

District 4

ANGIE RONAYNE

20009 CR 14 NW, Big Lake, MN 55309

Occupation

Consultant

Board Experience

Merjent, Inc. (2016-Present)

Post-Secondary Education

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities – Bachelor of Civil Engineering – Environmental Emphasis

Unity College, Maine – Sustainability-Focused Master of Business Administration (MBA)

What do you believe is an important opportunity and the most important challenge facing Connexus Energy, and how would you address both if you were elected?

The most important opportunity facing Connexus Energy is embracing its new independent electric cooperative structure while achieving additional consecutive years of providing top 5% reliability across all U.S. electric utilities. The important challenge facing Connexus Energy is successfully navigating the 100% carbon free electricity mandate by 2040 to avoid additional regulation, mandates, and control from outside of the cooperative. Both the opportunity and challenge require continued focus on reliable grid transformation.

Advancing grid transformation while keeping service reliable without significant rate increases requires:

- 1) optimizing opportunities for growth and costs savings under the new independent cooperative model,
- 2) meeting the 2024-2033 Resource Plan's preferred plan targets and implementing the short-term procurement action plan while navigating supply chain shortages,
- 3) the examination of business and technology innovations and collaborations with additional energy vendors to deliver solutions that maximize the performance of clean energy,
- 4) creating additional member value by exploring and taking advantage of federal and state grant programs that are aligned with business initiatives, and
- 5) continued focus on safety.

What do you believe members want from their electric utility and what keeps them satisfied with Connexus Energy?

Members want continued reliable service without significant rate increases. Connexus members have experienced repeatable reliability that is in the top 5% of all utilities nationwide and enjoyed five years of zero rate increase until inflation resulted in a 2.9% increase in 2023. In 2024, Connexus successfully held rates flat and adopted a budget with no general rate increase.

What personally motivates you to serve on the Connexus Energy Board of Directors?

Serving other member-owners in my community personally motivates me. I appreciate the hard work that has been done to-date by the Connexus Energy Board. That said, I understand the current regulatory environment and believe that meeting the 100% carbon free electricity mandate by 2040 is going to be challenging. I want to help Connexus Energy transition and meet the mandate while keeping service reliable and rates as low as possible.

What do you believe are the top three reasons you would be well-qualified to serve on the Connexus Energy Board of Directors?

I have nearly 25 years of professional energy industry experience, eight years of Board of Directors experience, and I currently serve as a Chief Sustainability Officer. In my director role, I review and approve strategic plans, annual budgets, monthly financial statements, and review risks. In my officer role, I champion strategic plan development with an emphasis on sustainable business operations and the accelerated growth of low carbon energy projects and climate resiliency services. My experience and skill set have prepared me to effectively contribute and serve on the Connexus Energy Board of Directors.

Tell us what you believe are three of the most impactful member-owner benefits of the electric cooperative business structure?

Cooperatives are member-owned and governed, and community focused. The Board of Directors election process only allows candidates to seek election in the service territory and district where they reside, and the member-owners in those districts elect Board members to represent their interests. Everything the elected Board and cooperative does is for the benefit of the member-owners.

Regarding your skills as a potential director, tell us one of your strengths and how it would contribute to the Connexus Board and list one weakness needing development and your plan to address it.

I am a thoughtful, detail-oriented leader with a desire to collaborate. The ability to not only understand the business acumen but also strive for collaboration is an important strength when working with others that have diverse skillsets and experiences. It will take time to get up to speed on Connexus Energy's strategic plan, financials, and the 2024-2033 Resource Plan before I can fully contribute as a Connexus Energy Director. I intend to learn as quickly as possible, perform the necessary personal evaluations to determine areas for improvement, and ask for clarification and help as needed along the way.

