

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
April 29, 2026

Call to Order

The regular board meeting of the Board of Directors of Barron Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative headquarters on April 29, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Cook. Board members present included Baker, Blaskowski, Bowers, Cook, Effertz, Kessler, Mandel, Olson & Warwick.

Others present were General Manager Torud, Cooperative Attorney Andrew Harrington and Zachary Zabrocki & Madelyn Walz from CarlsonSV.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

2025 Audit Report

Mr. Zabrocki & Ms. Walz from CarlsonSV presented the 2025 audit to the directors. They reviewed the audit procedure, findings and explained the process. Mr. Zabrocki and Ms. Walz were dismissed.

9:30 a.m. Director of Member Services Beaudette, Executive Assistant/HR Administrator Horstman, Director of Operations Steines and Director of Finance Straw joined the meeting.

Attendance & Discussion with Members

Amanda Kelch, owner of Chetek River Campground, appeared before the board to request assistance with the cost of the expansion of their campground. After presenting the information to the board, Amanda was dismissed. Discussion between the board regarding options. Director Effertz moved, Director Mandel seconded, to offer Chetek River Campground a five-year \$32,000 loan at the current market interest rate with the exception that they must be able to provide an irrevocable letter of credit. Motion carried with 8 in favor to 1 opposed.

Attorney Harrington was dismissed.

Additional discussion regarding the 2025 audit.

Safety Message

Director Cook gave a safety message.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, March 25, 2026, were approved as written.

Director Blaskowski, Director Kessler seconded, to approve the minutes of the 90th Annual Meeting, April 9, 2026, as written. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Organizational Meeting, April 9, 2026, were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #105572 through #105683 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$250,840 with capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$20,188. Total receipts in the office \$3,473,391; total receipts by wire and ACH \$2,307,093; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$5,246,684; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$252,548 and the power bill was paid on 04/29/2026 in the amount of \$2,463,764.

Voucher Review

A list of vouchers was reviewed by the board.

Staff Reports

General Manager Torud and staff members Beaudette, Steines & Straw presented a written and oral reports of their activities for the month.

2027 Annual Meeting

Director Bowers reported to the board as chair of the Annual Meeting Committee. The 2027 Annual Meeting date will be held on April 8, 2027 in the evening at the Barron Electric Cooperative headquarters.

Scholarship Award Ceremonies

The board reviewed the 2026 scholarship award ceremonies and signed up to present the scholarships at local high schools.

Staff Dismissed.

Break at 11:10 a.m.

Reconvene at 11:16 a.m.

Membership List

A membership list of 42 was presented and approved without objection.

Other Meetings Attended

Director Blaskowski discussed the First Responder Safety Training he attended on April 16, 2026. Director Baker discussed the DPC Board Meeting he attended on April 15 & 16, 2026. Included with the discussion was information on the 2026 DPC Proposed Bylaw Amendments & Resolutions. Directors Bowers & Effertz discussed the Annual Safety Audit they performed on April 23, 2026 with Director of Operations Steines and DPC Safety Instructor Chris Burnis. The Monthly Safety Report from Denise Fox, Compliance Safety and Training Officer was available for review.

Reports

Reports listed in the board packet were available for review for the month of March including the power bill, department statistics, fleet management and budget month-to-date.

Inventory of Work Orders

Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of March in the amount of \$127,730.68 was presented for approval and included new services \$0; change jobs \$2,844.69, Other Work Order Projects \$124,885.99 and 4 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

Outage and Overtime

Outages year-to-date stand at 5,570.97 consumer hours off, which is 67.36% above 2025 hours of 3,328.71.

Overtime year-to-date is 405.50 hours, which is 7.56% above 2025 hours of 377.00.

Time of Use Correction

The board reviewed information regarding the residential time of use for on-peak rate change from weekday to daily.

Donation Request – Wolf Pack Charities

The board reviewed the request from the Wolf Pack Charities requesting funds to support their 2nd Annual Feed the Future: Weekend Hunger Relief. Due to lack of motion, no action was taken.

Donation Request – Barron Kiwanis Foundation

The board reviewed the request from the Barron Kiwanis Foundation requesting items to be auctioned off or funding to aid in the cost of the new community shelter located near the Barron High School. Due to lack of motion, no action was taken.

Donation Request – Nature's Edge

The board reviewed the request from Nature's Edge requesting a monetary donation to aid in the cost of therapy for patients to work with nature and animals to gain independence at home, school and in the community. Director Kessler moved, Director Blaskowski seconded, to donate \$500 with funds derived from Federated Youth Foundation. Motion carried.

Indianhead Renewable Forestry Products

The board reviewed the service agreement for Indianhead Renewable Forestry Products. Director Olson moved, Director Effertz seconded, to approve the contract as presented and to affix signatures. Motion carried.

Blue Diamond Proppants

The directors reviewed the service agreement for Blue Diamond Proppants, LLC. Director Kessler moved, Director Warwick seconded, to approve the contract as presented and to affix signatures. Motion carried.

Director Mandel moved, Director Olson seconded, to go into Executive Session at 11:47 a.m. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Director Kessler moved, Director Bowers seconded, to return to regular session at 12:26 p.m. Motion carried.

A-Item to the 2026 Budget

General Manager Torud reviewed the memo to the board requesting to obtain Gregory B. Gill, attorney with Gill & Gill S.C., as legal counsel for a 12-month period beginning on May 1, 2026. Director Kessler moved, Director Baker seconded, to approve General Manager Torud to obtain Gill & Gill S.C. as legal counsel on retainer for the cooperative for a 12-month period not to exceed \$25,000. Motion carried with 8 in favor and 1 opposed.

Director Mandel moved, Director Baker seconded, to approve the 2025 audit as presented. Motion carried.

Director Warwick moved, Director Effertz seconded, to approve the director's expense reports. Motion carried.

Director Olson moved, Director Blaskowski seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Other Business:

Directors Baker, Blaskowski and Mandel are registered to attend the Board Financial Webinar on May 14, 2026.

Director Warwick is scheduled to attend the Safety Meeting on May 20, 2026.

The office will be closed on May 25, 2026 in observance of Memorial Day.

The May Board Meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2026.

The DPC Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2026 in La Crosse. Directors Baker, Blaskowski, Bowers, Mandel, Olson and Warwick will attend.

Director Mandel is scheduled to attend the Safety Meeting on June 23, 2026.

The June Board Meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2026.

The office will be closed on July 4, 2026 in observance of Independence Day.

The WECA District 3 Meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2026 at Jump River Electric Cooperative.

The July Board Meeting is scheduled for July 29, 2026.

Directors Bowers & Cook are scheduled to attend the Power & Policy: Energy & Legal Issues Summit on August 4, 2026.

Directors Baker, Bowers & Kessler are scheduled to attend the BLC course on August 5, 2026.

Directors Baker, Blaskowski and Mandel are registered to attend the Board Financial Webinar on August 13, 2026.

All Directors are scheduled to attend Strategic Planning on August 26 & 27, 2026.

The August Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 28, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Patricia Mandel, Secretary