

Minnesota 82 Becker
Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Annual Meeting of the Membership
April 10, 2025

The 85th Annual Meeting of the Membership of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the Shooting Star Event Center in Mahnomon, Minnesota, on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Jimmy Kaiser, Chair, declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

Chair Kaiser called on the American Legion Color Guard to present the colors as musical guest, Eric Reitan, performed the National Anthem.

Chair Kaiser called on Mark Habedank to give the Invocation.

Following the Invocation, Chair Kaiser introduced the current board members along with the special guests in the audience.

Minutes of 2024 Annual Meeting; Proof of Mailing; Notice of Annual Meeting

Chair Kaiser called on Mark Habedank for the Secretary's Report. Secretary Habedank stated to the Membership that the Notice of the Annual Meeting and the Proof of Mailing were published in the February issue of the Rural DeLight in accordance with the Cooperative's Bylaws; Chair Kaiser asked for a motion to waive the formal reading of said notices; a motion was made and duly seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary Habedank then called attention to the 2024 Annual Meeting minutes reporting they were provided in the members' meeting packets at registration. Chair Kaiser asked for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes; to approve the 2024 minutes as presented; and called for corrections or additions; being none, a motion was made and duly seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

Election of Directors

Chair Kaiser called on Richard Zurn, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to present the Nominating Committee Report. Chair Zurn reported the following nominations by the Committee to succeed the director positions of Jeff Nornes in District 1, Greg LaVoy in District 2, and Randy Bjornson in District 3. The Membership received the following report:

Nominations: District 1 - Jeff Nornes, Erskine MN
 District 2 - Greg LaVoy, Naytahwaush MN
 District 3 - Randy Bjornson, Detroit Lakes MN

Chair Kaiser called for a motion to accept the Nominating Committee report as presented; a motion was made and duly seconded to accept the report. Motion carried.

Chair Kaiser called on the Secretary, Mark Habedank, for any petitions received. Secretary Habedank reported there were none.

Chair Kaiser introduced the director candidates and turned the meeting over to Adam Bothun, Cooperative attorney. Mr. Bothun reviewed the voting process with the Membership.

Mr. Bothun explained the balloting for director elections and stated since there were no contested directorships that the Membership could make a motion to waive the formal balloting process and acclaim the directors elected as presented by the Nominating Committee Report. A motion was duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried to waive the formal balloting process and acclaim the following directors elected in their respective director districts, all for a three-year term:

District 1 - Jeff Nornes, Erskine MN
District 2 - Greg LaVoy, Naytahwaush MN
District 3 - Randy Bjornson, Detroit Lakes MN

Mr. Bothun introduced the appointed Tellers and thanked them for being available to assist with the voting process.

Tellers:

Dennis Boucher, McIntosh MN	Daniel Schlauderaff, Detroit Lakes MN
James Ferden, McIntosh MN	Charles Strom, Audubon MN
Allan Haugo, Waubun MN	Colleen Weigel, Callaway MN

Mr. Bothun provided an overview of the proposed Bylaw amendments and gave instructions on the balloting process for the Bylaw amendment vote as per the Cooperative Bylaw procedures. The membership in attendance was asked to cast their votes and Mr. Bothun asked the appointed tellers to collect the ballots and tally the same.

Mr. Bothun turned the meeting over to Chair Kaiser.

Financial Report

Crystal Askelson, Director of Finance, was called upon by Chair Kaiser to present the 2024 Financial Reports, where she provided highlights from the income statement and balance sheet and stated the financial reports are available for review at the office if there are any questions.

Treasurer’s Report

David Hamre, Treasurer, presented the Statement of Patronage Capital report to the members, informing the Members that the financial statements of the Cooperative are audited by an independent certified public accounting firm.

CEO Report

Chair Kaiser called on CEO Mike Wade to give a report to the Membership which summarized the 2024 highlights to include the following: the new Badger substation, a continued focus on reliability and vegetation management, member services events and member engagement, a sustained commitment to support local communities, and employee appreciation and engagement.

2025 Teller’s Report

Chair Kaiser called on Adam Bothun to present the Teller’s Report. Mr. Bothun stated the tabulation of votes received and reported the following results:

Amendments to Bylaws

Total Mailing Envelopes Received		0	
Less: Disqualified Mailed Ballots	0		215
Total Members Voting in Person		215	
Less: Disqualified Ballots	0		215
Total ballots counted:		215	
Necessary for adoption:		108	
Approval of Bylaw Amendments	Votes YES	199	
	Votes NO	16	

Mr. Bothun called for a motion to accept the Teller’s Report as presented and a motion was duly made, seconded and carried. Mr. Bothun turned the meeting over to Chair Kaiser.

Unfinished Business and New Business

Chair Kaiser asked if there was any unfinished business or new business to be brought before the meeting. There was none.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the meeting, a motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Mark Habedank, Secretary

Mariah Lunak, Recording Secretary