

Meeting Highlights

MARCH 2025

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday,

March 26, 2026. 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
- IT Report

Directors reported on meetings they attended on behalf of the Cooperative.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved March Consent Agenda.
- Approved Minutes of February 26, 2026.
- Accepted March Financial Report.
- Approved Labor Contract.
- Approved Steve Northway as Construction Advocate.
- Approved sending RFPs to architects and construction contractors.
- Approved Director Expense Reports for February 2026.

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

Why Vegetation Management Matters

There's something timeless about trees. They ground us. They remind us of where we've been, and they stretch toward what's ahead. Here in our community, we take pride in the natural beauty that surrounds us—the shade on a summer afternoon, the colors that mark the changing seasons, the quiet strength of something that grows slowly but endures.

At the same time, we share another responsibility—one that's just as essential to our daily lives. The responsibility to keep the lights on, to power our homes and businesses, to make sure that when you flip a switch, the energy you depend on is there.

That's why Crow Wing Power works every day to strike a careful balance between preserving the beauty we cherish and delivering the reliable electricity you expect.

One of the most important ways we do that is through regular tree trimming.

Now, it may not always be obvious, but keeping lines clear of overgrown vegetation plays a major role in preventing power outages. We've all seen what can happen when severe weather rolls in—strong winds, heavy ice or sudden storms can bring down branches and, with them, power lines and poles. In fact, nearly half of all power outages can be traced

back to trees and vegetation coming into contact with electrical infrastructure.

That's why you may notice crews from Crow Wing Power or our trusted contractors working in neighborhoods throughout the year. Our crews are highly trained and certified, following the latest industry standards to ensure the job is done safely and effectively. Their work might seem routine, but it's anything but—it's a proactive step that helps prevent problems before they start.

And it's not just good practice, it's required. Electric utilities across the country are obligated to manage vegetation near power lines. Scheduled trimming helps remove dead or weakened limbs and keeps fast-growing trees from becoming hazards. It's about staying one step ahead, especially as we prepare for the increasing frequency and intensity of severe weather events.



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Why Vegetation Management Matters continued..

But beyond reliability and efficiency, there's another reason this work matters: safety.

Electricity is a powerful force, and when trees grow too close to power lines, that power can become dangerous. Branches that touch lines, or even come close, can carry electrical current. Children climbing trees in their own yards may not realize the risk. And during storms, fallen trees can create hazardous conditions not only for families but also for our lineworkers working to restore service.

There's also a financial reality we can't ignore. Preventative maintenance, like tree trimming, is far more cost-effective than repairing widespread damage after an outage. Left unchecked, overgrown vegetation can lead to more frequent disruptions and higher costs for everyone. A thoughtful, strategic vegetation management program helps keep those costs down for our members.

You can help, too. When planting new trees, consider their mature height and distance from nearby power lines. Trees that grow up to 40 feet should be planted at least 25 feet away from overhead lines. Larger trees that exceed 40 feet should be planted at least 50 feet away. If you're landscaping near pad-mounted transformers, keep shrubs at least 10 feet from the front and 4 feet from the sides to allow safe access.

Don't forget to call 811 before digging. It's a simple step that can prevent serious accidents.

At the end of the day, we all want the same thing: a community that's safe, resilient and beautiful. At Crow Wing Power, we're proud to be part of that effort. Our roots run deep here, just like the trees we work to care for.

Your Cooperative, Our Commitment,

Tim Thompson

Tim Thompson
Chief Executive Officer

2026 CELEBRATE YOU AT THE ZOO

Crow Wing POWER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 OR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

PARK HOURS: 9:00AM TO 6:00PM

LAST TICKET AT 4:30PM

SAFARI NORTH WILDLIFE PARK

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