



***Solutions for the Future***

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**Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative, Inc.  
24<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.  
Dillingham Elementary School Gymnasium  
In Person & Virtual**

**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Board President Peter Andrew called the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENTATION OF FLAGS**

The American Heritage Girls presented the Flags for the United States of America and the State of Alaska, then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GUESTS & CEO/GM**

Board President Peter Andrew introduced the Board of Directors, Guests, and the CEO/GM to the membership.

Pete Andrew, President	Present
Henry Strub, Vice President	Present
Annie Fritze, Secretary	Absent
James Hall, Treasurer	Present
Wanda Wahl, Director	Present
Sue Flensburg, Director	Present
Bruce Baltar, Director	Present
Jean Barrett, Director	Present
Mark Lisac, Director	Present

William Chaney, CEO/GM	Present
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Crystal Enkvist, Guest Alaska Power Association (APA) Executive Director

## **INTRODUCTION OF EMPLOYEES**

William Chaney, CEO/GM, introduced employees: Nathan Suttles, John Gleason, Bradon Stumpner, Tyler Eveslage, Jon Taylor, Kevin McCambly, Chris Williams, Michael Timmerman, Ryan Savo, La'akea Chu, Christian Olson, Axel Holmberg, Deon Lopez, Heather Savo, Angela Thames, Heidi Savo, Chrissie Greene, and Angela Lopez.

Mr. Andrew recognized and thanked past board members who were in attendance: Nick Wahl, Norman Heyano, and also recognized Mr. Timmerman's father, Jim Timmerman.

## **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Board Member Wanda Wahl read the Certification & Determination of Quorum. She reported that at least 50 members, or 3% of the members, whichever shall be larger, as required per Article III, Section 5, "Quorum," of the Cooperative's bylaws, participated in the Annual Meeting: a total of **80** members had registered at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting of Nushagak Electric & Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

## **CERTIFICATION OF NOTICE OF MEETING**

Board Member Wanda Wahl read the Certification of the Notice of Meeting and declared that proper notice had been given to the membership.

## **READING/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Board President Pete Andrew asked for a motion to approve minutes of the 2024 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Membership Meeting. William Johnson motioned, and John Marx seconded the motion to approve the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Membership Meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.

## **CEO/GM Report:**

Mr. Chaney started by reciting the Cooperative's Mission Statement, "*We exist to serve our members in a cooperative spirit, providing competitive, reliable and safe services at cost consistent with sound management. We will continually evaluate the needs of our members and take an active role in development of opportunities advantageous to our members.*"

Mr. Chaney highlighted the last sentence within the Mission Statement, noting that this is exactly what Nushagak is doing by continuing to work on the Akuluraq Fiber Middle Mile Project and the Nuyakuk River Hydroelectric Concept.

Mr. Chaney went on to explain the Seven Cooperative Principles and how NETC incorporates them in the day-to-day operations: Open and Voluntary Membership, Democratic Member Control, Members' Economic Participation, Autonomy and Independence, Education, Training and Information, Cooperation Among Cooperatives, and Concern for Community.

Electric, Division 1 Update:

- Purchase, transport, store, and convert the 1.2 million gallons of diesel into electricity.
- Deliver it over the ~100 miles of distribution lines in our community.
- Maintain adequate stock and equipment for all of it
- Maintain staff to interface with members, generate service orders, and track work
- Conduct the accounting and billing for the operation
- Maintain a team to oversee the operations 24/7/365

Telecommunications, Division 2 Update:

- One of the fastest-changing industries we work in
- Maintain telecom carrier equipment in the Central Office
- Maintain all outside plant (distribution system), both overhead and underground in all four of our service communities, and presently two remote microwave sites
- Maintain internal networks for members in homes and businesses
- Maintain stock of material and equipment to keep the copper, fiber, and microwave networks running
- Maintain staff to interface with members, generate service orders, and track work
- Conduct the accounting and billing for the operation

Internet, Division 3 Update:

- Internet, the other rapidly changing utility we provide
- Hybrid microwave, copper, fiber delivery network
- Both overhead and underground plant, as well as the Microwave sites, one remote mountaintop, helicopter, and snowmachine access
- In partnership with Curyung Tribe and Choggiung Limited, Division 3 is responsible for the very first physical connection to the outside world for our community through the Akuluraq Fiber Middle Mile Project (more on this in a minute)
- Maintain staff to interface with members, generate service orders and track work
- Conduct the accounting and billing for the operation
- The goal is to transition to a complete fiber-to-the-home network in the future

Nuyakuk Hydroelectric Concept Update:

- <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/elibrary/search> - Search Docket P-14873
- Nuyakuk Hydro began in 2017
- Run-of-the-river, no dam Hydro project
- Possibility to displace up to 1.5 million gallons of diesel fuel in our region and reduce the transportation of that fuel on our rivers and bays
- Create a level of energy security that would last for generations, and could remove the majority of our fuel purchases

- Create a transmission system in our region that could both offset many small scattered tank farms, and allow for other supplemental renewable connections throughout our region
- Incentivize onshore fish processing and industry through lower rates
- Make electric heating a possibility in our homes and businesses
- Reduce or at times, eliminate fossil fuel emissions from present energy production

Mr. Chaney took the time to address some concerns:

- “It will decimate the fishery.” The FERC study will weigh in on this, and if that were the case, we would not be pursuing this concept
- “The transmission corridor will affect the migratory routes and open access to the lands.” Transmission lines cross many miles of this state and others, as does the pipeline. There are already tripod trails and roads connecting communities being discussed.
- “It will ruin our subsistence way of life.” It should actually improve the subsistence way of life by helping to sustain an active young population to participate and make more money available for it.
- “It will destroy habitat for the animals.” Though it is a development, it would be a relatively short construction period, ~2-3 years, and then would simply exist at the falls and across the landscape.
- **National Marine Fisheries Service** – “It is clear to us that the Cooperative values their fisheries resource and strives to make the best possible decision concerning this potential hydroelectric development. The Cooperative overcame significant difficulties and costs to produce the data for the studies under adverse conditions at a remote location. We urge the Cooperative to view our comments as constructive and use them to prepare the best possible draft license application.”
- **United States of Fish and Wildlife** – “The Service appreciates the Cooperative’s extensive work to understand the potential impacts of the proposed project on fish and wildlife resources, and on the people who rely on those resources. We also appreciate the Cooperative’s efforts to address our concerns on the Initial Study Report (ISR, filed December 1, 2023; Service comments filed February 20, 2023), including their increased efforts and modified methods to capture Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), tagging efforts to understand migration patterns, and efforts to assess the diet and distribution of native piscivores.”

Where we are in the process:

- Two-year FERC field studies were completed in 2023 and 2024
- Interim Study report in December of 2023
- Updated Study report in December of 2024
- The extended comment period closed as of March 21<sup>st</sup>, and comment responses are being drafted
- FERC is expected to have a determination by mid-May
- If the Coop decides to pursue a license, a Draft License Application will be submitted late 2025, which will have another 90-day comment period, followed by a final license application 45-60 days later.

24<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting Minutes  
April 8, 2025

- That Final license application will be reviewed by FERC and be followed by their determination.

Akukuraq Middle Mile Update:

- Akuluraq: channel connecting lakes or other bodies of water
- Created the partnership between Curyung Tribal, Choggiung Limited, and Nushagak Cooperative, who collectively recognized the importance of being effectively connected in today's and, more importantly, tomorrow's world.
- Fiber optic connection completed between Levelock and Dillingham through Ekwok and Aleknagik
- Provide a reliable, resilient connection to the outside world that is not affected by weather or other atmospheric events.
- Provides a foundation to continue connecting surrounding communities on a high-speed fiber network
- Bethel Native Corporation has already taken this step, connecting 13 more communities with a subsea fiber lay from Dillingham to Bethel.

Akuluraq Progress:

- Alaska Directional has completed the construction from our CO to the Kanakanak, as well as from the CO to Levelock connecting our communities
- Transport equipment is installed in huts in all three communities and are being stood up
- We will be reviewing the project redlines this week with Alaska Directional
- Conducting the walk-through and reviewing punch list items along the project route
- There is some clean-up work in Ekwok and Levelock that should be completed this week and next, and the construction will be complete
- Biggest item left is the package pricing, once operational we are ready to provide fiber to the home broadband to ~90 homes from Aleknagik to Waskey and will continue to work to replace our Coaxial network throughout Dillingham with Fiber to the home as well.
- The microwave network will remain in place for up to 24 months before we can mothball that system

In closing, Mr. Chaney reported that NETC continues to rely on a very dedicated staff that manages a broad range of responsibilities to effectively carry out their duties. As a nonprofit cooperative, the organization faces many of the same challenges and external factors affecting the broader community and its members. The Board of Directors remains an all-volunteer body with no stipends or meeting compensation, and is consistently engaged; Mr. Chaney expressed appreciation for the Board's demonstrated commitment and dedication. It was further noted that ongoing and significant changes at the local, regional, state, national, and global levels continue to influence operations. In response, the Cooperative is taking steps to ensure its continued ability to operate effectively and serve the membership meaningfully. Additionally, it was noted that at least eight positions are currently open on the Cooperative's website. As an Equal Opportunity Employer, the Cooperative encourages qualified individuals interested in establishing a long-term career in Dillingham to apply or be referred.

## **INVOCATION**

Simon Flynn with the Dillingham Moravian Church provided an invocation.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Scott Runzo with the Dillingham Emergency Medical Services (DEMS) & Dillingham Volunteer Fire Department (DVFD) recognized Norman “Koolie” Heyano as being a recipient of the First Lady’s Volunteer of the Year Award by the First Lady of Alaska, Rose Dunleavy. Mr. Runzo went on to report that DEMS/DVFD answered 200 EMS calls and 22 fire calls and continued to participate in school programs and training. The volunteer crew increased to 21 individuals. Mr. Runzo presented Mr. John Marx with the Koolie Award.

Crystal Enkvist, Executive Director of Alaska Power Association (APA), explained that APA also has a Mission Statement, that it’s governed by a Board, and follows many of the same principles that a Cooperative does. Ms. Enkvist went on to explain how APA supports the Cooperative by providing a forum for information sharing and collaboration, sharing funding opportunities, providing information on matters of importance to the utility industry, offering training opportunities, and advocating on issues impacting electric utilities and their consumers. Ms. Enkvist also noted that Vice President Henry Strub and CEO/GM Will Chaney are quite active in the Association, serving in leadership roles on various boards and committees. Ms. Enkvist gave an update on the current issues that APA has been focusing on, specifically, fully funding the Renewable Energy Fund and supporting the preservation of the Power Cost Equalization Endowment.

The BBNA Forestry Department was scheduled to give a presentation on Wildland Fire Prevention; however, the speaker was not in attendance, so NETC CEO/GM, Will Chaney, shared a few facts about some of the recent fires in the region and encouraged members to pick up and read the brochure that is available at on the of the tables in the back of the room. Mr. Chaney reminded members to call the local Fire Department immediately if they see any potential dangers.

Michael Timmerman, Telecom Operations Manager, gave a presentation on Internet Safety and Phishing. You can find the online video that was presented at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBkzBrXlle0>. An internet safety flyer was also available. Mr. Timmerman encouraged members to call if they have any questions.

## **SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board Director and Scholarship Committee Member Jean Barrett introduced the Scholarship Committee members and announced the 2024 scholarship award recipients as follows:

24<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting Minutes  
April 8, 2025

MEMBERS

Annie Fritze, NETC  
Jean Barrett, NETC  
Laticia Swift, City of Dillingham  
Serena McArthur, BBNA  
Megan McCambly, DCSD

AMOUNT AWARDED

\$19,000.00

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

17

ACADEMIC

\$1,500 Ellie Hink  
\$1,500 Torin Schroeder  
\$1,500 Jonas Tweet  
\$1,500 David Wetter  
\$1,500 Luke Wulvik  
\$1,000 Ryan Berkoski  
\$1,000 Demetry Hoseth  
\$1,000 Charlene Lopez  
\$1,000 Angelica Marx  
\$ 500 Tierra Johnson  
\$ 500 Kaylee Lopez

VOCATIONAL

\$1,500 Nikolena Wulvik  
\$1,000 Kiley Clouse  
\$1,000 Livia Cruikshank  
\$1,000 Austin Finkenbinder  
\$1,000 Katrena Finkenbinder  
\$1,000 Charlene Savo

In 2021, a Scholarship in memory of Dr. Radenbaugh was established in conjunction with the regular Nushagak Cooperative Scholarship. The Dr. Todd Radenbaugh Scholarship award would be \$500 and recognized as a supplemental scholarship to a student who addresses through the essay how their field of study would benefit and/or contribute to improving the environment.

DR. TODD RADENBAUGH SCHOLARSHIP

Not Awarded

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Board President Peter Andrew expressed appreciation to Mr. Chaney and Nushagak employees for their continued service to the Cooperative's members, noting that despite a small workforce, essential services remain consistent. The importance of hiring and training local employees to support community sustainability was emphasized.

Mr. Andrew also acknowledged the Board of Directors for its diversity and commitment to representing the member-owners. It was reaffirmed that all Board actions are guided by the Cooperative's mission to provide competitive, reliable, and safe services at cost, consistent with sound management.

It was noted that rising energy costs continue to present significant challenges across Alaska. The Board remains engaged with State and Federal partners to identify self-sustaining energy solutions, recognizing that affordable energy is essential for both economic development and basic household needs.

An update was provided on alternative energy studies at Nuyakuk Falls. It was reported that over the past seven years, comprehensive studies with State and Federal agencies have indicated potential for long-term, affordable energy. Mr. Andrew confirmed that no hydroelectric development will proceed if studies demonstrate harm to natural resources.

Mr. Andrew emphasized the importance of regional collaboration, citing Nushagak, Choggiung LTD, and the Curyung Tribe as an example of a successful partnership. Aleknagik and Dillingham were identified as the first communities to receive fiber service, with the project noted as a demonstration of how cooperation can secure Federal funding and improve affordability and quality of life in the region. Mr. Andrew concluded his report by expressing appreciation to Choggiung LTD and the Curyung Tribe for their support.

Mr. Andrew concluded his report by reminding those in attendance that this board consists of volunteers, that Nushagak Cooperative is a not-for-profit business, and that sustainability is at the forefront. Mr. Andrew thanked the membership and encouraged them to contact him or any of the other board members with their questions.

## **DIRECTORY COVER PRESENTATION**

Chrissie Messer and Heidi Savo presented the 2025 Directory Cover Photo Contest front cover winner, Michael Timmerman, with a 16 x 24 framed version of his submission titled *Clarks Point*. Mr. Timmerman's submission, *Camping*, was the back cover winner, and he received a framed 8 x 10 print.

## **DOOR PRIZE DRAWING #1**

- Blink Outdoor 4 5-Camera Wireless Security System: St. Seraphim of Sarov
- Bella Pro – 12.6 qt Touchscreen Air Fryer/Pizza Oven: Teresita Tanaka
- Nintendo Switch: Henry Strub
- Fitbit Versa 4 Fitness Smartwatch: Amelia Alarcon
- HP 15.6" Touch-Screen Laptop: Eva Leveque

## **INTRODUCTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Board Vice President Henry Strub read the minutes of the January 31, 2025, Nominating Committee Meeting, introducing and thanking the committee members: Jeanie Timmerman, Evelyn Larson, Bristy Larsen, Alice Ruby, and Jeanie Layland.

## **INTRODUCTION OF THE CANDIDATES**

Board President Pete Andrew introduced the candidates and gave each of them a chance to speak to the members of the Cooperative. The candidates were: Bruce Baltar (Incumbent), Sue Flensburg (Incumbent), Wanda Wahl (Incumbent), and Cade Woods.

## **15 MINUTE INTERMISSION**

## **CALL FOR BALLOTS**

## **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP**

Q: Janelle Tolbridge: Once the microwave towers are decommissioned and the network operates exclusively on fiber infrastructure, is there a contingency plan to address a potential fiber break?

Will Chaney: After the fiber system becomes operational, the microwave towers will be maintained in standby mode for a period of 12–24 months. The fiber infrastructure incorporates a ring-based design to ensure redundancy, and as fiber connectivity expands to additional locations, additional rings are created, enhancing overall network resiliency.

Q: Walter Golia: How does an individual become a member of Nushagak Cooperative?

Will Chaney: A member is someone who has active service in their name: electric, landline telephone, or internet.

C: Dan Dunnaway praised Mark Lisac's slideshow presentation, which he had previously viewed at other meetings. He specifically highlighted the detailed content and the effective use of 3D visuals and expressed his appreciation for the extensive research and presentation efforts conducted in support of the Nuyakuk Hydro Concept.

Hearing no additional questions or comments from the membership, Mr. Chaney provided further remarks on the Nuyakuk Hydro Concept, specifically addressing the Nuyakuk River's water flow. Board Member Mark Lisac presented historical data from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) illustrating the water volume necessary to generate adequate power, including during peak fish processing operations. The data shown on the screen indicated that the projected water usage falls below the 30 percent generation threshold approved by FERC and DNR. Mr. Lisac further elaborated that harnessing energy from water flow would reduce reliance on diesel fuel, thereby reducing associated expenses.

Q: Janelle Towbridge: In years with low water flow, would the 30 percent allocation limit be reached?

Mr. Lisac provided a response while off-screen and not speaking into the microphone. Inaudible.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

No unfinished business at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business at this time.

### **INTRODUCTION AND REPORT OF CREDENTIALS & ELECTION COMMITTEE**

Marilyn Rosene, Committee Chair, read the voting results aloud as follows:

The voting results were read aloud as follows:

	<u>Mail-in Ballots</u>	<u>Cast at Meeting</u>	<u>Final Ballot</u>
<b>Tally</b>			
Total Ballots Received	205	52	257
Total Ballots Invalid	4	0	4
Total Ballots Counted for Votes	201	52	253

Total invalid ballots: 4

#### **Directors**

Bruce Baltar	149 votes
Sue Flensburg	155 votes
Wanda Wahl	203 votes
Cade Woods	155 votes

**Election Results:** Sue Flensburg, Incumbent, Wanda Wahl, Incumbent, and Cade Woods were elected for a three-year term ending in 2028.

**DOOR PRIZE DRAWING #2**

- \$100 Gift Card, donated by APA: Ian Fo
- Kitchen Aid – Classic Series: Lee & Jania Stephen
- Bose QuietComfort Headphones: Denise Gregoire
- Nex Playground: Nick & Diana Schollmeier
- Ninja Espresso & Coffee Barista System: Janelle Towbridge
- Round Trip Ticket DLG/ANC: Nina Johnson

**ADJOURNMENT**

Dan Dunnaway motioned, and Robyn Chaney seconded the motion to adjourn. With no further business to come before the board, Board President Pete Andrew adjourned the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting. The time was 9:38 pm.

**OUT-OF-TOWN DOOR PRIZE DRAWING**

- \$200 Gift Card – Perry & Michelle Abrams
- \$200 Gift Card – John & Christine O'Connor
- \$100 Gift Card – Raymond Franklin
- \$100 Gift Card – Haans & Denisa Nicholson

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angela Lopez, Human Resources Generalist/Executive Secretary 4/08/2026  
Date

**Approved By:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Annie Fritze, Board Secretary 4/8/2026  
Date

