**BEC 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes**

The 79th Annual Meeting of the Membership of Bayfield Electric Cooperative was held on Monday, June 10th, 2019 at the Iron River Community Center in Iron River, Wisconsin.

Meeting was called to order by President Kretzschmar at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

President Kretzschmar asked military service members (past and present) to stand.

Quorum was present.

Invocation was given by Jeff Moravchik, BEC Board Treasurer and Secretary.

Safety Message was given- be careful of wood ticks and to drive home safely after meeting.

President Kretzschmar gave an introduction of all employees and BEC Board Members.

President Kretzschmar gave the procedures of the meeting, including Robert’s Rules of Order, followed by appointing Sara Anderson as Active Secretary.

President Kretzschmar announced the reading of the official notice of the 2019 meeting by Jeff Moravchik.

Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes of the previous meeting by members as printed in annual meeting booklet. Motion carried.

**Election results:**

Jeff Moravchik announced positions up for election by voice vote. Directors run by petition. Districts 2, 3, and 8 were re-elected without opposition.

District 2: Mark Santikko re-elected by voice vote from members present at the meeting. Motion carried.

District 3: James Kinzie re-elected by voice vote from members present at the meeting. Motion carried.

District 8: Robert Kretzschmar re-elected by voice vote from members present at the meeting. Motion carried.

**President’s report by Robert Kretzschmar:**

Robert Kretzschmar welcomed all for coming. Bob brought up the brushing program BEC has put into place along with multiple system improvements throughout the year, which has included changing miles of line from overhead to underground and replacing over 750 poles. There were 88 new services in 2018, being the most in the last 10 years. $378,000 in Capital Credits will be paid out again on this month’s electric bill. Scholarships were again handed out to graduating seniors from area schools. Carson Thewis was recognized in receiving a lineman scholarship. Two linemen helped Jo-Carroll, a southern Minnesota coop, this past April after they had a severe ice storm through the ROPE program. Kretzschmar closed his speech by announcing he has decided to step down from president after 35 years of serving in his position, these years involved working with 3 different General Managers and 40 different Board of Directors, all bringing something new to the table. He thanked all members and staff for the support and memories.

**Guest Speaker**: Tim Clay, WECA

Clay shared what the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association is about and how it was started back in 1936. WECA’s role in federal and state disaster relief advocacy to member coops who have sustained system damage from severe weather events was described. Their monthly newsletter reaches 174,200 homes each month. Clay touched base on the Nemadji Trail Energy Center project.

**Financial Report:** James Halvorsen, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Halvorsen introduced himself and explained the audit process they took this year as being a new firm to the coop. BEC received the unqualified opinion for 2018, he shared slides describing financial statuses.

**CEO’s Report by Diane Berweger**:

Berweger thanked all for coming, gave recognition to employees for milestone anniversaries: Keith Klobucher 20 years, Elliot Powers, Keith Kavajecz, and Jake Hipsher all 5 years, followed by a thank you to all staff and board members. In the past 12 years the linemen have drove 3.4 million miles with no accidents. As part of the strategic plan, all vehicles are on a 5 year rotation. With technology improving and changing that has also cut back on costs and time, all BEC trucks are equipped with iPads that display system maps pinpointing outages and guiding the line crew aiding quicker power restoration. A majority of our outages are caused by squirrels or trees. Together we are all a TEAM.

**New and Unfinished Business:**

It was asked if a second solar garden was going to be coming in the future, Diane explained the coop doesn’t have plans for one but it is being taken under consideration.

James Kinzie asked the audience for a round of applause in recognizing Bob Kretzschmar and his years as president.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 8:04 p.m.

Kid’s drawing for bicycles and wagon. Winners:

**Wagon** – Caroline Nohl, **Girls Bicycle** – Sondra Nohl, **Boys Bicycle** – Braeden Anderson