BLOCK ISLAND UTILITY DISTRICT
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Meeting of the Board of Utility Commissioners
Thursday, May 28, 2026 @ 4:00 PM

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE TNS TOWN HALL

In attendance: Board Members Barbara MacMullan, Chair, Mary Jane Balser, Vice Chair, Tom Risom, Treasurer, John O'Riordan, Ken Lacoste, Secretary.

Others in attendance: Jeffery Wright, Tracy Fredericks, Jim Stockman, David Lewis, Dick Martin, Evan Carey, Tom Durden, Tom Brown, Rene Meyer, Steve Corbett

Barbara MacMullan called the meeting to order at 4:03

1. **Public Input-no input**

2. **Commissioner's Report**

   Mr. Wright asked that we discuss the plans for the annual meeting. A discussion took place to speak with the Spring House and to hold the meeting on August 24, 2026, from 5- 7 p.m. It was suggested that hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks be served, with an optional cash bar. These plans need to be discussed at the next meeting.

3. **Review of 2026 Strategic Plan**

   Mr. Wright reported we are good on a safety standpoint. The experience modification rate is 0.91, so we received a discount based on an OSHA formula.

   Modified Debt Service-We completed the audit and the modified debt service.

   Long-range plan-Cash is tight, but we are working on a new rate case.

   Line of Credit-still have a balance, will work hard this summer to pay it off.

   Newsletter-Mr. Wright and Ms. MacMullan still need to work on this.

   Employee housing- we have new housing for employees and contractors. The purchase of the Flaig house on Center Rd has closed. Tom Brown and his family will be moving into the house.

   Cross Training- We posted a job for financial and membership services; we have had no responses. Discussion took place to repost the position.

   Quarterly Capitol Meeting- The subcommittee has not met in a while, but we don't have much money to work with currently. We will continue to move forward on the projects we currently have going.

Renewable portfolio- There may be some possible changes. There may be a push to include nuclear. Mr. Wright stated that this push for nuclear power is likely driven more by necessity than anything else.

Procurement of long-term contracts- we have an allocation for hydro, and Vineyard Wind if we want it. The dispute with GE and Vineyard Wind no longer seems to be an issue.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Risom provided an update, contained in the packet.

Mr.O' Riordan asked about the system losses, which are at 5% for the month. It was discussed to change the sensitivity of this reporting to a yearly average.

The increased fuel charges were due to the storm outages.

The REC procurement-Mr. Wright reported that our cost is 180,000 out of 3 million. The Solar Initiative has already paid us approximately 41,000.

5. **President's Report**

Mr. Wright reported we got a call from OER about our grant that they want to close out, and we still have 60,000 left to bill them. Total project cost to date for the conversion is $3.5 million. Mr. Wright referred to the map in the packet; we have had 2 more conversions this past month. The area in yellow represents approx. 75% of the load but approximately 50% mileage-wise. Most of the equipment needed has already been purchased. We are looking at approximately another $2 million to complete the conversion. We will finish Champlin Rd. and other areas of West Side Rd. this fall and early winter. Next spring we plan to convert areas of the airport circuit and north on Corn Neck.
We have reduced losses, which helps save our members money on rates and improves power quality.

Mr. Wright referred to the renewable energy standard on pg. 11. He reported the state has changed their renewable energy standards and timeline pushing the deadline from 2033 to 2050. We will watch this and keep up with their changes. They are now looking at clean energy, and there is a push to include nuclear in the clean energy definition. There have been some opportunities for nuclear, including Seabrook, NH. It's not about emissions or price; it's about the need for generation, particularly when the others cannot supply. We look for PPA's that provide us with the power we need.

6. **Employee Housing Update**

Mr. Wright reported we closed on the Center Rd. housing on May 26th. He will prepare leases for all the apartments and the townhouse on High St.

Ms. MacMullan moved to update the signers on the Bank accounts to Mr. Bebyn, Mr. Wright, and the board chair; the motion was seconded by Mr. Risom. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Balser asked to go into closed session, but it was decided to move the closed session discussion to the next meeting.

Ms. Balser reported that she has been working on a project to add additional units to the property at the corner of Ocean and Beach Ave. She reported she has made some progress but is waiting to report on costs and the details of the project, e.g. whether it will be 3 or 4 units, garages, basements, or crawl spaces.

A discussion to hold a closed-session meeting in June was held. The meeting will be held before the monthly June meeting on June 10th at 4 pm at the meeting room at the Power Company.

7. **Discussion of Performance Review of President Jeffery Wright ***

Mrs. MacMullan moved to go into closed session; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lacoste. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting went into closed session at 4:52 pm.

The closed session portion of the meeting ended at 5:35. No votes were taken during closed session. Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. MacMullan, seconded by Mr. Lacoste and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:36

*Per RI General Law 42-46-5(a)1, this agenda item may be discussed in closed session.

Any discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that the person or persons affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held in at an open meeting.