

**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the  
Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Tuesday, November 26, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at the Cooperative headquarters building in Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin.

Thank you cards from Boys Scouts of America, Christmas 4 Kidz, Embrace Services, Inc., Foundation for Rural Housing, Hayward Wesleyan Church Trunk or Treat, Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library and Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Institute, Inc., were circulated by Vice Chairman Kruk.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order.** Vice Chairman Kruk called the Regular Board Meeting to Order at 8:57 a.m.
2. **Roll Call.** Vice Chairman Kruk 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 Amery, District 6; Jason Weaver, 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; Operations Manager, Jordan Behreandt; and Executive Assistant, Virginia Jacobs. Absent from the meeting was Bill van Doorn, District 5.
3. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
4. **Acceptance of the Agenda.** A motion was made by Beadles and seconded by Reich to accept the agenda. Unanimously approved.
5. **Open Comment Session.** No one in attendance.
6. **Safety Moment.** Reich presented on working in the cold, including knowing the windchill and symptoms of hyperthermia and frostbite, wear 3 layers of clothes, a hat, gloves and monitor the status of your coworkers or party while outside.
7. **October Minutes.** A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Schara to approve the October Board minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.
8. **Check Register.** A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Schara to approve the October 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. Discussion held. A motion was made by Weaver and seconded by Schara to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Unanimously approved.
10. **Operations Report.** Operations Manager Behreandt reported on pole exchange, new services and service upgrades, Highway A project status, pole testing on LCO, Hannibal and Gilman pole testing, OCR change outs, brushing, and federal permit approvals for URD conversions. Discussion held. A motion was made by Waeltz and seconded by Lorence 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, operating statement, balance sheet and supplemental data for October 2024. Discussion held. A motion was made by Schara and seconded by Waeltz to approve the Financial Report as presented. Unanimously approved.
12. **General Manager Report.** General Manager/CEO Harris reported on Monthly updates - district map added to Call to Order, Office Union update, No DPC PCA or RVA, being seated on the WECA Board of Directors, DPC rates, NWPA settlement, OneEnergy

solar array project update, DPC solar policies update, Expenses and Strategic Plan Updates, including the Cooperative's representation at a local high school career fair and the success of both Halloween Trunk or Treat events and director nominations notices. Discussion held. A motion was made by Lorence and seconded by Beadles to approve the General Manager Report. Unanimously approved.

13. **Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC).** Reich reported on Cambridge research about reliable grid, budget, rates, margins, financial update with cost breakdown, no PCA credit or charge, safety performance and division updates. Discussion held. A motion was made by Schara and seconded by Waeltz to approve the DPC Director Report as presented. Unanimously approved.
14. **Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA).**
  - a. **Annual Meeting Update.** Director Beadles, Director Lorence, Director Kruk, Director Schara and General Manager/CEO Harris recapped the WECA Annual Meeting.
  - b. **Committee Appointments.** Discussion held. A motion was made by Amery and seconded by Beadles to appointment Schara to the Education Committee, keep Kraig Gay on the JT&S Committee, keep Kraig Gay on the JT&S Rules Subcommittee and keep Kruk on the Legislative & Regulatory Committee. Unanimously carried.
15. **National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).**
  - a. **Power Xchange.** Discussion held. A motion was made by Schara and seconded by Amery to postpone the decision of attendees for the 2025 NRECA Power Xchange until the December meeting. Unanimously approved.
  - b. **NRECA Voting Delegate.** No action taken.
  - c. **CRC Voting Delegate.** No action taken.

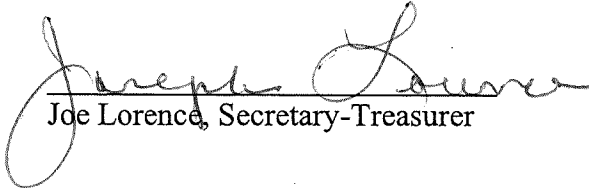
The Board took a break from 10:25 a.m. to 10:35 a.m.

16. **Old Business.**
  - a. **Major Expenditure Budget.** Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Weaver to approve the Major Expenditure Budget as presented. Unanimously approved.
  - b. **Annual Budget.** Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Schara to approve the Annual Budget as presented. Unanimously approved.
17. **New Business.**
  - a. **Funds Forfeited.** Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Amery to approve the resolution to declare Funds Forfeited to Federated Youth Foundation as presented. Unanimously approved.
  - b. **Write-Offs.** Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Beadles to approve the 2024 Write-Offs of Uncollectible Accounts as presented. Unanimously approved.
  - c. **Director Vacancy.** The board accepted the resignation from Jason Weaver, District 7 and thanked him for his service. Policy No. 202 Director & General Manager/CEO Vacancy was reviewed. Discussion held. A motion was made by

Beadles and seconded by Lorence, to send a letter to fill the vacancy in District 7.  
With seven (7) in favor and one (1) against, the motion carried.

18. **Next Meeting Date.** The December meeting date is scheduled for December 31, 2024.

A motion was made by Schara and seconded by Lorence to **Adjourn the Meeting at 11:30 a.m.**  
Unanimously carried.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Lorence, Secretary-Treasurer

12/31/24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

(CORPORATE SEAL)

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT: 2024 WECA Annual Meeting

Christine Beadles

### Federated Youth Foundation Annual Meeting

The FYF has 61 members and is always on the lookout for more. Co-op contributions were a record high this year. The Charles Van Sickle Scholarship (\$2000, now \$5000) is available for students interested in the field of cooperative law.

### WECA President/CEO Address – Robert Richard

Our new WECA President/CEO gave his first address to the crowd. We had the privilege of learning more about who he is and what he stands for. He talked about the importance of the Right of First Refusal (ROFR) and how it impacts cooperatives in a positive way by keeping rates low. He also honored former CEO Steve Freese for all that he had done for WECA and for Mr. Richard personally.

### The Energy Transition... What Energy Transition? – Robert Bryce

Mr. Bryce (The Power Hungry Podcast) was a very energetic and passionate speaker when talking about the future of energy. Solar and wind have their place, but they are not perfect. Natural gas is an energy staple and we need to look at nuclear energy.

### Investing in Our Future: Youth Programs Pay Big Dividends – Panel

Tyler Tautges and Emma Steinke (NRECA Youth Leadership Council delegates) along with Barb Miller (Rock Energy board member, WECA) and Tina Walden (director of youth education, WECA) were very persuasive in conveying the importance of involving youth within our cooperatives. We need to invest in our young people and spark their interest early because they are the future of our cooperatives.

### Values-Based Leadership and Cooperative Family Fund – Tony Anderson

Mr. Anderson (NRECA president) spoke about the struggles he experienced growing up poor in a single parent home and how that molded him into the person he is today. My take-away from this was if you work hard, serve others, and get involved in your communities, you will be successful. He has also spearheaded the Cooperative Family Fund which provides monetary and emotional assistance to the minor children of those that have unfortunately died while employed by a cooperative.

### Election Update and Political Analysis – Bill McCoshen and Joe Zepecki

Mr. McCoshen and Mr. Zepecki provided an informative back and forth discussion on the results of the recent election and what it means for the future of Wisconsin and our nation. Of course, there are always differences in opinion, but Wisconsin's "remapping" of the state has made for fairer elections in our state.

November Director Report  
Joe Lorence / District # 3

On November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> I was able to attend the WECA "Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association" Annual meeting which was held this year at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells. It was a very nice venue and there were close to 300 in attendance. There were several of us attending so I will report on some of my highlights.

The first part of the program was all about our Federated Youth Programs. It highlighted some of our most successful members that spoke on how the program and scholarships have changed their lives.

Part of the program the first day was kind of a Memorial to Steve Freeze who was the Associations President and CEO who passed away in August from Cancer. Steve had previously served 16 years in the State Assembly, Many years on his local Town board, President of the Circus World Museum, the Farm Buteau. There were other commitments he also engaged in, so you can guess he was very well known by many across Wisconsin. I believe he had come to Ladysmith several times for our annual meetings.

Later in the evening there was a reception and a banquet. We at JREC were the recipient of a RESAP "Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program" award along with 8 other cooperatives. These awards are to recognized the coops for no lost time accidents.

Another part of the evening was celebrating the retirement of Dee Fox who was the main force putting together the monthly magazine that we all receive every month. I believe they said she had worked for us for 38 years. She was the recipient of the 2024 Herman C Pothast Award that evening.

The following morning there was a breakfast and then we started with legislative updates and some current election issues. This was followed by a round table discussion about the presidential election and how the state voted and how the maps did make a change in the 'state representation. The said to expect to see another very expensive election in the Spring of 2025. The Governor is up for election, a couple Supreme Court justices and Town Boards

Over all I think it was a good meeting and I do enjoy participating in these functions and representing JREC.

Joe Lorence / Director District # 3

**JREC District #7**  
**November Directors Report**  
**Jason Weaver**

Happy Thanksgiving fellow cooperative members.

I am thankful for my time on the Board of Directors of Jump River Electric Cooperative.

I have a new respect for the work that the board of directors does and a great insight into the operations and what it takes to provide affordable, safe and reliable service. I appreciate the employees of the Cooperative and the dedication they have shown to the success of the cooperative.

I would recommend every member consider being on the board for a term or two. You will appreciate all the hard work that seems to be seamless because of the great staff. With that said I have decided to resign from the board of directors due to my busy schedule. I have to prioritize work and family and leave knowing that we are all in good hands.

Thank you for your time, stay safe and GO PACK GO!

JREC District 9  
November Directors Report

I have been looking for my research material about the WECA meeting held at Wisconsin Dells. I could not find it so I will just have to tell you what the highlight was for me. Rob Richard gave a heartwarming tribute to his mentor, Steve Freese. I had read the article he wrote in a prior magazine, so I was aware of his lifelong connection with Steve, but to hear him tell his story to the crowd was very moving and even funny at times. I think we all agree that he was the perfect and obvious choice to walk into his new role as WECA President and CEO.

At the awards dinner they also had a really nice tribute to Mary Erickson for her 36 years with the WECN magazine. She always had a smile on her face, and I wish her well in her retirement.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Schara