

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
March 27, 2024

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Barron Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative headquarters on March 27, 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 and Staff Members Beaudette, Steines & Straw.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Safety Message

Director Bol gave a safety message.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, February 28, 2024, were approved as written.

The minutes of the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, March 23, 2024, were approved as written.

The minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Board of Directors, March 23, 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: #102842 through #102921 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$651,584 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$15,820. Total receipts in the office \$2,409,148; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,544,503; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$2,976,700; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$202,974 and the power bill was paid on 03/27/2024 in the amount of \$2,092,685.

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.

88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Director Mandel reported from the Annual Meeting Committee meeting held prior to the board meeting.

Discussion regarding 2025 Annual Meeting day and time of the week. Suggested a Tuesday night meeting at the BACC. The board approved Tuesday night as the day of the week for the 2025 Annual Meeting. Director of Member Services Beaudette will contact the BACC for availability for April 8, 2025 for the first selection or April 15, 2025.

Director of Member Services Beaudette reported member survey results to the board regarding the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held on March 23, 2024. Discussion regarding grand prizes, additional smaller prizes and giving scholarships at the meeting.

Dismiss Staff

Break at 10:42 a.m.

Resumed meeting at 10:48 a.m.

#### Membership List

A membership list of 37 was presented and approved without objection.

#### Other Meetings Attended

Director Baker reported on the Dairyland Manager's Association (DMA) Meeting he attended on March 12, 2024 and the DPC Board Meeting he attended on March 21 & 22, 2024. Director Warwick reported on the NRECA PowerXchange Meeting he attended March 3 – 6, 2024 in San Antonio, Texas. Director Kessler reported on the Safety Meeting he attended on March 14, 2024. Director Mandel reported on the Board Leadership Course she attended on March 21, 2024. Director Cook & Bol reported on the Legal Updates seminar he attended on March 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 February 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 February in the amount of \$156,354.11 was presented for approval and included new services \$9,941.01; change jobs \$0; Other Work Order Projects \$146,413.10 and 27 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

#### Outage and Overtime

Outages year-to-date stand at 1,503.19 consumer hours off, which is 66.64% below 2023 hours of 4,506.58. Overtime year-to-date is 124.75 hours, which is 49.90% below 2023 hours of 249.00.

#### WECA Rob Richard Visit

The board discussed the option to have Rob Richard, VP of Government Relations and External Affairs from Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) attend a board meeting. General Manager Torud will contact Rob and schedule a meeting with the Board.

#### 2024 DPC Annual Meeting

The board discussed the 2024 DPC Annual Meeting that will be held on June 5, 2024 in La Crosse. The entire board will attend the meeting and Director Blaskowski will be the voting delegate.

#### 2024 CoBank Sharing Success Program

The board reviewed the 2024 CoBank Sharing Success Program.

#### Donation Request – Dove Health Care Community Fund

The directors reviewed the donation request from Dove Health Care Community Fund regarding support to purchase a handicap, accessible, battery-powered trishaw for their program Cycling Without Age. Director Bol moved, Director Effertz seconded, to donate \$500 to Dove Health Care Community Fund to aid in the purchase of a trishaw with funds to be derived from FYF. Motion carried.

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

The directors reviewed the donation request from the Blue Hill’s Sportsmen’s Club & Access Ability Wisconsin regarding a sponsorship opportunity for their Fallen Hero Memorial Trap Shoot in honor of Chetek Officer Emily Breidenbach and Cameron Officer Hunter Scheel. Director Warwick moved, Director Effertz seconded, to donate \$500 to the Fallen Hero Memorial Trap Shoot with funds to be derived from FYF. Motion carried.

#### Donation Request – Canton Park Fund/Town of Sumner

The directors reviewed the donation request from Canton Park regarding the renewal of the sponsorship banner. Director Bol moved, Director Baker seconded, to donate \$500 to Canton Park Fund/Town of Sumner with funds to be derived from FYF. Motion carried.

#### Donation Request – Northwood Technical College Foundation

The directors reviewed the donation request from Northwood Technical College Foundation regarding support to purchase a Stalker II Handheld Police Radar Gun for the Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Academy at the Northwood Technical College Rice Lake campus. No action was taken due to a lack of motion.

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

In accordance with Policy No. 1014, Disposal of Cooperative Property, the approved sale of the surplus cooperative item, 2000 Clark Forklift was sold for \$6,100. The bid was accepted on February 27, 2024 via Wisconsin Surplus Online Auction.

#### Policy Review No. 202 – Reimbursement of Expenses

The board reviewed Policy No. 202 – Reimbursement of Expenses with the suggested edits to Letter B, adding #5:

5. Directors who attend webinars as part of their continuing education will be reimbursed for every two they attend. If a director travels to the cooperative to watch a webinar, mileage can be reimbursed for each webinar attended.

Director Effertz moved, Director Kessler seconded, to approve the suggested update to Policy No. 202. Motion carried.

#### DPC PCA Charges

General Manager Torud reviewed with the board the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) from Dairyland Power Cooperative for the month of February 2024 and presented three options. Director Baker moved, Director Olson seconded, to approve Option 3, which is to review the PCA in third quarter of 2024. Motion carried.

#### DPC Lease Agreement

General Manager Torud reviewed the DPC Lease Agreement with the board reporting that the lease will be effective April 8, 2024 through April 8, 2029. Director Kessler moved, Director Bol seconded, to approve the DPC Lease Agreement as presented with General Manager Torud to sign on behalf of the cooperative. Motion carried.

#### OneEnergy Contract

General Manager Torud reported to the board on updates regarding the OneEnergy contract negotiations.

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

#### Other Business

The office is closed on March 29, 2024, in observance of Good Friday.

Directors Baker, Bol, Cook, Mandel & Warwick are scheduled to attend the Financial Webinar Series for Directors on April 11, 2024.

Director Warwick is scheduled to attend the Safety Meeting on April 23, 2024.

The April Board Meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2024.

The office is closed on May 27, 2024 in observance of Memorial Day.

The May Board Meeting is scheduled for May 29, 2024.

The DPC Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2024 in La Crosse.

Directors Baker, Bol, Cook, Mandel & Warwick are scheduled to attend the Financial Webinar Series for Directors on June 13, 2024.

The June Board Meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2024.

The WECA District 3 Meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2024 at the cooperative headquarters.

The July Board Meeting is scheduled for July 31, 2024.

Directors Baker, Bol, Cook, Mandel & Warwick are scheduled to attend the Financial Webinar Series for Directors on August 15, 2024.

The August Board Meeting is scheduled for August 28, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at

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Patricia Mandel, Secretary