

CHARGING OUR FUTURE



2021
ANNUAL REPORT



BARRON
Electric
COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Cooperative Principles

Voluntary and Open Membership
Democratic Member Control
Members' Economic Participation
Autonomy and Independence
Education, Training and Information
Cooperation Among Cooperatives
Concern for Community

Agenda

86th Annual Meeting • March 26, 2022 Barron High School Gymnasium

- 7:00 a.m. Registration and Breakfast served by the Barron VFW Food Drive for the Cumberland Food Pantry
- 10:00 a.m. Business Meeting Called to Order - Randy Cook, President
- Adoption of Rules of Order
 - Official Notice and Minutes - Scott Warwick, Secretary
 - Financial Report - Mandy Straw, Director of Finance
 - Brent Ridge, President and CEO of Dairyland Power Cooperative
 - Manager's Report - Aaron Torud
 - President's Report - Randy Cook
 - Election of Directors - Districts 3, 6, and 9
 - Unfinished Business
 - New Business
 - Adjournment

Rules of Order for Official Business Meeting

1. The meeting will be conducted in accordance with the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised and under the following special Rules of Order.
2. Members wishing to speak are to give their names and the districts in which they are members.
3. During nomination and election proceedings for directors, candidates will be allowed to speak for two minutes. One member supporting his/her candidacy will also be allowed to speak for two minutes.
4. Resolutions must have been submitted to the Resolutions Committee for consideration, as required by previous notice, and mailed to all members for action at the annual meeting. This does not preclude members from making simple motions from the floor.
5. Only members may be allowed to speak for two minutes on each issue and for one time only, except that an additional two minutes may be granted by unanimous consent.
6. No signs or handouts will be permitted within the building of the place of the meeting, except such handouts as required for the official conduct of the annual meeting. No handouts made available outside of the building will use the name of the cooperative, its letterhead or logo to imply that the cooperative supports or opposes any candidate for director or resolution.
7. No demonstrations shall be held within the building of the place of the meeting.

Reprinting or use of any information in this report is strictly forbidden without permission of Barron Electric Cooperative.

Minutes of the 85th Annual Meeting

The 85th Annual Meeting of Barron Electric Cooperative was held on Thursday, August 19, 2021, at the Barron Senior High School, Barron, Wisconsin. Registration of members began at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Randy Cook at 5:00 p.m. President Cook asked for a moment of prayer and recognized the veterans, law enforcement, first responders and health care workers in attendance. The National Anthem was played. President Cook acknowledged and thanked the organizations that participated in the meeting. The minutes of the meeting were to be recorded by the Secretary of the Board, Scott Warwick, assisted by Executive Secretary, Jennifer Horstman.

President Cook introduced the special legislative guests attending the meeting: Congressman Tom Tiffany, Senator Janet Bewley and Representative Dave Armstrong. Each guest addressed the membership.

Member Michael Baker moved to adopt the Rules of Order for the Official Business Meeting, as printed on Page 2 of the Annual Report. The motion was seconded and carried by a two-thirds show of voting cards.

Scott Warwick, Secretary of the Cooperative, read the official notice of the 85th Annual Meeting as it appeared in the cooperative's August 2021 issue of the *News for You* that was mailed to each member during the last week of July 2021.

Persons seated at the head table were introduced by the President as follows: Aaron Torud, General Manager and Jennifer Horstman, Executive Secretary. President Cook introduced the following Directors: Arlyn Helm – District I; Tim Kessler - District II; Michael Baker - District III; Scott Warwick - District IV; Larry Kuhl – District V; Patti Mandel - District VI; Randy Cook - District VII; Bill Effertz - District VIII; and Richard Bol - District IX.

Mandy Straw, Director of Finance, gave the financial report to the membership.

Manager Torud presented information to the membership regarding the changes in the electric industry, renewable energy and the future of electric vehicles.

The minutes of the 84th Annual Meeting were approved on August 26, 2020 at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. The approved minutes are printed on Pages 3 & 9 of the Annual Report. President Cook asked the membership for approval of assigning the Board of Directors to approve the 85th Annual Meeting minutes at their next regularly scheduled board meeting. There were no objections.

President Cook introduced the ballot tellers for director elections. Dick Fankauser was announced as head teller. President Cook explained the

qualifications to become a director as described in the Bylaws of Barron Electric Cooperative.

President Cook conducted the election of directors beginning at 5:29 p.m. District I had one candidate nominated by petition, David Olson. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. David Olson spoke on his behalf for election as director in District I. David Olson was elected Director for District I by a majority of voting cards.

District V had one candidate nominated by petition, Larry Kuhl. There being no further nominations,



Scott Warwick
Secretary

(Continued on page 9)



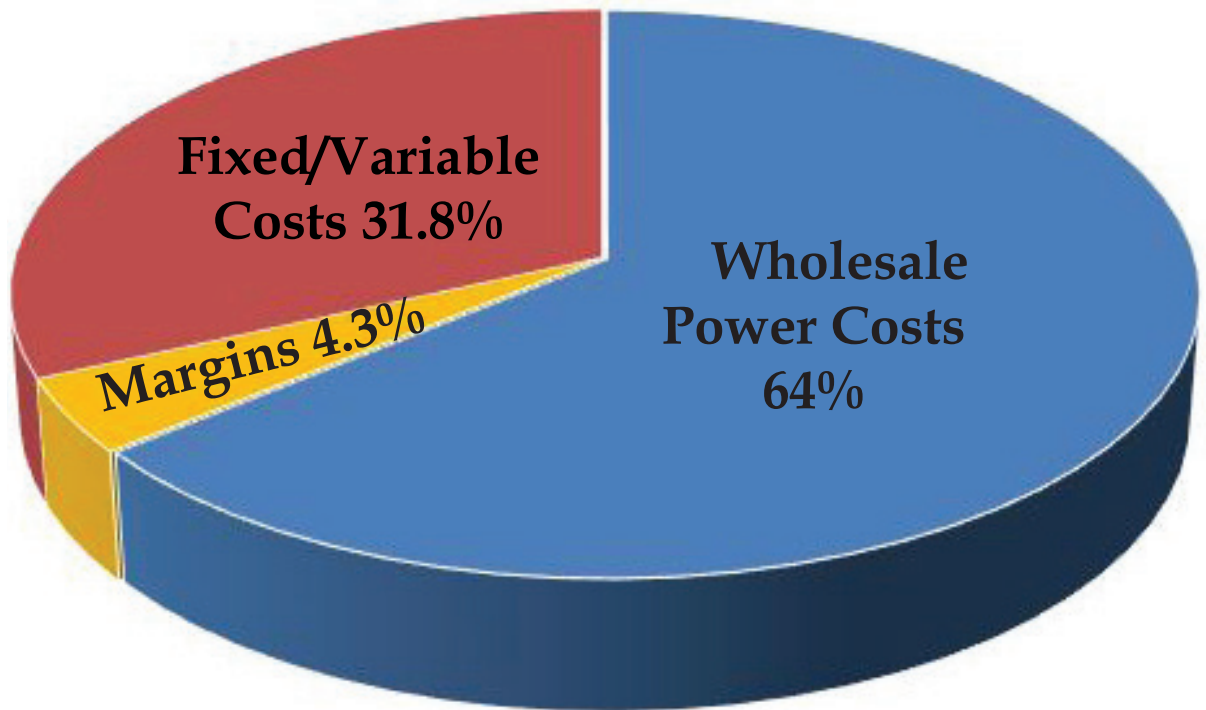
Board President Randy Cook and Barron Electric's General Manager Aaron Torud presented Teresa Olson with the Free Year of Energy at Barron Electric's 85th Annual Meeting.

Statement of Operations



Tim Kessler
District 2
Treasurer

	Dec. 31, 2020	Dec. 31, 2021
OPERATING REVENUE & PATRONAGE CAPITAL \$	\$ 37,202,435	39,408,320
OPERATING EXPENSE:		
Cost of Purchased Power	24,946,837	23,890,009
Distribution Expense - Operation.....	1,280,103	1,406,028
Distribution Expense - Maintenance	2,337,094	2,420,178
Consumer Accounts Expense.....	681,434	613,879
Customer Service and Informational Expense ...	543,265	583,613
Administrative and General Expense	1,727,059	1,800,903
Depreciation and Amortization Expense	3,175,322	3,241,703
Tax Expense	399,155	429,001
Interest on Long-Term Debt	1,390,631	1,360,843
Other Deductions - NET	0	2,110
TOTAL COST OF ELECTRIC SERVICE.....	36,480,898	35,748,267
OPERATING MARGINS (Revenue Less Expense)	721,537	3,660,053
NON OPERATING MARGINS - NET	40,738	72,149
GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION CAPITAL CREDITS.....	961,376	1,058,853
OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS.....	255,600	286,182
PATRONAGE CAPITAL OR MARGINS.....	\$ 1,979,251	\$ 5,077,237



Above is an illustration of the allocation of all funds Barron Electric collects.

Balance Sheet



	Dec. 31, 2020	Dec. 31, 2021
ASSETS		
UTILITY PLANT		
Total Utility Plant in Service	\$ 97,397,347	\$ 97,784,813
Construction Work in Progress	0	0
	\$ 97,397,347	\$ 97,784,813
LESS:		
Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	39,776,084	38,008,840
Net Utility Plant	57,621,263	59,775,973
OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS		
Investments in Associated Organizations	18,787,349	19,571,045
Other Investments	254,620	189,398
TOTAL	19,041,969	19,760,443
CURRENT AND ACCRUED ASSETS		
Cash - General Funds	210,289	189,422
Temporary Investments	531	1,652
Accounts Receivable - Net Sales of Energy	2,650,404	2,509,165
Accounts Receivable - Net Other	365,036	227,136
Materials and Supplies - Electric and Other	401,071	330,302
Prepayments	165,535	179,622
Other Current and Accrued Assets	23,351	7,635
TOTAL CURRENT AND ACCRUED ASSETS	3,816,217	3,444,934
DEFERRED DEBITS	643,790	257,612
TOTAL ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS	\$ 81,123,239	\$ 83,238,962
LIABILITIES		
MARGINS AND EQUITIES		
Patronage Capital	37,791,401	41,954,705
Other Margins and Equities	1,838,719	1,978,050
TOTAL MARGINS AND EQUITIES	39,630,120	43,932,755
LONG-TERM DEBT	33,004,368	33,433,515
CURRENT AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES		
Notes Payable	776,000	372,000
Accounts Payable	2,610,083	2,368,068
Current Maturities Long-Term Debt	1,390,353	1,516,208
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	1,192,710	1,296,369
TOTAL CURRENT AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES	5,969,146	5,552,645
DEFERRED CREDITS	2,519,605	320,047
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS	\$ 81,123,239	\$ 83,238,962

The cooperative is required to have an annual audit; CliftonLarsonAllen conducted the annual audit as of December 31, 2021. This is part of the board's trusteeship function where we assure our members that the assets of the cooperative are being protected.

President's Report



Randy Cook

As we recap Barron Electric Cooperative's 86 years as a member-owned business, I cannot help but think of how far we as a cooperative have come.

Barron Electric Cooperative's story

started in 1936 when a group of local farmers, led by Willis Jerome, Nels Nelson and Arthur G. Bilodeau, set out to form an electric cooperative. As a result of their foresight and determination, the first power lines were energized on November 22, 1937, consisting of 86 miles providing power to 125 members. What a remarkable beginning, what a testimony to cooperative willpower, perseverance and foresight to charge the future.

Today, Barron Electric has over 3,000 miles of line and serves over 19,000 members. I am sure that everyone who has ever flipped on a light switch is grateful that lights come on, but none more grateful than those in 1937. We are blessed to live in rural America. Let us never forget the role electricity has played in helping us enjoy family, friends and the rural life God has so graciously blessed us with.

Barron Electric's mission statement reads, "Barron Electric Cooperative is a member-owned business that safely provides energy, products and services to improve the quality of life in the areas we serve." Having said that, let us look at some of the highlights and challenges over the past year since we last met.

Challenges

COVID-19 was again a challenge in 2021 for all individuals and our

cooperative. In early 2021, Barron Electric hosted several drive-through clinics to assist area residents who received COVID-19 vaccine shots. Our board is proud of the management, cooperation, and professionalism our employees have, and continue to display, to ensure that we provide top-notch customer service, while at the same time ensuring the safety and well-being of all.

COVID-19 has and continues to cause supply chain issues. This not only makes getting critical materials, parts and equipment more difficult, it has also driven up the cost of each of those items dramatically. To combat higher prices and lag times in getting items, Barron Electric Cooperative's Management Team, working with your Board of Directors, made the decisions that addressed those issues. We want to ensure that Barron Electric Cooperative provides the most reliable, affordable and safe electricity in the Dairyland Power Cooperative system.

2021 Highlights

Your cooperative board hired, and welcomed to the Barron Electric cooperative team, Aaron Torud as our cooperative's General Manager in July of last year. Aaron has 25 years of experience and knowledge in the cooperative world. The Board of Directors is very pleased with the work Aaron is doing, his team approach, and the transparency in which he operates. His vision and passion to ensure cooperative members and employees are heard in the process of decision-making is impressive. I can speak for the board when I say we look forward to working with Aaron for years to come.

Cashback Credits

Last year, Barron Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors approved retiring \$600,000.00 in



General Manager Aaron Torud talked with members at Barron Electric's 85th annual meeting.

President's Report

Cashback Credits, also known as capital credits. In addition, your Board of Directors approved passing on \$1,400,000 in Power Cost Adjustments (PCA) from Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power supplier, which you received as credit on your November and December 2021 power bill statements. All of this was made possible by lower than expected costs in generating and purchasing power by Dairyland Power. Your board of directors also approved issuing members \$500,000 to help reduce margins at the cooperative.

Barron Electric provided \$21,000 in scholarships helping 21 high school students pursue their dreams last year. Since 1985, Barron Electric has awarded over \$340,000 to 391 students. Funds for this program are derived from unclaimed capital credits.

As member-owners of Barron Electric Cooperative, I know you're concerned for the safety of our

employees. I want to relay to you this is a top priority for your Board of Directors, our General Manager and all employees. I want to report to you that the investment in on-going safety instruction, equipment and safety protocols followed by our linemen and other staff continue to pay off. Our goal is to have every employee go home safely each day.

Remembering Arlyn Helm

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Arlyn Helm, who passed away on December 30, 2021. He served on Barron Electric's Board of Directors for 33 years, with 10 of those years as treasurer. We will miss his knowledge and foresight.

Electric Vehicles

In 1937, electric cars and electric vehicle (EV) chargers were not on the radar; they made up 5 percent of all cars sold in the United States last year. Barron Electric installed a Level 3 DC fast charger and Level 2 charger

at The Prime Family Dining in Trego, providing another location for EV drivers to stop and charge their vehicle. Barron Electric is part of CHARGE™, a group of 72 electric cooperatives. The goal is to ensure when EV drivers leave their home they know other EV charging stations, powered by electric cooperatives, are available.



SmartHub

Technology has enhanced how we do business at the cooperative. With SmartHub, members can access their account information, view their usage and payment history, contact the office, and pay their bill. We encourage members to share their e-mail address to receive an e-newsletter with the latest cooperative information. Members can also visit our website at barronelectric.com to view our outage map, complete online rebate forms, and view our programs.

It has been a privilege to serve as your board president. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I am confident and pleased to say that the state of your Cooperative, Barron Electric, is good, well and prepared to serve for years to come.



Arlyn Helm passed away on December 30, 2021. He served on Barron Electric's Board of Directors for 33 years. His knowledge and foresight will be greatly missed.

General Manager's Report



Aaron Torud

After only a few weeks of working at the cooperative, I had the opportunity to address the members at the 85th annual meeting.

Keeping everyone as safe as possible was our main goal, so the date and time of last year's 85th annual meeting was changed due to COVID. It is good to get back on the Saturday schedule for the 86th annual meeting of the cooperative, and we are hoping to get some "normal" back in our lives

as long as COVID numbers continue to decline. This pandemic has definitely changed the lives of many people; and my thoughts, prayers, and sympathy go out to all who have been negatively impacted by the pandemic.

We had to make some changes at the cooperative to protect the membership and the employees; and I feel we were successful with our efforts to follow the local guidelines as best as we could to keep everyone safe. Masks, hand sanitizer, working from home, and social distancing have become a normal part of our lives. In-person meetings, face-to-face conversations, and being able to shake someone's hand is what we were used to; and I feel there is great value in those things,

so I am hopeful we can continue moving in that direction.

Concern for Community

I have enjoyed learning about Barron Electric Cooperative and getting to know the employees in the last eight months. They are a great group of people who believe in the cooperative business model, support the communities we serve, and put their best foot forward each day to serve the members. Our employees donated over \$4,000 of their own money to many different organizations this last year. Our goal is to continue to improve upon and add to the processes, rates and programs we currently use to serve our members. It is important that any of the changes we make are thought out and planned with the goal of making things better for the members, the employees, and the cooperative.

Reliability

Reliability continues to be on our minds as we progress to a more dynamic distributed generation world. With the diversity of the generating sources, and their locations being spread throughout our system, it is important that we continue to adjust our engineering plans to ensure you receive the reliable and quality power you deserve. Voltage and equipment monitoring with our automated metering system are helpful tools in locating trouble spots prior to an outage happening. Right-of-way clearing along the power lines is another very important aspect of reliability to keep outages to a minimum. Trees continue to be our number one cause of outages over the last twelve months followed by birds and animals. We continue installing guards and protective equipment to help keep the birds and animals from coming into contact with live electrical wires.

Barron Electric Cooperative continues to support and partner with our members for new and emerging technologies and renewable energy. The cooperative was one of the first to install a community solar project, rebate electric vehicle chargers for your home, and install the Level 2



Employees show their concern for community by supporting Pink Ribbon Advocacy.

General Manager's Report

and Level 3 DC fast electric vehicle chargers in Trego. These community electric vehicle chargers are located at The Prime Family Dining in Trego and are seeing more use each month. Electric vehicles and renewable energy are exciting technologies that could

have significant impact on the electric industry in the near future.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Brent Ridge from Dairyland Power Cooperative for talking with our members today. I would like to thank the members, employees, and board of

directors for an exciting beginning. I look forward to continuing to serve the membership and safely providing energy, products, and services to improve the quality of life in the area we serve; just like our mission statement says.



Barron Electric held a grand opening at The Prime Family Dining in Trego, where a Level 3 DC fast electric vehicle charger was installed as well as a Level 2 charger. This helped fill a 155-mile gap between fast chargers on Highway 53.



Minutes of the 85th Annual Meeting

the nominations were closed. Larry Kuhl spoke on his behalf for election as director in District V. Larry Kuhl was elected Director for District V by a majority of voting cards.

President Cook called on Vice President Baker to assume the Chair and conduct the election for Director in District VII.

Vice President Baker stated to the membership that District VII had one candidate nominated by petition, Randy Cook. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Randy Cook spoke on his behalf for election as director in District VII. Randy Cook was elected director for District VII by a majority of voting cards.

With elections complete, President Cook resumed his position as Chair of the meeting.

President Cook reported on the state of the cooperative discussing safety, service, distribution equity, rates and cashback credits in his address to the membership.

There was no unfinished or new business to come before the meeting.

Teresa Olson was drawn as the grand prize winner for one year of free electricity. Her lucky ticket was drawn by Director of Member Services Jennifer Beaudette.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

continued from page 3



Melissa Gillett, Member Technology Coordinator, talked with members about the electric vehicle chargers.

Candidate Profiles

District 3 - Michael Baker



Michael said, “I want to represent the members and ensure that they have reliable and affordable energy.” He has served on Barron Electric’s Board of Directors since 1999 and is currently the Vice President of the Board and a Dairyland Power Cooperative director.

Michael was the highway superintendent for Washburn County for 20 years. He served 40 years on the Town of Madge Board and 28 years as the Town Chairman.

Michael remarked, “Rates and base load generation are the biggest challenges.”

District 6 - Patricia Mandel



Patricia said, “I have the leadership and decision-making skills to fulfill the requirements of a director. I have over 35-years of experience in finance, business and farm management, as well as being responsible for the interpretation and application of the rules, laws, and regulations of financial transactions.”

She has a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and has taken many courses since graduation emphasizing finance and business management. She has been a lender, supervisor, and financial analysis specialist for the past 35 years.

She is active in her community and has been a leader and project board Vice President for the Barron County 4-H Program. She has been a member of the worship and music and finance committees for her church. She has served on Barron Electric’s Board of Directors for three years.

Patricia added, “Technology is developing at an accelerated pace, and I believe it is important for us to understand how that impacts the need for electricity. We will need to explore new innovative ways to serve our members.”

District 9 - Richard Bol



Richard remarked, “Electricity plays a vital role in our business and personal lives. I believe I am a valuable board member.”

He has owned and managed SugarBol Farms, a dairy/heifer operation, for many years. Richard has served on many cooperative boards including Barron Electric Cooperative since 2009. He was on the Farm Service Agency Committee for 13 years. He has served on his church board and the Pregnancy Help Center Board for many years.

Richard added, “One of the biggest challenges will be how to keep costs down when the push is for renewable energy, which will be a higher cost option.”

2021 Highlights



Barron Electric sponsored Chris Kroeze, pictured right, at Barron's Music in the Park. Proceeds from concessions and donations were matched by CoBank, Barron Electric's lender, and FYF, a fund consisting of unclaimed capital credits. A check totaling more than \$18,000 was given to the Never Forgotten Honor Flight.



Linemen Logan Sanborn and JT Gunderson helped conduct maintenance projects to improve reliability.

Barron Electric Employees



Aaron Torud
General Manager



Jennifer Horstman
Executive Assistant/
HR Administrator

Billing & Finance Department



Dee Abbott
Member Account
Representative



Danae Becker
Member Account
Representative



Kim Eder
Capital Credit
Representative



Shay Frankenberg
Member Account
Representative



Stephanie Kunesh
Receptionist



Bobbie Mayfield
Senior Accountant



Deidra Meyer
CIS Specialist



Becky Scott
Accountant
Level 1



Mandy Straw
Director of
Finance

Member Services Department



Carrie Baribeau
Communication
Specialist



Jennifer Beaudette
Director of
Member Services



Bryan Bielmeier
Energy Use
Technician



Nellie Cupp
Member Account
Representative



Melissa Gillett
Member
Technology
Coordinator



Jason Humphrey
Network
Administrator



Randel Wachsmuth
Energy Management
Technician



*Sue Dau, (right, row 2) Systems
Coordinator, presented a \$500 check
to Rice Lake Youth Curling to be
used for equipment for their youth
program.*

Operations Department



Susan Dau
Systems
Coordinator



Scott DeVoe
Line
Superintendent
Spooner



Roger Erickson
Warehouseman



Jill Humphrey
Operations
Department
Representative



Jeff Nelson
Line
Superintendent
Barron



Dave Peterson
Mechanic

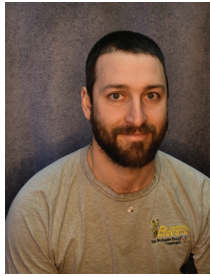


Nate Steines
Director of
Operations



Jody Thill
Member Account
Representative

Barron Line Crew



Isaac Cole
Lineman



Tim Engel
Lineman



Nate Gustum
Leadman/
Technician



Aaron Holten
Lineman



Mike Kroeze
Lineman



Tyler Nanstad
Lineman



Andy Neff
Lineman



Jordan Riebe
Lineman



TJ Romsos
Lineman



Logan Sanborn
Lineman



Jeff Secraw
Lineman

Spooner Line Crew



Ben Brede
Lineman



JT Gunderson
Lineman



Jason Kircher
Lineman



Dan Ripplinger
Lineman



Jeff Sando
Lineman



Gio Torres
Lineman



Ben Valentin
Lineman

Service Territory and Board of Directors



Tim Kessler
District 2
Treasurer



David Olson
District 1



Mike Baker
District 3
Vice President
Dairyland Power Director



Scott Warwick
District 4
Secretary

		Brooklyn	Gull Lake	Stinnett	Hayward				
Scott	Casey	Trego	Spring Brook	Bass Lake	Bass Lake				
Rusk	Evergreen	Spooner	Crystal	Stone Lake	Sand Lake				
Dewey	Bashaw	Beaver Brook	Madge	Birchwood					
Roosevelt	Barronett	Sarona	Long Lake	Birchwood					
Maple Plain	Lakeland	Bear Lake	Oak Grove	Cedar Lake					
Crystal Lake	Cumberland	Stanford	Rice Lake	Doyle					
Almena	Clinton	Barron	Stanley	Sumner	Strickland	Stubbs			
Clayton	Turtle Lake	Arland	Maple Grove	Prairie Lake	Chetek	Rusk	Big Bend		
Clear Lake	Vance Creek	Prairie Farm	Dallas	Sioux Creek	Dovre	Sampson			
New Haven	Sheridan		Sand Creek						



Larry Kuhl
District 5



Bill Effertz
District 8



Patti Mandel
District 6



Richard Bol
District 9



Randy Cook
District 7
President

For more information:

Barron Electric
1434 State Highway 25 N.
P.O. Box 40
Barron, WI 54812

Phone Numbers

Barron: 715-537-3171
Toll-free: 800-322-1008

For outages, call 866-258-8722
barronelectric.com



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE LIFTED US UP

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the power of human connections*



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Cooperatives