

## FROM THE BOARD ROOM

# January 2026 Board Meeting Highlights



### Monthly Reports:

The CEO/General Manager provided an overview of the cooperative's current issues, including key takeaways from the NRECA CEO Conference, a staffing update, and the annual meeting.

The CFO report discussed last month's financials, preliminary year-end financials, as well as rate changes. 2025 year-to-date total margins remain favorable.

The Operations report contained insights on work the crews have been performing, notice that all line staff completed a Diggers Hotline safety session, equipment updates, and information on some blinking lights in the Otter Creek area.

The Engagement report included a recap of the third installment of The Power Connection: Conversations with Your Cooperative, a progress report on the Prepaid Metering program implementation, and 2026 scholarships.

The Information Technology report contained an update on year end activities, the benefits of a virtualized data center, and encouragement to update cooperative-provided iPads.

Energy Services provided an update on the Downsville collector issues, the number of high bill concerns in the past month, as well as information on shop upgrades and maintenance.

### The following items were approved:

- Capital credit estate payout for deceased members.
- Audit committee report of all checks, ACH payments, wire transfers, credit card statements, and investment accounts.
- Updates to policies 200, 202, 214, and 532.
- 2026 scholarship amounts.
- A pass through PCA charge from Dairyland Power Cooperative.

### Other Business:

- Reviewed the monthly report of new Cooperative members.

# TORNADO SAFETY AND ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

Tornadoes can strike with little warning, leaving behind downed power lines, damaged electrical equipment, and dangerous debris. Preparing before a tornado, and knowing how to stay safe afterward, can help prevent electrical shock, fire, and injury. Make sure your emergency plan includes electrical safety steps so you and your family are ready to act quickly and safely.

## Before a tornado:

- Prepare an emergency kit with water, battery-powered flashlight, radio, extra batteries, and portable phone charger.
- Program your electric utility's phone number in your phone or at least keep it handy in case you need to report an outage or downed line.
- Fully charge cell phones and backup power banks before severe weather hits so you can use them in an emergency.

## During a tornado:

- Seek shelter immediately in a basement or a small, interior room with no windows, such as a bathroom or closet.
- Turn off and unplug sensitive appliances and electronics to protect them from power surges. Leave one light on so you'll know when power is restored.
- Do not stay inside a vehicle or try to outrun a tornado. Exit the vehicle and seek shelter in a sturdy building. If none are available, lie flat in a low-lying area away from the vehicle and power lines.

## After a tornado:

- Stay away from downed power lines and anything they could touch, such as trees, fences, or debris. Always assume they are energized.
- If you see a downed line while driving, do not exit your vehicle. Call 911 and your utility and warn others to stay away.
- Do not touch anyone who is in contact with a power line. Call 911 immediately and wait for emergency responders.
- Do not enter damaged buildings until electricity and gas are shut off by professionals. Never attempt to turn off power if you must stand in water to reach the breaker.
- Avoid flooded areas with electrical outlets, appliances, or cords, and never touch electrical equipment when wet or standing in water.
- Have all water-damaged electrical systems, appliances, and devices inspected by a licensed electrician before use.

## Power outages and generator safety:

- Never use a generator indoors or in partially enclosed spaces such as garages, porches, or near open windows and doors. Place it at least 20 feet away from your home to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Keep the generator dry by placing it on a tarp or under a canopy and follow all manufacturer's instructions.
- Never plug a generator directly into a wall outlet. This can inadvertently energize power lines and pose a lethal risk to you, neighbors and utility workers.

Stay informed, stay alert, and share this information to help protect your family and community during severe weather events.

