

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

BARRON
Electric
COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Participation **POWERS** Progress

Table of Contents

3

Agenda

4-5

86th Annual Meeting
Minutes

6 - 9

Statement of
Operations &
Balance Sheet

10 - 11

General Manager &
President's Report

12-13

Candidate Profiles

14-15

Service territory &
Board of Directors

16-17

Minutes & Report
continued

18-19

2022 Highlights

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.

87th Annual Meeting Agenda

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

- Registration and Breakfast - Barron VFW
- Food Drive for the Cameron 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
- Guest Speaker - Ron Franz, Director of Resource and Energy Planning at Dairyland Power Cooperative
- Manager's Report - Aaron Torud
- President's Report - Randy Cook
- Election of Directors - Districts 2, 4, and 8
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

**Barron Electric's
87th Annual
Meeting
March 25, 2023
at the Barron High School**

**Participation
POWERS
Progress**

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

Minutes of the 86th Annual Meeting

The 86th Annual Meeting of Barron Electric Cooperative was held on Saturday, March 26, 2022, at the Barron Senior High School, Barron, Wisconsin. Registration of members began at 7:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Randy Cook at 10:00 a.m. President Cook asked for a moment of prayer. The National Anthem was sung by Barron High School students Jason Dau and Hailey Thompson. President Cook recognized the veterans, law enforcement, first responders and health care workers. He also acknowledged and thanked the organizations that donated supplies and participated in the meeting. The minutes of the meeting were to be recorded by the Secretary of the Board, Scott

Warwick, assisted by Executive Assistant/HR Administrator, Jennifer Horstman.

President Cook stated the special legislative guests, Congressman Tom Tiffany and Representative Dave Armstrong, were unable to attend the meeting.

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 86th Annual Meeting as it appeared in the cooperative's March 2022 issue of News for You that was mailed to each member during the last week of February 2022.

Persons seated at the head table were introduced by the President as follows: Aaron Torud, General Manager, and Jennifer Horstman, Executive Assistant/HR Administrator. President Cook introduced the following Directors: David Olson - 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.

The minutes of the 85th Annual Meeting were approved on August 25, 2021, at the regular scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors. The approved minutes are printed on Pages 3, 8 and 9 of the Annual Report. President Cook asked the membership for approval of assigning the Board of Directors to approve the 86th Annual Meeting minutes at their next regularly scheduled board meeting. There were no objections.

Mandy Straw, Director of Finance, presented the financial report and addressed questions from the membership.

President Cook introduced Brent Ridge, President and CEO of Dairyland Power Cooperative. Mr. Ridge presented information to the members regarding Dairyland's renewable energy, industry trends and explained how they are providing safe, reliable and cost-effective power to the members.

General Manager Torud presented information to the membership regarding energy efficient tools for the members, electric vehicle information, renewable energy at the cooperative level and Barron Electric's concern for community.

In his address to the membership, President Cook reported on the state of the cooperative discussing how electricity has changed our

lives, safety, improving reliability, cashback credits, rates, and remembering Director Helm who served 33 years on the Board of Directors.

President Cook introduced the ballot tellers for director elections. Jo Rogowski was announced as head teller. President Cook explained the qualifications to become a director and the nomination methods as described in the Bylaws of Barron Electric Cooperative.

President Cook conducted the election of directors beginning at 10:56 a.m.

District III had one candidate nominated by petition, Michael Baker. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Michael Baker spoke on his behalf for election as director in District III. Michael Baker was elected Director for District III by a majority of voting cards.

District VI had one candidate nominated by petition, Patricia Mandel. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Patricia Mandel spoke on her behalf for election as director in District VI. Patricia Mandel was elected Director for District VI by a majority of voting cards.

District IX had one candidate



**Scott Warwick
District 4
Secretary**



The Barron VFW Post 8338 served breakfast at the 86th Annual Meeting

... continued on page 16



Statement of Operations

Dec. 31, 2021 Dec. 31, 2022

OPERATING REVENUE & PATRONAGE CAPITAL.	<u>\$ 39,408,320</u>	<u>\$ 39,549,428</u>
OPERATING EXPENSE:		
Cost of Purchased Power	23,890,009	26,468,366
Distribution Expense - Operation.....	1,406,028	1,477,478
Distribution Expense - Maintenance	2,420,178	3,143,794
Consumer Accounts Expense.....	613,879	574,994
Customer Service and Informational Expense	583,613	620,858
Administrative and General Expense	1,800,903	1,862,091
Depreciation and Amortization Expense	3,241,703	3,175,951
Tax Expense	429,001	415,213
Interest on Long-Term Debt	1,360,843	1,382,880
Other Deductions - NET	<u>2,110</u>	<u>2,481</u>
TOTAL COST OF ELECTRIC SERVICE.....	<u>35,748,267</u>	<u>39,124,106</u>
OPERATING MARGINS (Revenue Less Expense).....	3,660,053	425,322
NON OPERATING MARGINS - NET	72,149	47,621
GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION		
CAPITAL CREDITS.....	1,058,853	989,379
OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS.....	<u>286,182</u>	<u>278,333</u>
PATRONAGE CAPITAL OR MARGINS.....	\$ 5,077,237	\$ 1,740,655



B a l a n c e S h e e t

ASSETS

UTILITY PLANT

Total Utility Plant in Service
Construction Work in Progress

LESS:

Accumulated Provision for Depreciation
Net Utility Plant

OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS

Investments in Associated Organizations
Other Investments
TOTAL

CURRENT AND ACCRUED ASSETS

Cash - General Funds
Temporary Investments
Accounts Receivable - Net Sales of Energy
Accounts Receivable - Net Other
Materials and Supplies - Electric and Other
Prepayments
Other Current and Accrued Assets
TOTAL CURRENT AND ACCRUED ASSETS
DEFERRED DEBITS
TOTAL ASSETS AND OTHER DEBITS

LIABILITIES

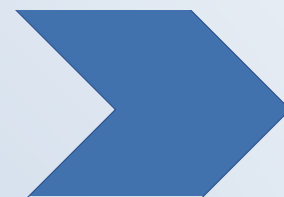
MARGINS AND EQUITIES

Patronage Capital
Other Margins and Equities
TOTAL MARGINS AND EQUITIES
LONG-TERM DEBT

CURRENT AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES

Notes Payable
Accounts Payable
Current Maturities Long-Term Debt
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities
TOTAL CURRENT AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES
DEFERRED CREDITS
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDITS

	Dec. 31, 2021	Dec. 31, 2022
	\$ 97,784,813	\$ 101,826,747
	0	525
	\$ 97,784,813	\$ 101,827,272
	38,008,840	39,604,315
	59,775,973	62,222,957
	19,571,045	20,232,850
	189,398	123,974
	19,760,443	20,356,824
	189,422	168,128
	1,652	1,272
	2,509,165	2,661,752
	227,136	256,374
	330,302	553,647
	179,622	192,071
	7,635	7,635
	3,444,934	3,840,879
	257,612	100,634
	\$ 83,238,962	\$ 86,521,294
	41,954,705	42,305,887
	1,978,050	2,163,181
	43,932,755	44,469,068
	33,433,515	31,856,913
	372,000	3,548,482
	2,368,068	3,518,236
	1,516,208	1,575,060
	1,296,369	1,138,976
	5,552,645	9,780,754
	320,047	414,559
	\$ 83,238,962	\$ 86,521,294



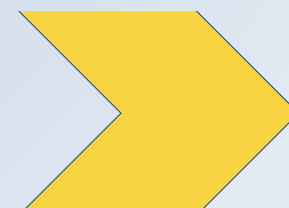
Total Utility Plant
\$101,826,747

Net Utility Plant
\$62,222,957

Total Assets
\$86,521,294

Total Margins & Equities
\$44,469,068

Total Liabilities
\$86,521,294



General Manager and President's Report

Participation Powers Progress is the theme of Barron Electric's 87th Annual Meeting. Your participation at today's meeting ensures that members elected to the



The December 15 storm left more than 9,000 members without power.

board of directors represent your best interests. We appreciate your participation!

Participation Helps Restore Power

With more than 9,000 members without power after the December 15 winter storm, participation was the key to safely restoring power. Cooperatives were contacted through ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency) and Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative from Iowa, MiEnergy Cooperative from Minnesota, and Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative from Centuria came to our aid. Additionally, local utilities came to assist from Cumberland Municipal Utility, City of Spooner, City of Barron and Rice Lake Utilities. Contractors PUSH, Jolma, and Zielies Tree Service worked side-by-side with the crews assisting with the restoral. Office employees helped deliver meals to 90 crew

members throughout the week so the teams could continue to work on-site for our members. Crews worked seamlessly together for four straight days of 15-hour shifts in ice, heavy wet snow, wind, and slippery and unplowed roads. Barron Electric's Right-of-Way Program played a critical role in minimizing outages. Teamwork and participation played a critical role in our restoration efforts.



Cashback Credits & Nuclear Waste Policy Act Refund

Barron Electric members received a total of \$2,000,000 between cashback credits and the Nuclear Waste Policy Act Refund in 2022. This was the largest return in the history of the cooperative. Since 1965, Barron Electric has paid members over \$33,000,000 in cashback credits and additional refunds that have occurred throughout the years.

Concern for Community

Barron Electric strives to improve the quality of life in the areas we serve. Throughout the years, we have partnered with non-profit organizations to help pay for a new fire hall, life-saving equipment, handicap accessible playground

equipment, and training for nurses just to name a few. Our employees also have the opportunity to use community service hours to assist local organizations. Organizations that our employees have volunteered their time and talents with are Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, United Way, American Red Cross, and coaching youth sports.

Barron Electric's Board of Directors

Barron Electric's Board of Directors meet monthly to discuss the challenges and opportunities that affect our membership. These nine directors live in the same communities they are elected to represent and understand their decisions will also affect their neighbors.

... continued on page 17



Barron Electric Cooperative Representative Danae Becker presented a \$600 check to Jonathan Ekenstedt, Fire Camp Crew Chief, and Tim Halbur, Northwood Technical College Fire Services Director. This donation helped pay expenses for their youth camp.

Candidate Profiles

District 2 Tim Kessler



Tim commented, “I would like to serve as the District 2 director to help maintain services and programs needed both now and in the future for the members of Barron Electric.” He added, “I feel the board plays a vital role in keeping up with the changing times and technology. I would like to help move the cooperative forward into the future.”

Tim has served as a director for the past six years and has been treasurer for the past three years. He has completed Board Leadership Certification. He is a retired Master Sergeant of 28 years with the Army and Wisconsin National Guard where he served on the Command Staff. Tim and his wife also own and operate a beef cow/calf and cash crop farm. He serves as Chairman in the Town of Evergreen and is on the Washburn County Board of Supervisors as well as the Farm Service Agency Board for Washburn/Burnett Counties.

Tim remarked, “Dealing with green energies like solar, wind, hydro and battery storage and incorporating those into Barron Electric’s portfolio to provide cleaner, more efficient energy while keeping electricity affordable and reliable to the members is my mission.”

Barron Electric’s Mission Statement

Barron Electric Cooperative is a member-owned business that safely provides energy, products, and services to improve the quality of life in the area we serve.

Candidate Profiles

District 4 Scott Warwick



Scott remarked, “I recognize the importance of electric power in our lives and want to help ensure this resource into the future. I believe in the cooperative business model and work to support it locally and at the State and Federal legislative levels.” Scott served on the Wisconsin State Electric Cooperative Association Board for six years, the Cooperative Network Board for one year, the State Legislative Committee, and most recently, the Dairyland Power Cooperative Board of Directors.

Scott added, “I have two doctorate level degrees demonstrating an ability to absorb knowledge. I have devoted considerable time and effort to learn about the electric industry.” Scott is active in his community, volunteering an average of 100 hours per year.

District 8 Bill Effertz



“I would like to continue to serve on the board of directors to use the knowledge I’ve gained in my first term to help keep our electricity safe, affordable, and reliable,” remarked Bill. Bill follows the cooperative principle, concern for community, and has volunteered his time and talents with local non-profits’ fundraisers and projects. He commented, “Barron Electric is facing many challenges today as we work to keep electricity reliable and affordable.” One challenge is bringing in wind and solar energy while keeping a reliable source for our base load generation. Other challenges include price increases, cyber threats, and availability issues with supplies.

**\$33 Million
Returned in
Capital Credits**

**20,235
Services in
Place**

**3,197
miles of line**



Dr. David J. Williams



86th Annual Meeting Minutes

... continued from page 5

nominated by petition, Richard Bol. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Richard Bol spoke on his behalf for election as director in District IX. Richard Bol was elected director for District IX by a majority of voting cards.

With elections complete, President Cook asked the membership for any unfinished or new business to come before the meeting. There was no unfinished or new business to come before the meeting.

General Manager Torud, President Cook and CEO Brent Ridge addressed questions from the membership. Twelve names were drawn by CEO Brent Ridge for \$100 bill credits. The twelve members to receive \$100 bill credits were: Vivian Bergman, Herb Cook, Kelly Cupp, Neil Elskamp, Lois Haynie, Kenneth Noesen, Edward Olson, Anthony Richter, Lois Ristow, Larry Snowbank, David Wigchers and Lawrence Wilhelmy.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am.



Pictured are the members who won \$100 bill credits at the 86th Annual Meeting.

General Manager and President's Report

... continued from page 10

The board of directors' highest priority is to ensure the cooperative provides reliable, safe, and affordable power to members. Barron Electric has the second lowest rates in the state based on a monthly average of 1,200 kwh of usage. They are always working for the member's best interests.

Diversifying Generation Resources

Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power supplier, provides the wholesale electrical requirements for 24 distribution cooperatives and 17 municipal utilities. Dairyland has been diversifying its generation resources, which currently include wind, solar, renewable-enabling natural gas, coal, hydro and biogas. Recently, Dairyland has been exploring carbon-free power supply technologies, including NuScale's small modular nuclear reactor plants.

Technology and Programs

Communication to our members is key. We have many tools members can use with technology to keep informed and up-to-date with cooperative information. Our website at barronelectric.com is updated often and includes information on many topics including energy solutions, rebates, events and more. Members have the

opportunity to participate in SmartHub. SmartHub is a tool where members can view their usage, the outage map, pay their bills, and contact our office. SmartHub is a great tool to use on the go with a mobile device or log on through the website. Whatever way you choose, the information is at your fingertips. Log on to our website and see what your cooperative is doing for you. Members can also follow us on Facebook and Instagram for current happenings.

Member Satisfaction Survey

We appreciate your participation in the recent survey, which helps us serve our members better. Feedback from the survey was used in strategic planning sessions with the board of directors and selected employees to help better meet our members' expectations and plan for the future. As we plan for the future, we are confident that the foundation based on the seven cooperative principles first established 87 years ago will continue to serve us. We also know that participation powers progress.



Highlights from 2022



Crews upgraded the transformer at the Haugen Substation to help increase reliability.



We were excited to distribute cashback credit checks in person in 2022.



Barron Electric, Barron Maple Grove Fire Department, and CoBank teamed up to donate more than \$15,000 to the Never Forgotten Honor Flight.



Barron Electric and employees teamed up with member Nuto Farms to purchase and deliver over 3,000 pounds of potatoes to 13 food pantries.

Ways to Save Energy



- When you shop for a new appliance, watch for the Energy Star® label. Check out Barron Electric's website at barronelectric.com to see if your new appliance qualifies for a rebate.
- If your refrigerator is more than 10 years old, you could save hundreds each year by replacing it with a new Energy Star® certified refrigerator.
- Only run the dishwasher when it is full. Let dishes air dry instead of using your dishwasher's heated dry setting.
- If your washer is more than ten years old, consider purchasing a new Energy Star® certified clothes washer. These washers use 25% less energy and 33% less water than regular washers. They also have greater capacity, allowing you to wash the same amount of laundry in fewer loads.
- Check your energy usage at SmartHub. Go to barronelectric.com, and click on the SmartHub icon to get started. View daily usage, compare your monthly usage, and contact our office.



BARRON
Electric
COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

