

Approved 6/24/26

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

May 26, 2026

Pursuant to proper notice duly provided to all Directors, the regular meeting of the Directors of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC) was held May 26, 2026, at the Cooperative's 287 Highland Street Office in Plymouth, NH.

Directors present were William Darcy (Chair), Leo Dwyer Tom Mongeon, Jeff Morrill (Teams), Pat Barbour, Alana Albee, Jerry Stringham, Peter Laufenberg, Robert MacLeod, Harry Viens, and John Goodrich

Others present were Michael Jennings, President/CEO; Todd Fahey, Attorney; Kristen Taylor, Chief Financial Officer; Ben Doyle, Chief Administrative Officer; Josh Holbrook, Chief Broadband Officer; Josh Mazzei, Chief Operating Officer, and Maida Lessard, Executive Services Administrator (recording).

Chair Darcy called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

He asked for any changes to the agenda and there were none.

He asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

Upon motion of Mr. MacLeod, seconded by Mr. Goodrich, it was

VOTED That the Board of Directors approve the Board of Directors Meeting minutes of April 21, 2026 and expense reports as presented in the meeting packet.

Vote for the motion was unanimous.

Chairman's Report

In response to a question raised at the prior meeting by Mr. Stringham regarding NHEC's position on balcony or plug-in solar, he and Mr. Jennings reviewed the matter and supported the legislation. The bill subsequently passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 293-43 and later passed the Senate unanimously. It was stated that the bill was awaiting action by the Governor and that, based on inquiry to lobbyists, no significant concerns from the Governor had been identified.

As Mr. Jennings referenced in his report, there is a House Bill 221, noting that it included several provisions, including changes to net metering and authorization for utilities to purchase nuclear generation. It was reported that the Governor vetoed the bill, but that her veto message

referenced another bill still in conference committee containing many of the same provisions, leaving open the possibility that those policy elements could advance through other legislation. The Governor's primary concern appeared to involve expansion of net metering.

Chair Darcy reported that ISO New England had issued its updated forecast for capacity, energy loads, and transmission for 2026–2035 and had revised projected load growth downward from prior expectations. The explanation offered was that changing government policy and lower-than-expected adoption of certain electrification technologies, specifically heat pumps and electric vehicles were reducing forecasted growth relative to earlier assumptions.

Mr. Dwyer asked if they have published the new rules for the capacity market and how it will be calculated.

Mr. Jennings stated that updated cost impacts and the final methodology for the capacity market had not yet been released, although procedural outlines had been shared.

Officer Election – Preliminary Statements of Intention

The Board then reviewed preliminary expressions of interest for upcoming officer elections, proceeding by officer in the order listed on the website.

Chair

Chair Darcy stated an intention to run again for Chair. No other formal candidate expressed an intention to contest the position, although Ms. Albee indicated a willingness to be considered if the incumbent were not re-elected.

Vice Chair

Ms. Albee indicated a willingness to continue serving as Vice Chair but also stated she would be equally comfortable if another Board member wished to serve. Discussion followed informally regarding succession if the Chair position were to become vacant.

Secretary

Mr. Morrill confirmed that he intended to run again for Secretary. No competing interest was expressed.

Treasurer / Assistant Treasurer

Mr. Stringham indicated willingness to continue stepping up to be Treasurer. Mr. Dwyer voiced interest in the Assistant Treasurer if no one else pursued the position.

Board Committees

Strategic Planning Committee

Chair Darcy asked for a motion to approve the April 16, 2026 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting minutes.

Upon motion of Mr. Mongeon, seconded by Ms. Albee, it was

VOTED That the Board of Directors approve the April 16, 2026 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting minutes as presented in the meeting packet.

Vote for the motion was unanimous.

Ms. Albee clarified a point reflected in the April minutes regarding the strategic broadband update. She stated that although the public minutes suggested that the broadband strategic update would come before the full Board, Mr. Jennings had subsequently informed her that the matter would instead be reviewed by the Strategic Planning Committee. She also reported that a Doodle poll had been sent for the first week of June at which time the materials would be ready for committee review.

Mr. Dwyer requested some time on the agenda to discuss rates.

Chair Darcy agreed to add it to the end of the agenda.

E&O Committee

Mr. Mongeon asked for a motion to approve the April 7, 2026 E&O Committee Meeting minutes.

Upon motion of Mr. Goodrich, seconded by Mr. Morrill, it was

VOTED That the Board of Directors approve the April 7, 2026 E&O Committee Meeting minutes as presented in the meeting packet.

Vote for the motion was unanimous.

Audit Committee

Chair Darcy identified a correction to the April 17, 2026 draft minutes on page 2, lines 11–12. The minutes had stated that a loss position resulted because profit from broadband was treated as a liability rather than a profit. He clarified that the phrase should have referred to the electric business, not the broadband business. With that noted correction, he asked for a motion to approve

the amended Audit Committee Meeting minutes on April 17, 2026.

Upon motion of Mr. Stringham, seconded by Mr. Mongeon, it was

VOTED That the Board of Directors approve the amended April 17, 2026 Audit Committee Meeting minutes as presented in the meeting packet.

Vote for the motion was unanimous.

President/CEO Report

Mr. Jennings safety update focused on tick exposure. He cautioned that, in addition to Lyme disease and anaplasmosis, lone star ticks are now present in New Hampshire and can carry alpha-gal syndrome, which may cause a person to become allergic to meat. He advised proper removal using tweezers or a tick spoon and cautioned against methods such as burning or applying petroleum jelly, which could increase the risk of disease transmission. In response to Ms. Barbour's question, he confirmed that field employees are well equipped and trained, noting that the cooperative provides tick kits, tape for pants, lint rollers, and permethrin treatment. He also stated that tick-related incidents remain among the most commonly reported safety incidents.

He reported that strategic planning for the NHEC Foundation was underway and that Mr. Glenshaw was drafting a strategic plan for review by the Foundation Board. He also reported that a software vendor had been selected to automate both application intake and follow-up communications, thereby reducing administrative burden and improving post-award communication. He reminded the Board that the Annual Meeting would be held on June 16 and stated that the funding goal for the event was nearly met, with approximately \$2,000 remaining to be raised.

He drew attention to the dashboard and stated that the organization continued to perform very well year to date in safety, financial results, and reliability, with the only notable exception being TIER, which he indicated was expected.

He asked for a motion to approve the voting delegates for CFC and NCSC that has the same delegates as appointed last year.

Upon motion of Mr. Laufenberg, seconded by Mr. Mongeon, it was

VOTED That the Board of Directors appoint Michael Jennings as NHEC's voting delegate and Kristen Taylor as alternate voting delegate for the 2026 CFC and NCSC Annual Meetings.

Vote for the motion was unanimous.

Chair Darcy questioned a statement in the CEO report indicating that March and April were warmer than normal while residential kWh sales were 5% greater than budget.

Mr. Jennings clarified that revenue and usage were running above weather-normalized budget projections. He explained that, regardless of average temperatures, meter usage had exceeded expectations and that both heating degree days and cooling degree days are tracked in relation to heat pump and air conditioning use. He also noted that last year's budget process had reduced revenue assumptions and suggested that this may warrant reconsideration in the next budget cycle.

Mr. Goodrich asked what portion of our members currently have heat pumps.

Mr. Jennings stated that NHEC's heat pump program is one of the strongest nationally and performs especially well compared to other New Hampshire utilities. He did not have immediate data on the share of members using heat pumps but said that information could be obtained.

Mr. Mongeon asked what the cost of the software was for the Foundation.

Mr. Jennings will obtain the exact cost.

Ms. Albee asked whether any Board members objected to the Foundation Board reconsidering its current practice of not paying travel allowances to Foundation trustees and community members serving on the Foundation Board. She stated that she intended to propose at the next Foundation meeting that travel allowances be provided, even though service would remain voluntary and unpaid. Her stated rationale was that reimbursement for travel could broaden the pool of interested participants and encourage greater geographic representation.

Chair Darcy observed that past grant distribution patterns have tended to center geographically around where Foundation Board members are located, and that broader geographic representation could improve awareness of and access to Foundation grants in areas such as the North Country and Sullivan County. It was also clarified that Foundation trustees are not paid a stipend and that a remote option exists for meetings, although in-person attendance has been preferred.

NRECA Conference

Chair Darcy introduced excerpts from videos associated with the legislative meeting and conference, using them as the basis for commentary on NRECA's approach to government relations and electric reliability advocacy.

Chair Darcy summarized that NRECA focuses on the core interests of its members, as established through democratically adopted resolutions, and does so in a way that is regarded as reliable, accurate, and nonpartisan by congressional committees and regulatory staff. The Chair stated his hope that NHEC's own legislative program would mirror that approach by dealing consistently with both Democrats and Republicans and by maintaining stable positions tied to member interests rather than party control.

He reported that four principal federal issues were emphasized at the conference for discussion with lawmakers:

1. Rural Utility Service loans
2. FEMA reform
3. Permitting reform
4. Wildfire mitigation and grid resiliency

He noted that, although wildfire mitigation may appear more relevant to western states, parts of the proposal relating to transmission lines crossing federal lands and national forests are directly relevant to NHEC. He explained that streamlining federal approvals for transmission repairs and improvements on national forest lands would be beneficial.

Mr. Goodrich added that certainty and timeliness in the permitting process are important and noted, from his own industry experience, that the fragility of the electric grid and underinvestment in infrastructure had been apparent for decades.

A second video segment focused on the reliability challenge created by growing electric demand from electrification, electric vehicles, manufacturing, and AI, while supply and permitting processes lag behind. The Chair highlighted permitting reform as a bipartisan issue because all forms of generation and transmission require timely and predictable approvals.

Mr. Dwyer noted that the current administration had also halted a number of previously approved renewable projects, underscoring that uncertainty affects multiple resource types.

Net Metering/Rates Discussion

Mr. Dwyer stated that he had reviewed NHEC's net metering structure and compared it with those used by Eversource and other New Hampshire utilities. He explained that NHEC uses a structure under which only portions of rate components are credited for exported energy, while other utilities use different crediting methods. He stated that, if the Eversource pricing matrix were applied, the compensation to a member for exported energy would be approximately 30% higher.

More significantly, he stated that Eversource calculates net exports on a monthly net basis, whereas NHEC's advanced metering infrastructure allows imports and exports to be measured on a more granular basis. He contended that this methodological difference creates a substantial impact on the value received by members with solar systems. He also noted that it is more difficult under NHEC's approach for installers or members to estimate anticipated savings, because hourly data is needed to model the interaction between production and consumption.

Mr. Dwyer recommended that before the Board sets the next rates, it should review how NHEC's methodology compares with that of investor-owned utilities and consider whether the cooperative wishes to align more closely with those approaches. He noted that he would like to see a comparison for a year between someone who is on our methodology and someone who is on the other methodology using our rack rates for electrical base rate for electricity.

Chair Darcy responded that a presentation of this complexity should be directed to the appropriate committee, supported by advance materials, rather than introduced for the first time in public session.

Ms. Albee commented that Mr. Dwyer's observations may help explain why some solar installers hesitate to give firm savings projections for NHEC members and suggested the topic deserves a deeper review through Budget, Finance, and Rates Committee.

Mr. Mongeon agreed that the subject has strategic implications and should be evaluated by the committee with staff input.

Mr. Jennings stated that management can provide the relevant data and that it's ultimately the Board's decision on how much it wishes to subsidize or not subsidize solar. He explained that NHEC's use of AMI data allows the cooperative to calculate more precisely the timing and value of solar production relative to system peaks. He acknowledged, however, that there are broader policy considerations and confirmed that staff would provide the data needed for Board review.

Mr. Stringham remarked that solar savings are often overstated in marketing materials.

Mr. Dwyer stated that a solar installation is effectively an appliance that contributes power back to the system and suggested that other forms of member behavior, such as very high cooling loads, also impose system costs without being separately segmented.

Mr. MacLeod stated that reducing the general member rate is more important than creating a niche incentive for renewable generation.

The Board did not take action on net metering during the public session. The matter was deferred for more structured review by the Budget, Finance, and Rates Committee and a final date for completion will be determined.

Board Tracking Report

Ms. Albee requested to take the item regarding herbicides off the tracking report as it has many years since we have not sprayed the area of concern.

Mr. Mongeon requested to add the TRP Risk Assessment item that was discussed at the E&O Committee meeting to the report with a July 2026 target date.

Chair Darcy asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss legal, litigation, broadband, personnel, and other confidential matters.

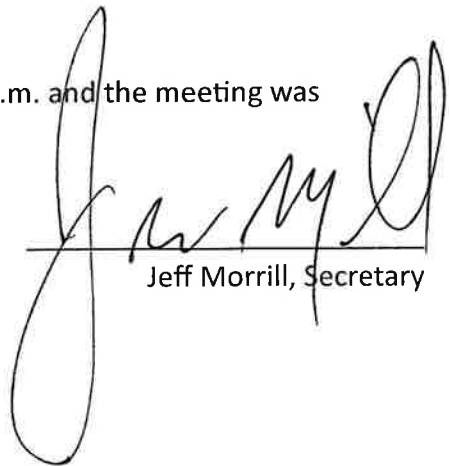
Upon motion of Mr. Mongeon, seconded by Mr. Laufenberg, it was

VOTED That the Board of Directors go into executive session for the purposes of discussion of legal, litigation, confidential broadband, and personnel matters.

Vote for the motion was unanimous.

The board went into executive session at 9:57 a.m.

The Board of Directors came out of executive session at 11:32 a.m. and the meeting was adjourned.



Jeff Morrill, Secretary

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

William R. Darcy, Chair of the Board