

# MEETING MINUTES



## December 11, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

### Dakota Electric Association Board Members in Attendance

#### DISTRICT 1

John DeYoe  
David Jones  
Jerry Pittman

#### DISTRICT 2

Bill Middlecamp  
Clay Van De Bogart

#### DISTRICT 3

Ken Danner  
Cyndee Fields  
Margaret Schreiner

#### DISTRICT 4

Paul Bakken  
Jenny Hoeft (virtual)  
Stacy Miller

### Staff/Guests in Attendance

Eric Fehlhaber  
Betty Jo Kiesow  
Kevin Paulsen (virtual)

Adam Heinen  
Nicole McEathron  
Jeff Schoenecker

Ryan Hentges  
Sara McGrane  
Jane Siebenaler

Corey Hintz  
Mjyke Nelson

### Members in Attendance

### Minutes

TOPIC	DETAILS
<b>Call to Order</b>	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.
<b>Agenda Adoption</b>	✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adopt the agenda.
<b>Executive Session</b>	✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to move into closed session at 8:32 a.m.  Kevin Paulsen, Newport Principal Consultant, provided an update on the CEO evaluation process.  ✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to move into regular session at 10:30 a.m.
<b>Consent Agenda</b>	✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• November 20, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes</li><li>• November 2025, Board Legal Fees</li></ul>
<b>CEO Report</b>	CEO Hentges provided an overview of key considerations for 2025 with updates on the rate case, safety initiatives and large loads. Discussion took place around large load timelines and rates. Hentges continued by sharing a rate comparison with other metro cooperatives.

Jeff Schoenecker, VP of Utility Services, provided an update on a recent outage in the Burnsville area including cause and future prevention options. Discussion took place around legislation and stakeholder communications.

Hentges concluded by sharing an update on the OnBoard platform transition.

#### **2026-2028 Operating Budget**

Eric Fehlhaber, Director of Financial Planning, Analysis and Regulatory, provided an overview of 2026 and three-year operating budget including assumptions, key initiatives, as well as detailed charts and graphs outlining sales, revenues, expenses and investments. Discussion took place around AI considerations, labor and benefits analysis and facility impacts.

#### **Budget Summary & Resolution Approval**

CEO Hentges summarized the budget related presentations that took place today and at last month's Board meeting.

- ✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve all three budget-related Resolutions including 2026-2028 Construction Workplan (Resolution 25-12-1), 2026-2028 Operating Budget (Resolution 25-12-2) and Long-Range Financial Forecast (Resolution 25-12-3).

- ✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to move into closed session at 12:33 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 2:08 p.m.

#### **2026 Nominating Committee Appointments**

Nicole McEathron, Director of Executive Services, provided copies of the 2026 Nominating Committee applicant pool list. Discussion took place around the overall applicant pool, and one applicant was removed. Given eight potential members remained, a random drawing was not necessary and all eight were carried forward.

- ✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the appointment of the eight remaining applicants as members of the 2026 Nominating Committee.

Chair Bakken asked for volunteers to serve as meeting delegates at the upcoming NRECA and MREA annual meetings. Discussion took place about forgoing a delegate appointment for this year's NRECA annual meeting

#### **Delegate Appointments**

- ✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the following meeting delegates:
  - NRECA Annual Meeting (March 6-11, 2026)
    - No delegates appointed
  - MREA Annual Meeting (March 17-18, 2026)
    - Director Jones
    - Director Schreiner (alternate)

#### **Great River Energy Report**

Directors Schreiner and Middlecamp provided a Great River Energy update in addition to the written report, including context from recent meetings, solar project and load management resources.

**MREA Report**

Director Jones provided an overview of the recent work and priorities of MREA, including an overview of the upcoming MREA Board meeting agenda. Director DeYoe shared an update on MREA Resolution #30. The Board provided directional approval to move forward with that Resolution.

**Attorney Report**

Attorney Sara McGrane clarified a few items included in her written report and shared additional insights on recent work related to the Paid Family and Medical Leave law. McGrane continued by sharing an overview of the proposed changes to the 2026 legal services fees.

- ✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to approve the proposed changes to the 2026 legal services fees, as presented.

**Adjournment**

- ✓ A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to adjourn at 2:55 p.m.
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