

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
November 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 November 26, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Cook. Board members present included Baker, Blaskowski, Bowers, Cook, Effertz, Kessler, Mandel, Olson & Warwick.

Others present were General Manager Torud, Executive Assistant/HR Administrator Horstman, Director of Member Services Beaudette, Director of Operations Steines & Director of Finance Straw

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Safety Message

Director Kessler gave a safety message.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, October 29, 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: #105029 through #105136 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$255,090 with capital credit estate checks totaling \$16,129. Total receipts in the office \$2,160,401; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,942,013; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$3,058,404; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$215,956 and the power bill was paid on 11/26/2025 in the amount of \$2,036,784.

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 a written and oral reports of their activities for the month.

2025 CoBank Sharing Success Program

At the October 29, 2025 board meeting the board met with representatives from the Barron County Pioneer Village Museum requesting the cooperative to donate a new service to their Welcome Center. The following action was taken regarding the request, " Director Kessler moved, seconded by Director Warwick, to deny the request to donate the new service request but to donate \$4,000 from FYF and utilize the remaining \$4,000 matching funds from the CoBank Sharing Success Program to Barron County Pioneer Village Museum to aid in the cost of the new service. Discussion. Motion carried."

On October 30, 2025 when requesting the \$4,000 in matching funds from CoBank, they reported they had met their \$6 million contributions for the year and there were no longer matching funds available for 2025. Directors discussed the option to wait and donate the \$4,000 from FYF and request the matching funds from CoBank in January when the Sharing Success Program is available in 2026. By a hand vote, the motion carried with 8 votes in favor and 1 opposed.

2026 Budget

The board discussed the 2026 Budget with General Manager Torud and staff.

Pre-Approval to the 2026 Budget

Director of Member Services Beaudette presented information to the board for pre-approval to the 2026 Budget to purchase audio-visual equipment for the garage sound system. Director Effertz moved, seconded by Director Mandel, to pre-approve the purchase of audio-visual equipment for the garage sound system. Discussion. Motion carried.

Electrical Service Agreement

The board reviewed the Electrical Service Agreement for B&L Rail, LLC. Discussion. Director Kessler moved, seconded by Director Warwick, to approve the Electrical Service Agreement for B&L Rail, LLC and affix signatures. Discussion. Motion carried.

Staff Dismissed

Break at 11:30 a.m.

Reconvened at 11:40 a.m.

Membership List

A membership list of 71 was presented and approved without objection.

Other Meetings Attended

Director Baker discussed the DPC Meeting he attended on November 19 & 20, 2025. Directors Blaskowski, Bowers, Cook, Effertz, Mandel, Olson & Warwick reported on the WECA Annual Meeting they attended on November 12 & 13, 2025. The Monthly Safety Report from Denise Fox, Compliance Safety and Training Officer was available for review.

Reports

Reports listed in the board packet were available for review for the month of October 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 October in the amount of \$475,2023.87 was presented for approval and included new services \$51,410.94; change jobs \$48,381.16; Other Work Order Projects \$375,411.77 and 8 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

Outage and Overtime

Outages year-to-date stand at 80,078.43 consumer hours off, which is 8.06% below 2024 hours of 87,096.89. Overtime year-to-date is 3,025.25 hours, which is 12.44% below 2024 hours of 3,455.

August 2026 Board Meeting Date

CFC is scheduled to assist with strategic planning on August 26 & 27, 2026. Director Kessler moved, Director Olson seconded, to approve August 28, 2026 as their August Board Meeting date. Motion carried.

2025 Matching Donations

The board reviewed the 2025 Matching Donation report.

Donation Request – Rice Lake Hockey Association

The board reviewed the request from the Rice Lake Hockey Association requesting funds to assist with upgrades to their facility. Director Bowers moved, Director Effertz seconded, to donate \$1,000 to the Rice Lake Hockey Association with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation. Motion carried.

Donation Request – TUGS

The board reviewed information regarding the TUGS (Talking, Understanding, Growing, Supporting) organization that is a community non-profit dedicated to promoting mental wellness and suicide prevention. Discussion. Director Blaskowski moved, Director Mandel seconded, to donate \$500 to the TUGS organization with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation. Motion carried.

Write-Off Uncollectible Debt

The directors reviewed the uncollectible debt report. Director Warwick moved, Director Mandel seconded, to write-off the uncollectible debt in the amount of \$30,916.74. Motion carried.

Director Blaskowski moved, Director Warwick seconded, to approve the director's expense reports. Motion carried.

Director Olson moved, Director Blaskowski seconded, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Other Business:

A 2026 Budget discussion with General Manager Torud and Director of Finance Straw is scheduled for December 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

The final 2026 Budget and All Employee and Director Lunch is scheduled for December 23, 2025.

The December Board Meeting and lunch for Retiree Becky Scott is scheduled for December 30, 2025.

Directors Baker, Cook, Effertz, Kessler, Mandel & Warwick are registered to attend the Board Leadership Course on January 7, 2026.

Directors Baker, Effertz & Warwick are registered to attend the Board Leadership Course on January 8, 2026.

Directors Blaskowski, Bowers, Cook, Kessler & Mandel are registered to attend WECA Education & Lobby Days January 26-28, 2026 in Madison.

The January Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2026.

Directors Blaskowski & Bowers are registered to attend the Credentialed Cooperative Director courses on February 18 & 19, 2026.

The February Board Meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2026.

Directors Blaskowski and Mandel are registered to attend the Board Financial Webinar on March 19, 2026.

The March Board Meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2026.

The Barron Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2026.

The April Board Meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Patricia Mandel, Secretary