

**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the
Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Tuesday March 29, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at the Cooperative headquarters building in Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin.

Chairman Brooks called the meeting to order at 9:00a.m.

Thank you cards from were circulated by Brooks from Boy Scouts of America, Chippewa Valley Council, ACRE, and Scholarship recipient, Ingrid Sokup.

Chairman Brooks stated that the following Board Members were present at the start of the meeting: Jane Reich, District 1; Myron Brooks, District 2; Joe Lorence, District 3; Jerry Carow, District 4; Bill van Doorn, District 5; Bill Amery, District 6; Jason Weaver, District 7; Walter Kruk, District 8; Sandra Schara; District 9, Mike Schaefer; Interim CEO, Kurt Harris, Assistant General Manager; Lori Davis, Finance Manager; and Jennifer Belk, Executive Assistant.

Attorney Niles Berman entered the meeting via GoToMeeting. A motion was made by van Doorn, and seconded by Schara to **Enter into Executive Session at 9:02a.m.** Unanimously carried. Attorney Berman left the meeting at 10:40a.m.

A motion was made by Kruk, and seconded by Schara to **Return to Open Session at 10:42a.m.** Unanimously carried. No action was taken.

Nick Nelson entered meeting at 10:45a.m. to present Time of Use Rates and JREC ownership of solar generation. Nelson left the meeting at 11:50a.m. No action taken.

A motion was made by Reich, and seconded by Schara to **Accept the Agenda** as presented. Unanimously approved.

District 5 Director van Doorn presented on blood donation safety.

The February Board Meeting Minutes, Member Refunds, New Membership Applications, Director Expenses, Check Register, Outages, and Director Reports were posted to Boardpaq prior to the meeting for review by the Board. A motion was made by Reich, and seconded by Carow to **Approve the Consent Agenda** as presented. Unanimously approved.

Davis reviewed the Rural Utility Services RUS Form 674 Resolution. A motion was made by Reich, and seconded by Schara to approve the following resolution:

1. RESOLVED that Michael Schaefer, the General Manager/CEO of the Corporation, be the Certifier on behalf of the Corporation, who shall be responsible for submitting and certifying to the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture delivering Rural Development Utilities Programs, any and all data required by RUS Form 674;
2. RESOLVED that Lori Davis, the Finance Manager of the Corporation, be the Security Administrator on behalf of the Corporation, who shall give access to the Corporation's data, as appropriate, to other employees, officers, or contractors of the Corporation, for the purpose of complying with RUS Form 674; and
3. RESOLVED that both shall comply with the Instructions for RUS Form 674 in regard to use of the government's data collection system.

Unanimously carried.

Director Lorence left the meeting at 12:00p.m.

Assistant General Manager Harris reported on the ROPE ice storm outages in Hayward. A motion was made by Kruk, and seconded by van Doorn to **Approve the Operations Report** as presented. Unanimously approved.

The Board adjourned for lunch from 12:14 – 12:38 p.m. Auditor, Jim Halverson entered the meeting at 12:14p.m.

Halverson presented the Audited Financial Statement Report to the Board of Directors. A motion was made by Weaver, and seconded by van Doorn to **Approve the Audit Report** as presented. Unanimously carried.

Finance Manager Davis reviewed January and February Operating Report Summaries, Operating Form 7, Supplemental Data, Part D, and 2022 Projections. A motion was made by Carow, and seconded by van Doorn to **Approve the Financial Report** as presented. Unanimously carried.

Schaefer reported on application for Disaster Funds for Hayward Outage, Community Cents Update, Power Cost Adjustment, NWPA Refund Status, Cost of Service Study, Zielles Update, and CFC Benefits of Ownership Statement. A motion was made by Schara, and seconded by van Doorn to **Approve the General Manager Report** as presented. Unanimously carried.

DPC Director Reich reported on retirement of Burt Magnuson from the DPC Board of Directors, Approved Dues, Sale of Substations, DPC Policy Revisions, Financial Update, and Impact Study. A motion was made by Weaver, and seconded by Schara to **Approve the DPC Director Report** as presented. Unanimously carried.

Director Weaver reported on the discussion at the NRECA Annual Meeting on Electric Vehicles, resolutions, and Broadband.

Schaefer reported on the Broadband Community Meeting, the determinations of the Rules & Resolutions Committee Meeting, and Annual Meeting Teller Status.

The Board **Approved by Consensus Director Reich as the CRC Voting Delegate and Bill van Doorn as the Alternate Voting Delegate.**

Harris and Schaefer reviewed Member Policy #15. A motion was made by van Doorn, and seconded by Schara to **Approve the Changes to Member Policy #15; Fees and Credits Policy** as Presented. Unanimously carried.

Schaefer presented Employee Guideline #4. A motion was made by Carow, and seconded by Reich to **Approve Revisions to Employee Guideline #4; Paid Time Off (PTO)** as Presented. Unanimously carried.

Schaefer proposed an Exempt Employee Hours Policy. A motion was made by Schara, and seconded by Reich to **Implement the Policy** as Presented. Unanimously carried.

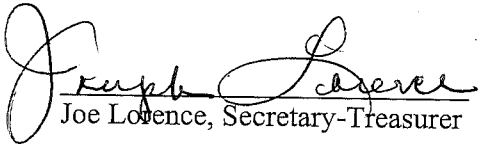
Schaefer proposed an Electric Vehicle Loan Agreement. A motion was made by Schara, and seconded by Reich to **Approve the Electric Vehicle Loan Agreement** as presented. Unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Reich, and seconded by Schara to **Approve Director van Doorn's Attendance at the CFC Meeting in March.** Unanimously carried.

Next regular board meeting date set for April 26, 2022.

A motion was made by Carow, and seconded by Schara to **Adjourn the Meeting at 3:10pm.** Unanimously carried.

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Joe Lovence, Secretary-Treasurer

04/26/2022
Dated

(CORPORATE SEAL)

I attended a broadband informational meeting at JREC headquarters. The discussion was to bring broadband to Rusk and Sawyer Counties. Mike Bub, Chair of Taylor County Broadband Committee, addressed the group on which way Taylor County is going forward. Taylor County's plan is to use a mixture of fiber and towers. There was talk of forming a partnership with private businesses and the counties involved.

Myron Brooks
District 2

March 2022 Directors Report

District # 3

Joe Lorence

On March 10th I attended a special seminar at the JREC headquarters in Ladysmith. We at JREC recently received the results of a feasibility study we had performed to determine what exactly would be the cost and possibility of providing high speed WI-FI to all of our membership. The results prompted us to hold a meeting with community leaders, providers, tribal members and other possible interested parties. We wanted to see how much community interest there was and how could we possibly finance such a large project. Our membership demographic ranges from South of Gilman to Sawyer County including tribal land. A special speaker from the Taylor County board Mike Bubb explained what Taylor County is doing for their residents.

On March 23rd and 24th, I had the opportunity to attend the Dairyland Board monthly meeting in La Crosse. I was selected to be the alternate Director to represent JREC if Jane Reich our current Director is unable to attend. Jane introduced me to the Directors and staff and I was made very welcome to observe. There were numerous items on the agenda, Brent Ridge President and CEO gave a very lengthy CEO update that was very interesting and informative. He provided a very detailed comprehensive plan that he has for moving Dairyland forward to meet the needs of the future. Many of the topics are somewhat confidential so Jane and I will detail some of the items at our Directors Meeting. I was also allowed to stay for the Executive Session which surprised me. I was required to agree to a Non-Disclosure agreement so much of what I observed is confidential. This was a great opportunity and I would like to thank the Board for giving me this opportunity.

My District was not effected by some of the recent storms. The road weight restrictions are current in effect. Everyone is waiting for warmer weather and less mud.

Joe Lorence / Director

District #3

March Report 2022
District 5 Director
William van Doorn

This was a very busy month with Director duties and maple syrup preparations. It started with a webinar concerning economic and financial trends. This was hosted by John Suter from CFC. It was confusing, mostly because I had issues with my iPad connecting to the webinar. I did succeed eventually. This was just an hour long in total.

On the 10th of March the entire board had an informational meeting over the web at the Ladysmith headquarters. In this meeting, there was a lot of charts showing trends where the industry is going concerning growth, stability, and green energy. What I took away from this is that the variables in the future will be many and we as a coop must be wary as we make decisions in the future for the future. This presentation was from NRTC.

On March 22nd I attended a class in Eau Claire put on by CFC. This Coop (CFC) is one of the lending agencies that Coops borrow capital from. We were not notified of this class before the last board meeting and because of this I did not get board approval before hand. I discussed attending with our interim manager and will ask for board approval at our March meeting. This is a procedure we do to keep individual board members in check. I must say this is probably the best class I have ever attended. Our first presenter was Jan Ahlen who concentrated on the Cooperative industry going green. To some this means no coal power and to others this means no coal, natural gas or nuclear power. He emphasized that we must be aware that most of the raw materials needed for green energy are in other countries, of which most are not friendly to us.

The second presenter was John Suter. He was the same person whom I listened to on the webinar previously. The in-person presentation was better because he gave parables in terms, we all could relate to. He also explained how all lending agencies were caught off guard in 2008. Because of their adjustments when the pandemic hit us two years ago, they were much more prepared to help other Coops during this time.

The third presentation was given by John Grant. He showed us how to look at our monthly charts we get. JREC's CFO (Lori) does a wonderful job. When she and John Grant look at the charts and different ratios, they get excited! This is their wheelhouse, and their expertise is definitely needed.

Last but not least, was Nathan Howard. I had a wonderful time visiting with him during lunch while discussing family and children. His presentation explained the director's responsibility to the membership. We are to oversee the Coop through the manager and our auditor for the good of the Coop's members.

On a totally different subject, we as a Coop sponsored an informational gathering concerning fiber relating to available internet within the rural areas of our cooperative footprint. There was representation from the Coop, county board, LCO, multiple private suppliers and more. We are hoping this may lead to a cooperative effort to address fiber in our rural areas as we all move forward.

Respectfully Submitted
District 5 Director
Bill van Doorn

Directors Report District #7

Jason Weaver

There was some terrible weather up in the Sawyer County area this month. Many of our homes were without power for a few days but the hardworking crew from Hayward was able to restore power with the assistance of the Ladysmith crew and a few local cooperatives offering mutual aid. We can't predict outages but we are prepared for them with mutual aid agreements and a good supply of equipment to replace broken and damaged infrastructure. Hats off to the crews that were able to work through some rough weather and get the lights back on!

I was able to attend the NRECA annual conference this month. I took a class on Cooperative financial responsibility and was able to sit in some very interesting presentations. I found that many cooperatives are taking on the broadband shortage first hand by creating a separate arm of the coop and hiring companies to write and apply for federal grants to make the process financially feasible. The main takeaway for me is that this is a risk that most cooperatives are willing to take on for the same reason that electric cooperatives were created in the first place. Corporations don't find us as a valuable enough customer base so we have to do it ourselves.

The reason that many are choosing to move forward with broadband / fiber optic include the continued loss of work force and young adults. While many people could live without internet at home it is the number one deterrent for potential new homebuyers according to the research done by other coops. Think of the increased value of our homes if we were able to offer high speed internet as a selling option! It has caused a major hurdle for school age children that need to do online research or homework, especially during the pandemic. One community in Tennessee mentioned the need for telemedicine so that people could stay at home instead of moving to assisted living facilities that take them out of the community. I was on the fence about moving forward with such an expensive process but I think the cost could be worse if we don't do it and we have to wait another 10 years to get high speed internet to our members. ***Please reach out to your district director and let us know how you think Jump River should move forward with the broadband initiative.***

I was very impressed with the discussions and presentations on Electric Vehicles (EV). Ford was represented there and they talked about the 30-billion-dollar investment they are taking to move forward with EV's. They are using their top selling F150 and Mustang brands to move forward to give solid name recognition to their EV brand. The hope was that by 2025 10% of new car sales would be EV but they believe that the orders for the new Ford F150 Lighting are going to help them beat that percentage faster. The new Ford Lighting has a smart charging station that is integrated with your home electrical system and the truck batteries can power a home for up to three days under typical use. That could be a life saver in our part of the world where storms have taken out power recently for multiple days. The issues for the Cooperative are the ability to have enough capacity to power multiple chargers in some locations. There will likely need to be investments made to increase the capacity of our substations or add new ones. There will probably need to be investments in other areas to meet the higher demand electric vehicles will create. The good news is that the billions of dollars being spent in fossil fuels will be spent on power and the money for transportation cost will stay in our community.

The other interesting take away was the grant funding coming out for electric school buses. That type of technology could save our school districts a lot of funding as buses could be charged off peak and still complete the daily routes. These grants will also be available for our local transit systems.

Have a great spring