



Illinois Propane Education & Research Council

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IPERC Quarterly Board Meeting March 13, 2026 at 9am TEAMS Meeting

Call to Order: Virtual meeting was rescheduled to March 13, 2026 at 9am. Roll call as follows:

**Dan Pannier--In Attendance
Jeff Thompson--Absent
Ron Kaufman--In Attendance
Brad Jacobson--In Attendance
Chuck Cawley--In Attendance**

**Eric Brandt--In Attendance
Garrett Savage--In Attendance
Jessica Meeker--In Attendance
Brad Blair--In Attendance
Renee Wynn--In Attendance**

Minutes Approval & Previous Meeting Recap

- Minutes from last meeting approved unanimously
- Previous discussions covered:
 - Two CDs renewed (Jeff absent, Renee to provide update)
 - ACH payment changes implemented - fewer checks in the mail
 - Both Dan and Jeff sign off on payments before Renee processes
- Grant reviews and national PERC updates completed
- Meeting dates set for upcoming year

Treasurer's Report (2025 Year-End)

- Audit scheduled first week of April - all requested information already sent
- Budget vs actual performance:
 - Expenses came very close to budget
 - Negative net income primarily due to unbudgeted dispenser purchase
 - Without dispenser (\$56,000), would be \$25-30K ahead of budget
 - Fewer refunds this year: \$16K vs \$30K last year
- Income shortfall of ~\$200K due to lower assessments
 - Budgeted \$1.4M, actual closer to \$1.2M
- Remittance report shows \$671k in IPERC fees in 2025 vs \$681k in 2024
- Several supplier inquiries for remittance information - may add 1-2 new participants

2025 Grant Performance Review

- CTEP Employee Training: \$153,837 spent of \$170K approved
- Safety meetings/continuing education: \$80K fully utilized
- Market fire burn reimbursement: \$35,681 of \$60K used
- Vet to Tech Generation Next: \$53K fully utilized
- Promotional advertising: \$39K fully utilized
- Energy efficient appliance installation: \$275K fully utilized
 - 522 appliance rebates, 186 water heater rebates
- Propane vehicle incentive: \$220K of \$300K spent
 - 38 vehicles and 1 private dispenser (Knapp Oil marketer)
- Autogas Advantage campaign: \$88K of \$175K used
 - Unused funds left in account for future promotion needs

Fire Training Program Updates

- IFSI leadership change - new director appears more ambitious
- Potential partnership with PERC for emergency training program
- If PERC materials used in IFSI training, funding would come from PERC instead of IPERC funds
- Program review scheduled this month
- Annual \$60K gift continues to help fund propane fire training salary

School Bus Program Challenges

- El Paso Gridley School District case study:
 - Considered 9 propane buses (replace annually)
 - \$9K/year lease premium difference for propane vs gas buses
 - Only \$4K one-time rebate available
 - \$4K annual fuel/maintenance savings insufficient to bridge gap
 - School board rejected due to \$4K annual deficit
- Lease costs now higher than historical purchase options
- Field trip logistics favor gas/diesel for refueling convenience
- Propane still shows significant savings vs diesel buses

National IPERC Update

- Safety focus continues due to 100% incident increase since COVID
- Older propane workers retiring, newer workers lack experience
- Monthly safety program available for company sign-ups
- Power generation identified as next big propane opportunity:
 - Focus on combined/standby generation for industry vs residential
 - Conference in Dallas this week
- New propane motor development continues:
 - Cummins project resumed after electric push slowdown
 - Mid-range Class 5-6-7 motor expected
 - Tucker has details but won't divulge timing
 - Potential announcement at end of April conference
- Caterpillar exploring propane motors
- European rental equipment trending toward propane

Assessment Increase Discussion (Tabled)

- Proposal to increase assessment by 1/10 cent (to 3/10 cent total)
- Would generate ~\$300K additional annual revenue
- Consumer impact: \$0.80 per 1,000 gallon fill, \$0.40 per 500 gallon
- Intended to bridge school bus rebate gap and grow autogas market
- Assessment unchanged since IPERC founding in 1990s
- Supervisor feedback positive after detailed explanation
- Board generally supportive but wants member survey first
- Timeline allows for 2027 implementation earliest

Officer Elections & Governance

- Annual officer elections held per bylaws:
 - Chairman: Dan Pannier (re-elected)
 - Vice Chairman: Brad Jacobson (re-elected)
 - Secretary: Ron Kaufman (through January 2027)
 - Treasurer: Jeff Thompson (re-elected)
- Bylaws review needed - last updated 2013
- Board seat election process requires restructuring:
 - 12 total seats, staggered 3-year terms
 - Should be 4 seats up annually
 - Need to solicit IPGA membership applications
 - Elections planned for December 2026, seated January 2027

Next Steps

- Renee: Send assessment survey to membership with Brad's detailed explanation
- All: Review bylaws before May 20th in-person meeting
- Renee: Send email soliciting interest in board positions
- Assessment discussion and bylaws review on May 20th agenda
- Next meeting: May 20th, 3 PM in-person at IPGA office
- IPGA meeting follows May 21st at 9 AM
- Finley's dinner planned after May 20th meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Kaufman
Ron Kaufman (Mar 17, 2026 09:00:38 CDT)

Ron Kaufman
IPERC Secretary

Meeting Minutes March 13 2026

Final Audit Report

2026-03-17

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