Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the
Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Tuesday, September 30, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at the Cooperative headquarters building in Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin.

Thank you cards and letters from Blue Hills Trail Association, Inc., Dan Glaze Memorial, Hayward Community Food Shelf, Inc., Miner Theatre Summer Dollar Days, and scholarship recipients Emma Grunseth and Kendall Webster were circulated by Vice Chairman Kruk.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order.** Vice Chairman Kruk called the Regular Board Meeting to Order at 8:59 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; 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; Operations Manager, Ben Modl; 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 Lorence and seconded by Schara to accept the agenda. Unanimously approved.

5. **Open Comment Session.** No one in attendance.

6. **Safety Moment.** Beadles presented on harvest season traffic safety, including being extra cautious when approaching, waiting, passing farm equipment and watching for pedestrians.

7. **August Minutes.** A motion was by Schara and seconded by Gardner to approve the August Board minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

8. **Check Register.** Discussion held. A motion was by Reich and seconded by Beadles to approve the August Check Register as presented. Unanimously approved.

9. **Consent Agenda.** Member applications, member refunds, outages, and director expense reports were posted to Call to Order prior to the meeting for review by the Board. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Schara to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Unanimously approved.

10. **Operations Report**. Operations Manager Ben Modl reported on the near completion of Hwy E grant project, forthcoming work on LCO grant project, sectionalized work in Conrath, pole testing timeline, planned improvement for mapping and outage predictions, new service totals for the month and year-to-date and tentative online date of Hannibal Solar. 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, and operating statement, balance sheet, supplemental data for August 2025. Discussion held. A motion was made by Gardner and seconded by Amery to approve the financial report as presented. Unanimously approved.

12. **General Manager Report.** General Manager/CEO Harris reported on Monthly updates – OEI grant work nearing completion, cost and expense savings including Hannibal solar array coming online, elimination of primary residence utility sales tax, no GM expenses

this month, strategic plan updates including equity goal status, improvements to system map, commencement of LCO grant project, LCO brushing, creation of new accident forms and increasing electric system reliability. Discussion held. A motion was made by Beadles and seconded by Schara to approve the General Manager Report. Unanimously approved.

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

a. **Board Meeting Summary.** Reich reported on attending manager's meeting, including battery storage hub, PACE grant, increase load management modernizations, board meeting – LACBWR settlement, hedging, monthly board actions, financials, and education. Discussion held. A motion was made by Lorence and seconded by Gardner to approve the DPC Director report as presented. Unanimously approved.

b. **Wholesale Power Contract & Wholesale Rate Education for Class A Board Meeting Summary.** Director reports from Director van Doorn and Director Amery were posted to Call to Order prior to the meeting for review by the Board. Discussion held.

The Board took a break from 10:26 a.m. to 10:36 a.m.

14. **Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA).**

a. **Annual Meeting – Nov. 12-13.** A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Gardner to approve sending Directors Beadles, Lorence, Kruk and Schara to the 2025 WECA Annual Meeting. Unanimously approved.

i. **Voting Delegate.** A motion was made by Amery and seconded by Reich to appoint Kruk as voting delegate for the 2025 WECA Annual Meeting. Unanimously approved.

b. **BLC 930.1 Ethics and Governance: Implementing the New Accountability Eau Claire – Oct 14.** A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Gardner to approve sending Directors Beadles and Schara to BLC 930.1. Unanimously approved.

15. **New Business.**

a. **September PCA**. A PCA rate calculation report was presented. Discussion held. A motion was made by Schara and seconded by Waeltz to not pass the September power cost adjustment charge from Dairyland on to the membership. Unanimously approved.

b. **LACBWR Settlement**. General Manager/CEO Harris presented on the La Crosse Boiling Water Reactor (LACBWR) settlement and Jump River Electric's portion. Discussion held. A motion was made by Lorence and seconded by Beadles to pass back $187,923.26 from Dairyland's spent nuclear fuel settlement for years 2019-2022 to current active members on their December bill. Unanimously approved.

c. **Capital Credit Retirement**. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Waeltz to approve the Retirement of Capital Credits as follows: retirement of $366,843.32 in capital credits to give back to our members. This included 100% of 1995, 50% of 1996, and 1.5% of all other years. Unanimously approved.

d. **JREC Annual Meeting.**

i. **Logistics.** Discussion held. A motion was made by Amery and seconded by Waeltz to hold the 2026 Annual Meeting on April 25, 2026, at 10:00

a.m. at the Ladysmith Headquarters and remotely at the Hayward Outpost. Unanimously approved.

ii. **Electronic Voting.** Discussion held. A motion was made and withdrawn by Amery to approve not offering Electronic Voting for the 2026 Annual Meeting. A motion was made by Beadles and seconded by Reich to approve Electronic Voting for the 2026 Annual Meeting if needed in accordance with the bylaws. With six (6) in favor and two (2) opposed, motion carried.

e. **Christmas Party.** Discussion held. The Christmas party date was scheduled for December 16th at noon.

16. **Executive Session.**

a. **General Manager/CEO Evaluation.** A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Schara to enter into Executive Session at 11:14 a.m. to discuss the General Manager/CEO evaluation. Unanimously approved. Zahurones and Modl exited the meeting at 11:15 a.m. A motion was made by Schara and seconded by Lorence to return to open session at 12:03 p.m. Unanimously approved. No action was taken.

17. **Next Meeting Date.** The October board meeting date was scheduled for October 28, 2025. Unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Beadles and seconded by Gardner to **Adjourn the Meeting at 12:03 p.m.** Unanimously approved.

Joseph A. Lorence
Joe Lorence, Secretary-Treasurer

Oct. 28, 25
Dated

(CORPORATE SEAL)

Wholesale Power Contract and Wholesale Rate Education for Class A Boards Meeting
Bill Amery
September 16, 2025

I attended this meeting via Zoom from the Ladysmith office. Bill van Doorn and Kurt Harris also attended. This was my second go around for this meeting, having previously attended the July 22nd event. The two meetings were basically the same with few, if any, changes. Here is what I learned on the second viewing.

1. The purpose of this meeting is to present Dairyland's response to task force reports and recommendations including the 2024 *Wholesale Power Contract Task Force and the 2024 Wholesale Rate Study Task Force.* The presentations were structured around providing some background and historical perspective on a subject, then summarizing task force findings and recommendations, followed by Dairyland management's response. The general theme was that the distribution coops are interested in finding more options and flexibility in their long term deal with Dairyland. The Dairyland response covers how we got to where we are, the current course of action, and why it is a good approach that is worthy of support.

2. There are many, many variables that go into how Dairyland structures its deal with us and how the rates are applied. This was explained in detail and is useful to understand how factors like time of day and seasonality go into the various usage rates, along with how demand factors in. This is less useful in that, short of changing how our members use electricity, there is little we can do to reduce our costs.

3. A major issue for the presentation (treated very delicately, for obvious reasons) was how coops can get out of their deal with Dairyland. It remains unclear as to how long it takes to get out of the deal. We may want to clarify the above in terms of whether a coop can get out of their deal with written notice, or if it is still somehow obligated through December 2066.

4. There is much more to "unpack" regarding this extensive and well-constructed presentation. My suggestion would be that we take a portion of upcoming Board meetings and devote it to going over the slides from this meeting so that we all have a better understanding of how our deal works, and we are able to better understand what motivates other coops to push on the limits of their deals. In other words, to ensure we are doing what is best for our members we need to be on top of all the intricacies of how Dairyland charges us for electricity. Their charges are over 50% of our budget, so we really need to be on top of how this works. Any rate increase that may be needed in the future will be heavily driven by how much we pay Dairyland every month.

September 2025 Report

District 5 Director

William van Doorn

On September 16th Bill A., Kurt H., and myself attended a class virtually at Ladysmith titled Wholesale Power Contract & Wholesale Rate Education. Dairyland Power Cooperative started supplying local distribution Coops in the 1930's and that's when an understanding and a long-term contract came into existence. Not only did Dairyland (DPC) supply power, but it also supplied many other services including transmission lines to all of the class A members such as ourselves, Jump River Electric Cooperative (JREC).

The contract was discussed. It was explained that a long-term contract was needed for multiple reasons, including financial stability, price and availability for the local utilities to serve our local rural members. It must be noted that during the 1930's & 40's, the for profit suppliers did not want to supply the rural areas because of the low density and added expense involved to supply rural America.

Recently, there has been a task force formed to address changes in the overall industry. Including cost variations, government mandates and other concerns that local Coops have. The information I have seen and not totally understood, leads me to think that what is being proposed is giving local distribution coops the option to control 3.3% of our usage, production or storage as we see fit. This reminds me of a parent giving their children just enough flexibility to feel independent, but not enough control to do harm to themselves. This appears to be more of a distraction rather than just directly addressing the subject of needing more dependable power at an affordable cost. Which in my opinion, needs to be addressed at the upper level and also objectively at the political level. May I emphasize objectivity.

The Wholesale Power Contract Taskforce came up with seven options. All options are limiting, which is good in my view. I believe that the strength of the Coops is in their unity as a whole because coops answer to the member-owners rather than to a board of investors as the for-profit suppliers do. Remember the saying, divide and conquer.

Keeping all this in mind we move onto the MISO market which we all are a part of now. I believe Dairyland Power was the last to join into this group that shares power through the grid for better dependability. This system works, but we all can envision problems in this system that the coop entity does not have control of. Does it make us feel more comfortable that the government is involved?

The system (MISO) works, but I was really shocked when I learned that DPC sells all their power to the market and then buys it back as their need calls for it. On paper, I guess it simplifies it all, but it still raises eyebrows.

At the end of the class transmission of power was clarified. More or less, whoever owns the lines the power passes through, receives a fee for reimbursement. So if Dairyland owns the lines, they receive compensation for its use, which in turn raises their margin which eventually is returned to the local distribution coops. This is how the Cooperative family is supposed to work. So as we move forward, we learn that even if a family member has a disagreement, it can always be worked out so the family stays as a wholesome unit.

Respectfully Submitted

District 5 Director

Bill van Doorn