

# Current CONNECTION



November/December • Volume 76 • Number 6  
A Bi-Monthly Publication of Crow Wing Power

## CURRENT CORNER

Reforming Net Metering:  
Ensuring a Fair and Sustainable  
Energy Future for All Members

## HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Join us for doughnuts,  
coffee and cider  
Fridays in December!

## PUZZLERS

Enter to win one of  
three \$25 bill credits  
by completing the puzzle

# Celebrating the POWER OF COMMUNITY



The holiday season brings a spirit of generosity and togetherness, inspiring us to reflect on our blessings and uplift those around us. At Crow Wing Power, we believe in giving back to the community not just during the holidays but throughout the entire year. As a cooperative, we're proud of our mission to serve not only through reliable electricity but by supporting the people and organizations that make our community strong.

At the heart of Crow Wing Power is our purpose: to serve you, our members. We know that our cooperative's success is tied to the strength of the community we call home. That's why we take pride in participating in local efforts like serving as a drop-off location for Toys for Kids and joining forces with The Outreach Program to pack meals for those in need. Our fundraising events for local non-profits also show that we are more than just an electric company—we're an active partner in making positive, meaningful impacts.

Your generosity fuels these efforts. Through Crow Wing Power's

Operation Round-Up® program, members like you round up your electric bills to the nearest dollar, with those small contributions adding up to big change. Over the past year, your collective donations have exceeded \$200,000, directly benefiting charitable organizations that work tirelessly to improve our communities. That's the cooperative difference—when we all chip in, great things happen.

We also believe in investing in the future. Crow Wing Power provides scholarships to local students, participates in career days to share opportunities in the energy sector, and regularly engages with classrooms eager to learn about the future of energy. In 2025, we'll proudly send two students to Washington D.C. as part of the Washington Youth Tour, an experience that cultivates future leaders.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, we're committed to giving back to our members. This November, members who were with us in 2009 will receive a portion of capital credits—our

way of returning excess operating revenue. These funds, totaling nearly \$2 million, go back to you, not to shareholders. That's what makes co-ops unique: you're more than a customer—you're a member-owner.

This holiday season, we want to thank you for being part of the Crow Wing Power family. We hope you take pride in knowing you belong to a cooperative that puts community first. From all of us, may your holiday season be bright, blessed, and full of joy.

DUAL FUEL Text Notification



# THE Current Corner

## REFORMING NET METERING: Ensuring a Fair and Sustainable Energy Future for All Members

As interim CEO, I want to share important information about Minnesota's net metering policy. While this policy was crucial in its early days for promoting solar energy, it is now outdated, expensive, and unfair. Reforming net metering is essential for ensuring a sustainable, reliable, and equitable energy future for all cooperative members.

Net metering allows members with solar panels or other distributed energy systems to generate their own electricity and sell any excess power back to the grid. When the policy was established in 1984, solar technology was still in its infancy. Minnesota was a leader in encouraging renewable energy at that time. However, the energy landscape has changed dramatically, and the policy has not kept pace.

First, the policy is outdated. While solar technology has advanced, the current net metering laws do not reflect these changes. Today, we have new technologies, such as energy storage, that were not available in the past. Given that Minnesota is now on a path to carbon-free electricity by 2040, the environmental incentives that once made net metering valuable are no longer as critical. It's time to update these laws to align with the present-day energy market.

Second, net metering is expensive. Under the current policy, cooperatives must pay retail rates for excess power, even though we can buy electricity at cheaper wholesale prices. This drives up costs for all members. Additionally, utility-scale solar projects provide a more efficient and cost-effective way to decarbonize our grid than smaller,

distributed systems. Reforming net metering would help lower costs and improve the effectiveness of our clean energy transition.

Finally, net metering is inequitable. It shifts the financial burden to members who do not have distributed systems, many of whom may not be able to afford solar installations. This results in higher electric bills for those least able to absorb the additional costs. Reform is needed to create a fairer system for everyone, not just those with the means to invest in solar technology.

The current model is unsustainable and places unnecessary financial strain on most co-op members. Reforming net metering will help stabilize the grid, lower costs, and ensure that both traditional and renewable energy sources are integrated effectively.

Minnesota's electric cooperatives are ready to lead the way in these reforms, advocating for policies that support all members while continuing our collective goal of a reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy future. We look forward to supporting these changes in the upcoming 2025 legislative session.



Sincerely,

Eric Quale | **Interim Chief Executive Officer**

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**  
*Fridays in December*  
Join us during business hours for  
coffee, cider & doughnuts!

Value Beyond the Power

**Crow Wing**  
POWER  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



# Board Meeting HIGHLIGHTS

## JULY 2024

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, July 18, 2024. A quorum of directors was present. President Mark Ronnei opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### The following reports were given:

- CEO report
- CFO Report
- Directors reported on meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.

### The following actions were taken:

- Approved July Consent Agenda.
- Approved Minutes of the June 20, 2024 regular board meeting.
- Approved Minutes of the June 20, 2024 reorganizational meeting.
- Approved a Resolution Authorizing Execution and Delivery of Agreements with Basin Electric Power Cooperative.
- Approved Director expense reports June 2024.

## AUGUST 2024

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, August 22, 2024. A quorum of directors was present. President Mark Ronnei opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### The following reports were given:

- CEO report
- CFO Report
- Directors reported on meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.

### The following actions were taken:

- Approved August Consent Agenda.
- Approved Minutes of the July 18, 2024 regular board meeting.
- Approved Director expense reports August 2024.

## SEPTEMBER 2024

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, September 19, 2024. A quorum of directors was present. Vice-President Giles Radtke opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### The following reports were given:

- CEO report
- CFO Report
- Directors reported on meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.


### The following actions were taken:

- Approved September Consent Agenda.
- Approved Minutes of the August 22, 2024, regular board meeting.
- Approved 2024 General Retirement of Capital Credits.
- Approved Operation Round-Up® board candidate.
- Approved Director expense reports August 2024.



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

[CWPower.com](https://www.CWPower.com)



*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.*



**It's truck season.**

CROW WING POWER  
**CREDIT UNION**

**877-563-3072** [cwpcu.org](https://www.cwpcu.org)



# GO PAPERLESS *and* WIN

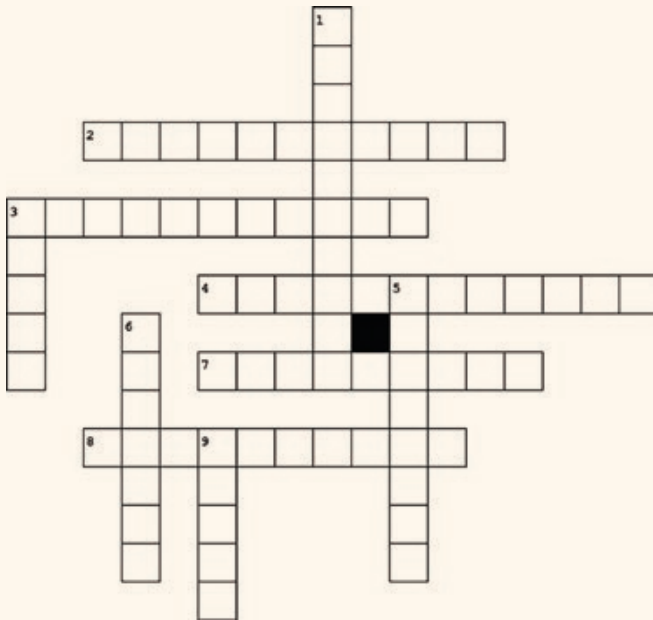
**SWITCH TO SIMPLICITY.** Go Paperless between August and November to be entered into a monthly drawing for a \$25 bill credit. Plus, all paperless members will have a chance to win one of three Samsung Galaxy Tab A9 tablets in our special December drawing. Learn more by visiting the website:



## NOVEMBER PUZZLERS

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

Complete the puzzle and send back by December 15. Three easy ways: Send a photo to [info@cwpower.com](mailto:info@cwpower.com) / Mail in with your bill. / [cwpower.com/news](http://cwpower.com/news), click Online Puzzles. October winners: Renee Peterson, Otsego; Gregg Peppin, Outing; Wayne Carner, Pillager



**Across**

2. \_\_\_\_\_ allows members with solar panels or other distributed energy systems to generate their own electricity and sell any excess power back to the grid.
3. Serve as a Drop off location
4. Holiday the Co-op offices will be closed.
7. Minnesota was the leader in encouraging this energy.
8. Go Paperless! Switch to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Down**

1. The Washington Youth tour is an \_\_\_\_\_ that cultivates future leaders.
3. According to Crow Wing Power Credit Union it's \_\_\_\_\_ season.
5. Where members can review detailed minutes.
6. Open House in December
9. Must provide \_\_\_\_\_ of qualifying military duty.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City / State / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account # \_\_\_\_\_



*We will be closed Thanksgiving Day.*



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Board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month beginning at 9:00 a.m. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.