

**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the
Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Monday, June 23, 2025**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Monday, June 23, 2025, at the Cooperative headquarters building in Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin.

Thank you cards from Flambeau Project Graduation, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University, Power House Youth Center, and scholarship recipients Timmy Meltz, Emily Kirkman, Eva Kopacz, Alison Krizan, Heather Nelson, Isabelle van Doorn, Gretchen Woelber, and Louis Zimmer were circulated by Chairman van Doorn.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order.** Chairman van Doorn called the Regular Board Meeting to Order at 8:59 a.m.
2. **Roll Call.** Chairman van Doorn stated that the following Board Members were in person at the start of the meeting: Jane Reich, District 1; Christine Beadles, District 2; Joe Lorence, District 3; Jay Waeltz, District 4; Bill van Doorn, District 5; Bill Amery, District 6; Mike Gardner, District 7; Walter Kruk, District 8 and Sandy Schara, District 9. Also present in person was General Manager/CEO, Kurt Harris; Finance Manager, Dawn Zahurones; and Executive Assistant, Virginia Jacobs.
3. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
4. **Acceptance of the Agenda.** A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Beadles to accept the agenda. Unanimously approved.
5. **Open Comment Session.** No one in attendance.
6. **Safety Moment.** Kruk presented on the different classes of fire extinguishers, using the proper class for the correct type of fire, knowing where extinguishers are located and the importance of fire extinguisher placement in your home.
7. **May Minutes.** A motion was by Gardner and seconded by Lorence to approve the May Board minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.
8. **Check Register.** Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Schara to approve the May Check Register as presented. Unanimously approved.
9. **Consent Agenda.** Member refunds, membership applications, outages, and director expense reports were posted to Call of Order prior to the meeting for review by the Board. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Kruk to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Unanimously approved.
10. **Operations Report.** General Manager/CEO Harris reported on Jordan's departure, new services for the month and year-to-date total, the status of several projects including Hannibal solar, pole replacements, brushing and herbicide progress and upcoming locations. Discussion held. A motion was made by Gardner and seconded by Reich 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 May 2025. Discussion held. A motion was made by Kruk and seconded by Beadles to approve the financial report as presented. Unanimously approved.
12. **General Manager Report.** General Manager/CEO Harris reported on Monthly updates – Hannibal solar array status, grant waiver approvals, WECA board meeting takeaways, hiring a new Operations Manager, Member Appreciation Days reminder, this month's GM expenses, strategic plan updates including equity levels, outage alert sign-ups,

member and community collaboration improvements, acceptance of a No Lost Time Accident award and efforts to increase electric system reliability. Discussion held. A motion was made by Waeltz and seconded by Gardner to approve the General Manager Report. Unanimously approved.

13. **Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC).**

- a. **Annual Meeting Summary.** Director reports from Director Reich, Director Beadles, Director Lorence, Director Amery and Director Schara were posted to Call of Order prior to the meeting for review by the Board. Discussion held.

The Board took a break from 10:14 a.m. to 10:25 a.m.

- b. **Wholesale Power Contract Wholesale Rate Education – July 22nd.** In-person and virtual options and the associated costs were presented. Discussion held. A motion was made by Waeltz and seconded by Schara to have Amery attend the meeting virtually on September 16th. An amendment to the original motion was made by Waeltz and seconded by Schara to approve van Doorn to also attend virtually with Amery at the Ladysmith Headquarters. Unanimously approved.

14. **National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).**

- a. **NRECA Regional Meeting – Madison, WI – September 23-25th.** Meeting details and associated costs were presented. Discussion held. A motion was made by Waeltz and seconded by Gardner to approve not sending any directors to the NRECA Regional Meeting this year. Unanimously approved.

15. **New Business.**

- a. **June PCA.** A PCA rate calculation report was presented. Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Beadles to pass the June power cost adjustment charge from Dairyland on to the membership. Motion carried.
- b. **2025-2034 Long-Range Financial Forecast.** Harris presented a 10-year financial forecast. Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Schara to approve the 2025-2034 Long-Range Financial Forecast as presented. Motion carried.

The Board recessed for lunch from 12:07 p.m. to 12:37 p.m.

- c. **Safety Demonstration.** Lineman Benji Gindt and Apprentice Lineman Reece Kinney presented a high voltage safety demonstration in the shop. Discussion held.

16. **Next Meeting Date.** The July board meeting date was scheduled for July 29, 2025. Unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Schara and seconded by Kruk to Adjourn **the Meeting at 1:27 p.m.** Unanimously approved.


Joe Lorence, Secretary-Treasurer


Dated

(CORPORATE SEAL)

May 2025 Report
District 1 Director
Jane Reich

DAIRYLAND POWER'S 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

The DPC annual meeting was held June 4 in La Crosse, WI at the La Crosse Center. Jenny Scharmer, chair of the DPC board and director representing MiEnergy, presided over the meeting.

The theme of the meeting was Seize the Day, Shape the Future, symbolic of Dairyland's commitment to exceed expectations as a critical services provider for generations to come. The theme represents DPC determination to bring power, opportunity and prosperity to the communities we serve.

Brent Ridge, DPC CEO, said we want to shape the future, not be shaped by it. "With a constantly evolving business, political and regulatory landscape, it is vital to have a plan A, but also a Plan B, C, and D.

Brent highlighted DPC's major accomplishments for the past year, including the completion of Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line and major grant awards benefiting reliability, resource diversification, and cost containment. Cardinal-Hickory Creek has over 160 renewable energy projects that came on line with its' completion. Also, the New Era Grant has the potential to be transformational, and we are grateful to have secured the award for our membership, which is crucial support from the Trump Administration.

Brent discussed DPC 10-year trajectory, noting that shaping the future doesn't come without challenges. It is not enough to keep up with the pace of change, we have to stay ahead of it. Power supply planning is at a critical crossroads as is the need to expand transmission to accommodate growth and resource diversification. Based on DPC boards input, we will move forward, pivot when needed and get the work done for all.

Guy Benson, host of the Guy Benson Show, author and political editor, spoke on the political landscape. There was a question and answer segment too.

Dairyland Executive V-P and Chief Financial Officer, April Wehling provided a 2024 financial report. She stated DPC is financially strong and stable. April said that DPC remains in alignment with our vision to innovate and deliver value as a premier, member driven cooperative through safe, reliable, cost-competitive and sustainable solutions.

For the fifth consecutive year, we are holding our wholesale rate in the top quartile in comparison to our peers. Since 2020, the DPC wholesale rate has been less than the annual consumer price index for inflation. Our average rate increase, between 2019-2024, was just 0.4%.

Economics, as well as diligent asset and cost management contributed to DPC strong financial performance in 2024. Total margins were \$25.8 million, exceeding budgeted margins of \$25.6 million. Total operating revenues were \$13.4 million below budget.

The reliability and diversification of DPC portfolio is always important. It's even more important during high demand times.

Power costs, which include fuel and purchased power, were \$13.9 million below budget due to historically low natural gas prices and also lower than planned energy market prices. Divisional costs, which represent DPC operating and maintenance expenses, were \$0.7 million below budget. Fixed costs were \$0.9 million below budget, driven by lower depreciation expense.

In 2024 DPC board directors approved Capitol Credit Retirements of \$5.39 million, continuing its strong history of CCR. Over DPC history we have returned \$160.1 million to our class A members.

MY FOOT NOTE

Dairyland Power Cooperative has 24 Class A members and 27 municipal utilities. Between the above we supply the energy needs of over 750,000 people in the four-state service area. DPC delivers electricity via 3,720 miles of transmission lines and 400 distribution substations located throughout the system's 44,500 square mile service area.

Dairyland Power Annual Meeting 2025

June 4, 2025

Christine Beadles

The 2025 Annual Meeting of Dairyland Power was held on June 4, 2025, in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, at the LaCrosse Center. I believe they said there were approximately 400 attendees. After taking care of introductory agenda items, we moved on to the financial report and new business. I struggle with the financial aspects, but I learn more and more every time I attend an event. An introduction of directors up for election was presented with all running unopposed. Along with possible resolutions, retiring directors and managers were recognized. Approximately 10-12 Dairyland Power employees were honored with People Power awards in a variety of categories that exemplify qualities of an outstanding employee.

The Keynote Speaker was Guy Benson from FOX News. He was an interesting political speaker, although I'm not real sure what his topics had to do with Dairyland Power or electric cooperatives in general. One of his points was that in a political campaign it is not so much the noise and chaos within the campaign, but the behavior of the candidates and the visuals they put forth. Mr. Benson also pointed out the President Trump likes to "win" in any and all issues and will change/manipulate stances on issues so that it looks like a "win" in the end. As for the Big Beautiful Bill, if it fails to pass with the tax cuts, we will be looking at 4 trillion-dollar tax increase for our country. However, given Trump's "need to win" it will be arranged to look like a win.

Brent Ridge, President and CEO of Dairyland Power, presented the status of DPC and where it is heading in the future. The cooperative is financially strong with an A+ rating. He discussed the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission line which became "in-service" in September of 2024. It supports over 160 renewable energy projects stretching from Dubuque County, Iowa to Dane County, Wisconsin. Other projects in the works are the Tranche 1 and the Tranche 2.1 projects.

June Director's Report
Joe Lorence / District 3

On June 4th, several of us directors from JREC were able to attend the Dairyland Annual Meeting that was held in the La Crosse Center in La Crosse, WI. This year Dairyland was celebrating their 84th Anniversary as a cooperative. I would estimate that there were more than 100 directors in attendance.

The meeting started with a welcome address by the CEO/GM. He gave a very good report about the status of Dairyland, and the challenges we all will be facing in the future. The theme of the meeting was "Seize the Day / Shape the Future".

I have attended this meeting in the past, and I look at it as kind of a "State of the Union" address, kind of like in government. They went through the 2024 financials, and everything seems to be in a good stable position. We were told that 161.0 million dollars was returned in capital credits in 2024.

In September of 2024, President Biden presented Dairyland Power with a grant from a relatively new funding program called ERA "Empowering Rural America", established as part of the Inflation Reduction Act. The purpose was to accelerate the clean energy transition, enhance wind and solar energy capabilities and increase rural energy infrastructure in Wisconsin and its surrounding states. After the November election, the new administration put everything on hold and just recently, Dairyland received the news that the grant had been released. Good news for all of us.

The special guest speaker was a gentleman named Guy Benson. He is a conservative talk show host who previously worked for Fox News. He gave a very interesting account of the election night of the Trump / Clinton election. He did a little question answer segment and shared his point of view about how this administration is different than Trump's previous term.

It was a good day, and I appreciate the opportunity to attend.

Joe Lorence / Director District #3

Report on attendance at Dairyland Annual Meeting, June 4, 2025
Bill Amery

I attended the annual meeting for Dairyland, entitled “Seize the Day, Shape the Future”. The meeting was well done. The venue was very good, the AV was good, and the meeting proceeded quickly. The guest speaker was entertaining. Brent Ridge circulated in the audience before the meeting, and he spent some time with the Jump River delegation. He was engaging and in good spirits, doing things a CEO is expected to do, and doing them sociably. The annual meeting of an organization should be well-choreographed, and this one was.

My goal, for any meeting like this, is to come away with a few observations or ideas:

1. My observation was that, once you get them all on stage, I still think Dairyland may be top-heavy on senior leadership.
2. My idea was that we should look at the projected revenue growth that Brent reviewed. We should try to put it into the formula Dairyland uses to charge us and see how it fits with our own projections. We could then blend it with our internal capital and operating costs, to see how we look in terms of future revenues required and/or rate increases.
3. More specifically, I was thinking this could be a way to get to the issue of **controllable** costs. If we know what costs are truly controllable, it might make for a more productive discussion when we get into the questions of cost and value of Board education and other discretionary spending.

My guess is that this would show us that keeping controllable costs down, while it is something we must take seriously, may be “chicken feed” compared to even a modest percentage increase in what we pay for power.

Sandy Schara
District 9 Director Report
June 2025

I attended the annual meeting for Dairyland Power in La Crosse on June 4th. The venue had a beautiful view of the river and they did an excellent job with the whole event. They had a really nice turnout.

Siege the day Shape the future was the slogan for this year's meeting.

They introduced the Executive team.

Dan Korn, Treasurer 2024 financial highlights and April Wehling, EVP and Chief Financial Officer gave the financial report.

There was a recognition of special guests and legislators.

The keynote speaker was Guy Benson. I'm not sure what his title is, but he gave a glowing report on the current administration.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Schara