

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF BARRON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
January 29, 2026

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, 2026. 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.

Introduction of New Employee

Apprentice Lineman Wyatt Nitchey was introduced to the board.

City of Spooner Guests

City of Spooner Mayor Gary J. Cuskey, City of Spooner Administrator Nick Koverman and City of Spooner Utility Superintendent Gary Johnson joined the board meeting and discussed options with the board for the property on Highway H.

Mr. Cuskey, Mr. Koverman and Mr. Johnson were dismissed.

Safety Message

Director Warwick gave a safety message.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting, December 30, 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: #105269 through #105345 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$131,520 with capital credit estate checks totaling \$20,676. Total receipts in the office \$1,691,968; total receipts by wire and ACH \$4,009,635; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$4,169,497; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$248,695 and the power bill was paid on 01/28/2026 in the amount of \$2,478,690.

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.

2026 Annual Meeting Committee

Director Kessler reported information to the board regarding the 90th Annual Meeting to be held at the cooperative headquarters on Thursday, April 9, 2026, Lighting the Way for 90 Years.

Annual Donations

Director of Member Services Beaudette presented the 2026 donation suggestions for Federated Youth Foundation (FYF), CoBank Sharing Success and DPC Cooperative Contributions Programs.

The 2025 (FYF) Summary of Net Assets and a 5-year history was available to the board to review.

2026 FYF Pre-Approved & Allocated Funds

Director Bowers moved, Director Blaskowski seconded, to remove the Never Forgotten Honor Flight from CoBank Sharing Success in the amount of \$5,000, reduce the donation to \$1,000 and add it into the 2026 FYF Pre-Approved list. Motion carried with 7 in favor and 1 opposed.

Director Baker moved, Director Blaskowski seconded, to increase the FFA Chapter donations from \$200 to \$500 per chapter. Motion carried.

Director Bowers moved, Director Effertz seconded, to approve the 2026 FYF Pre-Approved & Allocated Funds as amended. Motion carried.

Donations are to be derived from the Federated Youth Foundation.

2026 CoBank Sharing Success Pre-Approval

Director Bowers moved, Director Blaskowski seconded, to increase Regional Hospice Service -Washburn to the amount of \$4,000 and remove Marshfield Medical Center – Rice Lake Hospice from FYF Pre-Approved & Allocated Funds then increase the amount to \$4,000 for Marshfield Medical Center - Rice Lake Hospice and include it in the CoBank Sharing Success pre-approval and keep the \$3,000 donation for Hunt Hill. Discussion. Motion carried with 7 in favor and 1 opposed. Funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation and will be submitted to be matched by the CoBank Sharing Success Program.

With no objections, Marshfield Medical Center – Rice Lake Hospice will be removed from the FYF Pre-Approved & Allocated Funds yearly list.

2026 DPC Contributions Program Pre-Approval

Due to lack of motion, no action was taken and will be brought to the board at a later date.

Donation Request – High Schools to Heroes

The board reviewed the request from High School to Heroes asking for funds to assist with the cost of the 2026 banquet that honors local high school seniors who have committee to serve our nation in the armed forces. Director Effertz moved, Director Warwick seconded, to donate \$2,000 to the 2026 High School for Heroes banquet. Discussion. Director Blaskowski moved, seconded by Director Baker, to amend the amount of the donation from \$2,000 to \$1,500. Amendment to the motion carried with 6 in favor and 2 opposed. Motion carried as amended with funds to be derived from Federated Youth Foundation.

Staff Dismissed.

Break at 11:22 a.m.

Reconvene at 11:31 a.m.

Membership List

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

Other Meetings Attended

Director Baker discussed the DPC Board Meeting he attended on January 21 & 22, 2026. Directors Baker, Cook, Effertz, Kessler, Mandel & Warwick discussed the Board Leadership course they attended on January 7, 2026. Directors Baker, Effertz & Warwick discussed the Board Leadership course they attended on January 8, 2026. Directors Blaskowski, Bowers, Cook, Kessler, Mandel & Warwick discussed the WECA Education & Lobby Days they attended on January 27 & 28, 2026. 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 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 \$567,189.37 was presented for approval and included new services \$99,180.24; change jobs \$35,831.05 Other Work Order Projects \$432,178.08 and 16 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

Outage and Overtime

Outages year-to-date stand at 101,598.04 consumer hours off, which is 12.06% above 2024 hours of 90,667.45. Overtime year-to-date is 3,781.50 hours, which is 7.96% below 2024 hours of 4,108.50.

2025 Top Usage by Members

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

2025 Community Support

The 2025 employee community support hours were reviewed by the board.

2026 NRECA Legislative Conference

The NRECA Legislative Conference is scheduled for April 26 – 28, 2026 in Washington, D.C. No directors will be attending the conference.

Policy No. 202 – Reimbursement of Expenses

The board reviewed the changes to Policy No. 202 – Reimbursement of Expenses. Discussion. Director Warwick moved, Director Blaskowski seconded, to increase the travel budget to \$10,000 for the eligible directors to attend the NRECA Annual Meeting the year after their election. Discussion.

A. Board related travel budget:

1. The Board's annual travel budget ~~of \$10,000 will~~ **may** be reviewed by the Board each year.
 - a. **Every director in their first two terms will receive an annual travel budget of \$10,000.**
 - b. **Directors who have completed their first two terms will receive an annual travel budget of \$8,000.**

Director Blaskowski moved, Director Warwick seconded, to approve Policy No. 202 – Reimbursement of Expenses as amended. Policy is to be effective 01/01/2026. Motion carried.

Director Baker moved, Director Olson seconded, to approve the director's expense reports. Motion carried.

Director Olson moved to adjourn. Motion carried.

Other Business:

President Cook is scheduled to attend the Safety Meeting on February 3, 2026.

All directors are scheduled to attend the DPC District Meeting on February 9, 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 along with the All Employee & Director lunch honoring years of service.

Director Blaskowski is scheduled to attend the Safety Meeting on March 10, 2026.

Directors Baker, 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 Annual Safety Committee Crew Visits are scheduled for April 23, 2026.

The NRECA Legislative Conference is scheduled for April 26-28, 2026.

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

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