

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
March 26, 2025

Call to Order

The regular board meeting of the Board of Directors of Barron Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative headquarters on March 26, 2025. 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 & Warwick

Others present were General Manager Torud, Executive Assistant/HR Administrator Horstman and Staff Members Steines & Straw. Staff Member Beaudette joined the meeting via phone.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Safety Message

Director Baker gave a safety message.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, February 26, 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: #104107 through #104196 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$305,991 with capital credit estate checks totaling \$13,977. Total receipts in the office \$2,797,059; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,361,025; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$3,531,634; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$204,373 and the power bill was paid on 03/26/2025 in the amount of \$2,287,232.

Voucher Review

A list of vouchers was reviewed by the board.

Manager and Staff Reports

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

2025 Annual Meeting Ballot Collectors & Counters

The directors reviewed the list of ballot collectors and counters for the 89th Annual Meeting scheduled for April 8, 2025.

Multimedia Communicator and Member Account Representative Robertson joined the meeting.

Donation History & Requests

The board reviewed information regarding Federated Youth Foundation (FYF), the 2025 pre-approved donation list, 4-year donation history and contributions and the balance as of September 1, 2024.

Donation Request – Pioneer Village Museum

The board reviewed information regarding a donation for the new Welcome Center at the Pioneer Village Museum. Discussion. Director Kessler moved, Director Effertz seconded, to donate \$5,000 with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation and request \$5,000 from the CoBank Sharing Success program to match funds for a total donation of \$10,000 to the Pioneer Village Museum Welcome Center. Motion carried.

Annual Pledge Donation Request

The board reviewed the Cooperative Family Fund request which will be an annual pledge that will assist children of fallen cooperative employees. Due to lack of motion, no action was taken.

Donation Request – Barron County Birth to Three Program

The directors reviewed the donation from the Barron County Birth to Three Program requesting assistance with the cost of providing “Safety Kits” for families. Discussion. Due to lack of motion, no action was taken.

Donation Request – Rice Lake Hockey Association

The directors reviewed the donation request from the Rice Lake Hockey Association requesting assistance with the cost of building a new dry land training area with a locker room addition. Due to lack of motion, no action was taken.

Donation Request – The Salvation Army of Barron County

The directors reviewed the donation request from The Salvation Army of Barron County requesting assistance with the cost of purchasing backpacks, school supplies and shoes for children in the community. Director Kessler moved, Director Warwick seconded, to donate \$1,000 to The Salvation Army of Barron County with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation. Motion carried.

Donation Request – Blue Hills Sportsmen’s Club & Access Ability Wisconsin

The directors reviewed the donation request from the Blue Hills Sportsmen’s Club & Access Ability Wisconsin requesting sponsorship for their Fallen Hero Memorial Trap Shoot event in which funds will be donated to Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) and WI Law Enforcement Death Team. Director Blaskowski moved, Director Mandel seconded, to donate \$500 as a sponsor for the Blue Hills Sportsmen’s Club for their Fallen Hero Memorial Trap Shoot event with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation. Motion carried.

Donation Request – St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

The directors reviewed the donation request from the St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) requesting sponsorship for their SART Halloween Gala event in which funds will be utilized for forensic health exams, advocacy and community prevention education and outreach. Director Effertz moved, Director Mandel seconded, to donate \$800 as a sponsorship to the SART Halloween Gala. Discussion. Motion failed.

Donation Request – Barron Kiwanis Foundation

The directors reviewed the donation request from the Barron Kiwanis Foundation requesting assistance with the cost of completing the resurfacing of the youth soccer field, electronic scoreboard at Kittleson Field and scholarships for high school students. Director Warwick moved, Director Mandel seconded, to donate \$500 towards the cost of resurfacing the youth soccer field and the purchase of an electronic scoreboard at Kittleson Field with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation. Motion carried.

Donation Request – Washburn County Fair Board

The directors reviewed the request to donate three old iPads to the Washburn County Fair Board. Director Baker moved, Director Warwick seconded, to donate three old iPads to the Washburn County Fair Board. Motion carried.

Staff Members and Robertson were dismissed.

Membership List

A membership list of 43 was presented and approved without objection.

Other Meetings Attended

The Director Baker discussed the DPC Meeting he attended on March 19 & 20, 2025. The directors reviewed the Monthly Safety Report from Denise Fox, Compliance Safety and Training Officer.

Break at 11:00 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

Reports

Reports listed in the board packet were reviewed for the month of February 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 February in the amount of \$146,204.99 was presented for approval and included new services \$0; change jobs \$0; Other Work Order Projects \$146,204.99 and 25 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

Outage and Overtime

Outages year-to-date stand at 1,486.58 consumer hours off, which is 16.61% below 2024 hours of 1,503.19. Overtime year-to-date is 178.75 hours, which is 43.29% above 2024 hours of 124.75.

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

Other Business:

WECA Education & Lobby Days are scheduled for March 31, April 1-2, 2025 in Madison. Directors Baker, Blaskowski, Cook, Effertz, Kessler, Mandel & Warwick with Torud & Beaudette will be attending.

Director Bol's retirement dinner is scheduled for April 3, 2025.

The cooperative's Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025 at the Barron Electric Cooperative Headquarters.

Director Warwick will be attending the NRECA Legislative Conference scheduled for April 27-29, 2025 in Washington, D.C.

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

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.

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.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.