QuickCONNECT

November • Number 6 • A Publication of Crow Wing Power

Meeting Highlights

August 2026

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, August 27, 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 July Consent Agenda.
- Approved the Minutes of July 16, 2026, Regular Meeting.
- Approved Director Expense Reports for July 2026.

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

Steady Ahead: Rate Changes in 2027 and the Outlook Beyond

In late 2025, I shared why the cost of providing electricity has been rising and what that meant for Crow Wing Power members. As 2027 approaches, I want to continue that conversation and give you an honest look at what's ahead.

Several factors are driving costs up: the rising price of wholesale power (the electricity we buy and deliver to your home or business), inflation, growing demand for electricity, and the investments needed to keep our lines, poles and substations strong. These pressures aren't unique to us; electric cooperatives across the country are facing them as well.

Last year, the Basin Electric Power Cooperative board heard concerns from its members and chose to split a larger wholesale rate increase into two smaller steps rather than take it all at once. The second step takes effect in January 2027, which means the cost of the power we purchase will go up again.

What that means for your bill has not been decided yet. An increase in what we pay for power does not automatically translate into the same increase on your bill. Our board of directors and staff are working with Power System Engineering, an outside consulting firm, to carefully review our budget and determine how much of this cost needs to be reflected in member rates. We anticipate an adjustment to your per-kilowatt-hour (kWh) rate beginning with your January electricity use, and we will share the specific details with you as soon as the board finalizes them.

There is encouraging news beyond 2027. Basin Electric's long-term rate forecast shows wholesale rates leveling off for the next few years. While costs can always shift, our goal is to plan carefully, invest wisely and give you more predictability in your monthly bill. The hard work of the past two years is setting us up for steadier ground.

For a refresher on last year's adjustment, the December 2025 special edition of The Current Connection explains the factors behind rising power costs and the decisions involved.

No one welcomes a rate increase, and I'm grateful for your patience and understanding. As your member-owned cooperative, we'll keep you informed every step of the way. If you have questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team. We're always glad to talk with you.

Your Cooperative, Our Commitment

Tim Thompson

Tim Thompson

Chief Executive Officer

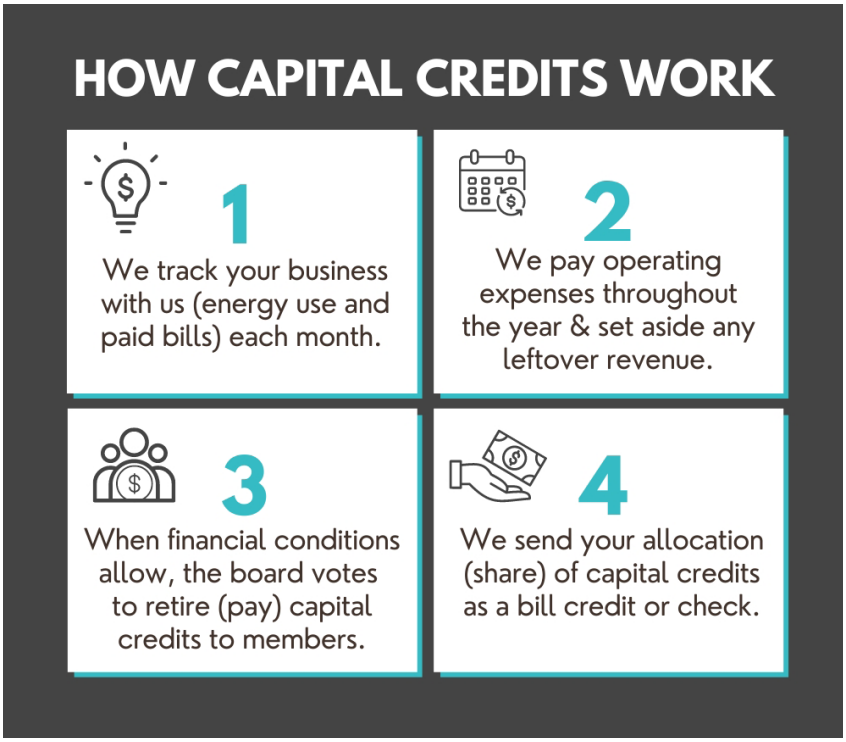


Almost $3 Million Headed Back to Members This November

At its September meeting, the Crow Wing Power Board of Directors approved returning almost $3 million in capital credits to current and former members this November.

Capital credits are your ownership share in the cooperative, based on how much electricity you bought each year. Because Crow Wing Power is a not-for-profit owned by its members, that money stays with you instead of going to outside investors. In the meantime, it helps pay for the equipment that keeps your power on and helps keep rates steady.

This year's return comes from two places: about $1.1 million in Crow Wing Power credits from 2010, and about $1.8 million passed along from Great River Energy, the cooperative we used to buy our power from, for the years 1992 through 1998.



Current members that are recieving a credit will see that on their November bill. Former members will receive a check by mail for amounts over $25. Smaller amounts are held until they reach $25. If you've moved, please make sure we have your current address.

Think you might have unclaimed capital credits? Search by name or address at cwpower.com/capital-credits. Credits not claimed after seven years go to local schools and community colleges to fund scholarships for students in our area.

Board Approves Budget for New Energy & Service Center

On October 6, the Crow Wing Power Board of Directors approved a $45.5 million budget for the new Energy & Service Center. That works out to about $3 per member per month over the next 30 years.

The new facility will address real needs around safety, technology, and growth, and it's designed to serve members for the next 50 years. Most of the cost will be covered by cash on hand and the sale of our current building, along with a mix of carefully chosen loans. The budget also includes a healthy cushion for unexpected costs, a normal and responsible step for a project this size.

At the meeting, the board heard updates from GLTArchitects on the building design and from Hy-Tec Construction, a Brainerd-based company whose team lives and works in the communities this facility will serve. Next up: site planning and preparation, plus final rounds of building design.

Read the full article at cwpower.com/blog.

Be the first to know!
Get Energy & Service Center updates sent straight to your inbox as they happen. Add yourself to the email list at cwpower.com.

Know an Organization Making Ripple Effects? Invite Them to Apply for the IMPACT Grant



Some of the best work in our communities starts small and spreads outward, reaching more people than anyone expected. If you're part of, or know of, a local organization whose work creates those kinds of ripple effects, we encourage you to share this opportunity. The Crow Wing Power Community Trust IMPACT Grant offers up to $20,000 in one-time support for a unique project, program, or community effort that needs an extra boost to succeed. Organizations should show how the grant would make a meaningful difference and share a history of positive results.

Applications are due by January 1, 2027, and will be reviewed at the January Trustee meeting. The top three to four applicants will be invited to give a 15-minute presentation to the Trustees in April. This grant is made possible by Crow Wing Power members who round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar through Operation Round-Up®. Those few cents add up to real change close to home. For questions about applying, contact Jenna Anderson at Crow Wing Power at 1-800-648-9401.

