

**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the  
Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Tuesday, November 25, 2025**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at the Cooperative headquarters building in Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin.

Thank you cards and letters from CESA 10: job shadowing, mock interviews and STEM Expo; Christie Mountain, Christmas 4 Kidz, Hayward Community Choir, Ladysmith Driftbusters Snowmobile Club and Hailey Minot, were circulated by Chairman van Doorn.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order.** Chairman van Doorn called the Regular Board Meeting to Order at 9:03 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, Ben Modl; and Executive Assistant, Virginia Jacobs.
3. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
4. **Acceptance of the Agenda.** A motion was made by Gardner and seconded by Schara to accept the agenda. Unanimously approved.
5. **Open Comment Session.** No one in attendance.
6. **Safety Moment.** Waeltz presented a variety of safety tips, including driving with lights on during foggy and rainy days, watching for hunters or parked vehicles on the side of the roads and being aware of your surroundings as people or families disappear and are never found.
7. **October Minutes.** A motion was by Reich and seconded by Schara to approve the October Board minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.
8. **Check Register.** October 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, 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 Gardner to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Unanimously approved.
10. **Operations Report.** Operations Manager Ben Modl reported on the completion of LCO grant project, pole testing status, efforts to reduce outages, Hannibal Solar generation, participation at middle school STEM Expo, and new service totals for the month and year-to-date. Discussion held. A motion was made by Beadles 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, 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, supplemental data for October 2025 and reviewed the Accounts Payable process. Discussion held. A motion was made by Schara and seconded by Gardner to approve the financial report as presented. Unanimously approved.
12. **General Manager Report.** General Manager/CEO Harris reported on Monthly updates – ongoing OEI grant reporting progress, potential new solar array, recap of Dairyland

Power Cooperative and WECA meetings, progression of bitcoin opportunity, GM expenses this month, strategic plan updates for member and community collaboration: successful Trunk or Treat events, high school job shadows, mock interviews and middle school STEM Expo, completion of LCO tribal grant project, and upcoming mailing of director nominations. Discussion held. A motion was made by Gardner and seconded by Lorence to approve the General Manager Report. Unanimously approved.

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

- a. **Board Meeting Summary.** Reich reported on strategic acquisition of two power plants in Illinois, request to transfer their 30% ownership of Weston 4, attendance of audit & risk committee, including outcome of internal and external audits, overall rates remaining flat, while rates for JREC increase slightly, Kevin Nordt receiving distinguished achievement award from UW-Madison, other board actions, and finances. General Manager/CEO Harris presented History & Benefits of the G&T Model and Wholesale Power Contract. Discussion held. A motion was made by Amery and seconded by Gardner to approve the DPC Director report as presented. Unanimously approved.

The Board took a break from 10:48 a.m. to 10:56 a.m.

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

- a. **Annual Meeting Summary.** Director reports from Director Beadles, Director Kruk and Director Schara were posted to Call to Order prior to the meeting for review by the Board. Directors and General Manager/CEO Harris recapped the WECA Annual Meeting. Discussion held.
- b. **Committee Appointments.** Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Lorence to keep Kruk on the Legislative & Regulatory Committee. Unanimously approved. A motion was made by Gardner and seconded by Reich to appoint Beadles to the Education Committee and keep Kraig Gay on both the JT&S Committee and on the JT&S Rules Subcommittee. Unanimously approved.
- c. **BLC – Artificial Intelligence & Electric Cooperatives.** Discussion held. No action taken.
- d. **BLC – Your Board's Culture: It's Impact on Effectiveness.** Discussion held. No action taken.
- e. **Education & Lobby Days.** Discussion held. A motion was made by Waeltz and seconded by Reich to approve the attendance of Beadles, Lorence, Schara and Harris at WECA Lobby Days in January 2026. Unanimously approved.
- f. **CCD Courses.** Discussion held. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Lorence to approve the attendance of Beadles and Gardner at CCD 2600: Director Duties and Liabilities, February 18, 2026; CCD 2620: Board Operations and Process, February 19, 2026; and CCD 2640: Financial Decision-Making, October 13, 2026. Unanimously approved.

The Board recessed for lunch from 12:20 p.m. to 12:51 p.m.

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

- a. **Power Xchange.** Discussion held. A motion was made by Schara and seconded by Amery to approve the tentative attendance of van Doorn at the 2026 NRECA Power Xchange in March 2026. Unanimously approved.

- b. **NRECA Voting Delegate.** Board consensus to appoint van Doorn as the NRECA Voting Delegate.
- c. **CRC Voting Delegate.** A motion was made by Lorence and seconded by Beadles to approve Harris as the CRC Voting Delegate. Unanimously approved.

16. **Unfinished Business.**

- a. **Annual Budget.** A rate options report was presented. Discussion held. A motion was made by Gardner and seconded by Reich to increase the fixed cost delivery from \$47 to \$48 on the residential single-phase rate and increase energy and demand charges for all rate classes by 3.5% starting March 1, 2026. Unanimously approved. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Schara to approve the Annual Budget as presented. Unanimously approved.

17. **New Business.**

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

- b. **Write-Offs.** Discussion held. A motion was made by Lorence and seconded by Schara to approve the 2025 Write-Offs of Uncollectible Accounts as presented. Unanimously approved.

18. **Next Meeting Date.** The December board meeting date was scheduled for December 30, 2025. Unanimously approved. A motion was made and rescinded by Kruk to schedule the January board meeting for January 20, 2026. A motion was made by Reich and seconded by Kruk to schedule the January board meeting for January 29, 2026. Unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Lorence and seconded by Amery to Adjourn **the Meeting at 1:32 p.m.**

  
Joe Lorence, Secretary-Treasurer

  
Dated

(CORPORATE SEAL)

**Director Report – WECA Annual Meeting: November 12-13, 2025**  
**Christine Beadles**  
**District 2**

**Wednesday, November 12**

**Business Meeting**

Highlights from the business portion of the meeting included a financial report. Total liabilities and net assets for 2025 were \$2,151,622 compared to \$2,081,199 for 2024. Total income was \$4,449,116 and total expenses were \$4,292,745 for a net margin of \$156,371.

Two resolutions were on the table... one for Diggers Hotline locating costs underground and one for dyed fuel use. Both passed unanimously.

Judy Anibus ran unopposed for the NRECA Board of Directors and was re-elected.

**Powering Tomorrow: Strategic Insights for the Future of Electric Cooperatives**

Brian Sloboda (director, Utility Research & Policy, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation) provided information on the future of electric cooperative. He expressed that challenges are opportunities to change, and the drivers of change are Technology, Consumers, and Public Policies. Concerns for the future are: cost, impact of weather, resilience of the electric grid, nuclear energy, geothermal energy (they can cause earthquakes), and storage of energy.

**How Building Teamwork and Trust Leads to Success on the Ice**

Mark Johnson (head coach, UW-Madison Women's Hockey) presented ideas on what makes for a solid team. I can't say there was any enlightening information as it seemed to be a very generic presentation. Maybe, as an educator, I have sat through many similar presentations during 38 years of 'beginning of the school year' in-services. I had flashbacks... LOL.

**Thursday, November 13**

**Business Meeting continued...**

Rob Richard discussed the importance of participating in PAC. In 2023, the Wisconsin supreme court race costs came in at \$51 million, and two years later costs were upwards of \$100 million. Given these numbers, it is not possible for PAC to "buy" an election, but PAC can provide support and conversations that make an impact on issues that are important to our rural co-ops.

A member survey was completed to give insight as to what members think about the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine. The magazine is all about connecting with co-op members. All results were favorable with information on energy and conservation savings topping the list followed closely by stories about events and places to visit in Wisconsin. Regarding the local pages... news and issues regarding our local co-ops was of most interest to our members followed by stories about local people and organization.

## Reviving Rural Wisconsin: Can Bold Policies Both Preserve Our Cherished Past and Build a Prosperous Future

A panel discussion with Rob Richard, Brian Reisinger (chief executive officer & senior writer, Platform Communications), and Bob Welch (principal partner & founder, The Welch Group, and executive director, Rural Policy Institute) was held. I found it interesting to hear about how to decide what is rural. They determined that it should be done by density with rural being considered a township with 200 people or less per square mile. Well, what about a small town surrounded by rural? They consider that to be "rural adjacent". They also determined that 25% of Wisconsin is rural and 16% is "rural adjacent". The discussion centered on the political differences of rural vs. urban Wisconsinites (density above 2000 per square mile) and the concerns of rural residents. Remember, those are our members.

## It's Time to Go Upstream

Jeff "Ditz" Ditzzenberger (founder and president, TUGS: Talking, Understanding, Growing, Supporting) gave a very engaging and energetic speech on his life experiences and how he was able to move on from mental health issues and a failed suicide attempt. It was very motivational and so important to be refreshed about the value of "being kind". I want you all to know how valuable your opinions and friendships are to me personally.

## 12 Strong: An Extraordinary Mission of Commitment, Purpose, Heroism, and Hope

A very informative and moving address from Mark Nutsch (former Green Beret commander, and co-founder Horse Soldier Bourbon) was a great finale to the annual meeting. He has led an interesting life that resulted in him commanding a Special Forces mission in Afghanistan after 9/11. This mission consisted of his 12-man team, along with Afghan allies, achieving a victory against the Taliban... on horseback! He explained the mission as 19<sup>th</sup> century horsemen with 20<sup>th</sup> century weapons using 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. The Hollywood movie "12 Strong", starring Chris Hemsworth, is based on this incredible event.

On November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, I attended the WECA Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells.

The meeting opened at 1pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> with the introduction of Board Members and Directors. Credentials Report was given with the Secretary-Treasurer's Report. There was an approval of the 2024 annual meeting minutes. After the 2024 – 2025 financial report resolutions were approved by votes.

Next was a talk by Brian Sloboda on Strategic Insights for the Future of Electric Cooperatives. Brian talked about concerns and energy forecasts for accelerating demand for electricity. The challenge of providing reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity for the future. He also talked about the enormity of challenges are real and the response will transform the utility landscape in many ways.

The next speaker was from Mark Johnson the Head Coach, UW Madison Women's Hockey. He talked about the problems and positive points of being a coach for a women's hockey team. He told us about his start with hockey and how through the years he went from being a player to coaching.

After Mark's talk, we adjourned and went to a reception and then dinner and awards banquet.

On Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup>, we started with the WECA President's report. We then saw a video on youth association with Coop's in the state. We also received a report on WECA news update.

Our first Speaker for Thursday was Brian Reisinger, Chief Executive Officer and Senior Writer, Platform Communications. He talked about bold policies both preserve our cherished past and build a prosperous future.

The next Speaker was Jeff Ditzenberger, Director of communications and marketing, FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative, and founder, talking, understanding, growing, supporting (TUGS). Jeff talked about the farming industry and how it is becoming smaller.

Our next speaker was Mark Nutsch, former Green Beret Commander, and co-founder, Horse Soldier Bourbon. Mark talked his special forces mission after 9/11 an operation that inspired the film 12 Strong with Chris Hemsworth portraying Mark as Mitch Nelson.

Report By,

Wally Kruk

Dist. 8 Director

Jump River Electric

Sandy Schara  
District 9 Director Report

The annual WECA meeting in Wisconsin Dells on November 12-13th, 2025. SOMEWHERE between Glacier Canyon Lodge and my house are the notes I took at the meeting. I have gone through my truck twice, I checked my suitcase and my purse, and they are nowhere to be found. Now I have to rely on what I remember so bear with me, please.

Wednesday's meeting started at 1:00 with the introduction of the WECA Board of Directors, followed by the Secretary/Treasurer Report and the Chairman's Report.

Brian Sloboda was the first speaker and talked about strategic insights for the future of electric cooperatives.

Mark Johnson, head coach, UW Madison Women's Hockey program talked about how building teamwork and trust leads to success on the ice. He has led the Badgers to national prominence over 22 seasons, winning 8 NCAA titles. He was a former UW men's national champion (1977), also starred in the 1980 "Miracle on Ice" team, scoring twice in the win over the Soviet Union.

The awards reception and social event was held on Wednesday evening. The reception buffet was filled with some really good oeuvres, and the meal that followed did not disappoint. It was an enjoyable evening and there were many awards given out.

Thursday morning started out with a breakfast buffet. Tony Anderson, president of the Cooperative Family Fund, gave his report. This is truly an amazing program established to help families of co-op employees navigate through some really tough times.

One of the speakers on Thursday morning was Jeff Ditzenberger. He is the founder and president of an organization called (TUGS) Talking, Understanding, Growing and Supporting. He talked about the mental health crisis. He said it was time to start pulling people out of the river and start finding out why they were falling in. He told of his own story of failing at ending his life, then he turned that into succeeding at living and how we can help others navigate. He said the #1 group that commits suicide are veterinarians. I was really surprised by that until he went on to explain the pain they go through when they have to put an animal down.

Mark Nutsch was the final speaker. He is a former Green Beret commander, and co-founder of "Horse Soldier Bourbon". He was one of the twelve special forces missions after 9/11. That operation inspired the film 12 Strong. They partnered with Afghan allies and used guerrilla tactics on horseback to achieve victory over the Taliban. He co-founded the American Freedom Distillery, which features its signature Horse Soldier Bourbon. They applied military principles to build a lasting brand.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sandy Schara