board of Directors. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person.

### **SECTION 6.02** **Election and Term of Office**

The four officers named in Section 6.01 shall be elected by secret written ballot, if requested, or by oral vote, annually and without prior nomination, by and from the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board held after the annual meeting of the members. If the election of such officers shall not be held at such meeting, it shall be held as soon thereafter as conveniently may be. Each such officer shall hold office until the meeting of the Board first held after the next succeeding annual meeting of the members or until his successor shall have been duly elected and shall have qualified, subject to the provision of the Bylaws with respect to the removal of directors and to the removal of officers by the Board of Directors. Any other officers may be elected by the Board from among such persons, and with such title, tenure, responsibilities, and authorities, as the Board of Directors may from time to time deem advisable.

### **SECTION 6.03** **Removal**

Any officer, agent, or employee elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed By the Board whenever, in its judgment, the best interests of the Cooperative will thereby be served.

### **SECTION 6.04** **Vacancies**

A vacancy in any office elected or appointed by the Board of Directors shall be filled by the Board for the unexpired portion of the term.

### **SECTION 6.05** **President**

The President shall –

- (a) be the principal executive officer of the Cooperative and shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, and, unless determined otherwise by the Board of Directors, at all meetings of the members;
- (b) sign, with the Secretary, certificates of membership the issue of which shall have been authorized by resolution of the Board of Directors, and may sign andy 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, perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

#### **SECTION 6.06**

##### **Vice President**

In the absence of the President, or in the event of his 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 from time to time may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors.

#### **SECTION 6.07**

##### **Secretary**

The Secretary shall –

- (a) keep, or cause to be kept, the minutes of meetings of the members and of 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 certificates of membership prior to the issue thereof and to all documents the execution of which, on behalf of the Cooperative under its seal, is duly authorized in accordance with the provision of these Bylaws or is required by law;
- (d) keep, or cause to be kept, a register of the name and post office address of each member, which shall be furnished to the Cooperative by such member;
- (e) sign, with the President, certificates of membership the issue of which shall have been authorized by resolution of the Board of Directors;
- (f) have general charge of the books of the Cooperative in which a record of the members is kept;
- (g) keep on file at all times a complete copy of the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, together with all amendments thereto, which copies shall always be open to the inspection of any member, and, at the expense of the Cooperative, furnish a copy of such documents and of all amendments thereto upon request to any member; and
- (h) in general, perform all duties incident to the office of the Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors.

#### **SECTION 6.08**

##### **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 receipts for monies due and payable to the Cooperative from any source whatsoever, and deposit or invest all such monies in the name of the Cooperative in such bank of banks or in such financial institutions or securities as shall be selected in accordance with the provision 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 him by the Board of Directors.

## **SECTION 6.09**

### **Delegation of Secretary's and Treasurer's Responsibilities**

Notwithstanding the duties, responsibilities and authorities of the Secretary and of the Treasurer hereinbefore provided in Sections 6.07 and 6.08, the Board of Directors by resolution may, except as otherwise limited by law, delegate, wholly or in part, the responsibility and authority for, and the regular or routine administration of, one or more of each such officer's such duties to one or more agents, other officers or employees of the Cooperative who are not directors. To the extent that the Board does so delegate with respect to any such officer, that officer as such shall be released from such duties, responsibilities and authorities.

## **SECTION 6.10**

### **Manager; General Manager; Executive Vice President**

The Board of Directors may appoint a Manager, who may be, but who shall not be required to be, a member of the Cooperative, and who also may be designated General Manager or Executive Vice President and General Manager. Such officer shall perform such duties as the Board of Directors may from time to time require and shall have such authority as the Board of Directors may from time to time vest in him.

## **SECTION 6.11**

### **Bonds**

The Board of Directors shall require the Treasurer and any other officer, agent or employee 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. The costs of all such bonds shall be borne by the Cooperative.

## **SECTION 6.12**

### **Compensation; Indemnification**

The compensation, if any, of any officer, agent or employee who is also a director or close relative of a director shall be determined as provided in Section 4.10 of these Bylaws, and the powers, duties and compensation of any other officers, agents and employees shall be fixed or a

plan therefore approved by the Board of Directors. The Cooperative shall indemnify present and former directors, officers, including the Manager, (or, if so titled, the General Manager or the Executive Vice President and General Manager,) agents and employees against liability to the extent that their acts or omissions constituting the grounds for alleged liability were performed in their official capacity and, if actionable at all, were based upon good faith business judgments in the belief the acts or omissions were in the best interests of the Cooperative or were not against the best interests of the Cooperative. The Cooperative may purchase insurance to cover such indemnification.

### **SECTION 6.13**

#### **Reports**

The officers of the Cooperative shall submit at each annual meeting of the members reports covering the business of the Cooperative for the previous fiscal year and showing the condition of the Cooperative at the close of such fiscal year.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **CONTRACTS, CHECKS, AND DEPOSITS**

#### **SECTION 7.01**

##### **Contracts**

Except as otherwise provided by law or these Bylaws, the Board of Directors may authorize any Cooperative officer, agent or employee to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name and on behalf of the Cooperative, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

#### **SECTION 7.02**

##### **Checks, Drafts, Etcetera**

All checks, drafts, or other orders for the payment of money, and all notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness, issued in the name of the Cooperative, shall be signed or countersigned by such officer, agent, or employee of the Cooperative and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors.

#### **SECTION 7.03**

##### **Deposits; Investments**

All funds of the Cooperative shall be deposited or invested from time to time to the credit of the Cooperative in such bank or banks or in such financial securities or institutions as the Board of Directors may select.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES**

**SECTION 8.01**  
**Certificate of Membership**

Membership in the Cooperative shall be evidenced by a certificate of membership, which shall be in such form and shall contain such provisions as shall be determined by the Board of Directors not contrary to, or inconsistent with, the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation or its Bylaws. Such certificate shall be signed by the President and by the Secretary, and the seal shall be affixed thereto: PROVIDED, that the seal and the signatures of the President and the Secretary may be imprinted thereon by facsimile.

**SECTION 8.02**  
**Issue of Membership Certificates**

No membership certificate shall be issued for less than the membership fee fixed by the Board of Directors nor until such membership fee, any required service security deposits, facilities extension deposits, service connection fees, or contributions in aid of construction have been fully paid.

**SECTION 8.03**  
**Lost Certificate**

In a case of a lost, destroyed or mutilated certificate, a new certificate may be issued therefore upon such terms and such indemnity to the Cooperative as the Board of Directors may prescribe.

**ARTICLE IX**

**NON-PROFIT OPERATION**

**SECTION 9.01**  
**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 9.02**  
**Patronage Capital in Connection with Furnishing Electric Energy**

In the furnishing of electric energy the Cooperative's operations shall be so conducted that all patrons will, through their patronage, furnish capital for the Cooperative. In order to induce patronage and to assure that the Cooperative will operate 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 or operating costs 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 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 capital account of each patron, and the Cooperative shall within a reasonable time after the close of the fiscal year notify each patron of the amount of capital so credited to his account: PROVIDED, that individual notices of such amounts furnished by each patron shall not be required if the Cooperative notifies all patrons of the aggregate amount of such excess and provides a clear explanation of how each patron may compute and determine for himself the specific amount of capital so credited to him. 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 costs and expenses shall, insofar as permitted by law, be (a) used to offset any losses incurred during the current or any prior fiscal year and (b) to the extent not needed for the purpose, allocated to its patrons on a patronage basis, and any amount so allocated shall be included as a part of the capital credited to the accounts of patrons, as herein provided.

In the event of 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: PROVIDED, that insofar as gains may at that time be realized from the sale of any appreciated asset, such gains shall be distributed to all persons who were patrons during the period the asset was owned by the Cooperative in proportion to the amount of business done by such patron during that period, insofar as is practicable, as determined by the Board of Directors 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 that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby, the capital then credited to patron's accounts may be retired in full or in part. Any such retirements of capital shall be made in order of priority according to the year in which the capital was furnished and credited, the capital first received by the Cooperative being first retired: PROVIDED, however; that the Board of Directors shall have the power to adopt rules providing for the separated retirement of that portion ("power supply or other service or supply portion") of capital credited to the accounts of patrons which corresponds to the capital credited to the account of the Cooperative by an organization furnishing power supply or any other service or supply to the Cooperative. Such rules shall (a) establish a method for determining the portion of such capital credited to each patron for each applicable fiscal year, (b) provide for separate identification of the Cooperative's books of such portions of capital credited to the Cooperative's patrons, (c) provide for appropriate notification to patrons with respect to such portions of capital credited to their accounts and (d) preclude a general retirement of such portions of capital credited to patrons for any fiscal year prior to the general retirement of other capital credited to patrons for the same year or of any capital credited to patrons for any prior fiscal year.

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 a part of such patron's premises served by the Cooperative, unless the Board of Directors, acting under policies of general application, shall determine otherwise.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, the Board of Directors shall at its discretion have the power at any time upon the death of any patron who was a natural person (or, if as so provided for in the preceding paragraph, upon the death of an assignee of the capital credits of a patron, which assignee was a natural person), if the legal representatives of his estate shall request in writing that the capital so credited or assigned, as the case may be, be retired prior to the time such capital would otherwise be retired under the provisions of the Bylaws, to retire such capital immediately upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors, acting under policies of general application to situations of like kind, and such legal representatives, shall agree upon: PROVIDED, however, that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby.

The Cooperative, before retiring any capital credited to any patron's account, shall deduct therefrom any amount owing by such patron to the Cooperative, together with interest thereon at the Texas legal rate of judgments in effect when such amount became overdue, compounded annually.

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 9.03**

#### **Patronage Refunds in Connection with Furnishing Other Services**

In the event that the Cooperative should engage in the business of furnishing goods or services other than electric energy, all amount received and receivable therefrom which are in excess of costs and expenses properly chargeable against the furnishing of such goods or services shall, insofar as permitted by law, be prorated annually on a patronage basis and returned to those patrons from whom such amounts were obtained at such time and in such order of priority as the Board of Directors shall determine.

### **SECTION 9.04**

#### **Members Current Addresses; Contributions to Capital**

All persons to whom capital credits have been allocated shall keep the Cooperative informed of their current mailing addresses in order that the Cooperative may retire or refund capital credits, membership fees, deposits and any other amounts to such persons in accordance with the



Bylaws. If a member or former member fails to claim a retired capital credits amount and such amount becomes abandoned property under Chapters 72 and 74 of the Texas Property Code, then the Cooperative shall take such action as required by law, and may deliver such amount as permitted by law.

## ARTICLE X

### DISPOSITION AND PLEDGING OF PROPERTY: DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS ASSETS ON DISSOLUTION

Any member or director may waive, in writing, any notice of meetings required to be given by these Bylaws or any notice that may otherwise be legally required, either before or after such notice is required to be given.

## ARTICLE XI

### DISPOSITION AND PLEDGING OF PROPERTY: DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS ASSETS ON DISSOLUTION

#### **SECTION 11.01**

#### **Disposition and Pledging of Property**

- (a) Not inconsistently with subsection (b) hereof, the members of the Cooperative may, at a duly held meeting of the members, authorize the sale, lease, lease-sale, exchange, transfer or other disposition of all or a substantial portion of the Cooperative's property and assets by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of all members of the Cooperative. However, the Board of Directors, without authorization by the members, shall have full power and authority (1) to borrow monies from any sources and in such amounts as the Board may from time to time determine, (2) to mortgage or otherwise pledge to encumber any or all of the Cooperative's property or assets as security therefore, and (3) to sell, lease, lease-sell, exchange, transfer or otherwise dispose of merchandise, property no longer necessary or useful for the operation of the Cooperative, or less than a substantial portion of the Cooperative's property and assets. "Substantial portion" means ten (10%) percent or more of the Cooperative's total assets as reflected on its books at the time of the transaction.
- (b) Supplementary to the first sentence of the foregoing subsection (a) and any other applicable provisions of law or by these Bylaws, no sale, lease, lease-sale, exchange transfer or other disposition of all or a substantial portion of the Cooperative's property and assets shall be authorized except in conformity with the following:
  - (1) If the Board of Directors looks with favor upon any proposal for such sale, lease, lease-sale, exchange, transfer or other disposition, it shall first cause three (3) independent, non-affiliated appraisers, expert in such matters, to render their individual opinions as to the value of the Cooperative with respect to such a sale, lease, lease-sale, exchange, transfer or other disposition and as to any other terms and conditions which should be considered.

- (2) If the Board of Directors, after receiving such appraisals (and other terms and conditions which are submitted, if any), determines that the proposal should be submitted for consideration by the members, it shall first give every other rural electric cooperative corporations corporately sited and operating in Texas (which has not made such an offer for such sale, lease, lease-sale, exchange, transfer or other disposition) an opportunity to submit competing proposals. Such opportunity shall be in the form of a written notice to such rural electric cooperative corporations, which notice shall be attached to a copy of the proposal which the Cooperative has already received and copies of the respective reports of the three (3) appraisers. Such rural electric cooperative corporations shall be given not less than thirty (30) days during which to submit competing proposals, and the actual minimum period within which proposals are to be submitted shall be stated in the written notice given to them.
- (3) If the Board then determines the favorable consideration should be given to the initial or any subsequent proposal which had been submitted to it, it shall so notify the member not less than sixty (60) days before noticing a special meeting of the members thereon or, if such be the case, the next annual member meeting, expressing in detail each of any such proposals, and shall call a special meeting of the members for consideration thereof and action thereon or, if such be the case, the next annual member meeting, expressing in detail each of any such proposals, and shall call a special meeting of the members for consideration thereof and action thereon, which meeting shall be held not less nor more than (30) days after the giving of notice thereof to the members: PROVIDED, that consideration and action by the members may be given at the next annual member meeting if the Board so determines and if such annual meeting is held not less not more than thirty (30) days after the giving of notice of such meeting.
- (4) Any fifty (50) or more members, by so petitioning the Board not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of such special or annual meeting, may cause the Cooperative, with the cost to be borne by the Cooperative, to mail to all members any opposing or alternative positions which they may have to the proposals that have been submitted or any recommendations that the Board has made.

The provisions of this subsection (b) shall not apply to a sale, lease, lease-sale, exchange, transfer, or other disposition to one or more other rural electric cooperatives if the substantive effect thereof is to merge with such other one or more rural electric cooperative corporations or the actual legal effect thereof is to consolidate with such other one or more rural electric cooperative corporations.

## **SECTION 11.02**

### **Distribution of Surplus Assets on Dissolution**

Upon the Cooperative's dissolution, any assets remaining after all liabilities or obligations of the Cooperative have been satisfied and discharged shall, to the extent practicable, as determined by the Board of Directors, not inconsistently with the provisions of the third paragraph of Section

9.02 of these Bylaws, be distributed without priority but on a patronage basis among all persons who are member of the Cooperative at the time of filing the certificate of dissolution: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that, if in the judgment of the Board the amount of such surplus is too small to justify the expense of making such distribution, the Board may, in lieu thereof, donate, or provide for the donation of, such surplus to one or more non-profit charitable or educational organizations that are exempt from Federal income taxation.

## **ARTICLE XII** **FISCAL YEAR**

The Cooperative's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of the month of January of each year and end on the last day of the month of December following.

## **ARTICLE XIII** **RULES OF ORDER**

Parliamentary procedure at all meetings of the members, of the Board of Directors, of any committee provided for in these Bylaws and of any other committee of members or Board of Directors which may from time to time be duly established shall be governed by Robert's Rule of Order Newly Revised, 10<sup>th</sup> edition, except to the extent such procedure is otherwise determined by law or by the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation of Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XIV** **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, Texas."

## **ARTICLE XV** **AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Directors at any regular or special Board meeting. The notice of such meeting shall have contained a copy of the proposed alteration, amendment or repeal of an accurate summary explanation thereof.