

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
January 31, 2023

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Barron Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative headquarters on January 31, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Cook. Board members present included Baker, Bol, Cook, Effertz, Kessler, Kuhl, Mandel, Olson, and Warwick.

Others present were General Manager Torud, and Staff Members Steines & Straw.

Approval of Agenda

Director Baker moved to amend the agenda by moving the following agenda items: DPC District Meeting, NRECA Legislative Conference, WECA Lobby Days and April Board Meeting to after the Safety Message by Director Warwick. The agenda was approved as amended.

Safety Message

Director Warwick gave a safety message.

DPC District Meeting

The DPC District Meeting will be held on February 14, 2023, at Jump River Electric Cooperative. Directors attending will be Baker, Bol, Cook, Effertz, Kuhl and Warwick, as well as, General Manager Torud, and Director of Member Services Beaudette.

NRECA Legislative Conference

The NRECA Legislative Conference will be held April 16-19, 2023, in Washington, D.C. Director Warwick will attend, as well as Director of Member Services Beaudette.

WECA Education & Lobby Days

WECA Education & Lobby Days will be held on March 21-23, 2023, in Madison. Directors attending will be Baker, Bol, Cook, Effertz, Kessler, Kuhl, Mandel and Warwick, as well as, General Manager Torud and Director of Member Services Beaudette.

April Board Meeting

Due to a scheduling conflict, the board discussed possible dates for the April Board Meeting. Monday, April 24, 2023, was selected as the date for the April Board Meeting.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, December 21, 2022, were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #101269 thru #101422 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$664,661 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$22,908. Total receipts in the office - \$3,330,221; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$4,816,593; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire – \$7,073,606; transfer of funds was made for payroll – \$368,791 and the power bill was paid on 01/25/2023 in the amount of \$2,305,377.

Voucher Review

A list of vouchers was reviewed by the board.

Membership List

A membership list of 58 was presented and approved without objection.

### Other Meetings Attended

Director Warwick reported on the DPC Board Meeting he attended on January 25 & 26, 2023. Director Mandel reported on a board leadership course she attended on January 10, 2023. Directors Cook, Kessler, Baker, Bol, Warwick and Kuhl reported on the Board Leadership Course they attended on January 11, 2023. President Cook reported on the safety meeting he attended on January 24, 2023. 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 December 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 December in the amount of \$839,952.19 was presented for approval and included new services – \$33,428.45; change jobs - \$7,510.65; Other Work Order Projects - \$799,013.09 and 6 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

### Manager and Staff Reports

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

### Outage and Overtime

Outages year-to-date stand at 373,279.99 consumer hours off, which is 614.01% above 2021 hours of 52,279.41. Overtime year-to-date is 4,156.25 hours, which is 25.43% above 2021 hours of 3,313.50.

### 2022 Top Usage by Members

A list of the top 100 members was reviewed by the board.

### 2022 Community Support

The 2022 employee community support hours were reviewed by the board.

### Federated Youth Foundation (FYF)

The board reviewed the 2022 Federated Youth Foundation (FYF) Summary of Net Assets and a 5-year history of the cooperative's FYF donations. Director Kuhl moved to approve the donation list as presented for 2023. Director Baker seconded. Motion carried.

### A-Item to 2023 Budget – Miss America Appearance at Annual Meeting

General Manager Torud presented information to the board regarding booking Miss America Grace Stanke to speak at the 2023 Annual Meeting. After discussion, Director Kessler moved, Director Mandel seconded, to select Option Two as presented and request to have Grace speak at our 2024 Annual Meeting instead of this year. Motion carried.

### Washington D.C. Youth Tour Essay

The board reviewed an essay submitted by student, Nicolaus Betz for the Washington D.C. Youth Tour. After review, the board approved the attendance of Nicolaus Betz to attend the 2023 Washington D.C. Youth Tour. The cost will be split between Federated Youth Foundation in the amount of \$2,500 and the specific advertising account in the amount of \$2,500.

### 2024 Wire Order

Director of Operations Steines presented information to the board requesting pre-approval for the purchase of wire needed for 2024. Director Olson moved, Director Bol seconded, to pre-approve ordering wire for 2024. Motion carried.

## Staff Dismissed

### Employee Handbook Updates

General Manager Torud presented information to the board regarding a change in vacation accrual for employees. Director Mandel moved, Director Bol seconded, to approve the new vacation accrual schedule presented by Manager Torud. Motion carried.

Director Kuhl moved to enter into Executive Session.

Executive Session began at 12:21 PM.

Discussion regarding Policy No. 202 – Reimbursement of Expenses. Director Kuhl moved, Director Warwick seconded, to remove the costs associated with attending the NRECA Annual Meeting (PowerXchange) from the director's yearly travel budget. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding the allocation of non-operating margins. No action taken.

Executive Session ended 12:43 p.m.

The board discussed director per diem reimbursement for attending webinars. Director Effertz moved, Director Olson seconded, to consider the attendance of two webinars eligible for one per diem. Motion carried.

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

Credentialed Cooperative Director Courses will be held on February 8 & 9, 2023 for Director Olson.

The DPC District Meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2023, at Jump River Electric Cooperative.

Strategic Planning is scheduled for February 15 & 16, 2023 and all board members are invited to attend.

The February Board Meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2023.

Director Kessler is scheduled to attend the Safety Meeting scheduled for February 23, 2023.

Director Mandel is scheduled to attend the Safety Meeting scheduled for March 16, 2023.

The WECA Education & Lobby Days are scheduled for March 21 through 23, 2023.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled at the Barron High School on March 25, 2023.

The March Board Meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2023.

The office is closed on April 7, 2023, in observance of Good Friday.

The NRECA Legislative Conference is scheduled for April 16 through 19, 2023 in Washington, DC.

The April Board Meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2023.

The office is closed on May 29, 2023, in observance of Memorial Day.

The May Board Meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2023.

The June Board Meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2023.

The office is closed on July 4, 2023, in observance of the holiday.

The WECA District 3 Meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2023, at Barron Electric Cooperative.

The July Board Meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

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Scott Warwick, Secretary