

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
April 30, 2025

Call to Order

The regular board meeting of the Board of Directors of Barron Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative headquarters on April 30, 2025. 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 Abby Williamson and Zachary Zabrocki from CarlsonSV.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented with Attendance and Discussion with Members to be moved after Staff Reports.

2024 Audit Report

Ms. Williamson and Mr. Zabrocki from CarlsonSV presented the 2024 audit to the directors. They reviewed the audit procedure, findings and explained the process. Director Mandel moved, Director Blaskowski seconded, to approve the 2024 audit as presented. Motion carried.

Ms. Williamson, Mr. Zabrocki and Attorney Harrington were dismissed.

Break 9:52 a.m.

Reconvened 10:01 a.m.

Director of Member Services Beaudette, Executive Assistant/HR Administrator Horstman and Director of Finance Straw joined the meeting.

Safety Message

Director Warwick gave a safety message.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, March 26, 2025, were approved as written.

Director Kessler moved, seconded by Director Effertz, to approve the April 8, 2025 minutes of the 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

The minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Board of Directors, April 8, 2025, were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #104197 through #104329 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$791,012 with capital credit estate checks totaling \$13,124. Total receipts in the office \$3,026,000; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,679,413; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$4,022,897; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$215,429 and the power bill was paid on 04/30/2025 in the amount of \$2,067,731.

Voucher Review

A list of vouchers was reviewed by the board.

Manager and Staff Reports

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

As the Spokesperson for the Annual Meeting Committee, Director Kessler discussed the date of the 2026 Annual Meeting, and it was suggested to host a night meeting at the Cooperative Headquarters on Thursday, April 9, 2026. Other discussion was the opportunity to have 3 minutes available for candidates to speak, how candidates are listed on the ballot and prizes. The sound system will be addressed in the 2026 budget.

#### Discussion with Members

Director of Member Services Beaudette and Director Mandel discussed an issue with the board regarding a member and their water heater.

Staff Members were dismissed.

#### Membership List

A membership list of 50 was presented and approved without objection.

#### Other Meetings Attended

The Director Baker discussed the DPC Meeting he attended on April 16 & 17, 2025. The directors discussed the WECA Education & Lobby Days event they attended on April 1 & 2, 2025 in Madison. Director Bowers discussed the new director orientation he attended on April 16, 2025. Director Effertz discussed the safety meeting he attended on April 17, 2025. Director Warwick discussed the NRECA Legislative conference he attended on April 28 & 29, 2025 in Washington, D.C. The directors reviewed the Monthly Safety Report from Denise Fox, Compliance Safety and Training Officer.

#### Reports

Reports listed in the board packet were reviewed 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 \$150,898.27 was presented for approval and included new services \$0; change jobs \$0; Other Work Order Projects \$150,898.27 and 18 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

#### Outage and Overtime

Outages year-to-date stand at 3,328.71 consumer hours off, which is 23.55% below 2024 hours of 4,354.19.

Overtime year-to-date is 377.00 hours, which is 14.94% above 2024 hours of 328.00.

#### FYF 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Balance

The board reviewed the Federated Youth Foundation (FYF) 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter balance.

#### CoBank Sharing Success History and Review

The board reviewed the CoBank Sharing Success history and the remaining funds available for matching for 2025.

#### DPC Cooperative Contributions Program and Cooperative Family Fund

The board reviewed the DPC Cooperative Contributions Program which allows Dairyland Power Cooperative members to request a \$1,000 contribution in our cooperative's service area.

The board reviewed the Cooperative Family Fund donation opportunity. Due to lack of motion, no action was taken.

#### Donation Request – Community Connections to Prosperity

The board reviewed the donation request from Community Connections to Prosperity requesting a sponsorship for their Feed the Future: Weekend Hunger Relief fundraiser benefiting all school food programs and pantries in Barron County. Due to lack of motion, no action was taken.

#### Donation Request – Neighbor to Neighbor

The board reviewed the donation request from Neighbor to Neighbor – Washburn County requesting \$5,000 funds to aid in the cost to promote the launch of their new program offering free public transportation to those in need. Due to lack of motion, no action was taken.

#### Donation Request – Spooner Fire Department

The board reviewed the donation request from the Spooner Fire Department requesting funds to help aid in the cost of purchasing a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA) for a fire truck. Director Kessler moved, Director Warwick seconded, to donate \$1,000 from Federated Youth Foundation and request matching funds from CoBank Sharing Success in the amount of \$1,000, for a total donation of \$2,000 to the Spooner Fire Department towards the purchase of a SCUBA. Motion carried.

#### Dairyland Annual Meeting

The Dairyland Power Cooperative Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2025 in La Crosse. Directors attending are Olson, Baker, Warwick, Blaskowski, Mandel, Effertz and Bowers. The voting delegate will be Director Bowers.

#### Board Orientation

A board orientation meeting with items of bylaws, policies and NRECA survey results was scheduled for May 20, 2025 at the cooperative headquarters and it will begin at 10:00 a.m.

General Manager Torud gave an update on the GPS project.

Due to a scheduling conflict on June 25, 2025, Director Blaskowski moved, seconded by Effertz, to change the June Board Meeting to Thursday, June 26, 2025. Motion carried.

Comments from the directors who attended EV training event in Spooner stated it went well.

Torud and Horstman were dismissed.

Moved into Executive Session at 12:15 p.m.

Returned into Regular Session at 12:26 p.m.

The director's expense accounts for the month were reviewed and approved by the board without objection.

#### Other Business:

Directors Baker, Blaskowski, Mandel & Warwick are scheduled to attend the Director's Financial Webinar on May 15, 2025.

The office will be closed on May 26, 2025 in observance of Memorial Day.

The May Board Meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2025.

The DPC Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2025 in La Crosse.

Directors Olson and Kessler are scheduled to attend the Safety Committee Annual Crew Visit on June 11, 2025.

The June Board Meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2025.

The office will be closed on July 4, 2025 in observance of Independence Day.

The WECA District 3 Meeting is scheduled for July 9, 2025 at Barron Electric Cooperative headquarters.

The July Board Meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2025.

Director Baker, Blaskowski, Mandel & Warwick are scheduled to attend the Director's Financial Webinar on August 14, 2025.

The August Board Meeting is scheduled on August 27, 2025.

The office will be closed on September 1, 2025 in observance of Labor Day.

The September Board Meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2025.

Director Baker, Blaskowski, Mandel & Warwick are scheduled to attend the Director's Financial Webinar on October 9, 2025.

The October Board Meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2025.

The WECA Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 12 & 13, 2025 in Wisconsin Dells.

The November Board Meeting is scheduled for November 26, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.