

**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the  
Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Tuesday, February 27, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at the Cooperative headquarters building in Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin.

Thank you cards from Flambeau Valley Arts Association and Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity were circulated by Chairman Brooks.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order.** Chairman Brooks called the Regular Board Meeting to Order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Roll Call.** Chairman Brooks stated that the following Board Members were in person at the start of the meeting: Jane Reich, District 1; Myron Brooks, District 2; Joe Lorence, District 3; Jay Waeltz, District 4; Bill van Doom, District 5; Bill Amery, District 6; Wally Kruk, District 8; and Sandy Schara, District 9. Also present in person was General Manager/CEO, Kurt Harris; Finance Manager, Dawn Zahurones; Operations Manager, Jordan Behreandt; and Executive Assistant Jennifer Belk. Jason Weaver, District 7 was not in attendance.
3. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
4. **Acceptance of the Agenda.** A motion was made by Lorence and seconded by Reich to accept the agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.
5. **Open Comment Session.** Member Lori Taguma entered the meeting at 9:02 a.m. and left at 9:15 a.m.
6. **Safety Moment.** Reich presented seatbelt safety.
7. **January Minutes.** A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Schara to approve the January Board minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.
8. **Check Register.** A motion was made by van Doom and seconded by Waeltz to approve the January Check Register as presented. Unanimously approved.
9. **Consent Agenda.** Member refunds, membership applications, outages, director expense reports, and director reports were posted to Call of Order prior to the meeting for review by the Board. A motion was made by Schara and seconded by Amery to approve the consent agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.
10. **Operations Report.** Operations Manager Behreandt reported on pole changes, mapping, GPS and Zielles projects. A motion was made by van Doom and seconded by Schara to approve the operations report as presented. Unanimously approved.
11. **Financial Report.** Finance Manager Zahurones reported on the income statement comparison, monthly margins, year-to-date margins, tier/o-tier, year-to-date balance sheet summary, equity, year-to-date highlights, monthly kilowatts sold, year-to-date kilowatts sold, and operating statement, balance sheet, supplemental data for December 2023 and January 2024. A motion was made by Schara and seconded by van Doom to approve the financial report as presented. Unanimously approved.
12. **General Manager Report.** General Manager/CEO Harris reported on PCA for February with recommendation to not pass that along to the members. Board consensus. Harris continued to report on grant submissions, broadband feasibility study, and LCO grant collaboration. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Lorence to approve the General Manager report as presented. Unanimously approved.

The Board took a break from 10:40a.m. and returned at 10:52a.m.

13. **Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC).** DPC Director reported on MISO reliability. A motion was made by and seconded by to approve the DPC Director report as presented.
14. **Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA).** Director reports for attendees were loaded to Call to Order prior to the meeting.
15. **Old Business.**
  - a. Member Policy No. 310 - Interconnection with Qualifying Facilities. A motion was made by van Doom and seconded by Lorence to approve changes as presented. Unanimously approved.
  - b. Member Policy No. 311 - Net Metering. A motion was made by van Doom and seconded by Lorence to approve changes as presented. Director Amery abstained. With 7 votes in favor, the motion was carried.
16. **New Business.**
  - a. Member Concern - Member Policy No. 325. A motion was made by Kruk and seconded by van Doom to make no changes to Member Policy No. 325. With a vote of 7 in favor and 1 opposed the motion was carried.

The Board took a break for lunch from 12:04-12:33pm.

- a. OneEnergy Renewables PPA. Discussion held. No action taken.
  - b. DPC Buy All/Sell All Renewable Energy PPA. Discussion held. No action taken.
  - c. DPC Wholesale Power Contract Survey. Discussion held
17. **Next Meeting Date.** The date for the Regular March Board Meeting was set tentatively as Thursday, March 28, 2024.

A motion was made by Schara and seconded by Reich to **Adjourn the Meeting at 12:59p.m.** Unanimously approved.

  
Joe Lorende, Secretary-Treasurer

3/28/24  
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(CORPORATE SEAL)

Director Report, February 2024  
Jane Reich, District 1

WECA LOBBY DAYS JAN.30 AND 31ST. Some of the key take aways from this were in legislative issues senate bill #48 and assembly bill #470 ROFR to build long range transmission in our area. This bill retains control in our area, giving us a say. Miso builds are regionally cost shared, we benefit from build use to rebuild infrastructure, etc. Ellen Nowak ATI and Ben Porath spoke going into far more detail. In favor of ROFR are labor and unions, trade groups, utility and transmission co. required 17 Republican votes to bring to the floor. At present not enough.

EV charger and infrastructure #791 Senate Bill, currently at no charge, future charge per KWH with excise tax to go into government fund. Senate Bill #792 infrastructure bill. Thank all but Cowles and Nass for their support. Ask to get their support if possible. EV license plate thru Senator Jesse Jones. I believe this is a good idea for the consumer since in case of an accident can make police, etc aware that this is an electric vehicle. Not a sticker but a different plate for awareness.

Touched on green lights on ATV AND UTV on roadways in maintenance and restoration only for cooperatives. Also on the wild parsnip, community solar, and third-party ownership. No solid plans to date on ;these.

Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange speaker, Phil Irwin, told us that Federated has over 701 million in assets, claims have dropped, and the importance of SAFETY. Don't be the first back on, be the safest! There were 23 live contacts in 2023. Lifesaving rules are key.

THIS WAS MY FAVORITE SPEAKER. Kelly Sheffield, UW Madison volleyball coach spoke on being a success at coaching. Be the best you can be! BE CONSISTENT// POSITIVE//OPTIMISTIC

Speaker Ryan Newlan, NRECA gave an update on cyber positives and proactive thoughts. No longer fear based. WECA is not alone, we have resources and partnerships. There are four WECA members on top of cyber security. There are podcasts and a cyber group called CMA that helps in an emergency. Also, there are webinars through the DOE.

Speakers Chuck Chvala (D) and Scott Jensen (R) attorneys in political strategy gave information on different aspects pertaining to politics, parties, and candidates.

Michael Loenen, senior renewables development for (NRCO) gave us an interesting speech on lithium batteries, pros, and cons. Stating that 6 percent EV'S, 21 percent hybrid and 73 percent regular vehicles. WHAT DOES THIS TELL US?

Amanda Seger, CFC regional VP gave an update on CFC loans, stating that 94 percent of their loans are for construction work plans. Key ratio trends analysis stated in 2022 1 percent growth in consumers, WI. above US median at 3.4 increase in KW sales, 4 percent in plant growth, equity to assets 44 percent in 2022. Wisconsin was above average for retiring capital credits.

Shane Larson, CEO of Rock Energy Cooperative and director of CFC for statewide handed out a check for CFC to WECA Youth Education in the amount of \$27,900.

Also, Tammy Baldwin (D) spoke to us remotely. She commended cooperatives for all that they do. She called us Economic Engines. She also commended Steve Freeze of WECA for all he does to promote the electrical industry.

There were also two other politicians that spoke on electrical issues. They were Representative Chanz Green (R), and state representative Katrina Shankland (D).

Kaleb Vander Wiele, DOT officer and project manager for Wisconsin Department of Transportation spoke on the EV market and the economic development pertaining to EV'S.

I attended the 2024 Dairyland Power District Meeting. As always, we were given all kinds of information. Elk Mound will need maintenance work this year and also Rock Gen will too.

The ISFSI= or nuclear reactor cylinders are safe, not long term for us to care for. Hopefully awaiting government to take over as what thought of years ago with Yucca Mtn.

We listened to material on finances, competitiveness, rates, risks, and operations.

All in all, there was information on all aspects of DPC and the alliance we have with them.

Together we move forward.

Myron Brooks  
District 2 Director Report  
February 2024

I attended the Education and Lobby Days in Madison. The main issue that needed help was Right of First Refusal. WECA needed more state senators to support the Bill. Senator Cory Tomczyk and Representative James Edming were in support of the Right of First Refusal, and for other Bills.

The Co-op directors thanked Senator Tomczyk and Representative Edming for their support. 2024 Champion of Electric Cooperative Award Senator Tammy Baldwin, Representative Chang Green and Representative Katrina Shankland.

I also attended DPC District meeting in Eau Claire. Brent Ridge CEO for DPC reported on 2023 accomplishments and challenges. DPC added 10 new municipals. DPC goal is the electric power remains reliable, affordable and safe.

Amanda Hoeffering reported that with 3.3% unemployment, it is not easy to find employees. There are 20 job openings at DPC. The goal is to retain current employees. DPC legislative and lobby representative will operate out of Madison, so they are close to the Governor and lawmakers.

February 2024 Report  
District 5 Director  
William van Doorn

This was a busy month that started in late January. Some of the board went to Madison for an event called Lobby Days where we discuss past and future legislation that concerns the electric coops or their members.

The most important was legislation called the Right of First Refusal (ROFR). This legislation lets state companies have first opportunities for bids on distribution lines in Wisconsin. There still is competition within the state and our Public Service Commission overseeing this process. The good part is that whoever owns the distribution line gets the profit from it and if it's our supplying coop (Dairyland Power) they will share that profit margin to us as capital credit. Thus, lowering our cost to you, our members.

There were other legislative bills concerning all-terrain vehicles on public right-of-way during emergencies and also using the color green on emergency vehicles used by power companies and coops. Another bill concerned a special license plate for electric vehicles to help emergency service providers identify such a vehicle because of the inherent dangers of an electric vehicle. It may be easier to notify owners of charging station locations and any other specific concern with the vehicle.

We also had the opportunity to visit and voice our concerns with our elected representative and state senator.

There were guest speakers also. I was most impressed with the Wisconsin lady's volleyball coach. He spoke about motivation, teamwork, and respect. I believe employers and team leaders in the work force could learn many good ways to lead a productive team. However, he didn't wish to share his manual for his team with us for fear of another team getting their hands on his leadership techniques.

The second most interesting speaker was Michael Loenen from NRCO. He is a renewables expert, and we did not gain any more confidence after his presentation. However, we should be cautious within any new territory.

We also listened to a debate between two past politicians who were on opposite sides politically, however, they were friends. I did not learn too much because I recognized during their debate that on many issues, there is middle ground. However, with many issues that is not possible because when one side gives the other only takes because they really have nothing to give. In that case, one must stand your ground if your stance is ethical and fair.

I could go on and on but to be realistic a director can learn so much by conversing with fellow directors.

Later in the month of February many of us board members attended the district meeting in Eau Claire. We were updated by many department heads from Dairyland Power, who is our cooperative power supplier. Most issues are not of huge concern for most of us. Power cost will rise in the near future, but possibly not big enough to raise it to the consumer yet because it may go back down shortly. It is early in the year, and as a coop, we would not want to overreact when we don't have stockholders wanting a profit. Our owners are the members. On a more serious note, I must inform you that the most likely area to experience a power shortage is in central US, from Louisiana through Wisconsin and Minnesota. Power usage has increased, and the industry has closed many base load (coal) facilities with the push coming from the government bureaucracies that have been given huge authority from our legislatures.

Let me point out a little history. Years ago, cars were polluting heavily. They were emitting huge amounts of carbon monoxide and nitric oxide. What happened then, they installed EGR valves, catalytic converters, oxygen sensors, air pumps, mass air sensors and fuel metering to clean up the exhaust. After a while, this wasn't good enough according to the EPA. They ordered no more use of lead in the fuel, which made total sense. Next came oxygenated fuel to lower the carbon monoxide because it is a pollutant and poisonous to mammals and more. How do we accomplish this? By adding alcohol to the fuel. This is where corn came into the picture. They put corn in a process similar to distilling using natural gas and two of the products are corn mash and corn alcohol which contains oxygen. In the end this whole program's motive was to have H<sub>2</sub>O and CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) exiting the tail pipe because they are not pollutants.

As we move forward is the electric industry being led astray?

Respectfully Submitted  
District 5 Director  
Bill van Doorn

Director Report, February 2024  
Sandy Schara, District 9

It has been a very busy month. The end of January I attended Lobby Days in Madison on the 30th and 31st. I really enjoy this time to listen to some great speakers and have conversations with other co-op board members. It's always nice to see familiar faces.

The speaker that I enjoyed the most was the Wisconsin Badger women's volleyball coach. He was a crowd pleaser, for sure. Besides being a valued coach, he is a true inspiration for his players. He came up with the idea of the rubber band on the wrist exercise. The team was to wear a rubber band on their wrist for one week. Every time they had a negative thought, or an unkind reaction, they were to snap that rubber band against their wrist. It really brought out awareness to them as to how much negativity they had experienced. What a great idea!!! I'm sure his whole team values him very much. He is a great role model.

Ryan Newlon is head of cyber security for NRECA. He started his internet technology during his 20-year career with the Missouri Army National Guard. While talking about cyber security, He also added a lot of humor to his presentation.

Chuck Chvala, former lawmaker, Democrat  
Scott Jensen, former lawmaker, Republican

It was so refreshing to see two political figures from opposite sides of the aisle actually treat one another with respect. I wish we could witness more of that in today's political arena. I really enjoyed these two.

In the evening of January 30th was the live and silent auction for PAC. This is always a fun event watching people bid on items that have been donated by individuals or the different co-ops. New this year was the wine and spirits ring toss. They made over \$2500 on that event alone.

To wrap up the two-day event we headed over to the capital to meet with Senator Cory Tomczyk and Representative James Edming.

On February 19th I attended the Dairyland District Meeting in Eau Claire. They introduced all the department heads and then we heard from each of them.

- 11.8 Million was given back to members through power cost adjustments
- They acquired a 15-million-dollar grant for fiber
- They acquired 3 different grants for funding battery projects
- January 14, 2024, (on average) wind and solar generation met 16% of the electricity needs in the Miso footprint.
- 9,353,000 jobs available in January 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandy Schara

~Work with your legislators.