

## **BYLAWS OF BIG COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

These Bylaws (referred to as the "Bylaws") govern the affairs of Big Country Development Corporation, a nonprofit corporation (referred to as the "Corporation") organized under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act (referred to as the "Act").

### **ARTICLE 1**

#### **OFFICES**

##### **Principal Office**

**1.01.** The principal office of the Corporation in the State of Texas shall be located at 1010 West South 1<sup>st</sup> Street, PO Box 518, Roby, Texas 79543. The Corporation may have such other offices, either in Texas or elsewhere, as the Board of Directors may determine. The Board of Directors may change the location of any office of the Corporation.

##### **Registered Office and Registered Agent**

**1.02.** The Corporation shall comply with the requirements of the Act and maintain a registered office and registered agent in Texas. The registered office may, but need not, be identical with the Corporation's principal office in Texas. The Board of Directors may change the registered office and the registered agent as provided in the Act.

### **ARTICLE 2**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

##### **Management of the Corporation**

**2.01.** The affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by the Board of Directors.

##### **Number, Qualifications, and Tenure of Directors**

**2.02.** The individuals serving as Directors of Big Country Development Corporation shall be the same individuals who are serving as Directors of Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc.

##### **Annual Meeting**

**2.03.** The annual meeting of the Board of Directors may be held without notice other than these Bylaws. The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held on the same day as the first regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc. following the Cooperative's annual meeting.

##### **Regular Meetings**

**2.04.** The Board of Directors may provide for regular meetings by resolution stating the

time and place of such meetings. The meetings may be held either within or without the State of Texas and shall be held at the Corporation's registered office in Texas if the resolution does not specify the location of the meetings. No notice of regular meetings of the Board is required other than a resolution of the Board of Directors stating the time and place of the meetings.

### **Special Meetings**

**2.05.** Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of the president or any two (2) directors. A person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board of Directors may fix any place within or without Texas as the place for holding a special meeting. The person or persons calling a special meeting shall notify the secretary of the information required to be included in the notice of the meeting. The secretary shall give notice to the directors as required in the Bylaws.

### **Notice**

**2.06.** Written or printed notice of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be delivered to each director not less than five nor more than thirty days before the date of the meeting. The notice shall state the place, day, and time of the meeting, who called the meeting, and the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called.

### **Quorum**

**2.07.** A majority of the number of directors then in office shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Board of Directors. The directors present at a duly called or held meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to transact business even if enough directors leave the meeting so that less than a quorum remains. However, no action may be approved without the vote of at least a majority of the number of directors required to constitute a quorum. If a quorum is present at no time during a meeting, a majority of the directors present may adjourn and reconvene the meeting one time without further notice.

### **Duties of Directors**

**2.08.** Directors shall exercise ordinary business judgment in managing the affairs of the Corporation. In acting in their official capacity as directors of this Corporation, directors shall act in good faith and take actions they reasonably believe to be in the best interests of the Corporation and that are not unlawful. In all other instances, the Board of Directors shall not take any action that they should reasonably believe would be opposed to the Corporation's best interests or would be unlawful. A director shall not be liable if, in the exercise of ordinary care, the director acts in good faith relying on written financial and legal statements provided by an accountant or attorney retained by the Corporation.

### **Actions of Board of Directors**

**2.09.** The Board of Directors shall try to act by consensus. However, the vote of a majority of directors present and voting at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be sufficient to constitute the act of the Board of Directors unless the act of a greater number is required by law or the bylaws. A director who is present at a meeting and abstains from a vote is considered to be present and voting for the purpose of determining the decision of the Board of Directors.

### **Proxies**

**2.10.** A director may not vote by proxy.

### **Compensation**

**2.11.** Directors shall not receive salaries for their services. The Board of Directors may adopt a resolution providing for payment to directors of a fixed sum and expenses of attendance, if any, for attendance at each meeting of the Board of Directors. A director may serve the Corporation in any other capacity and receive compensation for those services. Any compensation that the Corporation pays to a director shall be commensurate with the services performed and reasonable in amount.

## **ARTICLE 3**

### **OFFICERS**

#### **Officer Positions**

**3.01.** The officers of the Corporation shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person.

#### **Election and Term of Office**

**3.02.** The officers of the Corporation shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors at the regular annual meeting of the Board of Directors. If the election of officers is not held at this meeting, the election shall be held as soon thereafter as conveniently possible. Each officer shall hold office until a successor is duly selected and qualified. An officer may be elected to succeed himself or herself in the same office.

#### **Removal**

**3.03.** Any officer elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board of Directors with good cause. The removal of an officer shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the officer.

#### **Vacancies**

**3.04.** A vacancy in any office may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the officer's term.

#### **President**

**3.05.** The president shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation. The president shall supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the Corporation. The president shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors. The president may execute any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments that the Board of Directors have authorized to be executed. However, the president may not execute instruments on behalf of the Corporation if this power is expressly delegated to another officer or agent of the Corporation by the Board of Directors, the bylaws, or statute. The president shall perform other duties prescribed by the Board of Directors and all duties incident to the

office of the president.

### **Vice President**

**3.06.** When the president is absent, is unable to act, or refuses to act, a vice president shall perform the duties of the president. When a vice president acts in place of the president, the vice president shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the president. If there is more than one vice president, the vice president shall act in place of the president in the order of the votes received when elected. A vice president shall perform other duties as assigned by the president or board of directors.

### **Treasurer**

**3.07.** The treasurer shall:

- (a) Have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the Corporation.
- (b) Receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to the Corporation from any source.
- (c) Deposit all moneys in the name of the Corporation in banks, trust companies, or other depositories as provided in the bylaws or as directed by the Board of Directors or president.
- (d) Write checks and disburse funds to discharge obligations of the Corporation.
- (e) Maintain the financial books and records of the Corporation.
- (f) Prepare financial reports at least annually.
- (g) Perform other duties as assigned by the president or by the Board of Directors.
- (h) If required by the Board of Directors, give a bond for the faithful discharge of his or her duties in a sum and with a surety as determined by the Board of Directors.
- (i) Perform all of the duties incident to the office of treasurer.

### **Secretary**

**3.08.** The Secretary shall:

- (a) Give all notices as provided in the bylaws or as required by law.
- (b) Take minutes of the meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors and keep the minutes as part of the corporate records.
- (c) Maintain custody of the corporate records and of the seal of the Corporation.
- (d) Affix the seal of the Corporation to all documents as authorized.

(e) Keep a register of the mailing address of each director, officer, and employee of the Corporation.

(f) Perform duties as assigned by the president or by the Board of Directors.

(g) Perform all duties incident to the office of secretary.

## **ARTICLE 4**

### **TRANSACTIONS OF THE CORPORATION**

#### **Contracts**

**4.01.** The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or agent of the Corporation to enter into a contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation. This authority may be limited to a specific contract or instrument or it may extend to any number and type of possible contracts and instruments.

#### **Deposits**

**4.02.** All funds of the Corporation shall be deposited to the credit of the Corporation in banks, trust companies, or other depositaries that the Board of Directors selects.

#### **Gifts**

**4.03.** The Board of Directors may accept on behalf of the Corporation any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise for the general purposes or for any special purpose of the Corporation. The Board of Directors may make gifts and give charitable contributions that are not prohibited by the bylaws, the articles of incorporation, state law, and any requirements for maintaining the Corporation's federal and state tax status.

#### **Potential Conflicts of Interest**

**4.04.** The Corporation shall not make any loan to a director or officer of the Corporation. A director, or officer of the Corporation may lend money to and otherwise transact business with the Corporation except as otherwise provided by the bylaws, articles of incorporation, and all applicable laws. Such a person transacting business with the Corporation has the same rights and obligations relating to those matters as other persons transacting business with the Corporation. The Corporation shall not borrow money from or otherwise transact business with a director, or officer of the Corporation unless the transaction is described fully in a legally binding instrument and is in the best interests of the corporation. The Corporation shall not borrow money from or otherwise transact business with a director, or officer of the Corporation, without full disclosure of all relevant facts and without the approval of the Board of Directors not including the vote of any person having a personalized interest in the transaction.

#### **Prohibited Acts**

**4.05.** As long as the Corporation is in existence, and except with the prior approval of the Board of Directors, no director, or officer, of the Corporation shall:

- (a) Do any act in violation of the bylaws or a binding obligation of the Corporation.
- (b) Do any act with the intention of harming the Corporation or any of its operations.
- (c) Do any act that would make it impossible or unnecessarily difficult to carry on the intended or ordinary business of the Corporation.
- (d) Receive an improper personal benefit from the operation of the Corporation.
- (e) Use the assets of this Corporation, directly or indirectly, for any purpose other than carrying on the business of this Corporation.
- (f) Wrongfully transfer or dispose of Corporation property, including intangible property such as good will.
- (g) Use the name of the Corporation (or any substantially similar name) or any trademark or trade name adopted by the Corporation, except on behalf of the Corporation in the ordinary course of the Corporation's business.
- (h) Disclose any of the Corporation business practices, trade secrets, or any other information not generally known to the business community to any person not authorized to receive it.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **BOOKS AND RECORDS**

#### **Required Books and Records**

**5.01.** The Corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account. The Corporation's books and records shall include:

- (a) A file-endorsed copy of all documents filed with the Texas Secretary of State relating to the Corporation, including, but not limited to, the articles of incorporation, and any articles of amendment, restated articles, articles of merger, articles of consolidation, and statement of change of registered office or registered agent.
- (b) A copy of the bylaws, and any amended versions or amendments to the bylaws.
- (c) Minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Directors.
- (d) A list of the names and addresses of the directors and officers of the Corporation.
- (e) A financial statement showing the assets, liabilities, and net worth of the Corporation at the end of the three most recent fiscal years.

(f) A financial statement showing the income and expenses of the Corporation for the three most recent fiscal years.

(g) All rulings, letters, and other documents relating to the Corporation's federal, state, and local tax status.

(h) The Corporation's federal, state and local information or income tax returns for each of the Corporation's three most recent tax years.

### **Inspection and Copying**

**5.02.** Any director or officer of the Corporation may inspect and receive copies of all books and records of the Corporation required to be kept by the bylaws. Such a person may inspect or receive copies if the person has a proper purpose related to the person's interest in the Corporation and if the person submits a request in writing. Any person entitled to inspect and copy the Corporation's books and records may do so through his or her attorney or other duly authorized representative. A person entitled to inspect the Corporation's books and records may do so at a reasonable time no later than five working days after the Corporation's receipt of a proper written request. The Board of Directors may establish reasonable fees for copying the Corporation's books and records. The fees may cover the cost of materials and labor, but may not exceed five cents per page. The Corporation shall provide requested copies of books or records no later than five working days after the Corporation's receipt of a proper written request.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on the first day of January, and end on the last day in December in each year.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **INDEMNIFICATION**

#### **When Indemnification is Required, Permitted, and Prohibited**

**7.01.** (a) The Corporation shall indemnify a director, officer, employee or agent of the Corporation who was, is, or may be named defendant or respondent in any proceeding as a result of his or her actions or omissions within the scope of his or her official capacity in the Corporation. For the purpose of this article, an agent includes one who is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, officer, partner, venturer, proprietor, trustee, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, trust, employee benefit plan, or other enterprise. However, the Corporation shall indemnify a person only if he or she acted in good faith and reasonably believed that the conduct was in the Corporation's best interests. In a case of criminal proceeding, the person may be indemnified only if he or she had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct was unlawful. The Corporation shall not indemnify a person who is found liable to the Corporation or is found liable to another on the basis of improperly receiving a personal benefit. A person is conclusively considered to have been found liable in relation to any claim, issue, or matter if the person has been adjudged liable by a court of competent jurisdiction and all appeals have been exhausted.

(b) The termination of a proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent does not necessarily preclude indemnification by the Corporation.

(c) The Corporation shall pay or reimburse expenses incurred by a director, officer, employee, or agent of the Corporation in connection with the person's appearance as a witness or other participation in a proceeding involving or affecting the Corporation when the person is not a named defendant or respondent in the proceeding.

(d) In addition to the situations otherwise described in this paragraph, the Corporation may indemnify a director, officer, employee, or agent of the Corporation to the extent permitted by law. However, the Corporation shall not indemnify any person in any situation in which indemnification is prohibited by the terms of paragraph 7.01(a) above.

(e) Before the final disposition of a proceeding, the Corporation may pay indemnification expenses permitted by the bylaws and authorized by the Corporation. However, the corporation shall not pay indemnification expenses to a person before the final disposition of a proceeding if: the person is a named defendant or respondent in any proceeding brought by the corporation or the person is alleged to have improperly received a personal benefit or committed other willful or intentional misconduct.

(f) If the Corporation may indemnify a person under the bylaws, the person may be indemnified against judgments, penalties, including excise and similar taxes, fines, settlements, and reasonable expenses (including attorney's fees) actually incurred in connection with the proceeding. However, if the proceeding was brought by or on behalf of the Corporation, the indemnification is limited to reasonable expenses actually incurred by the person in connection with the proceeding.

### **Procedures Relating to Indemnification Payments**

**7.02.** (a) Before the Corporation may pay any indemnification expenses (including attorney's fees), the Corporation shall specifically determine that indemnification is permissible, authorize indemnification, and determine that expenses to be reimbursed are reasonable, except as provided in paragraph 7.02(c) below. The Corporation may make these determinations and decisions by any one of the following procedures:

(i) Majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who, at the time of the vote, are not named defendants or respondents in the proceeding.

(b) The Corporation shall authorize indemnification and determine that expenses to be reimbursed are reasonable in the same manner that it determines whether indemnification is permissible. A provision contained in the articles of incorporation, the bylaws, or a resolution of members or the Board of Directors that requires the indemnification permitted by paragraph 7.01 above, constitutes sufficient authorization of indemnification even though the provision may not have been adopted or authorized in the same manner as the determination that indemnification is permissible.

(c) The Corporation shall pay indemnification expenses before final disposition of a proceeding only after the Corporation determines that the facts then known would not preclude indemnification and the Corporation receives a written affirmation and undertaking from the person to be



indemnified. The determination that the facts then known to those making the determination would not preclude indemnification and authorization of payment shall be made in the same manner as a determination that indemnification is permissible under paragraph 7.02(a) above. The person's written affirmation shall state that he or she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification under the bylaws. The written undertaking shall provide for repayment of the amount paid or reimbursed by the Corporation if it is ultimately determined that the person has not met the requirements for indemnification. The undertaking shall be an unlimited general obligation of the person, but it need not be secured and it may be accepted without reference to financial ability to make repayment.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **NOTICES**

#### **Notice by Mail or Electronically**

**8.01.** Any notice required or permitted by the bylaws to be given to a director or officer of the corporation may be given by mail or electronically. If mailed, a notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the person at his or her address as it appears on the records of the Corporation, with postage prepaid. If given electronically, a notice shall be deemed to be delivered when accepted by the person it is sent to electronically and addressed to the person.. A person may change his or her address by giving written notice to the secretary of the Corporation.

#### **Signed Waiver of Notice**

**8.02.** Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of the Act or under the provisions of the articles of incorporation or the bylaws, a waiver in writing signed by a person entitled to receive a notice shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of the notice. A waiver of notice shall be effective whether signed before or after the time stated in the notice being waived.

#### **Waiver of Notice by Attendance**

**8.03.** The attendance of a person at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of the meeting unless the person attends for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### **AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

The bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted by the Board of Directors. The notice of any meeting at which the bylaws are altered, amended or repealed, or at which new bylaws are adopted shall include the text of the proposed bylaw provisions as well as the text of any existing provisions proposed to be altered, amended, or repealed. Alternatively, the notice may include a fair summary of those provisions.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

#### **Legal Authorities Governing Construction of Bylaws**

**10.01.** The bylaws shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas. All references in the bylaws to statutes, regulations, or other sources of legal authority shall refer to the authorities cited, or their successors, as they may be amended from time to time.

#### **Legal Construction**

**10.02.** If any bylaw provision is held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, the invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision and the bylaws shall be construed as if the invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had not been included in the bylaws.

#### **Headings**

**10.03.** The headings used in the bylaws are used for convenience and shall not be considered in construing the terms of the bylaws.

#### **Gender**

**10.04.** Wherever the context requires, all words in the bylaws in the male gender shall be deemed to include the female or neuter gender, all singular words shall include the plural, and all plural words shall include the singular.

#### **Seal**

**10.05.** The Board of Directors may provide for a corporate seal. Such a seal would consist of two concentric circles containing the words "Big Country Development Corporation", "Texas", in one circle and the word "Incorporated" together with the date of incorporation of the Corporation in the other circle.

#### **Power of Attorney**

**10.06.** A person may execute any instrument related to the Corporation by means of a power of attorney if an original executed copy of the power of attorney is provided to the secretary of the Corporation to be kept with the Corporation records.

#### **Parties Bound**

**10.07.** The bylaws shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the directors, officers, employees, and agents of the Corporation and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns except as otherwise provided in the bylaws.

## **CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY**

I certify that I am the duly elected and acting secretary of Big Country Development Corporation and

that the foregoing Bylaws constitute the Bylaws of the Corporation. These Bylaws were duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors held October 23, 2025.

DATED: October 23, 2025

Secretary of the Corporation