

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY Cooperative NEWS

March 2026



CVEC'S 89TH ANNUAL MEETING RESILIENCE & RELIABILITY

THIS IS YOUR PRIZE STUB

Please detach this mailing label along the dotted line and bring it with you to the annual meeting. This is your ticket to receive a FREE ice cream scoop & 5 ounce cup of Klemish Creamery Ice Cream.

- One gift per member family

You MUST bring this prize stub to receive your free gift.



Celebrating 89 years!

2026 Annual Meeting Agenda

CVEC Annual Meeting–Thursday Night, March 26, 2026

5:30- Doors Open for Registration

Dinner will be served prior to the meeting

6:00- Business Meeting Begins

Meeting Called to Order.....John Petska, Chairman

National Anthem

Invocation..... Greg Sima, Pastor of Northwoods Church- Cornell, WI

Early Bird Prize Drawing.....Frank Draxler, Secretary-Treasurer

Notice of Meeting & Approval of 2025 Minutes.....Frank Draxler, Secretary-Treasurer

Vice-Chairman’s Report.....Kevin Meistad, Vice- Chairman

Financial Report.....Jaimie Wilk, Manager of Finance & Accounting

Cooperative Updates.....Russ Falkenberg, President/CEO

Operation Round Up Message.....Vern Weeks & Justin Endru

Ballot Box Closed.....John Petska, Chairman

Report of Tellers Committee

Drawing for Apple iPad.....Frank Draxler, Secretary-Treasurer

Adjournment.....John Petska, Chairman

Action will be taken on:

- 1.Cooperative reports
- 2.Election of two directors: one from District 3 and one from District 5.
3. Vote of Bylaw Amendments
- 4.Unfinished business
- 5.New business and other business to come before this meeting.

Voting Instructions

All members will receive Bylaw Amendment Ballots and a return envelope to vote on the proposed changes to the Cooperative Bylaws. The ballot and envelope will be in a separate Annual Meeting mailing from the cooperative.

Members who reside in a district whose director is up for election (districts 3 and 5) at this annual meeting will also receive an additional ballot in the same envelope as the Bylaw Amendment Ballots.

Please vote and return the completed ballots to CVEC to be received prior to March 26 or you may bring it to the annual meeting. Ballots received after March 26 will not be counted.

We look forward to seeing you at CVEC’s 89th annual meeting on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at the cooperative headquarters located at 317 South 8th Street, Cornell, WI.

One gift per member family

Bring this registration stub with you to the annual meeting. You must bring this stub to the annual meeting to receive your FREE gift and to enter the prize drawings.

Please look inside this magazine for additional annual meeting information.



Message from CVEC's President/ CEO & Board Chairman

As your local power provider, Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative's (CVEC) mission has always been simple: keep the lights on and support the communities we serve. But what many don't understand is that behind every switch, every warm home and every business that opens its doors is a complex system that requires constant care.

Resilience and Reliability Through Changing Times

The demands on the electric grid are evolving rapidly. Homes and businesses today use more electricity than ever, and this trend does not appear to be slowing down anytime soon. From mobile devices to smart thermostats to advanced HVAC systems and electric vehicles, our world today requires power to function. As continued advancements take hold, our local electrical grid must be capable of supporting the increased demand while maintaining the reliability our members have come to expect.

Much of the energy system we rely on today was built decades ago. While it continues to serve our rural service territory well, age alone means that components must be repaired or replaced to maintain performance and meet safety standards. From poles and wires to transformers and substations, every part of our local energy grid has a lifespan. Routine maintenance, along with our extensive right-of-way clearing and brushing program, help to extend this lifespan and reduce outage times for our members. CVEC is proud to continue to boast one of the lowest outage rates per member in the state due to these proactive measures and the responsiveness of our crew.

To continue to proactively address these challenges, CVEC has developed a 4-year work plan to guide system upgrades and ensure we can meet growing demand. CVEC determines necessary upgrades through evaluation of pole age, outage data, and assessing difficult areas to service and brush. Our major initiatives include replacing aging poles and transitioning some overhead lines to underground to improve durability and reduce need for brushing and maintenance in difficult to access areas.

While these improvements require thoughtful planning and financial investment, the return is significant. A stronger grid supports economic growth, improves service quality and enhances safety for our crews and the community. Most importantly, it ensures that the essential power you rely on is available whenever you need it.

Managing Costs Responsibly

As we have communicated in the past, increased cost of essential materials has greatly impacted the cost of doing business for the cooperative. Transformers, wires, and other critical infrastructure components have seen significant price increases.

In an effort to mitigate these cost increases to our members, CVEC has worked diligently to absorb as many of these expenses as possible. Your board and management team are cost-conscious when reviewing and revising annual budgets. We do not take investments lightly. For example, we run our service trucks for 10 to 15 years, replacing them only when repair costs begin to overtake the cost of replacement.

We rely heavily on technology to help us manage our distribution system efficiently and take proactive steps to avoid extended outages, in turn reducing costs.

Despite these efforts, we have been forced to implement slight rate adjustments to continue meeting the needs of our members. This decision was not made lightly, and we remain committed to finding cost-saving measures wherever possible.

We continue to foster opportunities to add additional large loads to our service territory. While residential usage is dependent largely on weather, commercial usage or what we often refer to as large loads provide more consistent revenue year-round for the cooperative and our membership. Large loads provide the consistent revenue needed to help stabilize rates for all our members.

Partnerships for the Future

The cooperative way largely relies on partnership. CVEC continues to advance efforts to expand rural internet service in partnership with Citizens Connected and our joint venture Ntera. CV Connected, our underground cable installation company, had a successful first season. The CV Connected Team's work greatly benefits CVEC, Ntera, and our neighboring cooperatives by ensuring underground contractors are available to execute on needed work when and where we need them—a problem we struggled with for countless years prior to the creation of this new entity. Both partnerships add an additional revenue stream and support the communities we serve.

Our commitment to reliability, even through trying times, runs deeper than infrastructure alone. It reflects our responsibility as an electric cooperative to the people and communities we serve. Every upgrade, repair, and technological advancement we implement is an investment in your daily life, contributing to the comfort of your home, the success of our local businesses, and growth of our schools and other community organizations.

As we continue to move forward and progress, your board's goal will remain to provide safe, reliable, and sustainable power for years to come. **Thank you and we look forward to seeing you on Thursday, March 26.**



*Russ Falkenberg,
President/ CEO*



*John Petska,
Board Chairman*

Statement of Revenue & Expenses

For Year Ending December 31, 2025

(Unaudited)



WHAT WE TOOK IN		2024	2025
1)	Operating Revenue	\$16,028,965	\$17,636,935
WHAT WE PAID OUT			
2)	Cost of Purchased Power	\$8,982,257	\$9,780,529
3)	Operations Expense	\$939,139	\$881,480
4)	Maintenance Expense	\$808,003	\$1,041,067
5)	Customer Accounts Expense	\$495,895	\$510,180
6)	Customer Service & Information Expense	\$410,891	\$414,570
7)	Administrative & General Expense	\$1,432,030	\$1,637,106
8)	Depreciation Expense	\$1,784,682	\$1,814,184
9)	Taxes	\$232,956	\$258,249
10)	Interest on Long-Term Debt	\$783,175	\$790,040
11)	Other Deductions	\$14,339	\$25,395
12)	Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$15,883,367</u>	<u>\$17,152,800</u>
WHAT WE HAVE LEFT			
13)	Net Operating Margins	\$145,598	\$484,135
14)	Non-Operating Margins-Interest/Dividends	\$180,031	\$207,881
15)	Income (Loss) from Equity Investments	-\$69,577	-\$253,981
16)	Non-Operating Margins- Other	-\$84,132	-\$87,187
17)	Dairyland Power Co-op (G&T): Capital Credits	\$465,725	\$435,152
18)	Associated Capital Credits & Dividends Extraordinary Income	\$142,258	\$109,220
19)	Total Non-Operating Margins	<u>\$634,325</u>	<u>\$411,085</u>
20)	Total Margins	<u>\$779,923</u>	<u>\$895,220</u>
PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS MADE DURING THE YEAR			
21)	National Rural Utilities Co-op Finance Corp. (CFC)	\$77,734	\$43,568
22)	R.U.S. (Rural Utilities Service)	\$400,483	\$487,184
23)	Co-Bank	\$522,236	\$530,343

Notes:

A) The Subsidiary's (CVS) margins/ loss and investment gain/ loss are now displayed on the "Income (loss) from Equity Investments" line above. Allocations are generally based on Chippewa Valley Electric's Operating Margins, G&T Capital Credits, and Associated Capital Credits from the previous year.

Cooperative Balance Sheet

For Year Ending December 31, 2025

(Unaudited)



ASSETS		2024	2025
1)	Total Utility Plant	\$54,778,143	\$57,655,786
2)	Less: Reserve for Depreciation & Amortization	\$20,105,587	\$21,515,306
3)	Net Utility Plant	\$34,672,556	\$36,140,480
4)	Nonutility Property Net	\$0	\$274,874
5)	Investments Subsidiary Companies	\$4,939,534	\$4,813,053
6)	Investment & Patronage- Associated Org.	\$7,714,860	\$7,997,858
7)	Other Investments	\$71,317	\$162,602
8)	Total Other Property Investments	\$12,725,711	\$13,248,387
9)	Cash- REA (Rural Electrification Association) Loan Funds	\$760	\$760
10)	Cash- General	\$1,298,175	\$198,452
11)	Temporary Investments	\$2,043	\$13,088
12)	Notes Receivable- Net	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000
13)	Accounts Receivable- Net	\$1,580,029	\$1,908,955
14)	Material & Supplies	\$544,078	\$478,934
15)	Prepayments	\$62,500	\$89,841
16)	Other Current & Accrued Assets	\$4,245	\$3,824
17)	Total Current & Accrued Assets	\$7,991,830	\$7,193,854
18)	Deferred Debits	\$291,343	\$1,182,391
19)	Total Assets & Other Debts	\$55,681,440	\$57,765,112
LIABILITIES			
20)	Long Term Debt R.U.S.	\$17,799,199	\$18,747,895
21)	Long Term Debt Other	\$5,642,544	\$5,187,578
22)	Total Long Term Debt	\$23,441,743	\$23,935,473
23)	Notes Payable	\$0	\$0
24)	Accounts Payable	\$987,498	\$1,203,005
25)	Consumer Deposits	\$113,599	\$237,024
26)	Current Maturities- Long Term Debt	\$1,029,000	\$970,023
27)	Other Current & Accrued Liabilities	\$865,224	\$940,133
28)	Total Current & Accrued Liabilities	\$2,99,321	\$3,850,185
	DEFERRED CREDITS	\$89,035	\$350,035
29)	Membership Fees	\$0	\$0
30)	Patronage Capital	\$15,848,503	\$16,118,872
31)	Operating Margins-Current Year	\$145,598	\$484,135
32)	Other Margins & Equities	\$13,161,240	\$13,026,412
33)	Total Margins & Other Equities	\$29,155,341	\$29,629,419
34)	Total Liabilities & Other Equities	\$55,681,440	\$57,765,112

Annual Meeting Minutes 2025

The 88th annual meeting of the members of Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative was called to order by Board Chairman, John Petska, at 6:00 p.m. in the Cooperative headquarters in the City of Cornell, Wisconsin, on Thursday, March 27, 2025.

Recognition

All military veterans were asked to stand and were thanked for their service. A moment of silence was observed for all casualties, both foreign and domestic.

Invocation

Pastor Greg Sima prayed for the country, state, membership, and employees of CVEC.

Early Bird Prize

The Early Bird prize of a 65" Crystal Hi-Def LED Smart TV was won by Brian Guthman.

Introduction

John Petska introduced the board. State Representative's Tom Tiffany and Rob Summerfield, along with Congressman Derrick Van Orden were all in attendance. Vern Weeks, Sue Hartzell, and Kathy Swanson were introduced as the tellers counting the ballots. Attorney Christopher G. Gierhart from Weld Riley was introduced as well as Beth Alesch from WECA. Also present was Jill Petska representing Ntera. Russ Falkenberg introduced the director candidates: Steve Johnson, Doug Danielson, Kevin Meistad, Brian Rohland, John Petska, and Mike Sedlacek.

Quorum

The Board Chairman declared a quorum was present and opened the meeting for business.

Notice and Affidavit of Mailing

The Secretary-Treasurer, Steven L. Johnson, read the Notice of Meeting and Affidavit of Mailing.

Minutes

The minutes of the 2024 meeting were mailed to the members prior to the meeting. The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

Chairman's Report

John Petka said the theme of this year's meeting is Thankful, Excited and Prepared. Tonight's meeting is the second year our annual meeting was held in the evening. CVEC has had a busy year, with various projects including Chippewa Valley Connected LLC. Members of the board and management attend various training seminars and education events throughout the year. In closing John noted our co-op is financially strong, stable, and operationally sound.

Financial Report

Joe Harrison, Principal CPA of Bauman & Associates reviewed CVEC financials including statements of revenue, operating expenses, and the cooperative balance sheet. Additional financials discussed were the assets and liabilities for CVEC.

President's Report

Russ Falkenberg, President and CEO, presented John Petska CVEC Board Chair and Steve Johnson CVEC Secretary/Treasurer with NRECA Director Certifications. Russ Falkenberg continued the nights' theme by highlighting past accomplishments, future progress, and endeavors. He thanked his co-workers, the board and management. Acknowledging the line crew for their dedication and talent as well as all front office staff for all their support.

Prize Drawings

Prizes were given to many members throughout the meeting.

Bylaw Amendment Ballot- Article VI, Section 1

Approve – 603

Against - 87

Director Election Results

District #2

Steve Johnson - 79

District #4

Doug Danielson - 38

Kevin Meistad - 141

Brian Rohland - 66

District #2

John Petska - 107

Mike Sedlacek - 57

Adjournment

Chairman, John Petska, asked for any other business. There was no other business, and the meeting was adjourned by John Petska at 7:15 p.m.

Operation Round Up Prize Drawing

Operation Round-Up will be entering all
NEW participants in a prize drawing for a
Kwik Trip gift card!

must be present to win



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

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www.cvecoop.com • email: cvec@cve.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Board of Directors

District 1 – Sue Frei

District 2 – Dr. Eugene Buchner

District 3 – Frank Draxler

District 4 – Kevin Meistad

District 5 – Joe Melville

District 6 – Steve Wall

District 7 – John Petska

Russ Falkenberg, President/CEO



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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 7:30–4 p.m.

Friday, 7:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

Rebecca Pehlke, Editor

Comparative Stats for CVEC

	2023	2024	2025
Total Miles of Line	1,295	1,294	1,295
New Services	70	90	74
Number of Members	7,863	7,939	8,005
Average Members per mile of line	6.07	6.14	6.18
Total kWh Purchased	111,973,989	107,507,333	118,036,857
Total kWh Sold	106,653,944	103,331,976	113,242,676
Average cost per kWh purchased	.0793	.0824	.0816
Average revenue per member per month	166.87	164.95	183.08
Average kWh sold per member per month	1,130	1,085	1,179
Average revenue per kWh sold	.1476	.1521	.1553
Total number of Employees	20	22	22

2025 Outage Information

Total Outages- 413

Outage Causes

Trees.....	44
Lightning.....	18
Fault or Broken Pole.....	17
Transformers.....	12
Vehicles.....	10
Fires.....	7
Animals.....	2
Other.....	76
Planned/Maintenance.....	227

Average Outage

Time Per Member



One of the lowest in the state

Commitment to Community in 2025

Member Contribution to
Operation Round Up

\$5,213

Monetary Donations to Local
Organizations & Events

\$5,493

Scholarships Awarded (*funds
from donated or unclaimed
Capital Credits*)

\$15,500

Wholesale Power Cost
57%

Operating Expenses
26.1%

Depreciation
10.6%

Taxes &
Interest
6.3%

Your Energy Dollar

*For every dollar you
spend on electricity,
over half goes
towards the cost of
wholesale power.*



Your Cooperative

Powering Your Future



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

Celebrating

**RESILIENCE
& RELIABILITY**