



**Orcas Power & Light Cooperative**  
**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 21, 2026**

Streaming through Zoom attendees were Board members, Wendy Hiester, Laura Derevensky, Laura Stern, Mark Madsen, Tom Osterman, Jerry Whitfield, and Brian Silverstein. Staff present were General Manager Foster Hildreth; Manager of Engineering and Operations Russell Guerry; Manager of Finance and Member Services Travis Neal; Communications Manager Krista Bouchey; Manager of Technical Services, Megan O'Connor; Assistant Manager of Member Services Joey Wyckoff; Special Projects Office Coordinator Beth Stanford (serving as recording secretary), Katherine Santos Santana, and Adrienne Bourne. Also present were Legal Counsel Joel Paisner, consultant Jay Kimball; Alan Smith and Kristine Nietman from Rock Island Communications, as well as Dan Roberts and Olga Darlington from Baker Tilly.

Members in attendance: Patty Cook, Rob Osterman, Crystal Mossman, Barbara Pesola, Vince Dauciunas, Jill Rullkoetter, Rick Fant, Norris Palmer, John Pierre van Dongen, and Dawni Cunningham.

Meeting commenced at 8:42 AM

Member Comment Period: Norris Palmer from San Juan Island spoke about the Snake River dams becoming economically outdated and that cheaper, cleaner alternatives are making BPA's dominance increasingly hard to sustain. Rick Fant of Orcas Island called for easier public access to board meetings via Zoom and suggested the board create a member lead sustainability committee to better guide OPALCO's environmental direction. Dawni Cunningham from Decatur welcomed the new board members and suggested their election reflects a desire among members for a fresh perspective on OPALCO's financial and sustainability priorities.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**CONSENT AGENDA-Minutes**

**MOTION** was made by Madsen to accept the minutes from the consent agenda, seconded by Silverstein and passed by voice vote with two abstentions.

**CONSENT AGENDA-Approval of New Members**

**MOTION** was made by Madsen to accept the approval of new members from the consent agenda, seconded by Silverstein and passed unanimously by voice vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA-Capital Credit Retirements**

**MOTION** was made by Madsen to accept Capital Credit retirements from the consent agenda, seconded by Derevensky, and passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Reinstate Rick Fant to EGC**

**MOTION** was made by Silverstein to reinstate Rick Fant to the Elections and Governance Committee, seconded by Madsen, and passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Budget Increase Request**

**MOTION** was made by Madsen to approve a \$25,000 budget increase, seconded by Hiester, and passed unanimously by voice vote.



## **2025 Audit Presentation**

The board went into executive session to discuss at 11:30 am and returned to regular session at 12:00 pm. Madsen made a motion to approve OPALCO's Independent Auditor's Report and Financial Statements for 2025, as audited by Baker Tilly, seconded by Osterman, and passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **Board Officer Elections**

Board members voted electronically, and the vote was tallied by Travis Neal, Manager of Finance and Member Services. Results were support for Tom Osterman, Board President, with two abstentions; Jerry Whitfield, Vice President, by unanimous decision; Wendy Hiester Secretary-Treasurer, by unanimous decision.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Board Participation with Industry Groups**

The board discussed external engagement opportunities, including participation in the SJC Environmental Committee, the Renewable Siting Study, and district liaison roles aligned with county council districts. There was broad interest in launching a monthly informal Coffee & Chat with OPALCO leadership, rotating across islands to include the outer islands. The board expressed enthusiasm for increased community presence and informal member engagement.

### **2026 Q1 Financial Report**

Staff reviewed the Q1 2026 financial report noting results consistent with budget with variances driven largely by timing-related factors expected to normalize over the course of the year. Discussion ensued, including weather trends and revenue, equity, margins, and notable drivers.

### **Integrated Resource Plan Update**

Staff reviewed the beginning stages of the Integrated Resource Plan, covering long-range planning strategy and key challenges including anticipated regional power supply shortfalls, rising power costs, climate-driven reliability concerns, insurance pressures, and the growing limitations of Bonneville Power as a primary source. Discussion ensued, with the board noting the urgency of proactively navigating these issues and agreeing to continue the IRP discussion in greater depth at the June meeting.

## **REPORTS**

Staff reviewed reports, dashboards, grant and budget tracking, ongoing cooperative-wide safety measures and training, and projects.

Regular Session ended: 10:10 AM; 11:10 AM; 1:20 PM

Break: 10:10 AM – 10:26 AM

Executive Session: 11:10 AM – 12:00 PM

Meeting Closed: 1:21 PM

*Tom Osterman*

Tom Osterman, President

*Wendy Hiester*

Wendy Hiester, Secretary-Treasurer

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## Document History



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