

Current CONNECTION



Quarter 3 • Volume 77 • Number 3
A Quarterly Publication of Crow Wing Power

CURRENT CORNER
Building Momentum

ELECTION RESULTS
Annual Meeting Recap

NATIONAL GRILLING MONTH
Save-Energy

PUZZLERS
Enter to win one of three \$25 bill credits

STRATEGIC PLANNING BEGINS

Charting the Future of Your Cooperative

At Crow Wing Power, strategic planning is underway—a process that will guide the Cooperative's future with clarity and purpose.

At the end of July, the Board of Directors and key staff will participate in a multi-day strategic planning session led by the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), the financial arm of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). As a long-time member of CFC, Crow Wing Power is leveraging this partnership to ensure a well-rounded and forward-thinking approach.

Strategic planning is a structured process that aligns operations with long-term goals. It's an opportunity to examine where we are today, where we want to be, and how to get there—while staying rooted in our mission to serve our members with safe, reliable power at a competitive rate. Through this process, we're taking a hard look at our mission, vision, and values to ensure they continue to reflect the direction and priorities of our membership.

Input is being gathered from multiple sources: member survey data, internal staff feedback, and guidance from the Board. These perspectives will help shape key focus areas, including improving member engagement, strengthening financial forecasting, assessing long-term infrastructure investments, and conducting a detailed rate study. Our goal is to ensure that Crow Wing Power remains financially strong, technologically prepared, and responsive to the evolving needs of the communities we serve.

This work is foundational—it sets the course for how we deliver services, invest in our system, and connect with members today and tomorrow. Strategic planning helps us prepare for challenges, embrace opportunities, and continue to improve your experience as a member-owner.

As this process unfolds, members can expect increased communication around results and next steps. This is just the beginning of a renewed focus on long-term planning and cooperative strength.

POWERING
Our
MEMBERS.

POWERING
Our
COMMUNITY.

THAT'S
Our
COOPERATIVE
DIFFERENCE.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



THE CurrentCorner

Building Momentum, Together

In my first 124 days at Crow Wing Power, I've had the opportunity to dig in, listen, and begin building meaningful relationships across our service territory. From visiting local communities to meeting many of you at our Annual Business Meeting, it's clear that while providing electricity is essential, serving people is our true purpose.

Alongside our leadership team and Board of Directors, we're tackling several key initiatives to strengthen our Cooperative. We're reviewing our organizational structure, launching a rate study to guide responsible financial decisions, and conducting a facilities study to better assess our short- and long-term needs.

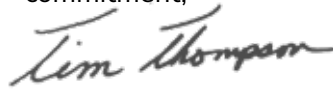
The facilities study has brought together a committee of key staff and board members who are actively engaged in evaluating how our current buildings support—or limit—our ability to serve members. They've been connecting with other cooperatives who have recently upgraded their facilities, learning firsthand what worked,

what didn't, and how smart planning can lead to both improved efficiency and better service.

Each of these efforts is about ensuring we're positioned not just for today, but for the future. As we head into strategic planning, we're keeping our members at the center of every conversation. I'm committed to honoring what's working and embracing opportunities to grow.

I'm proud to be here—and excited for what's ahead.

Your
Cooperative, our
commitment,



Tim Thompson | *Chief Executive Officer*



UPCOMING EVENTS!

AUG

5

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IN BAXTER & PEQUOT LAKES

AUG

7

MUSIC IN THE PARK - CROSBY

SEPTEMBER
20-21

MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT AT SAFARI NORTH WILDLIFE PARK



Members Elect Directors, Pass Bylaw Revisions, and Engage in Cooperative Business

Crow Wing Power hosted its 2025 Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, June 14, at the Brainerd Curling Club. Members attended in person, while others joined virtually via a new live stream option—marking a continued commitment to accessibility and transparency.

Members enjoyed a meal and visited educational displays, including one focused on the Cooperative’s Right-of-Way program and a new energy-saving tree initiative in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation. These resources emphasized the value of strategic tree planting in supporting long-term energy efficiency and electric service reliability.

During the official business meeting, Board President Mark Ronnei provided an update on leadership, and newly appointed CEO Tim Thompson introduced himself and shared his vision for the Cooperative’s future.

- A major highlight was the director election results. Over 4,500 ballots were cast, representing 11.18% of the membership. Results were as follows:
- District 1B: Incumbent Giles Radtke was re-elected with 3,067 votes. Challenger Byron Bacon received 1,374 votes.
 - District At-Large: Incumbent Mark Ronnei ran unopposed and was re-elected with 4,014 votes.
 - District 3A: Incumbent Paul Koering was re-elected with 2,545 votes. Challenger Sherry Habighorst received 1,913 votes.

Members also approved restated Bylaws with 3,646 votes in favor and 608 against. The revisions include a lowered threshold for members to call special meetings and a new requirement for incumbent directors to earn a professional cooperative certification to be eligible for re-election.

- At the June Board meeting, which also served as the re-organizational meeting, the following leadership roles were appointed:
- Board President: Mark Ronnei
 - Vice President: Giles Radtke
 - Secretary: Bryan McCulloch
 - Treasurer: LuAnn Nelson

As always, Crow Wing Power thanks its members for participating in the democratic process and remains focused on serving its community with safe, reliable electricity guided by cooperative values.



Minnesota State Statute 325E.028 provides protection against utility disconnection if a member of your household has been ordered into active military duty, for deployment or for a permanent change in duty station during the period of active duty. To be considered for military service personnel service protection, you must meet requirements as outlined in the statute including:

- The member-consumer provides proof of qualifying military duty to Crow Wing Power;
- The member-consumer completes the Electric Shut-off Protection for Military Personnel Application and submits it, and accompanying materials, to Crow Wing Power;
- The member-consumer enters into an acceptable payment arrangement plan with Crow Wing Power; and
- The member-consumer remains current with the payment arrangement.



Board Meeting HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 2025
Crow Wing Power’s Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, May 22, 2025.

A quorum of directors was present.

President Mark Ronnei opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

- The following reports were given:
- CEO Report
 - COO Report
 - CFO Report
 - Directors reported on meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.

- The following actions were taken:
- Approved May Consent Agenda.
 - Accepted the Financial Report.
 - Approved Minutes of April 24, 2025, regular board meeting.
 - Approved moving forward with a facility planning study.
 - Approved Director Expense Reports for April 2025.

Members can review detailed minutes by logging into their SmartHub account. Log in is located on the homepage of our website.

Members can review detailed minutes by logging into their SmartHub account. Log in is located on the homepage of our website.



CWPower.com

Fire Up the Grill: July is **National Grilling Month!**



Celebrate summer the energy-efficient way—by taking your cooking outside. Grilling keeps your home cooler and eases the workload on your air conditioner, helping you use less electricity during the hottest months of the year.

Ovens, stovetops, and other indoor appliances generate extra heat, making your cooling system run longer to maintain comfort. Grilling outdoors helps

reduce that heat buildup while giving your meals a fresh summer flavor.

Whether you're using gas, charcoal, or an electric grill, outdoor cooking is a simple way to support energy efficiency.

Tip: Prep food indoors and keep the grill lid closed while cooking to retain heat and save fuel.

Enjoy the season—safely, deliciously, and efficiently!

QUARTER 3 PUZZLERS

Enter to win one of three \$25 bill credits!

Complete the puzzle and send back by September 15. Three easy ways: Send a photo to info@cwpower.com / Mail in with your bill. / cwpower.com/news, click Online Puzzles. Quarter 2 winners: George Dehler, Pierz; Dorothy Plante, Baxter; Kevin Busby, Brainerd.

Across

- Organization Crow Wing Power partnered with for the energy-saving tree initiative
- Cooking method that helps reduce indoor heat during the summer?
- Financial partner assisting with Crow Wing Power's strategic Planning.
- Type of duty that qualifies a household for shut-off protection
- Crow Wing Power's mission includes providing power that is safe, reliable, and

Down

- This structure process aligns operations with long-term goals.
- Form required for electric shut-off protection for military members
- A committee evaluating this aspect of Crow Wing Power's ability to serve members.
- Keep this closed to while cooking to retain heat.
- Crow Wing Power's true purpose is serving
- Panels need _____ sun exposure to operate efficiently
- Number of director positions up for election
- Month that board filing opens



Name _____

Address _____

City / State / ZIP _____

Email _____

Account # _____

QUARTER 2 ANSWERS:

Across: 1. Three 4. Thompson 5. Inspection 6. Mailed 8. Bylaw
Across: 9. Safety 10. Facebook
Down: 2. Hotline 3. Online 7. Application



Publication of
Crow Wing Power
218.829.2827
800.648.9401
www.cwpower.com

EDITOR

Jenna Anderson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dave Albers 651-249-3127
Jon Lubke 218-232-2124
Paul Koering..... 218-851-9954
Bryan McCulloch 218-821-8390
LuAnn Nelson..... 612-400-4627
Giles Radtke..... 218-839-9182
Gert Roggenkamp..... 218-562-4566
Mark Ronnei..... 218-831-8373
Dwight Thiesse..... 218-831-8605

Board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month beginning at 8:00 a.m. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.