

**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the
Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Tuesday, March 28, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at the Cooperative headquarters building in Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin.

Thank you card from the Cooperative Family Fund was circulated by Brooks.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order.** Chairman Brooks called the Regular Board Meeting to Order at 8:58a.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; Jerry Carow, District 4; Bill van Doom, District 5; Bill Amery, District 6; Jason Weaver, District 7; Walter Kruk, District 8; and Sandra Schara, District 9. Also in attendance were Kurt Harris, General Manager/CEO; Dawn Zahurones, Finance Manager; Jordan Behreandt, Operations Manager; and Jennifer Belk, Executive Assistant.
3. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
4. **Acceptance of the Agenda.** A motion was made by van Doom and seconded by Schara to accept the agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.
5. **Open Comment Session.** No one in attendance.
6. **Safety Moment-** District 9, Schara presented on fire safety.
7. **Consent Agenda.** The February board meeting minutes, check register, member refunds, new membership applications, outages, check register, January and February 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 Reich and seconded by Lorence to approve the consent agenda as presented. Unanimously approved.
8. **Operations Report.** Operations Manager Jordan Behreandt reported EV fire incident. Behreandt reported on the progress of pole changes, Zielies Tree Services, Power System Engineering (PSE), Charter pole project, squirrel wrapping, and GPS mapping. A motion was made by van Doom and seconded by Kruk to approve the operations report as presented. Unanimously approved.

Behreandt left the meeting at 9:14a.m.

9. **Financial Report.** Finance Manager Zahurones reported on the financials for January and February. A motion was made by Schara and seconded by Weaver to approve the financial report as presented. Unanimously carried.
 - a. Zahurones presented the **Resolution to Retain Non-Operating Margins.** A motion was made by Carow and seconded by Reich to approve the Resolution to Retain Non-Operating Margins as presented. Unanimously approved.
10. **General Manager Report.** CEO/ General Manager Harris reported on Fleet & Facilities Maintenance Technician new hire, upcoming line crew interviews, audit close, DPC PCA credit, Co-Bank patronage, Flambeau career presentation and electrical demonstration, upcoming line crew electrical demonstrations, results of the rules and resolutions committee meeting, status of BIA legal issue, and February's manager expenses. A motion was made by van Doom and seconded by Reich to approve the General Manager report as presented. Unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Carow to enter into Executive Session at 9:42a.m.

A motion was made by Carow and seconded by Schara to return to Open Session at 10:17a.m. No action was taken.

The Board took a break from 10:17am-10:25a.m.

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

Reich reported on Board actions and finances. A motion was made by Carow and seconded by Weaver to approve the DPC Director Report as presented. Unanimously carried.

12. **Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA).** Harris presented summary of WECA Education and Lobby Days in Madison.

13. **National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).** Lorence, Weaver, and Schara reported a summary of the NRECA Power Xchange in Nashville.

14. **Unfinished Business.**

a. **Viasat.** Harris reviewed Viasat purchase proposal and made a recommendation to the board to reject the offer. Consensus was held to take no action as recommended.

b. **Director Contact Information.** Discussion held.

15. **New Business.**

a. **Review Policy.**

i. **Member Policy No. 316.** A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Schara to approve the revisions to Member Policy No. 316 as presented. Unanimously carried.

b. **New Policies.**

i. **Nepotism.** Harris reviewed a proposed nepotism policy to be bought back for approval upon legal review.

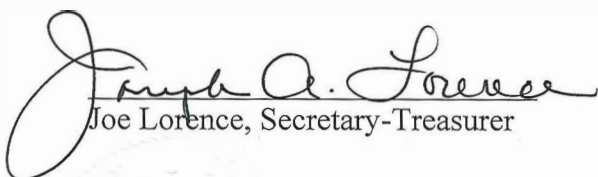
ii. **Joint Use of Poles.** Harris reviewed a proposed Joint Use of Poles policy to be bought back for approval upon legal review.

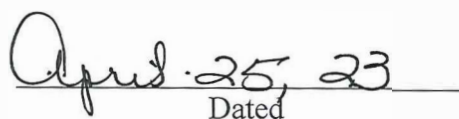
c. **Strategic Plan.** Harris reviewed highlights of strategic plan.

d. **Power Cost Adjustment.** Harris reviewed power cost adjustment credit with the Board. A motion was made by van Doom and seconded by Reich to retain the power cost adjustment credit for future assessment of the financial health of the cooperative. Motion carried.

16. **April Meeting Date.** The April meeting date was scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

A motion was made by and seconded by to **Adjourn the Meeting at 11:48 a.m.** Unanimously carried.


Joe Lorence, Secretary-Treasurer


Dated

(CORPORATE SEAL)

Jane Reich
District 1

The board met with Strategic Planning coordinators from CFC this past Monday and Tuesday. We spent time going over issues in the electrical industry that are prevalent to JUMP RIVER ELECTRIC. We gained knowledge thru our facilitator and collaborated, board, staff, CEO, and coordinators. This was very insightful, and we came out of this session with a Strategic plan for the next few years. With Kurt and staff on board I am confident that JREC will move forward in a very positive direction. Safety, reliability, financial stability, mapping, and our members are all areas of the strategic plan.

March Director Report
District 3
Joe Lorence

Well, it has been a very busy month for this Director. My 3-year term is up for election and therefore I was eligible to attend the National Rural Co OP Convention which was held this year in Nashville. Sandy Schara and I went to Minneapolis on March 4th for our flight to Nashville. This is a very large convention and we met representatives of co-ops from all over the US. 6,000 people were there for the opening general assembly on the first day.

After the opening greetings the first speaker was Robyn Benincasa. She is a world champion adventure racer who has competed and won marathon/ triathlon races mostly with team competitions all over the world. Her team won the 2000 Eco-Challenge in Borneo. She went on to co-found two companies focused on team - building for corporate clients. She is the founder of Project Athena, a nonprofit organization that helps women who have experienced medical challenges to fulfill their athletic ambitions. She holds three Guinness World Records.

Being such a large venue, it was difficult to maneuver through the Nashville Convention Center. The breakout sessions were full past capacity with standing room only. We did participate the best we could, but it was difficult. There were lots of technology discussions, our role as advocates was encouraged as well as the supply chain issues all of us are facing.

There were discussions about the energy supply requirements of the future. The transition to carbon free renewables and the emergence of newer options of nuclear generation. Yes, we are all trying to conserve energy especially with new products, but there are constantly new use products being introduced such as electric vehicles. We must figure out how we are going to move into the future. There was a reception we attended and later that evening we ended up at "Old Red" Saloon which is Blake Shelton's. An excellent band from New York provided the entertainment. Networking is one of the main functions at these gatherings and everyone is very friendly and interesting to talk to and share ideas.

The 2nd day started with a General Assembly again and the guest speaker was former NFL quarterback Tim Tebow. A college football player became first underclassman to win the Heisman Trophy. It was a very interesting motivational talk about his journey. He was the quarterback for the Denver Bronco's, and the New York Jets, and then even played professional Baseball. He is currently a successful Author and motivational speaker. Known for his outspoken Christian faith he became a cultural phenomenon with the 2011 Broncos. In 2020 he married 2017 Miss Universe from South Africa.

I was the Voting delegate representing JREC and on a large number of resolutions that were proposed for 2023. These resolutions were proposed by different co-op's and made it through the Standing Committees and were mostly recommended for adoption. Some minor changes were made, and some were debated. These resolutions covered a wide range of issues and if anyone wants to have further information, I have a copy you can view.

On March 20th and 21st we held a two-day workshop at our Ladysmith headquarters sponsored by CFC lenders. We will discuss this more during the regular board meeting. All Directors and many of our staff participated.

After the training session, Chairman Brooks and I went to Madison for the Statewide WECA Education and Lobby Days. We met Sandy Schara, Bill van Doorn, and GM Kurt Harris for the two-day event. Jane Reich donated a wood carving for the ACRE fund raising auction. It sold for \$450.00. We walked to the Capital on Thursday to meet with the staff of our legislators to express our concerns about current upcoming legislations. More details will also be discussed at our monthly Board meeting.

March 2023 Report
District 5 Report
William van Doorn

March is here and it's still winter, but the days are longer. That is good, for spring is within sight and the maple sap is starting to run. Snow is darn deep which makes me really appreciate the work that our JREC staff did during our outage in late December.

We had a strategic planning session on the 20-21 of this month at our Ladysmith headquarters. Our facilitators were so good at leading us to recognize our concerns and goals for our immediate future. Also, what really made it a success was that indoor and outdoor staff were with us board members in our discussions. This will really help us stay on the same page as a member owned cooperative. I would be remiss if I did not mention the main facilitator (Mark Schneider) was so instrumental in helping us recognize our common concerns for the cooperative. I felt really good about this process.

On Wednesday five of us including our manager, Kurt Harris, went to the state capital for a two-day event called Lobby Days. We had many guest speakers including, a judge, attorneys, politicians, professors, a public service commission member and many WECA staff members. They all gave valuable information within their expertise concerning the electric cooperative world.

We then went to meet and express our concerns with our state representatives. Both our assemblyman (James Edming) and state senator (Cory Tomczyk) were at committee meetings, so we ended up speaking with members of their staff. Knowing both of them personally I guess it wasn't that necessary to see them in person. But now we all have their email addresses so we can stay in touch in the new modern way(?). Probably the most concerning issue is community solar which could impact electric coops and for-profit suppliers alike. It is complicated and must be watched with caution.

This was my first time being involved in what they call lobby days. I feel it is important that our coop is represented there but probably not necessary that I attend every year. We also had the opportunity to listen to Miss America (from Wisconsin) and photo opportunities with staff and board members. She is a very gifted young lady and has an understanding of the electric industry. In the future we will need many more knowledgeable young people to keep the lights on as we move forward in the electric industry

Respectfully Submitted
District 5 Director
Bill van Doorn

Hello fellow members,

I was able to attend the NRECA Power Xchange conference this month. It was a great learning experience that brought cooperatives from around the country together to share experiences and ideas to help improve our safety, reliability and keep our costs down. I was very impressed with the amount of communication between the Randolph Membership cooperative staff and customers when vandals shot out some very large transformers in an act of domestic terrorism. Almost three thousand members were without power right away and due to the large infrastructure, it was impossible to fix the issue overnight as they had hoped. Keeping the members up to date on transformer replacement progress with Duke Energy and the potential for looping powerlines to provide temporary power to members was top notch. I came home with a concern about our own methods of communication with our fellow members and how we can work on improving. As Board members would like to hear your thoughts and what works best for you as we try to use technology to communicate with you and keep everyone alerted and up to date with projects, planned outages and potential emergencies.

Here is a link to the story if you are interested in reading a little more about it.

[Co-op Employs Quick Thinking, Creative Solutions to Reduce Outages After Substation Attack - America's Electric Cooperatives](#)



Co-op Employs Quick Thinking, Creative Solutions to Reduce Outages After...

Tielines enabled co-op to restore service on rolling basis until Duke Energy could finish repairs.

Overall, the conference was good, and the learning opportunities were plenty. I know more than I ever thought I would need to know about how an electrical cooperative operates and provides for the members it serves, and I am very thankful for it as well.

We also help another Strategic Planning session this month to help guide us on priorities and eliminate some of our shortcomings. I was impressed with the attention and participation from our Board of Directors and staff as these sessions are generally tedious. The outcome is that we have some renewed effort in some of our directives and a few new concerns and opportunities to work on.

Think Spring!

District 9 Director Report

I traveled to Nashville, TN to the NRECA Power Xchange 2023. Joe Lorence and I left from Minneapolis on March 4th and returned on March 8th.

On Sunday when we were at the conference center, I ran into Steve Freese. I had a very long talk with him, and he looks great and is feeling much better. It was nice to talk to him and learn about his journey with battling cancer. We attended the Welcome Happy Hour. While we were there we ran into Jim Anderson and his wife Michelle. It was good to see them, and we visited for a bit with them.

When we attended the ACRE breakfast, we sat with him and some of the people from Price Electric. Also, at our table was one of the youth leaders from WI and a very nice gentleman from Virginia. It was very enjoyable talking to all of them.

At Monday's general assembly they had a motivational speaker named Robyn Benincasa. Aside from being a speaker, she is also a firefighter in the city of San Diego for the past 17 years. After college she started out working for pharmaceutical companies and hospital supplies sales. After that she did a complete lifestyle change and traded her corporate high heels in for a firefighter suit. She is very involved in "adventure racing". You'd have to google that in order to see what that sport really entails. When she does her presentations she talks about how we are all "adventure racers" because goals, teamwork and courage makes an "adventure racer". She talked about team building and the magic of teamwork and how that brings success. Also speaking at that meeting was CEO of NRECA, Jim Matheson.

After the general session was over, that's where a little disappointment came into play. It was time for everyone to go to the breakout sessions. There are 6000 people exiting the hall and trying to get upstairs with the use of only two escalators. You can imagine the time that took. There were 3 breakout sessions available. The first two filled up rapidly so we were not able to attend either one of those, so we had to attend the Advocacy State of Play session. That was our last choice but the ONLY choice for us. They talked about the importance of lobbyists and the role of our legislators.

The Tech Advantage Expo opened at 4:30 on Monday. They had lots of good food throughout the Expo floor and looking at all the different vendors booths was very interesting. Throughout our time at the Expo we met and talked with so many people from the different co-ops around the U.S. That was really enjoyable to get to meet and talk with people who do the same thing and what is going on with their co-ops. They all seemed very interested in the easement process that we are going through with LCO. We didn't run into anyone from a co-op that had a reservation on it and so I'm sure that's what piqued their interest. In my opinion, talking with all

the different people was the most rewarding thing. Everyone was so nice and were very open to engage in conversation.

Tuesday's general session featured Tim Tebow. I had no idea that he was a motivational speaker and a bestselling author. He was very good and has such a kind soul. He lives through faith, hope and love which translates so clearly through his speech. Very uplifting speaker, for sure.

Chris Christensen, NRECA President and Montana Director gave a speech and he inserted a lot of humor into his presentation. He has now finished his term as president.

I want to thank Jump River for letting me attend this convention. I gained a lot and had a very enjoyable time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sandy Schara, Director, District 9