

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
January 29, 2025

Call to Order

The regular board meeting of the Board of Directors of Barron Electric Cooperative was held at the cooperative headquarters on January 29, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Cook. Board members present included Baker, Blaskowski, Bol, Cook, Kessler, Mandel, Olson & 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 Olson gave a safety message.

Donation Request – Chetek Sports Complex

Member Cathi Ellingson appeared before the board to present an update and request a donation for the Chetek Sports Complex. Motion by Director Bol to donate \$2,000 towards the Chetek Sports Complex, seconded by Director Baker. Director Mandel moved to amend the original motion to add CoBank Sharing Success Matching Funds. Due to lack of second, motion to amend failed. The original motion to donate \$2,000 towards the Chetek Sports Complex carried with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation.

Director Baker moved to change the following agenda items: Federated Youth Foundation, Donation Request High School to Heroes Banquet and Donation Request for the Chetek Hydroflites, Inc. to next items on the agenda. Motion carried.

Federated Youth Foundation (FYF)

The board reviewed the 2024 Federated Youth Foundation (FYF) Summary of Net Assets and a 5-year history and projection of the cooperative's FYF donations. Director Olson moved, Director Kessler seconded, to approve the 2025 donation list as presented. Motion carried.

Donation Request – High School to Heroes Banquet

The board reviewed the request for the High School to Heroes Banquet to assist with the costs associated with the event. Director Kessler moved, Director Blaskowski seconded, to donate \$500 to the High School to Heroes Banquet with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation. Motion carried. Director Warwick will attend the banquet as the cooperative's representative.

Donation Request – Chetek Hydroflites, Inc.

The board reviewed the request from the Chetek Hydroflites, Inc. to assist with expenses for their 2025 season. Director Warwick moved, Director Bol seconded, to donate \$1,000 to the Chetek Hydroflites, Inc. with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation. Motion carried.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, December 23, 2024, were approved as written.

The minutes of the Special Board Meeting, January 7, 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: #103939 through #104036 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$203,825 with capital credit estate checks totaling \$17,576. Total receipts in the office \$3,014,083; total receipts by wire and ACH \$1,576,733; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$4,275,876; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$221,638 and the power bill was paid on 01/29/2025 in the amount of \$2,386,970.

Voucher Review

A list of vouchers was reviewed by the board.

Director Effertz joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

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.

Replace Truck 477

Director of Operations Steines reviewed information regarding the timeline for the replacement of Truck 477. Director Kessler moved, Director Olson seconded, to pre-approve the 2027 Budget to replace Truck 477 in the amount of \$260,000. Motion carried.

2025 Annual Meeting Committee

Director Olson presented information to the board regarding the 2025 Annual Meeting.

Scholarships

Barron Electric Cooperative Policy No. 1011 is a scholarship program including three (3) separate types of scholarships established by the Board of Directors totaling \$30,000.

Non-traditional Student/Adult Member Scholarship: General Manager Torud randomly drew Katelyn Warner as the recipient of the \$1,000 non-traditional/adult member student scholarship.

Electrical Related Trade Scholarship: General Manager Torud randomly drew Brady Jobe and Elijah Madison to each receive a \$1,000 electrical related trade scholarship.

Cooperative District Draw Scholarship: Each director randomly drew three scholarship recipients from their district. Students that are drawn will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

Director Olson randomly drew three names from District 1. The students drawn from District 1 were Karlee Gay, Karlee Hollmann and Evan McConnell.

Director Kessler randomly drew three names from District 2. The students drawn from District 2 were Aaron Anderson, Kaelin Farley and Brock Naessen.

Only two students submitted scholarship applications for District 3. Director Baker randomly drew two names from District 3. The students drawn from District 3 were Serena Lu and Guy Swenson.

Director Warwick randomly drew three names from District 4. The students drawn from District 4 were Jada Horstman, Baleigh Stouffer and Melody Taylor.

Director Blaskowski randomly drew three names from District 5. The students drawn from District 5 were Stephanie Kucko, Bailey Roth & Sienna Turner.

Director Mandel randomly drew three names from District 6. The students drawn from District 6 were Kadence Cook, Kierra Schuebel and Dawson Sinclair.

Director Cook randomly drew three names from District 7. The students drawn from District 7 were Logan Bender, Chase Hauck and Parker Wilson.

Director Effertz randomly drew three names from District 8. The students drawn from District 8 were Trevor Gilbertson, Olivia Leschisin and Madison Rondeau.

Director Bol randomly drew three names from District 9. The students drawn from District 9 were Connor Buckli, Frank Loew and Haddie Miley.

Staff Dismissed.

Membership List

A membership list of 41 was presented and approved without objection.

Other Meetings Attended

Director Baker reported on the DPC Meeting he attended on January 22 & 23, 2025. Directors Baker, Effertz, Kessler & Warwick reported on the Board Leadership Course they attended on January 8, 2025. Directors Bol & Kessler reported on the Board Leadership Course they attended on January 9, 2025. Directors Baker, Blaskowski, Mandel & Warwick reported on the Director's Financial Webinar they attended on January 16, 2025. Director Warwick reported on the Safety Meeting he attended on January 22, 2025. The directors discussed the NRECA Directors Conference they attended via webinar January 27 & 28, 2025. 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 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 December in the amount of \$1,956,872.76 was presented for approval and included new services \$176,160.36; change jobs \$54,818.38; Other Work Order Projects \$1,725,894.02 and 12 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

Outage and Overtime

Outages year-to-date stand at 90,667.45 consumer hours off, which is 33.37% above 2023 hours of 67,980.27. Overtime year-to-date is 4,108.50 hours, which is 22.83% above 2023 hours of 3,344.75.

2024 Top Usage by Members

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

2024 Community Support

The 2024 employee community support hours were reviewed by the board.

DPC District Meeting

The DPC District Meeting will be held on February 10, 2025 in Eau Claire and on February 12, 2025 via Teams. All directors will be attending the meeting in person on February 10, 2025.

WECA Education & Lobby Days

WECA Education & Lobby Days are scheduled for April 1 & 2, 2025 in Madison. All directors will be attending except for Director Bol and Director Olson.

NRECA Legislative Conference

The NRECA Legislative Conference is scheduled for April 27 – 30, 2025 in Washington, D.C. Director Warwick will be attending the conference.

The directors organized a Scholarship Committee consisting of three directors. Directors Mandel, Olson and Warwick will be on the Scholarship Committee.

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

Other Business:

The DPC District Meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2025 at the Florian Gardens in Eau Claire or via Teams on February 12, 2025.

Director Blaskowski is scheduled to attend CCD courses on February 11 & 12, 2025.

Director Kessler is scheduled to attend the Safety Meeting on February 12, 2025.

Directors Baker, Effertz, Mandel & Warwick are scheduled to attend the BLC course on February 13, 2025.

The February Board Meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2025.

Director Effertz is scheduled to attend the Safety Meeting on March 13, 2025.

The March Board Meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2025.

WECA Education & Lobby Days are scheduled for March 31, April 1-2, 2025 in Madison.

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

The NRECA Legislative Conference is scheduled for April 27-30, 2025 in Washington, D.C.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Patricia Mandel, Secretary