



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

April 2026

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 34, Number 4

STRONG FINANACIAL POSITION



*From the CFO-
Carmen Christensen*

As a publicly owned electric utility, Elkhorn Rural Public Power District's

mission is to provide safe, reliable, and cost-effective electricity for all our customers. Sound financial management allows us to maintain a strong and resilient electric system while keeping rates as stable and competitive as possible for our customers.

Financial Stability and Responsible Planning

Careful budgeting and long-term financial planning help ensure the district remains financially stable. The district maintains appropriate financial reserves to address unexpected expenses, respond to storm damage, and support future infrastructure projects. Maintaining healthy reserves also helps reduce the need for sudden rate adjustments.

The district continues to evaluate operating efficiencies and cost-control measures while maintaining high service standards. Strategic financial planning allows the district to balance necessary investments with responsible man-

agement of customer rates.

Over the past year, the district has remained financially stable while continuing to invest in system reliability and infrastructure improvements. Operating revenues covered the costs of power supply, system maintenance, and day-to-day operations, allowing us to maintain strong service levels across our entire distribution system and add to the rate stabilization account the district established at the end of 2024. This fund was funded to help manage the impact of future rate increases.

A significant portion of our budget continues to be dedicated to maintaining and upgrading electrical infrastructure. Investments in poles, lines, substations, and equipment help reduce outages, improve safety, and ensure our system can meet current and future energy needs.

We also work carefully to control costs wherever possible. Through responsible financial planning, long-term power supply management, and efficient operations, the district has been able to maintain competitive electric rates while continuing

to strengthen our system.

Operating Revenue and Expenses

During the past fiscal year, the district generated operating revenue of \$32 million through the sale of electric energy to residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial customers across our service territory. These revenues support the district's core operations, including the purchase of wholesale power, system maintenance and

continued on page 2



Crews work to install services and maintain ERPPD's electrical grid, efficiently. This helps with capacity, reliability and the cost-effectiveness of your electrical service.

FINANCIAL POSITION CONTINUED

improvements, administrative services, and customer support.

Total number of services increased from 10,231 to 10,330, representing a 0.97% growth rate. The largest growth occurred in irrigation services, which increased by 64 services, from 2,583 to 2,647.

Irrigation energy sales were lower in 2025 due to beneficial summer moisture that reduced irrigation demand. However, total energy sales remained strong at just under 350 million kWh, with industrial load growth within the district helping offset the reduction in irrigation sales.

The largest portion of the district's operating expenses continues to be the cost of wholesale power. Total wholesale power costs totaled \$21M. Wholesale power costs represent approximately 66% of total revenue, meaning that for every dollar collected, about \$0.66 is allocated to the purchase of wholesale electricity. The remaining

34%, or \$0.34 per dollar, is left for everything else including additional expenses that include operations, maintenance, and improvements of the distribution system, employee wages and benefits, equipment costs, and general administrative functions necessary to provide dependable electric service.

Infrastructure Investment and System Improvements

Maintaining and improving our electrical infrastructure remains a top priority. Throughout the year, the district invested \$4.7 million in new, replacements, and upgrades of aging poles, lines, transformers, equipment, and other critical system components. These projects improve system reliability, enhance safety, and reduce the likelihood and duration of power outages.

The district also continued work on system modernization initiatives, including improvements to substations and distribution equipment. These investments ensure the electric

grid remains capable of meeting both current demand and future growth in the communities we serve.

We are currently free of long-term debt and are working to maintain a strong financial position so we can responsibly finance future capital improvement projects if necessary.

Looking Ahead

In the coming year, the district will continue focusing on reliability, infrastructure improvements, and responsible financial stewardship. Planned projects will include continued line maintenance, equipment replacement, and system upgrades designed to strengthen the electric distribution system.

As a customer-owned utility, every financial decision is made with the long-term interests of our customers in mind. We appreciate the trust our customers place in us and remain committed to providing dependable electric service now and into the future.

Administrative Professionals

Xuan Zoubek, Stacie Young, and Kim Bettenhausen will be recognized for their hard work and dedication on Administrative Professionals Day, April 22.

They are the friendliest customer service representatives that keep our organization running smoothly. Thank You!



Leadership Training



Jason Lyon, foreman, graduated from the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) Leadership Essentials Program in February.

The Leadership Essentials program is a two week intensive leadership development experience created by the NREA to grow leaders for power districts across the state.

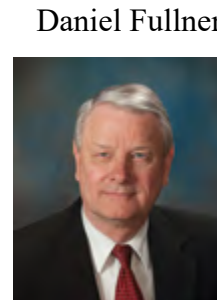
The curriculum is focused on self-awareness, critical thinking, emotional intelligence, decision making, team dynamics, and performance coaching.

Jason was part of the first cohort to complete the training. Jason, taking this opportunity to strengthen his skill set, will contribute to the continued success of the organization.

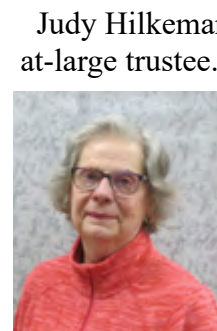
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND



The ERPPD Community Development Fund is pleased to welcome two trustees to the board.



Daniel Fullner will serve as a Subdivision I trustee. Daniel brings many years of volunteer experience with various non-profit organizations. He currently practices law and is the senior vice president at Madison County Bank. Reflecting on his appointment, Daniel shared, "I am pleased to be selected as a trustee and to be able to serve and give back to the customers and communities of ERPPD."



Judy Hilkemann returns as an at-large trustee. Judy previously served on the inaugural board until stepping down in 2021. She is retired from working at the Norfolk Public Library and remains active as a volunteer with United Way, the Norfolk Area Community Concert Assoc., and her church. Judy said, "I am glad to be back on the board after my hiatus. I enjoyed working with the other trustees and helping the ERPPD communities."

The Community Development Fund continues to thrive thanks to your generous donations. The photos on this page highlight the real impact your contributions make in our communities.



Clockwise from top left: Naomi Hemphill, Madison Public Library Director, holds seed packets for their seed library; supportive seating for Oasis Counseling International, Inc.; Toni Arehart, ESU #8 Assistant SPED Director, accepts a check for a job fair for students with disabilities; Garland Goracke, Meadow Grove VFD chief, accepts a check for replacing worn out boots and gloves for firefighters; STEAM -To-Go kits for the Lied Battle Creek Public Library, and Sylvia Walters, council secretary, and the kids of Trinity Lutheran Church in Newman Grove in front of their mini-pantry.

Organization	Project	Location	Amount Awarded
American Legion Heninger Post 170	Veteran Memorial Project	Tilden	\$1,000.00
American Legion Post 136	Veteran Memorial Project	Orchard	\$1,000.00
Elgin Public Library	A Sign of Progress	Elgin	\$1,000.00
Ewing Young Members Club	Ewing Summer Fest	Ewing	\$500.00
Hadar Volunteer Fire Department	Grass Rig Pickup	Hadar	\$1,500.00
Madison Public Library	Seed Library	Madison	\$400.00
Neligh-Oakdale Teammates	Year End Celebration	Neligh	\$500.00
Norfolk Senior Citizen Center	Parkinson's Project	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
Northern Hills Child Care	Water Softener	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
Write On! Youth Writing Camp	Camp Funding	Battle Creek	\$1,000.00

Second Quarter Funding Applications Deadline: Monday, April 20

LINE TECH APPRECIATION APRIL 13

NATIONAL LINE TECH APPRECIATION DAY

APRIL 13

Thank a line tech!



#Thankalineman - a **BIG** shout out to the line techs and operations at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District:
Journeyman - Marc Ahlers (*SCADA Field Tech*), Grady Bellingtier, Chris Bentley, Patrick Hintz (*Staking Eng. Tech.*), Jeremy Holecek, Kyle Kester, Ryan Kittelson (*Safety Director*), Jason Lyon (*Foreman*), Eric Scranton (*Foreman*), Dominic Smedra, Jared Suckstorf, Chris Tillotson, Jim Wennekamp (*Staking /Meter Tech*) and Travis Wiebelhaus (*Foreman*); **Apprentices** - Coltin Bauer, Taylor Cappel, Dawson Kaup, Carter Lammers, Quinton Ries, and Zane Stoike, and to **General Foremen** - Dan Belt and Andy Starman and **Operations Manger** - Todd Knutson.



206 N 4TH ST
PO Box 310
Battle Creek, NE
68715

Office Hours: M - F
8:00AM - 4:30 PM



General Manager:
Mark Johnson
CFO/Office Manager:
Carmen Christensen
Operations Manager:
Todd Knutson

Connect with us Online:



WWW.ERPPD.COM



SCAN ME

Customer Service: 402-675-2185
For Outages: 1-800-675-2185

Board of Directors

Subdivision I

- Dennis Kuchar, Treasurer
- Hunter Frisch, Director
- James Geyer, Director

Subdivision II

- Tim Means, Secretary
- Jerrell Dolesh, Director
- Rod Zohner, Director

Subdivision III

- Joe Thiele, President
- David Hoefler, Director
- Raymond Payne, Vice President