

JCE CO-OP
September 3, 2025
Board Meeting Minutes Summary

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held on Wednesday, September 3, 2025.

Safety Moment – Director Tom Lundy explained the “three points of contact” rule as a safety guideline and how to use whenever you are climbing, descending or moving on ladders, vehicles, or equipment. It helps keep you stable and reduces the risk of slipping or falling.

Approval of Agenda – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the meeting agenda.

Consent Agenda – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

- a. **Presentations** – Mike Casper, President & CEO, recognized Alex Peebles, Manager of Safety and Loss Control, for accomplishing and receiving his Certified Loss Control Professional (CLCP) Designation. This prestigious achievement reflects Alex’s completion of an intensive two-year program designed to elevate safety professionals nationwide. Through this training, Alex gained deeper expertise in safety rules and regulations, sharpened his ability to identify and manage risks, and built a valuable network of peers across the country.
- b. This year, JCE selected Lex Abt and Hazel Harris to represent its service territory on the 2025 Youth Tour. In a video introduced by Taylor Smith, Member and Youth Engagement Coordinator, Lex and Hazel shared highlights from their unforgettable week in Washington, D.C. exploring the nation’s capital, learning about cooperatives and government, and building leadership skills alongside students from across Illinois and the nation.

Governance Topics and Board Policy Review – None.

CEO| Financial Operating Report

CEO Report – Casper highlighted an insert in Rural Electric (RE) magazine that showcased JCE Co-op’s commitment to safety and our efforts to expand fiber, enhancing the value we provide to our members. RE Magazine is a national publication with a readership of over 800 cooperatives. JCE Co-op’s members, employees, and board have much to be proud of as a national leader. Additionally, Casper discussed the importance of JCE Co-op’s support and involvement in NW Illinois Economic Development (NWILED).

Financial Operating Report – Chuck Woods, Chief Financial Officer noted that July Revenue is approximately \$43.5 million. Total operations and maintenance expenses are \$34.4 million, which is \$638,772 over the budget of \$33,775,026 million. Margins are approximately 1,604,207. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

Operations and Regulatory/Legislative Update

Operations Update – Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Kyle Buros highlighted the positive economic impact of the fiber buildout, noting that there are approximately 185 contracted workers assisting with fiber installs. The contractors support the local economy by staying in hotels, rentals, shopping local, and dining in restaurants throughout the service territory.

Cooperative Services Update – Jennifer Meyer, Vice President of Cooperative Services, provided an update on the upcoming conversion to SmartHub, our new billing platform, and explained how these changes will be communicated to members. As part of the transition, members will notice updates to the website as well as changes in how they access their billing information. Members will also be asked to update certain account details, and those enrolled in auto draft will need to re-enter their payment information. Meyer also noted that the cooperative is rolling out an upgrade to our Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), which includes the installation of new meters, which will provide more detailed data about energy usage, enabling members to make informed decisions on reducing consumption and possibly lowering bills.

IT Technology Report – Dan Marcure, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, provided an update on providers of networking and communications equipment, electronics, cloud, and software platforms.

External Affairs/Legislative Update – Terry Kurt, General Counsel, reported that Illinois Senate Bill 2493 has been signed into law by the Governor. This new law allows broadband grant recipients to access and utilize existing electric easements and road right of ways for the installation of broadband infrastructure.

Executive Assistant Update Amy Johnston discussed upcoming meeting logistics and travel for directors for the NRECA Region 5&6 Meeting.

Board Issues and Action Items

Pole Attachment Rate Policy – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the Pole Attachment Rate Policy.

Select NRECA Voting Delegate| Alternate Voting Delegate for the NRECA Region 5&6 Meeting – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to choose Director Meyer as the Voting Delegate and Al Hendren as the Alternate Voting Delegate for the NRECA Region 5&6 Meeting.

Select CFC District Voting Delegate| Alternate Voting Delegate – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to choose Al Hendren as the CFC Voting Delegate and Dan Tindell as the Alternate Voting Delegate.

Select CFC Voting Delegate for RESCO Annual Meeting – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to choose Director Senn as the CFC Voting Delegate for the RESCO Annual Meeting.

Executive Session

Into Executive Session – A motion was made by, seconded and carried unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:02 A.M.

Out of Executive Session – A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 11:33 P.M.

Action Resulting from Executive Session – None

Reports/Updates

CFC Roundtable Discussion – Director Meyer reported on the recent CFC Forum Meeting, highlighting the value of sharing information gained from these events and the learning opportunities they provide. The forum emphasized the fiduciary responsibilities of directors and highlighted the importance of cash flow management, among various other topics.

Badger Group Annual Meeting – Director Senn provided a report on the Badger Group Annual Meeting, where regional industry leaders shared updates on power markets and transmission and renewable energy developments. Senn shared that the feedback from the event was positive.

AIEC Report – Director Senn reported on proposed state legislation and growing concerns about prime farmland being taken out of service in downstate Illinois.

American Public Gas Association (APGA) – Director Carroll shared highlights from the American Public Gas Association. He reported on industry trends, provided an update on benchmark pricing, and discussed ongoing developments related to gas choice programs. He emphasized the continued focus within the natural gas industry on maintaining consumer energy choice and ensuring long-term affordability.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) Report – Director Tindell provided a summary and highlights from the Dairyland Board Meeting. Notably, a new rate has been approved to support substantial load growth, offering flexibility to new loads while mitigating risk for DPC and its members. (e.g., JCE Co-op). An approximately 150 MW solar project that DPC has a power purchase agreement recently broke ground.

Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) Report – Director Kuhns reported on the PPI board meeting highlights and generation numbers. Year to date all generating assets have been operating significantly well, helping stabilize wholesale rates.

Other Business – None.

Adjournment – Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.

Secretary