Nushagak COOPERATIVE

Solutions for the Future
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Board of Directors Regular Scheduled Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
800 Kenny Wren Road
Nushagak Cooperative Conference Room

MINUTES

Call to Order: Board Vice President Mark Lisac called the Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting to order on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, in the Nushagak Cooperative Board Room. The time was 5:59 p.m.

Directors Present: Mark Lisac, Vice President
Wanda Wahl, Treasurer
Henry Strub, Director
Chris Napoli, Director
Sue Flensburg, Director <Zoom; exit at 7:43 pm>
Cade Woods, Director <exit at 7:51 pm>
Kyle Hardin, Director

(Quorum Established)

Directors Absent: Pete Andrew, President
Annie Fritze, Secretary

Staff Present: Will Chaney, CEO/GM
Deon Lopez, Comptroller
Michael Timmerman, Telecom Operations Manager
Angela Thames, Business Office Manager
Angela Lopez, Executive Secretary/HR Generalist

Guests: Chris Hladick, Chris Hladick Consulting
Ben Hladick

Approval of Agenda: Chris Napoli motioned, and Wanda Wahl seconded the motion to approve the September 15, 2026, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Agenda with the following additions:

V. Introduction of Guests and Member Comments
A. Chris Hladick & Ben Hladick, Chris Hladick Consulting – Presentation on Claude Ai.

VI. Reports
F. Budget Committee Report

VIII. Discussion/Review Items:
A. ETIPP Poster

The motion carried 7-0

Approval of Minutes: Chirs Napoli motioned, and Kyle Hardin seconded the motion to approve the August 18, 2026, Regular Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes as submitted.

The motion carried 7-0

Guests and Member Comments: Chris Hladick & Ben Hladick, Chris Hladick Consulting – Presentation on Claude Ai.

Ben Hladick presented an AI-driven economic modeling tool developed using Claude Code by Anthropic. The tool was built in a matter of days by aggregating publicly available data — including DLA reports, PCE filings, and other public documents — to model rate scenarios for the Nushagak hydroelectric project.

ACTION ITEM: After some discussion, Chris Napoli motioned, and Wanda Wahl seconded the motion to direct Will Chaney to work with Chris Hladick and Ben Hladick to develop a formal proposal or agreement for the AI tool.

The motion carried 7-0

A live, tuned presentation of the model will be brought back to the board at a future meeting.

Reports:

A. **Will Chaney, CEO/GM** – Mr. Lisac inquired about the cooperative's purchase of heating fuel from Vitus Energy rather than utilizing its own fuel supply. Mr. Chaney explained that the cooperative's fuel inventory can be used for both vehicles and building heat; however, Vitus Energy was engaged when the supplemental heating was disconnected from the main office. Mr. Chaney further reported that efforts are underway to reconnect the supplemental heat system to the main office, which is expected to reduce the need for purchased heating fuel in the future.

Mr. Hardin highlighted an update on the Nuyakuk Town Hall, including revisions to the date, time, and location. Mr. Chaney reported that the event was rescheduled to the morning of October 1 to maximize attendance by Sustainability Summit participants who remained in town prior to departure. The original timing conflicted with a September 28 evening event featuring Tim Troll, Bob King, and Robin Samuelson. Additional discussion focused on event logistics, presentations, and matters related to the UTBB Sustainability Summit.

Ms. Wahl requested an update on the Wage Study and Rate Study. Ms. Lopez reported that Nushagak Cooperative has engaged Intandem Consultants to conduct a wage and compensation study, with an estimated completion timeline of 60 to 90 days. The goal is to finalize the study prior to the 2027 budget cycle. Mr. Chaney reported that he has contacted Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) regarding a rate study, which is available to member cooperatives at no cost. Previous efforts to schedule the study over the past 18 to 24 months have been unsuccessful, and no response has been received from the most recent outreach. Mr. Chaney will follow up with CFC and provide an update to the Board.

Mr. Lisac inquired about the incident at the City T-Dock referenced in Mr. Chaney's report. Mr. Chaney explained that the bull rail timbers at the dock, where the Cooperative's 6-inch Schedule 80 fuel cargo line is located, are in significant disrepair due to rot and displacement caused by stacked equipment flats. He reported that a visual inspection and pressure test were conducted and confirmed no spill, sheen, or displacement of the fuel line. Fuel transfer operations were successfully completed following the inspection. Mr. Chaney further reported that the City Manager had been notified of the issue and that the Cooperative will review its agreement with the City to clarify dock maintenance responsibilities.

In response to Mr. Lisac's request for an update regarding the 2-megawatt battery energy storage system (BESS) Agreement with Choggiung, Mr. Chaney explained that a draft land use agreement is under review for the installation. The agreement outlines operational responsibilities, with the Cooperative retaining control of all primary-voltage equipment and Choggiung responsible for low-voltage components. Maintenance obligations and final equipment ownership boundaries remain under review and are being finalized.

B. **Michael Timmerman, Telecom Operations Manager** – Mr. Lisac inquired about the dig-in incident in Manokotak. Mr. Timmerman reported that a contractor who was working for the City of Manokotak dug without requesting a utility locate, struck a line, and continued digging. Nushagak's technicians responded and repaired the lines; the contractor was responsible for the cost of the repair.

Michael reported that errors identified in the CostQuest broadband service location maps may create an opportunity for additional Dillingham-area locations to become eligible under a reopened BEAD funding round. The cooperative is working with the Alaska Broadband Office to review service location data, identify eligible locations, and separate unreachable Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs).

C. **Electric Operations Manager (vacant)** – No questions at this time.

D. **Deon Lopez, Comptroller** – Mr. Lopez reported that he and Ms. Thames received fraudulent phone calls from individuals claiming to represent Wells Fargo's fraud department and seeking access to account information. He advised board members and authorized check signers to disregard unsolicited calls or emails from Wells Fargo and to direct any such communications to the Cooperative's office for verification. Mr. Lopez further noted that Wells Fargo subsequently issued a customer alert regarding similar scam attempts.

E. **Angela Thames, Business Office Manager** – No questions at this time.

F. **Budget Committee** – Ms. Wahl requested that the Budget Committee be included as a standing agenda item to provide ongoing updates regarding committee recommendations. She also requested the formation of additional committees, including the Policy Committee, Marketing Committee, and Recruitment and Retention Committee, and encouraged board members to consider volunteering for committee assignments.

   Mr. Lopez reported that draft 2027 budget worksheets had been distributed to department managers, with a submission deadline of September 30.

Safety Moment: Back to School Road Safety was self-read.

Discussion/Review:

A. **ETIPP Poster** – Mr. Lisac shared a project information poster developed through the ETIPP program which explains the involvement of Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in the Nushagak hydroelectric project and includes a QR code linking to a community survey. Ms. Wahl noted that the QR code may direct users to an outdated version of the survey that did not include a list of organizations in one of the questions. Staff will post the survey link on social media and community platforms, and the poster and survey materials will be featured at the Sustainability Summit vendor table.

B. **General Board Discussion** – None at this time.

C. **General CEO Discussion** – Mr. Chaney reported that the Cooperative submitted a Round 19 Renewable Energy Fund grant application requesting approximately $1.2 million to support permitting and design activities for the hydroelectric project. The application was prepared in partnership with the Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy's grant writing team. Mr. Chaney noted that the funding cap may be limited to $1 million and that awards are competitive and may be granted at less than the requested amount. He further reported that Choggiung submitted a separate Round 19 application for a battery and solar project, making both proposals competitive within the same funding cycle. NETC's application has been submitted, and the Cooperative is awaiting review and funding determinations from the Alaska Energy Authority.

Mr. Chaney informed the board that he registered for the Rural Energy Conference in Fairbanks, October 27–29, with pre-conference on the 26th and post-conference on the 30th.

Patronage capital statements were mailed to members September 15, 2026.

Mr. Chaney reported that the Akuluraq Middle Mile Project was honored with the Broadband Project of the Year award at a conference in Houston, Texas. The project was submitted by Meridian and received the award over other nominees, including ACS. Mr. Chaney noted that this is the second industry award received by the project.

Action Items:

A. **Approve 2027 Medical & Non-Medical NRECA Benefits**. The Board discussed the projected costs of the 2027 NRECA medical and non-medical benefits programs, acknowledging the increase necessary to maintain current benefits and coverage. No changes to the existing benefits package were recommended.

Director Items:

A. Future Board Items/New Business – None at this time.

B. Unfinished Business – None at this time.

C. Future Meetings & Conference Dates:

1. UTBB Bristol Bay Sustainability Summit, Sept. 29 – 30, 2026, Dillingham, AK
2. APA 75th Annual Meeting, September 29 – October 2, 2026, Anchorage, AK
3. AK Rural Energy Conference, October 27 – 29, 2026, Fairbanks, AK
4. ATA Broadband Tech Showcase, Oct. 28 – 29, 2026, Anchorage, AK
5. ATA Winter Conference, Jan 24 – 27, 2027, Kona, HI
6. APA State Legislative Conference, Feb 3 – 4, 2027, Juneau, AK

Adjournment: Chris Napoli motioned, and Wanda Wahl seconded the motion to adjourn. With no further business to come before the board, Board Vice President Mark Lisac adjourned the September 15, 2026, Regular Scheduled Board of Directors Meeting. The time was 8:22 pm.

The motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Angela Lopez, Executive Secretary/HR Generalist — 10/20/2026 Date

Approved By:

Annie Fritze, Secretary — 10/20/2026 Date

NUSHAGAK ELECTRIC & TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC. CORPORATE SEAL ALASKA