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*This agenda item requires the approval of at least 12 Board members.

Executive Session
  1. Acquisition of Land Rights in Real County

  The Board may go into Executive Session to receive advice from legal counsel on any item listed above and discuss any real estate-related item listed above, pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

Legal Notice
  Legal notices are available on the Texas secretary of state website 72 hours prior to the meeting at www.sos.texas.gov/open/index.shtml.
OVERVIEW OF LCRA TRANSMISSION SERVICES CORPORATION

In connection with the implementation of retail competition in the electric utility industry in the state of Texas, LCRA was required by the Texas Legislature in its amendments to the Public Utility Regulatory Act (enacted in 1999 under state legislation known as Senate Bill 7, and referred to as SB 7) to unbundle its electric generation assets from its electric transmission and distribution assets. LCRA conveyed, effective Jan. 1, 2002, all of its existing electric transmission and transformation assets (collectively, the Transferred Transmission Assets) to the LCRA Transmission Services Corporation (LCRA TSC) pursuant to the terms of an Electric Transmission Facilities Contract (the Initial Contractual Commitment), dated Oct. 1, 2001.

LCRA TSC is a nonprofit corporation created by LCRA to act on LCRA’s behalf pursuant to Chapter 152, Texas Water Code, as amended. After Jan. 1, 2002, LCRA TSC engaged in the electric transmission and transformation activities previously carried out by LCRA and assumed LCRA’s obligation to provide, and the right to collect revenues for, electric transmission and transformation services. LCRA TSC is an electric transmission service provider (a TSP) under the state’s open-access electric transmission regulatory scheme within the approximately 85 percent area of the state covered by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). In such capacity, LCRA TSC is entitled to receive compensation from all electric distribution service providers using the electric transmission system within ERCOT. As a TSP in the ERCOT region of the state, the rates that LCRA TSC will charge for transmission services are regulated by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) and determined pursuant to transmission cost of service rate proceedings filed with and approved by the PUC.

Within the framework of SB 7, LCRA TSC implements the electric transmission business of LCRA, including the expansion of electric transmission services outside of LCRA’s traditional electric service territory. LCRA personnel are responsible for performing all of LCRA TSC’s activities pursuant to a services agreement between LCRA TSC and LCRA. This includes procuring goods and services on behalf of LCRA TSC and is reflected in the LCRA Board agenda contracts.

Under the LCRA Master Resolution, defined as the LCRA Board resolution governing LCRA’s outstanding debt, and certain provisions of state law, the LCRA Board is required to exercise control over all operations of LCRA TSC. This control includes approval of LCRA TSC’s business plan and of the sale or disposition of any significant assets of LCRA TSC. The Board of Directors of LCRA TSC (LCRA TSC Board) is appointed by and serves at the will of the LCRA Board. The current membership of LCRA TSC Board is made up entirely of the existing LCRA Board.

The LCRA TSC Board Policy on Authority and Responsibilities directs that the business plan of the affiliated corporation include for approval a schedule of capital projects proposed for the fiscal year. The policy also states that only deviations from the approved plan will be brought before the LCRA TSC Board. As such, the LCRA TSC Board agenda will not include consent items to approve specific capital projects, unless the project scope or budget changes significantly from what was originally approved.
FOR DISCUSSION

1. Comments From the Public

Summary
This part of the meeting is intended for comments from the public on topics under LCRA Transmission Services Corporation’s jurisdiction but not related to an item on the Board of Directors agenda. The Board may not take action or provide responses during public comments.

In order to address the Board, a member of the public is required to sign and complete the registration form at the entrance to the meeting room.

Any member of the public wishing to comment on an item listed on this agenda will be called upon to make comments at the appropriate time.

Please note: Each attendee will be required to wear a face covering in accordance with the Horseshoe Bay Resort policy.
2. Conveyance of Easement in Fayette County

Proposed Motion
Author the president and chief executive officer or his designee to convey to the City of Austin a transmission line easement containing 1.991 acres across a portion of LCRA Transmission Services Corporation’s Winchester Substation property in Fayette County.

Board Consideration
LCRA TSC Board Policy T401 – Land Resources requires the declaration, terms of conveyance and requests for easements across LCRA TSC land be approved by 12 members of the LCRA TSC Board of Directors.

Budget Status and Fiscal Impact
The administrative costs associated with the conveyance of this easement are contained in the fiscal year 2021 business plan.

Summary
In 2019, LCRA TSC had plans to expand the Winchester Substation. The City of Austin had an existing transmission line crossing a portion of the substation property, and LCRA TSC requested that Austin relocate the line to the northern part of the property. Austin relocated the line, and LCRA TSC completed the expansion. The proposed 1.991-acre easement will replace the previous easement Austin relocated for the benefit of LCRA TSC’s project. Since LCRA TSC requested the relocation, there will be no charge for the replacement easement.

LCRA TSC representatives will complete environmental and cultural resource due diligence assessments in accordance with Board Policy T401.403 – Land Disposition before the conveyance of the easement.

Exhibit(s)
A – Vicinity Map
B – Site Map
EXHIBIT A

Vicinity Map

Winchester Substation
Austin Energy Easement
Fayette County

Site Map Area of Detail

0 2 4 miles
FOR ACTION (CONSENT)

3. Minutes of Prior Meeting

Proposed Motion
Approve the minutes of the Oct. 21, 2020, meeting.

Board Consideration
Section 4.06 of the LCRA Transmission Services Corporation bylaws requires the secretary to keep minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors.

Budget Status and Fiscal Impact
Approval of this item will have no budgetary or fiscal impact.

Summary
Staff presents the minutes of each meeting to the Board for approval.

Exhibit(s)
A – Minutes of Oct. 21, 2020, meeting
EXHIBIT A

Minutes Digest
Oct. 21, 2020

20-29 Approval of the minutes of the Aug. 19, 2020, and Sept. 23, 2020, meetings.


No Action: Consent Item 3 – Sale of Land in Kendall County was pulled from the agenda.
Pursuant to notice posted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, the Board of Directors (Board) of LCRA Transmission Services Corporation (LCRA TSC) convened in a regular meeting at 1:42 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020, in the Board Room of the Hancock Building, at the principal office of the Lower Colorado River Authority, 3700 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin, Travis County, Texas. The following directors were present, constituting a quorum:

Timothy Timmerman, Chair
Stephen F. Cooper, Vice Chair
Michael L. “Mike” Allen
Lori A. Berger
Laura D. Figueroa [attended via videoconference]
Raymond A. “Ray” Gill Jr.
Charles B. “Bart” Johnson [attended via videoconference]
Thomas L. “Tom” Kelley
Thomas Michael Martine
George W. Russell
Margaret D. “Meg” Voelter
Martha Leigh M. Whitten
Nancy Eckert Yeary

Absent: Joseph M. “Joe” Crane
Robert “Bobby” Lewis

Due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with the governor’s disaster declaration and subsequent temporary suspension of certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act, the public was not allowed to attend this meeting in person but had access to the open session portions of this meeting via livestream and via telephone for comment.

Chair Timmerman convened the meeting at 1:42 p.m. and led the Board in pledges of allegiance to the American and Texas flags. Director Whitten provided an invocation.

There were no public comments during the meeting [Agenda Item 1].

Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Kristen Senechal gave the Board an update. She highlighted one of LCRA’s core values – focus on service and shared a recent story about a Transmission employee’s service outside of the workplace. Senechal also highlighted the Continuous Improvement Program and recognized...
individual employees for their commitment and contributions to improvement in the areas of safety, efficiency and reliability through the program this year.

Controller Julie Rogers presented financial highlights covering September 2020 and fiscal year-to-date [Agenda Item 2].

The Board next took action on the revised consent agenda. Chair Timmerman noted Consent Item 3 – Sale of Land in Kendall County was pulled from the agenda by staff.

20-29 Upon motion by Director Johnson, seconded by Director Voelter, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the Aug. 19, 2020, and Sept. 23, 2020, meetings [Consent Item 4] by a vote of 13 to 0.

20-30 Vice President of Transmission Asset Optimization Kristian M. Koellner presented for consideration a staff recommendation, described in Agenda Item 5 [attached hereto as Exhibit A], that the Board approve the Capital Improvement Project Authorization Request for the following projects and associated lifetime budgets: Eckert-Nebo Transmission Line Overhaul, Flood Mitigation – FY 2021 System Upgrade, Lockhart Circuit Breaker Addition, and Obsolete Circuit Breaker Replacement – FY 2021 Substation Upgrade. Upon motion by Director Allen, seconded by Director Russell, the recommendation was unanimously approved by a vote of 13 to 0.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Thomas E. Oney
Secretary
LCRA Transmission Services Corporation

Approved: Dec. 15, 2020
FOR ACTION

4. LCRA Transmission Services Corporation Board Policy T301 – Finance

Proposed Motion
Approve amendments to LCRA Transmission Services Corporation Board Policy T301 – Finance as attached in Exhibit A.

Board Consideration
Board of Directors approval is required for any changes to LCRA TSC Board policies.

Budget Status and Fiscal Impact
Approval of this item will have no budgetary or fiscal impact.

Summary
Staff recommends amendments to LCRA TSC Board Policy T301 – Finance to make permanent the authority the Board previously granted to the president and chief executive officer on a temporary basis to approve additional funding for any capital project that exceeds its lifetime budget. If the change is approved, the president and CEO’s authority will be limited to those instances in which the additional funding will not cause total capital expenditures to exceed the approved capital plan or materially adversely impact business planning assumptions. The policy change also requires a quarterly report to the Board on all such projects that require additional funding.

The proposed changes to the policy also include several nonsubstantive edits.

Presenter(s)
Kristen Senechal
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Exhibit(s)
A – Proposed Amendments to LCRA TSC Board Policy T301 – Finance
EXHIBIT A

LCRA TRANSMISSION SERVICES CORPORATION BOARD POLICY

T301 – FINANCE

Feb. 19 Dec. 15, 2020

T301.10 PURPOSE

This policy provides a framework from which the LCRA Transmission Services Corporation (LCRA TSC), an affiliated corporation of LCRA, will maintain financial integrity while serving the long-term interests of ratepayers and other constituencies. LCRA TSC recognizes that maintaining financial integrity is critical to accomplishing its goals and discharging its responsibilities. This policy establishes processes to be used by the LCRA TSC Board of Directors (Board) to define the strategic plan for LCRA TSC and to approve specific program goals, objectives and associated budgets.

T301.20 DEFINITIONS

Business Plan – The business plan is the document approved by the LCRA TSC Board (Board) annually that establishes the Board’s goals and priorities. The business plan includes operating and capital budgets, as well as projections of LCRA TSC’s overall financial performance and capital financing plans. It describes the categories of projects, products and services that support the associated revenues and expenditures over a five-year period.

Debt Service Coverage (Coverage) – Debt service coverage is the ratio of that fiscal year’s ending total revenues minus total operating and maintenance expenses (net of depreciation, amortization, and other revenue and expense exclusions resulting from prior period funding), divided by scheduled debt service on all obligations as approved in the business plan.

Equity Ratio (Ratio) – The calculation is the ratio of total equity divided by total assets.

Fixed-Rate Debt – Fixed-rate debt consists of coupon securities that have a scheduled maturity or mandatory sinking fund redemption date. Fixed-rate debt that has been synthetically converted to variable-rate debt via a derivative instrument will be classified as variable-rate debt for the term of the derivative instrument.

Operating and Maintenance Expenses – Operating and maintenance expenses consist of all reasonable and necessary costs and expenses incurred in the operation and maintenance of the LCRA TSC system.
Variable-Rate Debt – Variable-rate debt consists of securities on which the interest rate varies over time (a) based on an index or formula such as variable-rate demand notes or auction rate bonds, or (b) because the securities are sold in the short-term market (with a maturity not exceeding 270 days), such as commercial paper.

**T301.30 FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES**

In seeking to fulfill its commitment to ratepayers and public service objectives, LCRA TSC will maintain a high level of financial stability and will not compromise long-term financial integrity to achieve short-term benefits.

The chief executive officer (CEO) is authorized to engage financial service providers and other related professional service providers if deemed necessary and appropriate by the CEO in consultation with the chief financial officer, considering the expertise and cost of any such service provider. The CEO will provide an annual report to the Board listing all contracts into which LCRA TSC entered pursuant to this paragraph.

**T301.301 Debt Service Coverage.** To provide a margin of safety in LCRA TSC’s financial affairs, revenue levels will be set in accordance with rules and regulations of the Public Utility Commission of Texas to provide necessary funding of operating reserves and the capital program and to ensure that debt service coverage exceeds the minimum level of 1.25x required in the bond resolution. Higher levels of coverage will be appropriate in periods of rapid growth and capital investment and to mitigate possible regulatory lag. In the event that overall debt service coverage is projected to be below 1.25x for any fiscal year, the Board will promptly implement a plan, to be recommended by staff, which could include rate proceedings, cost reductions or other means to achieve a debt service coverage ratio of 1.25x.

This policy level of debt service coverage shall be reviewed each year in conjunction with the preparation of the business plan. Revenue levels will be evaluated in consideration of, but not limited to, bond ratings, capital funding requirements, current business conditions, economic projections and load-growth assumptions, delays inherent in the regulatory process, operating reserve requirements, and the projected size and frequency of necessary rate adjustments. Rates will be established to produce appropriate revenue levels commensurate with specific economic, regulatory, contractual and other risk factors that are adequate to cover operating and maintenance expenses, debt service, covenanted debt service reserves, liquidity requirements, and equity funding for the capital program.

**T301.302 Rates.** LCRA TSC will use commercially reasonable efforts to obtain regulatory approval of rates and prices that cover the cost of specific services, allow it to be self-supporting, and provide a stable and predictable flow of revenues. Rate adjustments, as needed to maintain appropriate levels of revenue, will be reasonably structured to achieve these goals. These revenues will be adequate to cover operating and maintenance expenses (including funding statutory requirements of LCRA), debt service, equity funding for the capital program, and operating reserve requirements.
Rates for electric transmission and transformation services are regulated by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

T301.303 Sources of Financing. LCRA TSC will use a combination of equity and debt to finance capital additions such that both current and future ratepayers are allocated an equitable portion of the costs. LCRA TSC may borrow for capital projects when it is appropriate to spread the cost of capital assets over their useful lives.

The issuance of debt requires an affirmative vote of a majority of the Board. LCRA TSC will not issue debt for working capital items. Pursuant to state law, the LCRA Board of Directors must approve any financing or other obligations.

As appropriate, LCRA TSC will evaluate mechanisms to restructure or refinance debt. LCRA TSC will continually evaluate alternatives to conventional financing to lower the overall cost of capital for ratepayers.

LCRA TSC may structure debt such that the average maturity of the debt approximates the average life of the assets financed; however, debt issues may be structured with a shorter average maturity if economically justified. LCRA TSC will build equity that will maintain appropriate access to capital markets and is consistent with regulatory guidance. While LCRA TSC may be highly leveraged during periods of rapid growth, LCRA TSC business plans will specifically address the accumulation of equity to achieve and maintain a minimum long-term equity position of 20%.

T301.304 Variable-Rate Financing. LCRA TSC may use variable-rate debt to provide flexibility in its overall capital program and to manage its overall interest rate exposure.

The variable-rate limit is 25% of total capitalization, long-term debt plus total equity as presented periodically in LCRA TSC’s financial statements.

T301.305 Operating Reserves. In addition to any debt service reserve funds required by bond resolutions governing LCRA TSC’s debt, LCRA TSC will build and maintain appropriate target levels of operating reserves as follows:

Six months of average debt service on all outstanding LCRA TSC debt and other obligations to LCRA, and two months of average operating and maintenance expenses, including those billed by LCRA.

The portion of operating reserves relating to debt service on LCRA TSC’s contractual obligation to LCRA will be maintained on LCRA’s books of record, and may be changed from time to time as the contractual commitment changes. The portion of operating reserves relating to stand-alone financing by LCRA TSC may be funded with excess revenues or substituting such reserves with surety bonds or other insurance.

If at any time the level of reserves are less than the target levels set forth in this policy, the Board will promptly implement a plan, to be recommended by staff, to increase rates,
reduce costs, or otherwise cause there to be sufficient revenues to replenish the level of reserves to such target levels within 12 months.

To the extent that:
   a) payments pursuant to contractual commitments are current;
   b) debt service payments are current; and
   c) operating and debt service reserves are funded,
the Board may declare and distribute remaining revenues to LCRA, subject to conditions and limitations agreed to by LCRA TSC in connection with regulatory proceedings of the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

**T301.306 Alternative Financing.** As appropriate, LCRA TSC will evaluate mechanisms to restructure or refinance debt. LCRA TSC will continually evaluate alternatives to conventional financing to obtain the lowest overall cost of capital for ratepayers.

**T301.307 Investment Policy.** LCRA TSC hereby adopts and incorporates by reference the Banking and Investments policy of LCRA with respect to all investments of LCRA TSC.

**T301.308 Insurance.** LCRA TSC acknowledges that property and casualty insurance may be unavailable for the facilities and operations of the transmission and transformation business. In this regard, LCRA TSC will use operating reserves held from time to time by LCRA TSC to provide self-insurance against these types of property and casualty risks. Additionally, LCRA TSC may use the proceeds of short-term borrowings to fund any such losses.

**T301.40 PLANNING**

**Business Plan:** LCRA TSC will prepare a business plan to be submitted for LCRA TSC Board and LCRA Board approval before the start of each fiscal year. The business plan will include the organization’s goals and objectives and will describe the project categories, products and services that comprise a five-year forecast for:

- Operating and maintenance expenses.
- Capital expenditures.
- Capital funding sources.
- Debt service requirements.

Adoption of the business plan authorizes the CEO to complete work plans and make associated expenditures within the budget as provided for in accordance with Board policies. The resolution adopting the business plan will authorize the capital and operating budgets for the upcoming fiscal year. The Board will approve lifetime budgets for individual projects throughout the fiscal year. The resolution adopting the business plan also will include guidelines for authorizing capital spending and reporting requirements for business plan results.
If annual expenditures for operations or capital are expected to exceed Board-authorized levels, additional approval from the Board will be required, except as otherwise provided below. Staff will provide sufficient support for the additional funding request and provide analysis for impacts on current and future rates.

For any project not previously authorized by the Board, authority is delegated to the CEO to approve any capital project with a lifetime budget not to exceed $1.5 million. The CEO also is delegated authority to approve all capital projects associated with generation interconnection projects not previously authorized by the Board, in each case only after the generator has provided appropriate financial security to LCRA TSC for its expenses. Prior to the approval of any generation interconnection capital project, the CEO shall consult with the chief financial officer and chief operating officer. Such approval by the CEO will meet the official intent requirements set forth in Section 1.150-2 of the IRS Treasury Regulations. These delegations will apply only when such approval does not cause total capital expenditures to exceed the approved capital plan or materially adversely impact business planning assumptions. In such a situation, Board approval will be required. Staff will communicate any CEO-approved projects to the Board on a quarterly basis. If Board approval is required, staff will communicate to the Board the funding source and rate impact of any new project when Board approval is requested. A new project may require an amendment to the existing capital plan or be managed within the previously authorized annual spending limits.

The CEO may approve additional funding for an approved capital project that is expected to exceed its lifetime budget, so long as such additional funding does not cause total capital expenditures to exceed the approved capital plan or materially adversely impact business planning assumptions, by 10% and $300,000, additional funding approval from the Board will be required. Approval of a new capital plan may reset the project’s lifetime budget.

Quarterly Business Plan Update: The CEO will provide quarterly updates that include indicators of year-to-date operational and financial performance, progress toward key goals, CEO-approved additional capital project funding, and financial performance projections.

FOR ACTION

5. Capital Improvement Projects Approval

Proposed Motion
Approve the Capital Improvement Project Authorization Request for the projects and associated lifetime budgets as described in Exhibit A.

Board Consideration
LCRA Transmission Services Corporation Board Policy T301 – Finance requires Board of Directors approval for any project exceeding $1.5 million or any previously approved project expected to exceed its lifetime budget by 10% and $300,000.

Budget Status and Fiscal Impact
- All projects recommended for Board approval are within the total annual budget approved in the fiscal year 2021 capital plan.
- Staff will monitor the FY 2021 forecast and will request a fiscal year budget increase if needed. The treasurer and chief financial officer will release funds as needed.
- Project costs will be funded through LCRA TSC regulated rates, subject to approval by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

Summary
Staff recommends approval of the capital projects described in Table 1 and Exhibit A. These projects meet legal requirements in the Public Utility Regulatory Act and PUC rules. Project funds will pay for activities, including but not limited to project management, engineering, materials acquisition, construction and acquisition of necessary land rights. LCRA TSC representatives also will perform all necessary regulatory, real estate, environmental and cultural due diligence activities.

Table 1

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<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Previous Fiscal Years</th>
<th>FY 2021</th>
<th>FY 2022</th>
<th>FY 2023</th>
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Requested Total: $1.6 $9.8 $32.6 $ - $ - $ - $ 43.9

Presenter(s)
Kristian M. Koellner
Vice President, Transmission Asset Optimization

Exhibit(s)
A – Project Details
EXHIBIT A

Project Approvals Sought

Project Name: Hortontown Substation Upgrade
Project Number: 1023193
Lifetime Budget: $5 million
Description: The project will improve transmission service reliability to the Hortontown Substation in Comal County by converting the existing high-voltage configuration from a single breaker and bus to a ring bus configuration that allows staff to maintain the substation and isolate transmission system faults more effectively. The project’s scope also includes relocating the power transformer to the 138-kilovolt bus, installing a 138-kV ground grid, and installing telecommunications and relaying equipment at Hortontown Substation and Comal Substation. The recommended project completion date is May 15, 2022.

Project Name: Physical Security – FY 2021 Substation Upgrade
Project Number: 1022804
Lifetime Budget: $13.4 million
Description: The project will improve transmission grid security by implementing standard physical security measures and related telecommunications system improvements for 10 LCRA TSC-owned substations in various counties throughout LCRA TSC’s service area. This project also will include improvements to the central alarm system by installing physical security system management software. The recommended project completion date is June 30, 2022.

Project Name: Protective Relaying – FY 2021 System Upgrade
Project Number: 1023198
Lifetime Budget: $5.4 million
Description: The project will ensure compliance with new North American Electric Reliability Corporation reliability standards and increase the safety and reliability of transmission facilities at 10 substations located in various counties throughout LCRA TSC’s service area. The project’s scope includes replacing obsolete relays with new microprocessor-based relays and upgrading associated communications equipment. The recommended project completion date is May 15, 2022.

Project Name: Red Rock to Tahitian Village Transmission Line Overhaul
Project Number: 1020858
Lifetime Budget: $15.7 million
Description: The project will improve transmission system reliability on the 12.6-mile, 138-kV T153 Red Rock to Tahitian Village transmission line in Bastrop County by replacing conductor and structures with 138-kV-capable components that meet the latest design standards and installing new 72-count optical ground wire fiber optic cabling. The recommended project completion date is May 15, 2022.
**Project Name:** Warda to Winchester Transmission Line Upgrade  
**Project Number:** 1023202  
**Lifetime Budget:** $4.5 million  
**Description:** The project will increase transmission system capacity and avoid thermal overload on the 4.1-mile, 138-kV T170 Warda to Winchester transmission line in Fayette County by replacing conductor and structures as necessary to achieve a minimum 580-megavolt ampere rating. The project scope also includes adding telecommunications, relaying equipment and new 72-count optical ground wire fiber optic cabling. The recommended project completion date is May 15, 2021.