

MEETING MINUTES



November 20, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Dakota Electric Association Board Members in Attendance

<u>DISTRICT 1</u>	<u>DISTRICT 2</u>	<u>DISTRICT 3</u>	<u>DISTRICT 4</u>
John DeYoe	Terry Donnelly	Ken Danner	Paul Bakken
David Jones	Bill Middlecamp	Cyndee Fields	Jenny Hoeft
Jerry Pittman	Clay Van De Bogart	Margaret Schreiner	Stacy Miller

Staff/Guests in Attendance

Trevor Hauck	Adam Heinen	Ryan Hentges	Corey Hintz
Betty Jo Kiesow	Nicole McEathron	Sara McGrane	Ankit Mukhopadhyay
Chris Myers	Alex Nelson	Mjyke Nelson	Jeff Schoenecker
Jane Siebenaler			

Members in Attendance

Minutes

TOPIC	DETAILS
Call to Order	Chair Bakken called the regular meeting of the Dakota Electric Association Board of Directors to order at 8:30 a.m. and presided. A quorum was present.
Agenda Adoption	✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the agenda.
Consent Agenda	✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• October 23, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes• October 2025, Board Legal Fees
CEO Report	CEO Hentges provided an overview of key considerations for 2025 with updates on safety initiatives, large loads and recent PUC case with MN Valley Montevideo cooperative. Discussion took place around next steps with large loads. Hentges continued by outlining a rate comparison with other metro cooperatives and a Helping Neighbors Trust and staffing update.
	Hentges concluded by sharing a staff proposal and request for approval of additional 2025 budget dollars allocated towards tree trimming. Discussion took place around proactive planning, management solutions and strategies.
	✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the additional \$150,000 spend on tree trimming in 2025.

Long Range Financial Forecast

Corey Hintz, VP of Financial Services, provided an overview of the cooperative's long-range financial forecast. Discussion took place around ALDC comparisons, energy optimization, rate case timing and Great River Energy capital credit distributions.

2026-2028 Construction Workplan

Betty Jo Kiesow, VP of Engineering, provided an overview of the 2026-2028 construction workplan including strategic initiatives, supply chain updates, current and future projects and workplan components. Discussion took place around backlot distribution, overhead vs. underground installation and safety considerations.

Integrated Distribution Plan (IDP) Report

Adam Heinen, VP of Regulatory Services, provided an introduction to the IDP report including context, objectives and timeline. Trevor Hauck, Engineering Services Manager, continued by highlighting distribution planning, system investments and grid resiliency efforts. Discussion took place around large loads, legislative efforts and backlot conversions.

Alex Nelson, System Design Manager, concluded by sharing solar and electric vehicle forecasts, energy storage systems and grid modernization projects. Discussion continued around Great River Energy's involvement, electric vehicle and solar trends, options for distributed battery power solutions and communication with stakeholders.

Attorney Report

Attorney Sara McGrane provided additional insights outside of her written report around Tribal relations.

- ✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to move into closed session at 12:14 p.m.

Executive Session

CEO Hentges provided a power supply update.

- ✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to move into regular session at 1:37 p.m.

Policy Update – Employee Leave Benefits

Brian Kuzel, Human Resources Director, provided an overview of updates to the Employee Leave Policy related to the upcoming Minnesota Paid Family & Medical Leave (PFML) law. Kuzel shared the overall approach and highlighted key changes, legal requirements and decision points. Attorney Sara McGrane provided additional context to other potential future policy changes,

A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve Resolution 25-11-1, adopting the amended Section II, Policy Bulletin 1 as distributed, reviewed and presented.

Great River Energy Report

Directors Middlecamp and Schreiner provided a Great River Energy update in addition to the written report, including context from recent meetings and the budgeting process.

MREA Report

Director Jones provided an overview of the recent work and priorities of MREA, including updates from recent energy forums, CLAC election and building construction.

Policy 4.1 Director Compensation and Expense Reimbursement Clarification Discussion

Director DeYoe shared context for the desired policy clarification of the administration options for processing spousal costs related to conference attendance. Discussion took place around potential implications, and all agreed that no policy or procedure changes would occur at this time.

**NRECA Youth Leadership
Council/Youth Tour Experience**

Ankit Mukhopadhyay shared his experience as a NRECA Youth Tour delegate and selection to the Youth Leadership Council, highlighting a recent trip to Washington D.C. and upcoming events. Mukhopadhyay thanked Dakota Electric for their sponsorship of the Youth Tour and support throughout the project. Mukhopadhyay concluded by presenting his speech submission for the national spokesperson competition which will take place at the 2026 NRECA Annual Meeting.

Adjournment

✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adjourn at 2:59 p.m.