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Mark Your Calendar

- Aug 15 Electric Bills Due
- Aug 26 Board Meeting



Find Your Account Number & Win!

TEC has hidden an account number in this newsletter. If you find your account number, notify us by September 1st and receive a **\$10 bill credit**.

Minnesota Rural Electric Association Legislative Recap

BY JENNY GLUMACK

Director of Government Affairs, Minnesota Rural Electric Association GM

The 2025 Minnesota legislative session officially wrapped up on June 9 following a one-day special session to finalize the state budget. Throughout the session, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) worked on behalf of Minnesota's electric cooperatives to advocate for policies that support reliable, affordable and sustainable energy for member-owners across the state.

Tragically, just days after legislators returned home, Minnesota was rocked by the horrific killings of Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, along with their beloved rescue dog Gilbert. Senator John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette, were also injured at their home early on the morning of June 14. Speaker Emerita Hortman was a longtime leader at the Capitol who had worked closely with MREA over the years on major legislation. Senator Hoffman is a bipartisan leader and a valued friend of Minnesota's electric cooperatives. We mourn the loss of Speaker Hortman, pray for Senator Hoffman's recovery, and extend our deepest sympathies to both families and all who were impacted.

As the state continues to process this tragedy, it's also important to reflect on the work that was accomplished during the 2025 legislative session — including key issues affecting Traverse Electric Cooperative

Supporting Reliable and Affordable Energy

While some of the most high-profile political debates made headlines this year, Traverse Electric Cooperative was focused on protecting the interests of co-op member-owners at the Capitol. We

advocated for fair, common-sense energy policy and helped defeat several costly new mandates.

One of our major priorities was **reforming Minnesota's outdated net metering law**, which currently requires cooperatives to pay above-market retail rates for excess electricity from rooftop solar systems. This policy results in increased energy costs for cooperatives, which results in a cost shift, forcing disproportionately poorer co-op members without solar panels to subsidize those who can afford them. Legislation to modernize this policy came close to passing and gained strong momentum. Though it wasn't included in the final budget package, our coalition grew as policymakers understood the inequity of the current law, and we'll continue to work on this issue in the year ahead.

We also led efforts to **lift Minnesota's moratorium on new nuclear energy**. MREA helped form and lead the Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance — a diverse coalition of nearly 40 stakeholders representing utilities, labor, business, agriculture and the environment — to push for access to next-generation nuclear power. These new technologies offer safe, carbon-free, around-the-clock power that could help meet Minnesota's carbon-free electricity goals. While the moratorium remains in place, support is growing rapidly across the state. We are hopeful our strong coalition will soon end Minnesota's outdated nuclear moratorium once and for all. It's time to allow Minnesotans to have this important conversation.

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MREA Legislative Recap continued from page 1

Other Highlights from the 2025 Session

- ▶ **Tax Fairness for Co-ops:** After months of negotiations, we secured a major win in the final tax bill: the passage of MREA's property tax clarification bill. This commonsense reform corrects how electric cooperative infrastructure is taxed and will save Minnesota's co-ops — and their member-owners — millions of dollars in the years ahead. The bill had broad bipartisan support and was ultimately prioritized by key legislative leaders in both chambers. This victory protects our ability to invest in rural infrastructure without unfair tax burdens.
- ▶ **No New Mandates:** We successfully fought off multiple proposals that would have imposed new costly regulations on cooperatives. Thanks to strong advocacy from co-op members and leadership in both parties, we preserved flexibility for our local, member-governed utilities.
- ▶ **Data Centers:** Lawmakers debated how to handle the rapid growth of large data centers and their impact on

the power grid. In the end, a bipartisan deal was reached that included new energy efficiency requirements, fees to support conservation programs and tax incentives tied to clean energy usage. We were especially proud to help stop a harmful provision that would have penalized cooperatives for data center-related growth — a move that would have disproportionately hurt rural communities.

Make Your Voice Heard

Want to stay informed and make a difference? Join **Voices for Cooperative Power (VCP)** — a grassroots network of electric cooperative member-owners who care about affordable, reliable energy and protecting the cooperative way of life. It's a free, easy way to stay updated on key policy issues, and when the time comes, VCP makes it simple to contact your lawmakers and make your voice count.

Visit voicesforcooperativepower.com/register to sign up. ▶

SmartHub Success Checklist

SmartHub will help you save time and money by managing your account anytime from anywhere. Here is a checklist to put you in control of your account from day one.

To register for SmartHub you will need an email address and your account number. You can find your account number on your bill or call our customer service team at (320) 563-8616.

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You have two options when registering your account: our mobile app or web portal.

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- ▶ Open up the Apple or Google Play store or scan the QR code to the right.
- ▶ Search for "SmartHub" in the app store.
- ▶ Download and Install the SmartHub app on your mobile device



ACCESS THE WEB PORTAL

- ▶ Visit our SmartHub support page at traverseelectric.com/smarthub and click on the Register button.

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Stay informed on important account events via email or text messages. Receive the information you need to make the right decisions about your account.

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❑ BOOKMARK SmartHub support page

We will be adding new features and information for how to get the most out of your SmartHub experience on our SmartHub support page. Bookmark traverseelectric.com/smarthub in your web or mobile internet browser.

Traverse Electric's Youth Tour Delegate Emily Kellen

Electric cooperatives send Minnesota's students to Washington D.C.

(MAPLE GROVE, MINN) – Twenty-nine Minnesota high school students recently returned from a Washington D.C. trip-of-a-lifetime. Electric cooperatives across Minnesota select students and award them an all-expense-paid trip to see the sites and learn about the political process in our nation's capital city. #3313

The statewide trip is sponsored by each electric cooperative that sends students, coordinated by the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) and hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Nearly 2,000 students from across the United States attend the activity-filled week and learn firsthand about politics, community development and the governmental process with peers from nearly every state in the nation.

The week-long Youth Tour also consisted of learning about current issues, American history, electric cooperatives and meeting with elected officials, including Minnesota senators.

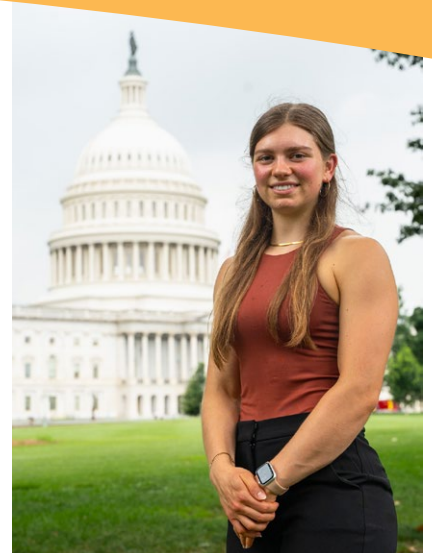
Students made new friends,

enjoyed seeing many sites and memorials, learned much about our nation's history and made memories.

"I have made some amazing memories and made friends with some amazing people," Ankit Mukhopadhyay, from Dakota Electric Association, said. "I'm really thankful for this opportunity!"

"Youth Tour is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the students," MREA CEO Darrick Moe said. "We are happy to work with our local cooperatives and provide the opportunity for these great students to see and experience Washington D.C. They also had the opportunity to learn what makes the cooperative business model an excellent way to provide reliable and affordable power throughout Minnesota."

Each year, one student from the Minnesota delegation is selected by their peers to represent Minnesota on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC). Mukhopadhyay was selected as the YLC delegate and will return to



Washington D.C. in July to focus on leadership skills, and then next year, he will participate in the NRECA's annual meeting.

In addition to taking in the sights and sounds of Washington D.C., all state groups convened for Rural Electric Youth Day to learn from public figures and inspirational speakers. Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time World Champion wheelchair basketball champion, gave an inspiring message for every American, young or old: "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out."

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been a joint effort of local electric co-ops, the MREA, and the NRECA, since 1964. In that time, more than 60,000 high school students from the nation's cooperative electric utilities have visited their U.S. congressional lawmakers, attended grassroots government education sessions and enjoyed sightseeing in Washington D.C.

Students wishing to participate in Youth Tour 2026 should check with their school guidance counselors or their local electric cooperative. ▶



June 2025 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The June regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 8 AM. Absent: Gaulrapp.

Staff members present were General Manager, Jeremy Huhnstock and Karen Lupkes.

President Diekmann called the meeting to order.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the May regular board meeting were approved.

The May check register was approved. Discussed the East River and Basin Electric video reports, and the NRECA training video: Navigating Difficult Ethical Issues

Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.

Huhnstock presented the General Manager's Report, which included:

- ▶ Provided a Basin Electric update.
- ▶ Provided an East River update.
- ▶ REED Fund review.
- ▶ NRECA update.
- ▶ MREA and MN legislative update.
- ▶ SDREA and SD legislative update.
- ▶ Other matters of interest.

Lupkes gave the Office Manager's Report, which included:

- ▶ May 31, 2025 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
- ▶ A list of new members was reviewed.
- ▶ NISC software conversion for customer accounts is scheduled for July 14.
- ▶ Our annual audit is near completion.
- ▶ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- ▶ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.

Reviewed and approved the May 2025 Financial Report.

The Operations Report was presented per written report. Items included:

- ▶ Provided a crew update.
- ▶ Reviewed upcoming and completed projects.
- ▶ Wet conditions have delayed projects.
- ▶ Our contractor completed boring for projects.
- ▶ The plow is in for repairs.
- ▶ Digester services were discussed.
- ▶ Two new linemen started recently.
- ▶ Reposted the opening for a journeyman lineman.
- ▶ Reviewed our Safety Program.
- ▶ Outages were reviewed.

3rd Party load control was tabled.

Basin Electric tour was cancelled due to lack of interest.

Selected East River Annual Meeting voting delegates.

Reviewed and approved Policy 113.

Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.

Meeting adjourned. ▶

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: energy.gov

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN
 Vice-President: Terry Monson, Veblen, SD
 Secretary: Matthew Glynn, Sisseton, SD
 Treasurer: Michael Marks, Norcross, MN
 Stacy Ehlers, Wheaton, MN
 Michael Gaulrapp, Breckenridge, MN
 Jared Hamling, Rosholt, SD
 Bradley Rudolph, Dumont, MN
 Kaley Thoennes, Chokio, MN

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Jeremy Huhnstock – General Manager
 Karen Lupkes – Office Manager
 Dale Schwagel – Operations Manager
 Melissa Przymus – Accountant
 Stacie Johannsen – Billing Clerk

OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Richard Davis – Foreman
 Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker
 Isaac Hoverson – Journeyman Lineworker
 Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker
 Tayden George – Apprentice Lineworker
 Jordan Pearson – Apprentice Lineworker
 Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician
 Robert Groebner – Facility Technician

GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Jeremy Huhnstock
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jhuhnstock@traverseelectric.com

MEMBER SERVICE REP/ MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Connor Bartz
 – Journeyman Electrician 320-287-0009

ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

MINNESOTA

Brandon Lennox	320-808-5309
Big Stone County	Grant County
Stevens County	Traverse County
Brent Piekarski	651-420-0855
Wilkin County	

NORTH DAKOTA

Mark Moderow	701-226-3779
Richland County	

SOUTH DAKOTA

Nick Helseth	605-280-2188
Marshall County	Roberts County

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