

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
August 28, 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Barron Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative headquarters on August 28, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Cook. Board members present included Baker, Blaskowski, Bol, Cook, Effertz, Kessler, Mandel, Olson and Warwick.

Others present were General Manager Torud, Executive Assistant/HR Administrator Horstman, Staff Members Beaudette, Steines & Straw.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Safety Message

Director Cook gave a safety message.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, July 31, 2024, were approved as written.

The Confidential Board Meeting minutes from July 31, 2024, were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #103330 through #103422 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$455,263 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$29,801. Total receipts in the office \$1,988,631; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,713,436; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$3,169,274; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$226,588 and the power bill was paid on 08/28/2024 in the amount of \$2,578,193.

Voucher Review

A list of vouchers was reviewed by the board.

Manager and Staff Reports

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

Staff Dismissed.

Membership List

A membership list of 60 was presented and approved without objection.

Other Meetings Attended

Director Baker reported on the DPC Meeting he attended on August 22, 2024. Director Blaskowski discussed the new director training he attended on August 14, 2024. Directors Baker, Bol, Mandel & Warwick discussed the Director's Financial Webinar they attended on August 15, 2024. Directors Blaskowski & Bol discussed the Safety Meeting they attended on August 22, 2024. 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 July included 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 July in the amount of \$154,719.18 was presented for approval and included new services \$45,978.20; change jobs \$8,232.28; Other Work Order Projects \$100,508.70 and 16 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

#### Outage and Overtime

Outages year-to-date stand at 43,230.56 consumer hours off, which is 3.48% below 2023 hours of 44,787.79. Overtime year-to-date is 2,373.50 hours, which is 13.89% above 2023 hours of 2,084.00.

#### Auditor Engagement Letter

The board reviewed the Auditor Engagement Letter from CarlsonSV, LLP. Director Kessler moved, Director Effertz seconded, to accept CarlsonSV, LLP as the auditors to perform the cooperative's 2024 audit. Motion carried.

#### CoBank Sharing Success Program

The board reviewed the remaining funds available for the 2024 CoBank Sharing Success program.

#### Donation Request – The Barron Area Education Foundation Social Committee

The board reviewed The Barron Area Education Foundation Social Committee requesting a donation to assist with their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Social fundraising event. No action taken due to lack of motion.

#### Donation Request – Turtle Lake School District

The board reviewed the Turtle Lake School District request to aid in funding a new track surrounding the football field. No action taken due to lack of motion.

#### Donation Request – Cumberland Police Department

The board reviewed the Cumberland Police Department request to aid in the cost of their Police K9 Program. Director Kessler moved, seconded by Director Effertz, to donate \$1,000 to aid in the cost of the Cumberland Police K9 Program with funds to be derived from the Federated Youth Foundation and request matching funds of \$1,000 from the CoBank Sharing Success Program. Motion carried.

#### Donation Request – Northwest Wisconsin Equine Club

The board reviewed the Northwest Wisconsin Equine Club requesting a donation of 18-20 40-foot light poles for their arena. No action taken due to lack of motion.

#### Donation Request – Update Cooperative Family Fund

General Manager Torud gave an update to the board regarding the Cooperative Family Fund. No action taken.

#### WECA Annual Meeting

The WECA Annual Meeting will be held November 12 – 13, 2024 in Wisconsin Dells. Directors that will be attending the meeting are Olson, Baker, Warwick, Blaskowski, Mandel, Effertz, Bol & Cook. Director Bol was selected as the WECA Voting Delegate.

#### NRECA Directors Conference

The NRECA Directors Conference will be held in-person on January 25-28, 2025 in Ponte Verda Beach, Florida. The conference will also be available online January 27-28, 2025. Executive Assistant/HR Administrator Horstman will email the directors when the agenda becomes available.

#### Policy No. 1014 – Disposal of Cooperative Property

In accordance with Policy No. 1014, Disposal of cooperative property, the approved sale of the surplus cooperative item 2006 International 4400 Single Axle Versalift VXD50 Digger Gerrick Truck was sold for \$12,000. The bid was accepted on August 22, 2024 via the Wisconsin Surplus Online Auction.

#### 2025 Budget Process

General Manager Torud reviewed the 2025 Budget timeline with the board. Director Warwick moved, Director Bol seconded, to approve the December board meeting date as Monday, December 23, 2024. Motion carried. Director Effertz moved, Director Mandel seconded to approve the date of Tuesday, January 7, 2025 as the date to approve the 2025 Budget. Motion carried.

#### Board Self-Evaluation

President Cook and the board reviewed the questions as a group regarding their processes.

#### Other Business:

The office is closed on September 2, 2024 in observance of Labor Day.

The NRECA Region 5 Meeting is scheduled for September 16 – 18, 2024 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Directors Baker, Blaskowski, Cook, Effertz, Mandel & Warwick are registered to attend.

The September Board Meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2024.

The Cooperative Month events are scheduled for October 8, 2024 at the Spooner Office and October 10, 2024 at Mosaic Technologies in Cameron.

Director Mandel is scheduled to attend the BLC courses on October 8 & 9, 2024.

Directors Baker, Blaskowski & Bol are scheduled to attend the CCD course on October 15, 2024.

Directors Baker, Bol, Cook, Mandel & Warwick are scheduled to attend the Financial Webinar Series for Directors on October 24, 2024.

The October Board Meeting is scheduled for October 30, 2024.

The WECA Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 11-13, 2024 in Wisconsin Dells.

The Board Meeting is scheduled for November 27, 2024.

The office is closed on November 28 & 29, 2024 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

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Patricia Mandel, Secretary