Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the
Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Tuesday, June 23, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at the Cooperative headquarters building in Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin.

Thank you cards and letters from ADRC of Taylor County, Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce, Hayward Lakes & Visitors Convention Bureau, Hayward Little League Baseball, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibewe University, Ladysmith Booser Club, Ladysmith High School Yearbook, Landmark Conservancy and scholarship recipients: Marika Gago, Mya Gago, Gabe Gerber, Dominic Kopacz, Chanse Ludescher, Willow Peterson, Connor Ptacek, Kyra Rabuck, Reese Roehl, and Hailey Wilmot were circulated by Chairman van Doorn.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order.** Chairman van Doorn called the Regular Board Meeting to Order at 9:00 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; and Walter Kruk, District 8. 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 Sandy Schara, District 9.

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.** Beadles presented on lawn mower safety, including clear yard of debris, proper apparel, mowing ditches safely, never reaching under the mower deck until the blades have completely stopped, and remaining cautious of nearby people and pets.

7. **May Minutes.** A motion was made by Lorence and seconded by Amery to approve the May Board minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

8. **Check Register.** May check register was posted to Call to Order prior to the meeting for review by the board. Discussion held.

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

10. **Operations Report**. Operations Manager Modl reported on start dates for upcoming construction workplan projects, pole change outs, vegetation management status, SCADA installation at 2 substations, small-modular data processing load update, estimated timeline for Gilman solar, strategic placement of cell meters, and new services for the month and year to date. Discussion held. A motion was made by Gardner and seconded by Waeltz to approve the Operations Report as presented. Unanimously approved.

11. **Financial Report.** Finance Manager Zahurones reported on the income statement comparison, year-to-date Dairyland Power PCA's, 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 May 2026. Discussion held. A motion was made by Lorence 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 – Member Appreciation Days reminder, no PCA for the month and January's PCA billing completion, local discussion of data centers, upcoming Hannibal Solar ribbon cutting and first responder training, GM expenses this month, and strategic plan updates including equity level, SmartHub outage alerts auto enrollment figures, third round of Community Cents donations, start of parade season, progression of safety compliance services and upcoming reliability projects. Discussion held. A motion was made by Gardner and seconded by Beadles to approve the General Manager Report. Unanimously approved.

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

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

    b. **Board Education Meeting Summary.** Director Reich reported on reorganization meeting, welcoming new board members, actions to improve data collection at Flambeau Hydroelectric Station, MISO training tour in Eagen, and educational topics covered including Data Centers and the Utility Industry and Power Cost Adjustment Projections and Rate Credit Strategy. A motion was made by Waeltz and seconded by Lorence to approve the DPC Director Report as presented.

The Board took a break from 10:43 a.m. to 10:51 a.m.

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

    a. **NRECA Regional Meeting – Minneapolis, MN – September 21st-23rd.** Meeting details and associated costs were presented. Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Gardner to approve sending Director Lorence and General Manager/CEO Harris to the 2026 NRECA Regional Meeting. Unanimously approved. A motion was made by Beadles and seconded by Reich to appoint Harris as Voting Delegate and Lorence as Alternate Voting Delegate. Unanimously approved.

15. **Unfinished Business.**

    a. **Strategic Plan.** Harris presented the proposed revised objectives under the strategic goals of safety, strategic load growth, succession planning, reliability, equity management, and rate structure with their respective budget implications, initiatives/deliverables, and completion timelines. Discussion held. A motion was made by Gardner and seconded by Reich to approve the Strategic Plan as presented. Unanimously approved.

16. **New Business.**

    a. **Policy Revision.**

        i. **Cooperative Policy No. 104.** Harris presented revisions to enhance the Federated Youth Foundation Fund to more effectively manage and accommodate diverse needs and circumstances. Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Beadles to approve the revisions as presented. Unanimously approved.

        ii. **Cooperative Policy No. 105.** Harris presented revisions to clarify and update the check signing & bill adjustment policy to be consistent with current practices. Discussion held. A motion was made by Beadles and seconded by Lorence to approve the revisions as presented. Unanimously approved.

b. **Policy Review.**

i. Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Lorence to keep **Cooperative Policy No. 106**, Disposition of Property, and **Cooperative Policy No. 107**, Record Retention written as is. Unanimously approved.

17. **Next Meeting Date.** The July board meeting date was scheduled for July 28, 2026.

A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Amery to **Adjourn the Meeting at 12:20 p.m.** Unanimously approved.

Joseph Lorence

Joe Lorence, Secretary-Treasurer

July 28, 2026

Dated

(CORPORATE SEAL)

Education Session/Meeting Report Form

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Utilize this form as a template to report back information to the board of directors regarding education sessions taken or attendance of associated organization meeting.

Director Name Joe Lorence **Date** 6/02/2026

Education Session/Meeting Description Dairyland 2026 Annual Meeting

Building The Bridge Past Present Future

Name of Presenter CEO Brent Ridge and various other Dairyland Team Members

What are some highlights of the topic(s) covered?

Brent Ridge and other other managers talked about what they are doing to stabilize rates and looking at opportunities for expanding on purchasing other sources of power. There was an Election on several resolutions that were submitted by one of our member co op's. Each one Was discussed with both. Pro and cons. It seemed like a very fair process.

What are the key take-aways that may help benefit your responsibilities or other JREC directors?

The state of Dairyland Co-op is very good and they are looking into the challenges that may be as we are looking at increased demands for power.

Other comments:

I've been to several of these over the years and I think it is very important that we have a presence at these functions. I am thankful for the opportunity to represent JREC. I think all Directors should attend these functions if at all possible.

Joe Lorence

Education Session/Meeting Report Form

Director Name: Bill Amery

Date: June 18, 2026

Meeting Name: 2026 Dairyland Power Annual Meeting, "Building the Bridge – Past, Present and Future" June 2, 2026, Lacrosse, WI

All annual meetings tend to follow the same formula: Emphasize the positive, downplay the negative, predict a bright future and end with an expression of thanks to the staff and stakeholders. This meeting followed the formula, yet there was quite of a bit of meat on the bone. I will try to cover the high points while adding my thoughts and opinions, especially on topics bearing upon strategic directions, capital acquisitions, and addressing the national issue of supply and demand. As usual, my apologies for this being too long. I hope you find the effort to slog through it is worth your while.

2025 Financial Highlights - April Wehling - EVP & Chief Financial Officer

The financial report was brief. The year-end 2025 results came in on budget. This is not a surprise, since the policy on reversing budget variances through PCA/RVA adjustments basically guarantees the budget is met. The most interesting data point covered was that the budget shortfall (before PCA and RVA adjustments) was $11.9 million last year, compared to a $100,000 variance in 2024.

Comments:

I was disappointed that no explanation of the variance was offered. It was 120 times greater than the year before. That's a big difference. Ordinarily you would expect a breakdown of what happened and why.

This brings up a bigger, more philosophical issue. It starts with management responsibility and ends with the members picking up the tab. We have a problem if management sees falling short of budget as simply an accounting fix, where Dairyland sort of shrugs and passes the cost on to us, and then we fret about it and pass it on to the members that month or decide to eat the cost ourselves. Either way, eventually, the member pays. In many organizations there is direct management responsibility for budgets. If a manager doesn't meet budget, he/she will need a very solid explanation for how the shortfall happened and why it was out of their control. In some companies it's not an excuse even if the variance was out of your control – you failed. You can get fired for this sort of thing. Sometimes I think a system like ours might make it too easy to avoid financial responsibility and any consequences for falling short. We lack a way to compel vigilance. You don't worry about something that doesn't matter.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

A significant part of the meeting was reviewing and voting on bylaws changes. We were all briefed on the "Pierce Pepin Amendments" them prior to the meeting. The proposed changes were presented, with advocates and detractors providing input on each of them, and then we adjourned while the voting process go underway. All the amendments were defeated and, as I recall, they were defeated by a majority that ranged from 70-80%.

Comments:

I thought there was merit to some of these proposed changes, but the whole thing was handled poorly. There were too many changes, they were confusing and redundant, and at the meeting they were pitched by people that seemed underprepared and unsure of themselves. The advocates for a "no" vote did a better job; although they tended to dismiss the changes based on technical or legal grounds, rather than responding to their spirit and intent.

To me, the spirit of the Pierce Pepin changes was a desire to have greater foreknowledge, input and control when it comes to major strategic decisions. As it happens, I agree with these concepts. This might have gone better if they had boiled it down from six to just one or two changes, and then made a case for why distribution co-ops needing a seat at the table that can only be secured through a bylaws change. More on this when I talk about Brent's address, below.

"NERC's Reliability Outlook" - Camilo Serna, Senior Vice President, Strategy & External Engagement

North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) was established by Congress in 2005 to monitor and advise policy makers on a variety of reliability and security policy issues in the electric industry. The message of this talk was that reliability risks are increasing. Here are the key takeaways Mr. Serna presented:

- The Long Term Reliability Assessment (LTRA) is a big part of what NERC does. It focusses on resource adequacy. In terms of having enough electricity to go around, we in MISO/Wisconsin have gone from yellow to red over the last year. Red is, of course, as bad as it gets. We look especially bad in the winter months.
- The factors driving our problems include:
    - Growth in demand. Of note is that not all the growth is data center-related.
    - Not enough resources being built – we are short both on new facilities for meeting increasing demand, and for replacing generation capacity for facility retirements.
    - The change in resource adequacy mix is problematic: e.g. solar and batteries are not as reliable, especially in the winter.
    - Natural gas is critical, especially in the winter. It is not regulated, recently causing price increases so punishing they are described as a "transfer of wealth" from the electric industry to the natural gas industry.

- NERC recommends:
    - Expedite new resources
    - Manage large loads
    - Understand reliability
    - Streamline licensing and permitting
    - Coordinate with the gas industry

Comments:

As it happens, I heard this same message multiple times at the NRECA meeting in Nashville this spring. It must be frustrating for groups like NERC to keep sounding the alarm but not be able to actually effect any change. I still wonder what's going on here, what with everyone knowing this is a crisis in the making, but it being unclear as to how, or who, is going figure things out. It makes me leery of a crisis where the public demands change, precipitating a major intervention at the federal level, that ends up changing everything. I lived through it when the Feds turned Medicare upside down. Surely something is going on here, or some group has a solution in mind, but what it is remains a mystery to me.

"Building the Bridge: Past to Present to Future" - Brent Ridge, Dairyland President & CEO

Brent Ridge was exultant. The outcome on the bylaws changes was a huge vote of confidence for him, and he came across as a man comfortable in his own skin. His presentation was a tour de force. We got his vision of where Dairyland has been and where we are going. At times my head was swimming as he ticked off the accomplishments he has engineered and his candor in explaining them. Although a lot of this was clearly Brent's work, he gave all the credit to the DPC Board, showering them with praise and gratitude at the beginning, in the middle and the end of his presentation. He went on to take full responsibility for the JPM outage in January, calling it avoidable and an "embarrassment" for a guy like him that used to run power plants. He was confident and on a roll.

Five years ago, when Brent Ridge joined Dairyland, it was headed toward being a "paper G&T" that just traded for electric power on the open market and was without any major capital assets. Dairyland's rates were OK, but not as low as they should be. The DPC Board told him to fix things. He credits the Board for their vision and courage in doing so. Here is an abbreviated summary of the major strategic moves that have been made and where we currently stand:

- Dairyland had significant growth in our capital assets with the acquisition of RockGen and Weston 4. Now, we are selling our share in Weston 4 and a portion of RockGen, at a profit, to make capital available for other uses. This takes advantage of a big increase in RockGen value, and avoids a risk of being stuck with stranded assets at Weston 4.
- Dairyland made an investment worth $907 million in transmission lines since 2018. This was done in conjunction with MISO and is yielding a return of $552K to us every month. This is a good return on a very low risk investment, given that our payment is baked in to what the MISO system charges to its users.
- Dairyland was able to obtain ERA grant funds for funding rural electric infrastructure. The net

present value of projects that these funds will finance is estimated at $347 million.

- The total impact over the last five years has been a 40% increase in assets, a 24% increase in revenues and only a 5.7% increase in rates. That is, rates have gone up only about 1% per year over the last five years.
- Nuclear will always be in the picture. We will be cautious, but ready. China is building nuclear at a rapid pace, and at a fraction of the cost of we face in the USA. Strategically, it looks like we are positioning to act quickly if competitive needs dictate that the country loosens restraint on nuclear energy.

Comments:

- This presentation "connected the dots" for me. It answered a lot of the questions I had but was unable to answer based on the Dairyland Board reports alone. Ironically, this is the sort of information that, to me, was the point of proposing all the bylaws changes. It informed us about the logic to the major expenditures that are occurring. It even answered some of my questions as to all the executive talent Brent has brought on board.
- Things are good. Dairyland has about 20% equity, which would normally be seen as a high business risk. We have good credit ratings though, so this must not matter.
- There ***are*** risks associated with the Dairyland strategy. There ***have to be***, although we didn't hear anything about the downsides. It continues to concern me that Dairyland is wheeling and dealing while distribution cooperatives like us are along for the ride, holding on with white knuckles. We at Jump River are more risk averse than Dairyland, in my opinion.
- At this point, Brent Ridge has everything a CEO can ask for. The Board trusts him, they buy into his vision, and they are willing to follow his lead. His track record is good, and the bylaws vote was a resounding shot in the arm. He has gotten the freedom to do his work unfettered by a meddling board. He has a nimble management team that follows his lead and makes decisions without the burden of explaining things to a large group of Board members that might compromise confidentiality by blabbing about Dairyland's next move. To me, it looks like Brent has everything he needs.

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Director Name Mike Gardner **Date** June 2, 2026

Education Session/Meeting Description Dairyland Power 2026 Annual Meeting, LaCrosse, WI

Name of Theme Building the Bridge: Past to Present to Future

What are some highlights of the topic(s) covered?

The keynote speaker from NERC was very informative and the meeting / voting was well run. The Q&A by the CEO and Executive Team was very good.

What are the key take-aways that may help benefit your responsibilities or other JREC directors?

I enjoyed meeting Dairyland staff from the range of departments and capacities. I was encouraged to engage talented young professionals committed to the industry. They all seemed genuine in conversation and very knowledgeable.

Other comments:

As my first Dairyland meeting I left with a foundation to begin to learn more regarding our relationship and the issues and opportunities. Thank you for supporting my attendance.