

Utilities District of Western Indiana REMC  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors  
May 19, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Utilities District of Western Indiana Rural Electric Membership Corporation met at the office of the corporation, Bloomfield, Indiana, at 6:30 p.m.

President Melinda Hendrix called the regular session meeting to order.

Mr. Williams gave the invocation.

The following directors reported present:

Todd Carpenter	Melinda Hendrix	David Kirkling
Terry McDaniel	Michael Williams	

Others present were CEO Douglas Childs; COO Shane Smith; CFO Michael Sullivan; Director of Member Services & Projects Britt Miller; Office Manager Lydia Campbell; Attorney James A.L. Buddenbaum of Parr Richey (virtual); Amanda Craft of Crafted Communications; and member Richard Nichols.

Ms. Hendrix called for a motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Cullison and Mr. Dugan. Ms. Williams made the motion, Mr. McDaniel seconded, and the motion carried.

Ms. Hendrix called for additions or corrections to the meeting agenda. Hearing none, Mr. Kirkling made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Carpenter seconded, and the motion carried.

Ms. Hendrix also called for additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 28, 2025, regular session board meeting. Mr. Williams made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Kirkling seconded, and the motion carried.

For the next installment of the Board Education Series, Attorney James A.L. Buddenbaum, reviewed the cooperative Bylaws. He suggested changes relating to current legal trends and refined the language and structure of the document. The Board instructed Mr. Childs and Mr. Buddenbaum to continue to develop the document. A final version will be presented at a later date.

Crafted Communications continues to assist with both traditional and social media communications. She provided an overview of current projects.

Ms. Campbell reviewed the final certified report from Survey & Ballot Systems regarding director election statistics, trends, and member satisfaction.

Ms. Miller presented the Member Services Report. She shared April 2025 statistics for MSR & CSR call volumes, debt management accounts, and service disconnections for non-payment.

Mr. Sullivan presented the financial reports.

From the Statement of Cash Flows, inventory purchases were up due to the increase in make-ready fiber projects. Right-of-Way costs were lower than in 2024. Wages and Salaries were up after terminal payouts for two retirees since January 2025, as well as normal wage increases.

The Financial Highlights report showed kWh sales trends over the last five years.

After rate increases by Hoosier Energy in April 2024, the co-op is due to have a Cost-of-Service Study performed. Recently, contractors submitted bids of interest and cost quotes to the finance department. The contractor selected is The Prime Group LLC located in Kentucky.

Mr. Smith presented the operations department reports.

He chose to stand on the Operations & Engineering report as previously presented.

On the Outage Report, Mr. Smith and Ms. Miller gave a brief update on the aftermath of the recent tornado affecting multiple areas of the UDWI territory. Mr. Smith provided insight into transmission outages and fiber deployment as indicated on the report graphs.

The Vegetation Management was reviewed. A new chart was added to the report for total miles cleared.

Mr. Childs presented the Manager's Reports.

He reported on HHM business. The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2025.

The April 2025 Hoosier Energy invoice was available for review.

He reported on an opportunity for UDWI to provide electrical maintenance to the Crane Village.

They previously reached out asking for assistance with installing and connecting a tornado siren for them, as the wait-times with their current contractor are quite lengthy. Years ago, the village residents created a municipal utility of their own and must depend on contractors for maintenance and restoration efforts. The Naval base also provides its own service. However, the Town of Crane is a current UDWI member. It stands to reason to add all onto UDWI's network to offer better service and dependability to our neighbors to benefit local communities.

Mr. Childs shared notes of thanks and appreciation from members.

Ms. Hendrix called for individual Director Committee reports.

The group discussed donating to local Red Cross offices for disaster relief from the recent tornado affecting multiple counties.

District 2 Director Todd Carpenter reported on updates and events at Hoosier Energy.

The Board of Directors met on May 12, 2025.

Treasurer Michael Williams reported on updates and events at Indiana Electric Cooperative (IEC).

The Board of Directors meets bi-monthly. The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2025.

Ms. Hendrix offered reminders for upcoming training and meetings.

The next three UDWI REMC board meetings were approved and scheduled June 23, 2025, July 28, 2025, and August 25, 2025.

The IEC Region 6 meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2025, at Stoll's Lakeview Restaurant in Loogootee.

Member Appreciation Day is set for June 20, 2025, at UDWI headquarters from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

IEC will be hosting another Directors' Retreat. This year it is scheduled for July 25-26, 2025, at the Hilton Fort Wayne Grand Wayne Convention Center.

With no further business presented, Ms. Hendrix adjourned the regular session meeting at 8:47 p.m. to convene into an executive session. The session included Mr. Childs and all directors in attendance. Ms. Hendrix officially adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Melinda Hendrix, President

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Shawn Dugan, Secretary