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Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 15..... *Electric Bills Due*

Oct. 27..... *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 November 1st and you will get a **\$10 bill credit**.

Congratulations to Erin Braun who found his account number in the September newsletter for a \$10 bill credit.

NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH



Enter to Win \$25, \$50, and \$100 Bill Credits in Recognition of Co-op Month

Name _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____

One entry per member. The winner will be notified.

Return to our office by Oct 31, 2026 by mail, dropped off, or emailed to info@traverseelectric.com.



Local Voices Shape Local Solutions

October is National Co-op Month/Happy Halloween

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK

General Manager

When you hear the word cooperative, what comes to mind? As your local electric co-op, we hope you think of Traverse Electric Cooperative.

Regardless of the services offered, all cooperatives have one thing in common: they're led by the people they serve—and that simple idea makes a meaningful difference.

Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, each created to meet a specific need. Credit unions help members save and borrow money. Producer cooperatives, like Ocean Spray and Land O'Lakes, help farmers bring their products to market. Retail cooperatives, like REI and ACE Hardware, are owned by their shoppers or a membership of store owners, while housing cooperatives give residents a voice in managing their communities. And utility cooperatives—like TEC—provide reliable electricity to the communities they serve.

Unlike many businesses that answer to outside investors or shareholders, cooperatives are built for their members. Their goal isn't simply to earn a profit—it's to provide value, meet unique local needs and strengthen the communities they call home.

That's exactly what makes TEC different.

Our story began 87 years ago when neighbors came together to bring electricity to an area when other utilities wouldn't. While a lot has changed since then, our purpose has remained steady. We're still here to provide power and make decisions with our community's best interests in mind.

Being locally owned means we have the flexibility to focus on what matters most to the communities we serve. That's why no two electric cooperatives are

exactly alike. Every community has different needs, and every cooperative reflects those priorities.

For some co-ops, that means expanding programs that help members save energy and money. Others may focus on supporting economic development, investing in new technology or creating new opportunities for local students. Traverse Electric focuses on giving back to the communities they serve; by donating to school districts, other non-profits, and helping community leaders with volunteer projects like hanging the Christmas tree in Wheaton.

You'll also find the co-op difference in the little things. It's the lineworkers restoring power after a storm. The employees answering your questions when you call. The team members volunteering at community events. The board members—your neighbors—who help guide decisions for the future.

We're your neighbor and local energy partner, and we're committed to serving this community for generations to come.

This National Co-op Month, we invite you to join us in celebrating the cooperative difference, because this co-op belongs to you. **#1223**

Whether it's Traverse Electric, your local credit union or ACE Hardware, cooperatives prove that when people work together, everyone benefits.

Your membership is what makes our mission possible—and it's what keeps us focused on serving the people and communities that matter most.

Have a safe and successful harvest season,





Having Trouble Paying Your Winter Utility Bill?

Energy Assistance programs may be able to help you.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

MINNESOTA:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.
- For Wilkin, Traverse, Grant, Stevens Counties: West Central MN Communities Actions, Elbow Lake, MN. Email: eap@wcmca.org, 800-492-4805, <https://wcmca.org/program-area/energy-assistance/>
- For Big Stone County: Prairie Five Community Action, Montevideo, MN. Email: eap@prairiefive.org, 800-292-5437 or 320-839-211 (Ortonville Office), <https://prairiefive.org/programs/energy-assistance/>

SOUTH DAKOTA:

- Visit the South Dakota Department of Social Services Energy and Weatherization Assistance website, Energy and Weatherization Assistance (sd.gov), Pierre, SD. 800-233-8503. Email: DSSHeat@state.sd.us.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Don't let phantom energy haunt your electric bill this October. Many electronics continue using electricity even when they're turned off. TVs, gaming systems, coffee makers and phone chargers can quietly draw power around the clock. While each device uses only a small amount, the energy waste can add up over time. Before heading out for Halloween fun, unplug devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off. It's a simple trick that can help keep phantom energy waste in check.

Source: Dept. of Energy

August 2026 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The August regular board meeting was held on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 8 AM.

- Absent: None.
- Staff members present were General Manager, Jeremy Huhnstock, Dale Schwagel, and Karen Lupkes.
- President Diekmann called the meeting to order.
- The agenda was approved.
- The minutes of the July regular board meeting were approved.
- The July check register was approved.
- Discussed the East River Electric video report, and the NRECA training video: *A Discussion on Board Meeting Minutes*.
- Hamling and Marks reported on the Basin Electric Annual Meeting.
- 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:
 - ◊ July 31, 2026 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
 - ◊ A list of new members was reviewed.
 - ◊ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
 - ◊ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.
- Reviewed and approved the July 2026 Financial Report.
- The Operations Report was presented per written report. Items included:
 - ◊ Provided a crew update.
 - ◊ Reviewed projects.
 - ◊ Reviewed our recent RESAP results.
 - ◊ Provided an update on the Long Hollow housing project.
 - ◊ Reviewed our Safety Program.
 - ◊ Outages were reviewed.
- Approved donating unclaimed capital credits to county 4-H programs & county food shelves/food pantries in our service territory.
- Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.
- Meeting adjourned. ▀

TEC July 2026 Financials

	July 2025	July 2026	YTD 2026
Total Revenue.....	\$1,292,726.50	\$1,462,422.16	\$9,616,543.36
Cost of Power.....	\$778,567.53	\$806,345.89	\$5,622,108.62
Total Cost of Service.....	\$1,268,686.21	\$1,216,909.44	\$8,744,791.67
Operating Margins	\$24,040.29	\$245,512.72	\$871,751.69
Total Margins.....	\$35,011.49	\$251,011.16	\$962,995.26
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased ...	10,944,574	10,851,160	78,582,435
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	10,515,299	10,317,378	74,921,398
Line Loss	4%	5%	4%

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
 Kolby Goff – Apprentice Lineworker
 Health Kvatum – Apprentice Lineworker
 Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker
 Tristan Varpness – Journeyman Lineworker
 Jordan Pearson – Journeyman Lineworker
 Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician
 Robert Groebner – Facility Technician
 Samantha Enwiller – Support Administrator

GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Jeremy Huhnstock
 Cell: 320-349-9901 | Direct: 320-563-1055
 jhuhnstock@traverseelectric.com

MEMBER SERVICE REP/ MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Connor Bartz
 – Journeyman Electrician 320-287-0009
 Eric Rikimoto
 - Load Management/Electrician 701-971-3827

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

**In case of a power outage, call
 (800) 927-5443**

6590 State Highway 27
 P.O. Box 66

Wheaton, MN 56296 USA
 Toll-free phone: (800) 927-5443
 Local phone: (320) 563-8616

Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
 May 1–September 30

Web site: www.traverseelectric.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Our Mission: To provide dependable service at the lowest possible rates, consistent with sound business principles.