

**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the  
Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Tuesday, April 29, 2025**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at the Cooperative headquarters building in Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin.

Thank you cards from Friends of the Rusk County Animal Shelter, Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau, Landmark Conservancy, and Northwoods Humane Society were circulated by Chairman van Doorn.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order.** Chairman van Doorn called the Regular Board Meeting to Order at 9:02 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; 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.
3. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
4. **Acceptance of the Agenda.** A motion was made by Beadles and seconded by Gardner to accept the agenda. Unanimously approved.
5. **Open Comment Session.** No one in attendance.
6. **Safety Moment.** van Doorn presented on the importance of always turning power off at the breaker when doing electrical work and not to assume power is off locally.
7. **March Minutes.** A motion was by Reich and seconded by Schara to approve the March Board minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.
8. **Check Register.** Discussion held. A motion was made by Schara and seconded by Amery to approve the March Check Register as presented. Unanimously approved.
9. **Consent Agenda.** Member refunds, membership applications, outages, and director expense reports were posted to Call of Order prior to the meeting for review by the Board. Discussion held. A motion was made by Lorence and seconded by Beadles to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Unanimously approved.
10. **Operations Report.** Operations Manager Behreandt reported on the statuses of 3-phase projects, squirrel wrapping, completion of school and community safety demonstrations, brushing status, herbicide notifications and start dates, overhead conversion and grant project approval and timeline. Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Schara 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 March 2025. Discussion held. A motion was made by Waeltz and seconded by Schara to approve the financial report as presented. Unanimously approved.
12. **General Manager Report.** General Manager/CEO Harris reported on Monthly updates - No PCA or RVA, Hannibal solar array project timeline, DPC withdrew their permit request for Sawyer County solar + battery project, OEI grant approval, WECA Education and Lobby Days recap, this month's GM expenses, and provided strategic status of

equity, consideration of sharing a safety compliance officer with surrounding cooperatives and reviewed Annual Meeting attendance and voting numbers. Discussion held. A motion was made by Lorence and seconded by Beadles to approve the General Manager Report. Unanimously approved.

The Board took a break from 10:35 a.m. to 10:44 a.m.

13. **Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC).** Reich reported on board actions - approving membership/due renewals, audit financial statements, governance policies, reviewed finances, including budget status, MISO cost and non-operating margins and other topics of safety performance, employee recognition, legislative engagement (ROFR) and power plant reliability. Discussion held. A motion was made by Gardner and seconded by Waeltz to approve the DPC Director report as presented. Unanimously approved.
14. **Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA).**
  - a. **Education and Lobby Days Summary.** Director reports from Director Beadles, Director Lorence and Director Schara were posted to Call of Order prior to the meeting for review by the Board. Discussion held. A motion was made by Gardner and seconded by Waeltz to approve the reports as presented.
15. **National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).**
  - a. **CCD (2630) Course Summary.** Director Waeltz's report on CCD 2630: Strategic Planning course was posted to Call of Order prior to the meeting for review by the Board. Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Amery to approve the report as presented.
16. **Old Business.**
  - a. **Audit Report.** A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Schara to approve the 2023-2024 Audit Report as presented. Unanimously approved.
17. **New Business.**
  - a. **Scholarship Presentation.** Board consensus to send the following Directors and staff to present scholarships:

Bruce – Bill van Doorn	Hayward – Bill Amery
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser – Virginia Jacobs	Winter – Jordan Behreandt
Flambeau – Kurt Harris	Gilman – Christine Beadles
Ladysmith – Denise Zimmer	Lake Holcombe – Joe Lorence
Rib Lake – Jane Reich	Stanley-Boyd – Jane Reich
LCO University – Kurt Harris	
  - b. **Policy Revision.**
    - i. **Director Policy No. 206.** Policy revisions presented include alternative director conference options and transferring in other associations meetings language originally in Policy No. 207 Director Education Course Attendance & Reimbursement. Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Beadles to approve the revisions as presented. Unanimously approved.
    - ii. **Director Policy No. 207.** Policy revisions presented included removing association meetings which were transferred to Director Policy No. 206 Director Attendance of Associated Organization Meetings. Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Amery to approve the

revisions as presented. Unanimously approved.

Senior Accountant/IT, Sebastian Halmstad, entered the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

- c. **Phishing Training.** Halmstad presented on email security, including how to spot phishing messages, actions to take, and reviewed the Cooperative's layered security approach. Discussion held.

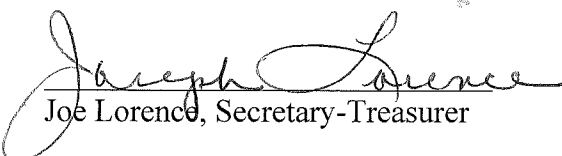
Halmstad exited the meeting at 12:12 p.m.

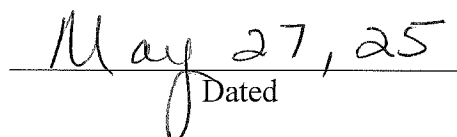
d. **Election of Officers.**

- i. **Chairperson.** Harris called for nominations. Nominations were made for Bill van Doorn as Board Chairperson. Being that no other nominations were made, a motion was made by Reich and seconded by Beadles to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to elect van Doorn as Chairperson of the Board. Unanimously approved.
- ii. **Vice-Chairperson.** van Doorn called for nominations. Nominations were made for Wally Kruk for Vice-Chairperson. Being that no other nominations were made, a motion was made by Beadles and seconded by Schara to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to elect Kruk as Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Unanimously approved.
- iii. **Secretary-Treasurer.** van Doorn called for nominations. A nomination was made for Joe Lorence for Secretary-Treasurer. Being that no other nominations were made, a motion was made by Kruk and seconded by Reich to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to elect Lorence as Secretary-Treasurer of the Board. Unanimously approved.
- iv. **DPC Board Member.** van Doorn called for nominations. A nomination was made for Reich. Being that no other nominations were made, a motion was made by Beadles and seconded by Schara to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to elect Reich as DPC Board Member. Unanimously approved.
- v. **DPC Alternate Board Member.** van Doorn called for nominations. Nominations were made for Joe Lorence as DPC Alternate Board Member. Being that no other nominations were made, a motion was made by Schara and seconded by Kruk to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot to elect Lorence as DPC Alternative Board Member. Unanimously approved.

18. **Next Meeting Date.** The May board meeting date was scheduled for May 27, 2025.

A motion was made by Schara and seconded by Reich to **Adjourn the Meeting at 12:25 p.m.** Unanimously approved.

  
Joe Lorence, Secretary-Treasurer

  
Dated

(CORPORATE SEAL)

Director Report – WECA Education and Lobby Days: April 1-2, 2025  
Christine Beadles

Tuesday, April 1

An arm chair discussion with Senator Howard Marklein, Rob Richard, and Joe Mesec kicked off the day. They spoke on the current divisiveness in politics and Senator Marklein feels that, in actuality, the day-to-day business in the Capitol is not as bad as the public perceives it to be. He says that everyone has cordial conversations, and they try to work through difficult topics together.

Phil Irwin, president and CEO of Federated Rural Electric Insurance, gave an overview of insurance claims over the past several years. He also discussed the life saving rules of cooperatives such as 1) Use gloves and sleeves, 2) Apply proper insulating material, 3) Test lines and apply personal grounds, and 4) to be sure to have a designated observer on the ground that is not afraid to speak up.

Ellen Nowak, American Transmission Company, and Ben Porath, Dairyland Power Company, presented the primary issues that need to be taken to the Capitol. These include: 1) supporting Right of First Refusal, 2) supporting WI's Legislative Commitment to Advancing Nuclear Energy, 3) supporting Nuclear Power Siting Study, 4) supporting WI Hosting a Nuclear Power Summit, 5) supporting Eradication of Wild Parsnip, and 6) opposing Third Party and Community Solar.

Marcus Hawkins, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, was a very engaging speaker even though much of what he talked about was over my head. At one point he talked about how, with the increasing use of solar, the high-risk energy periods will move from the hot mid-summer times to the cold winter months and polar vortex events.

Nate Boettcher, Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services, and Nate Melby, Dairyland Power Cooperative presented information on and examples of AI. Some of the uses currently being implemented are podcast generation, data analysis, customer support, and graphics. A new term for me, as it pertains to AI, was hallucinations. Hallucinations in AI is when an answer or result just doesn't make sense. They also expressed how there is a fear that AI will replace people, but they say it just makes them more efficient.

Finally, a very interesting session on Fusion/Fission and Nuclear energy was given by Doug Endrizzi and Dev Ashish Khaitan, nuclear scientists from Realta Fusion. Again, much of this was beyond my comprehension, but they were very energetic and passionate about their work. They also explained the challenges involved with fusion such as: cost competitiveness, steady state technologies, radiation (although not on the scale of fission), materials that can handle the 100s of millions of degrees, supply chain infrastructure, finding enough qualified people to study this, and licensing. Wisconsin could very well be groundbreaking in the nuclear energy arena.

Wednesday, April 2

We went to the Capitol to take the concerns of Wisconsin cooperatives to our State Senators and State Representatives. Those that represent the members in my district are Representative Rob Summerfield and Senator Jesse James. They seemed very receptive to all of the issues on our agenda.

### Summary

The topics of ROFR and nuclear energy are so important to keeping Wisconsin's energy costs down and keeping our environment clean. We need to keep pushing for governmental assistance in the nuclear realm as it comes with extreme costs, but Wisconsin can be a front runner in the nuclear energy field and that is a win-win.

This entire experience was so interesting and beneficial to me. I learned so much my brain is full, but I also realized just how much I have yet to learn. I really enjoyed all of the speakers, even though I was lost a lot of the time. It is my nature to want to understand it all, but I have to remember that it takes time.

April 2, 2025  
Directors Report

This month on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> I was able to attend Education and Lobby Days in Madison. Chris Beadless, Sandy Schara, CEO /GM Kurt Harris and myself were the attendants this year representing JREC. This is a 2 day state get together to go to the capital and speak to our legislators about current legislative issues we would like to see move forward in the next budget cycle. It was Election Day in Wisconsin with a Supreme Court race that was getting national attention.

Many of the speakers over the days were about the new issue of AI (artificial Intelligence) These data processing centers that will be required will need massive amounts of electricity and what is the plan on how utilities are going to meet that demand. Marcus Hawkins Commissioner of Public Service of Wisconsin noted that there has been 20 years of flat load growth, and now we are expecting a very large load growth due to data procession centers at MISO.

Ellen Nowak and Ben Porath spoke about ROFER (Right of first Refusal) Assembly Bill 25. This bill has to do with building new transmission lines in Wisconsin. WECA is in favor of ROFER. Solar is coming on quickly and will surpass wind. The MISO market which we get some of our power from is now located in 15 states.

There was a really interesting presentation by Doug Endrizzi an experimental Scientist and Dev Ashish Khaitan a Senior Nuclear scientist at the University of Wisconsin of Relta Fusion. They are doing research on producing energy from fusion. They have 4 fusion devices at the university now and are working closely with other research labs around the world. I recently read an article claiming Wisconsin could become the next Silicone Valley due to its nuclear fusion research. We have an endless supply of material, and there is no waste.

Following the day time schedule, there was a reception and followed by the auction which is an annual fund raiser for the Federated Youth scholarships. It was a fun night networking and visiting with other Directors.

The next morning, we met early for a breakfast and a few brief presentations before we walked over to the Capital to meet with our legislators. We were able to meet up with Assemblymen Rob Summerfield and Senator Jessy James. It was a good day and overall, a successful event. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to go and represent JREC at these events. I realize that its difficult for some of the other Directors to get away for these gatherings, but I'm hoping everyone will be able to go at sometime in the future.

Joe Lorence / Director  
District # 3

Jay Waeltz  
District 4 Director Report  
April 2025

On April 11, 2025, I attended the CCD 2630 NRECA Strategic Planning course via teleconference in the JREC Boardroom. It was presented by Rod Crile. There were 37 participants.

Course objectives were:

- Strategic Planning and Risk Oversight
- What is Strategic Thinking
- Developing a Strategy
- The Boards Role in Monitoring Progress

This was a one day course, six hours long, and it really seemed to drag on. Although I'm sure Mr. Crile is very qualified, he said some things early in the course that really had me scratching my head. After that, it became hard to mesh with his way of thinking. The first thing he said that I found most troubling was to never concern yourself with the cost of something and to only worry about what the needs are. He suggested you could spend all kinds of time discussing these "needs" and then decide not to do it later, like it was no big deal to waste everyone's time. My thoughts are that in private business, this is a recipe for failure. Mostly because it becomes nearly impossible to differentiate needs from wants. He asked us what caused us to run for the board. Most said stabilize and/or lower rates. Both seemed like reasonable responses. He also suggested new board members should be aggressively challenging longer serving board members to make sure there is diversity of thought. He did say something I found interesting and would definitely agree with. It is that coops refer to the people paying the bills as members and they are not actually members at all. They are owners and probably should be referred to as such. He said a membership is something you buy at Sam's Club, Costco or your local gym where you don't have any say at all. I definitely didn't get as much out of this course as I had in previous courses.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Waeltz

Sandy Schara  
District 9 Director Report  
April 2025

The Education and Lobby Days held in Madison on April 1-2, 2025, did not disappoint. The Concourse Hotel always does an excellent job of hosting this event. With their dedicated staff, the meetings and food prep goes seamlessly every year.

The opening day started off with a welcome message from Rob Richard, president and CEO, WI Electric Cooperative Association.

State Senator Howard Marklein was presented with the "Steve Freese Champion of Electric Cooperatives" award. He is serving his 3rd term as a State Senator. He was re-appointed as a co-chair of JFC for the 2005-26 session.

Phil Irwin, President and CEO of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange gave a brief report about Federated which is the leading provider of property and casualty insurance for rural electric facilities.

Marcus Hawkins, Commissioner, Public Service Commission of WI was appointed to that position by Governor Tony Evers on April 8, 2024. He is a very intelligent man and has degrees in both nuclear and mechanical engineering.

I mean no disrespect by my following comments. Anybody out there who were watchers of the T.V. show "The Big Bang Theory"? The caption on the agenda for these next two presenters was "A Bright Future for Fusion in WI". Doug Endrizzi, experimental scientist, AKA- Sheldon Cooper and Dev Ashish Khaitan, senior nuclear scientist AKA- Rajesh Koothrappaoli took the stage and had the crowd mesmerized by their intellect. I think we all sat there with that look on our face of WTH are they talking about. It was, for sure, a live performance of the show. I don't think anyone had any "takeaways" from their presentation but it was amazing to see what brilliance there is in this world.

The reception at night and the auction events were once again a big hit and a lot of fun. In case anyone is wondering, the leg lamp went for a whopping \$800 this year.

On Wednesday morning, I met with Senator Romaine Quinne and Representative Chanz Green. Our group met with both of them together. That worked out great. The main topic was ROFR. Christopher Klopel from Bayfield Electric was our spokesperson.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandy Schara