

Meeting Highlights

February 2026

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, February 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 February Consent Agenda.
- Approved the Minutes of January 22, 2026
- Accepted the February Financial Report.
- Approved Preliminary Site Plan Work.
- Approved Steve Northway as Construction Advocate
- Approved Cogeneration and Small Power Production Tariff's Schedules 1-4, Part C.
- Approved Qualifying Facilities Report Part E. Subparts 1-3.
- Approved Director Expense Reports for January 2026.

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

Let's talk about Rates

Last August, at the Basin Electric Member Managers meeting, we learned that Basin Electric Power Cooperative would be implementing a rate increase. Rather than a single, significant adjustment, Basin chose a phased approach, spreading more moderate increases over two years. Their long-term forecast shows that, following this period, rates are expected to stabilize. We were fortunate to host Chris Baumgartner from Basin at our Annual Meeting, where he spoke about the cooperative model, investments in generation, and how we work together to reliably and safely meet growing energy demand. If you were unable to attend, I encourage you to visit Crow Wing Power's YouTube channel to view the recording.

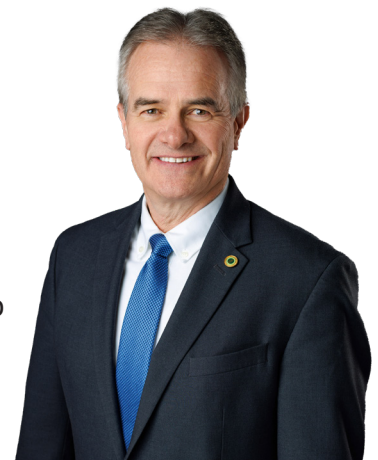
When we received notice of Basin's increase, your Board of Directors and leadership team got to work. We partnered with Power Systems Engineering to conduct a comprehensive cost-of-service and rate design study. The goal was simple: create a structure that is fair, equitable, and sustainable across all member classes. As part of that work, a modest \$2 increase to the base charge was implemented to support ongoing

facility upgrades and planning for a new energy and services center. These are investments necessary to serve you reliably today and into the future.

I won't pretend that any rate increase comes easy. We're aware that rising expenses are impacting many people, and this type of change can naturally bring some frustration. But it's also where the strength of the cooperative model matters most. Every decision is made with a long-term view, with careful analysis, and with you, our members, at the center of it.

That brings me to an important distinction that sets Crow Wing Power apart: the Power Cost Adjustment, or PCA.

A PCA is a fluctuating line item on an electric bill that reflects the real-time cost of power. It can move up or down based on fuel prices,



Continued pg 2.

May is Electrical Safety Month



**Know what's below.
811 before you dig.**

Rate Conversation Continued..

weather, and market conditions. During periods of extreme cold or heat, utilities may be forced to purchase high-cost energy to meet demand. For many cooperatives, those costs are passed directly to members through a PCA, resulting in unpredictable monthly bills.

Historically, Crow Wing Power also utilized a PCA. During periods of extreme weather, members could see additional charges, often in the range of \$6 to \$12 per month, added to their bills. Through our recent rate restructuring, we made the deliberate decision to remove the PCA.

By eliminating the PCA, your bill becomes more predictable. The base charge is fixed, and the energy portion reflects your actual usage. That means your efforts, whether it's upgrading equipment, improving efficiency, or simply being mindful of use, have a more direct and consistent impact on your monthly costs. In a region where weather can change quickly, that level of

predictability matters.

We know this is a complex topic, and we've made it a priority to provide more information and tools than ever before. I encourage you to visit cwpower.com, where you can explore rate information, use our bill calculator, and find practical energy-saving tips. And as always, our team is here to help. If you have questions, we welcome the conversation.

At the end of the day, this is your Cooperative. We are navigating these changes together, with transparency, thoughtful planning, and a shared commitment to keeping Crow Wing Power a strong, reliable place to belong.

Your Cooperative, Our Commitment,



Tim Thompson
Chief Executive Officer

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS AN EVENING OF CONNECTION AND PROGRESS

Approximately 200 members gathered on April 16 at Heritage Church in Baxter for Crow Wing Power's 2026 Annual Business Meeting, enjoying an evening focused on connection, conversation, and cooperative updates. The event began with a social hour, where members had the opportunity to visit with employees, board members, and local partners.

Throughout the evening, attendees received updates on electric rates, future planning efforts, and the proposed Energy & Service Center. Members also participated in the Cooperative's continued partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation by taking home a complimentary tree.

Board and leadership reports reflected strong organizational health, thoughtful governance, and continued investment in safety and member services. A highlight included the introduction of a new safety trailer designed to support community education, along with plans for an electric emergency response program.

The evening concluded with the announcement of director election results and appreciation for member participation. To get a full recap and view election results, visit cwpower.com/blog.

Crow Wing Power values the members who joined and contributed to a successful event and looks forward to welcoming even more members in April 2027.

POWERING
the future



SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT THE NEW ENERGY &
SERVICE CENTER PROJECT. SIGN UP
TO RECEIVE EMAILED UPDATES.

ENERGY EXPERTS: DO YOU REALLY NEED AN ANNUAL AC INSPECTION?

Wondering if you can skip your AC's annual tune-up? Before you decide, consider what's really at stake for your comfort, your system and your budget.

It's the hottest day of summer, and you're relaxing in your comfortably cool living room when suddenly you notice the temperature starting to climb. As worry sets in that your air conditioner has stopped working, you might wonder, "Could this have been prevented?"

Many homeowners question whether annual AC maintenance is truly necessary or just another service company's push to boost their revenue. The answer is clear: regular inspections are essential for protecting your comfort, your system and your wallet.

Prevents costly repairs

Air conditioning systems experience wear and tear over time, and ignoring small problems inevitably leads to bigger, more expensive ones. During an annual inspection, technicians can identify issues such as worn belts, leaking refrigerant, electrical malfunctions, sensor problems or dirty filters and coils before they cause system failure. For instance, a dirty coil can escalate into compressor failure, a repair that can cost hundreds of dollars.

Boosts energy efficiency

A well-maintained AC doesn't have to work as hard to keep your home comfortable. Clean filters and coils, properly calibrated thermostats and correct refrigerant levels all contribute to optimal performance. When your system runs efficiently, it uses less energy to do the same job, which means lower energy bills. In fact, regular maintenance can improve operational efficiency by up to 15%.

Extends equipment lifespan

Think of your AC like your car. It needs regular care to stay in good shape. Routine maintenance reduces strain on components and keeps everything operating as it should. Skipping inspections can lead to premature system failure, potentially cutting years off your AC's lifespan.

A well-maintained modern unit can last 15 to 20 years, while neglected systems could fail much sooner.

Protects your warranty

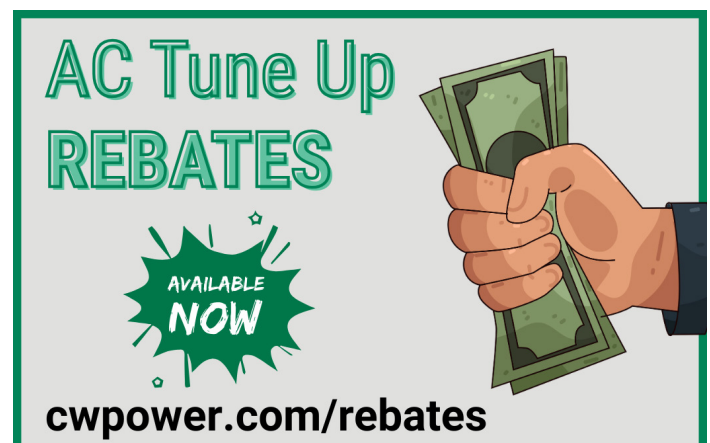
Many manufacturers include a warranty with their air conditioners, but there's often a catch: the warranty is only valid if you can show proof of regular maintenance. If you skip your annual inspection and something goes wrong, you might be on the hook for the full cost of repairs — even if your unit is still under warranty.

Consider a heat pump upgrade

An annual inspection is also a great time to talk to your technician about the future of your home's comfort system. If your AC unit is over 10 years old, you might want to consider upgrading to a heat pump. These systems provide both high-efficiency heating and cooling, and ENERGY STAR® units are independently certified to be more efficient than standard models.

Stay cool and proactive

Don't wait for a sweltering summer day to discover that your air conditioner isn't up to the task. Annual AC inspections are a small investment that pays off with lower energy bills, fewer repairs, longer equipment life and peace of mind. Schedule your tune-up early to ensure your system is ready when temperatures rise. Your future self will thank you.



AC Tune Up
REBATES

AVAILABLE
NOW

cwpower.com/rebates

The graphic features a hand holding a stack of green dollar bills on the right side. The text is in a bold, green, sans-serif font. A green starburst shape contains the words 'AVAILABLE NOW' in white. The entire graphic is enclosed in a green border.