

P.O. Box 967, Pratt, KS 67124  
620-672-5538  
www.ninnescah.com



NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# Watts Ahead

## NINNESCAH RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Michael Christie**  
President

**Kenneth Unruh**  
Vice President

**Marc Rundell**  
Secretary

**Edwin D. Lenkner**  
Treasurer

**Lori R. Jones**  
Trustee

**Clayton Kessler**  
Trustee

**Ryan M. Lunt**  
Trustee

**Jeff Schwertfeger**  
Trustee

**Ruth Teichman**  
Trustee

### STAFF

**Teresa Miller**  
General Manager

**Robert Lamatsch**  
Manager of Operations

**Sarah Ezell**  
Manager of HR/Accounting

### IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

If your electricity is off for more than a few minutes, please call 620-672-5538. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. After hours, calls will be answered by dispatch and forwarded to our on-call personnel.

SAVE THE DATE

# ANNUAL MEETING

88<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL

**TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026**  
**PRATT MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

- ▶ Registration at 5 p.m.
- ▶ Dinner at 6 p.m.
- ▶ Meeting to follow.

### DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S EVENTS!

- ▶ Announcement of trustees and scholarship winners.
- ▶ Co-op reports.
- ▶ Door prizes.

### BALLOT MAILING

If required, your ballot will be mailed with your annual meeting information. Please mail it back or drop it by our office.



**JOIN US  
FOR A FREE  
DINNER!**

## PROPERTY TAXES FOR 2025

The Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., Pratt, paid a total of \$475,380.54 in ad valorem property taxes in 2025. Through payment of property taxes, rural electric cooperatives share the cost of the state's educational system, highways and city and county facilities such as roads, libraries, parks and hospitals. Paying our share of taxes is one of the many ways Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative and over 900 other rural electric cooperatives — now serving more than 42 million people throughout the United States — help build a stronger, more prosperous America. In addition to the ad valorem property taxes, we pay approximately the same amount in other taxes. Ninnescah Rural Electric provides electricity to 4,285 services.

COUNTY	TAXES PAID
Barber	\$28,213.88
Comanche	\$759.24
Edwards	\$58,714.20
Harper	\$13,260.32
Kingman	\$25,386.60
Kiowa	\$61,692.08
Pawnee	\$1,239.56
Pratt	\$220,080.14
Reno	\$9,430.98
Stafford	\$56,603.54

# Minutes of Meeting of Nominating Committee

The Meeting of the Nominating Committee of The Ninnescah Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc., was held on Friday, Jan. 30, 2026, beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the offices of the Cooperative on N.E. 20th Street, Pratt, Kansas.

The following members of the Nominating Committee were present:

- ▶ Chris Boyd
- ▶ Dean Fitzsimmons
- ▶ David Johnson
- ▶ Ken W. Lewton
- ▶ Steve Moore
- ▶ Brandon Riffey
- ▶ Morgan Trinkle

This being all the members of the Nominating Committee, with the exceptions of Jon M. McClure and Kelly Ratzlaff who were unable to attend.

Thereupon, upon motion duly made, seconded, and adopted, Morgan Trinkle was selected as Chairman of the Nominating Committee and Dean Fitzsimmons was selected as Secretary.

Thereupon, Danny Lynch of Johnston,

Eisenhauer, Eisenhauer & Lynch, general counsel for the cooperative, reviewed with the Nominating Committee the qualifications and eligibility requirements for election as a trustee as set forth in the bylaws of the cooperative.

Thereupon, the Nominating Committee determined if each potential nominee was eligible for election based upon the information available and the bylaws of the cooperative.

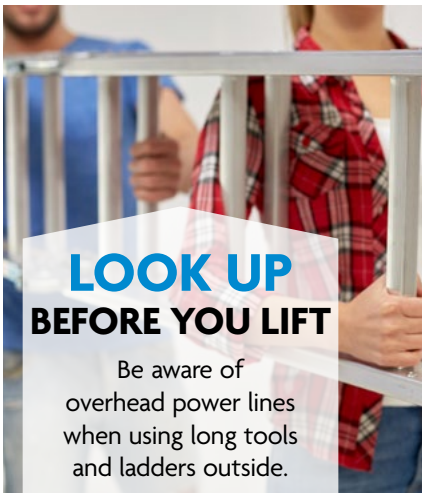
Thereupon, upon motions duly made, seconded and adopted, the following persons were nominated to stand for election as candidates for trustee of the cooperative for a three-year term:

- ▶ **LORI R. JONES**, Lake City, Kansas
- ▶ **COREY KOETT**, Belpre, Kansas
- ▶ **EDWIN D. LENKNER**, Coats, Kansas
- ▶ **LORI MONTGOMERY**, Coats, Kansas and Brandon Riffey was selected as inspector of elections.

There being no further business to come before the meeting of the Nominating Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) or at any USDA office or call 866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, by fax 202-690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



## TIPS TO AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers and cyber criminals look for weak points to exploit before software companies can fix them. Update software programs on your computer, tablet and mobile phone as soon as possible when a newer version becomes available. Software updates often contain critical patches and protections against security threats. Turn on automatic updates to ensure your security software, internet browser, operating system and mobile apps stay current. SOURCE: WWW.CONSUMER.FTC.GOV



## WIRED FOR GROWTH

# Balancing Data Center Demand and Reliability

Data centers may feel like a big-city phenomenon, but more and more of them are showing up in rural communities like ours — and there's good reason for that. Rural areas offer what data centers need most: affordable land, room to grow and access to transmission lines that can move large amounts of power.

What makes data centers different from other large businesses is their appetite for electricity. These facilities run 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Servers must stay online constantly, which means power has to be reliable every minute of every day.

For electric cooperatives like Ninnescah Electric, powering data centers creates both opportunities and challenges.

On the plus side, data centers have the potential to bring steady, long-term load growth that helps support investments in the local grid. With proper planning and policy support, those upgrades — including new substations, stronger lines and smarter technology — could benefit all Ninnescah Electric members and help keep electricity rates steady.

But providing power to data centers presents challenges, too. These large facilities can be constructed and operating in as little as one year, but ensuring the necessary infrastructure, equipment and electricity requires longer lead times and significant financial investment. Strategic planning and partnerships, as well as long-term power supply strategies are essential to the process.

While Ninnescah Electric does not currently serve any data centers, co-ops nationwide are fielding requests and inquiries from tech companies, and we anticipate similar requests in the not-too-distant future.

As a member-owned cooperative, our responsibility is twofold: to listen to the communities we serve and to provide reliable, affordable electric service to all members. Balancing those responsibilities is not always simple, especially as new types of large-scale energy users — like data centers — become part of the local landscape. No matter

what the future holds, our priority will be supporting growth with fairness — that means ensuring large-scale energy users pay their fair share so residential bills don't spike and our local communities feel invested in.

The energy landscape is changing, and with it comes both opportunities and challenges. The commitment of Ninnescah Electric's board and employees is to continue listening, communicating, and working with our members and community partners to ensure all decisions reflect the best interests of the people we serve.

If you have questions or concerns regarding data centers, your energy bills or any other co-op matters, we encourage you to stay engaged and reach out.

## Big Data, Bigger Demands

Companies are choosing rural areas for their data centers because of available land, low energy costs and economic incentives. Data centers require significant amounts of electricity to operate, presenting new opportunities and challenges for electric co-ops.

- 1 HVAC:** Constant cooling is needed to ensure the servers function properly.
- 2 SERVERS:** Servers run applications and process data 24/7.
- 3 INFRASTRUCTURE:** Data centers often require new electrical infrastructure to meet their power needs.
- 4 WATER SOURCE:** Many large data centers are deploying evaporative cooling, which is more efficient than compressor-based systems.
- 5 BACKUP POWER:** On-site generators keep data centers running during power outages and can also help lower demand when electricity use spikes.



READ THE ARTICLE "POWERING PROGRESS RESPONSIBLY" IN THE FEBRUARY 2026 ISSUE OF KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING TO LEARN MORE.

## Tornado Safety and Electrical Hazards

Tornadoes can strike with little warning, leaving behind downed power lines, damaged electrical equipment and dangerous debris. Preparing before a tornado — and knowing how to stay safe afterward — can help prevent electrical shock, fire and injury. Make sure your emergency plan includes electrical safety steps so you and your family are ready to act quickly and safely.

### BEFORE A TORNADO:

- ▶ Prepare an emergency kit with water, battery-powered flashlight, radio, extra batteries and portable phone charger.
- ▶ Keep your electric utility's phone number handy in case you need to report an outage or downed line.
- ▶ Fully charge cell phones and backup power banks before severe weather hits so you can use them in an emergency.

### DURING A TORNADO:

- ▶ Seek shelter immediately in a basement or a small, interior room with no windows, such as a bathroom or closet.
- ▶ Turn off and unplug appliances and electronics to protect them from power surges. Leave one light on so you'll know when power is restored.
- ▶ Do not stay inside a vehicle or try to outrun a tornado. Exit the vehicle and seek shelter in a sturdy building. If none are available, lie flat in a low-lying area away from the vehicle and power lines.

### AFTER A TORNADO:

- ▶ Stay away from downed power lines and

anything they could touch, such as trees, fences or debris. Always assume they are energized.

- ▶ If you see a downed line while driving, do not exit your vehicle. Call 911 and your utility and warn others to stay away.
- ▶ Do not touch anyone who is in contact with a power line. Call 911 immediately and wait for emergency responders.
- ▶ Do not enter damaged buildings until electricity and gas are shut off by professionals. Never attempt to turn off power if you must stand in water to reach the breaker.
- ▶ Avoid flooded areas with electrical outlets, appliances, or cords, and never touch electrical equipment when wet or standing in water.
- ▶ Have all water-damaged electrical systems, appliances and devices inspected by a licensed electrician before use.

### POWER OUTAGES AND GENERATOR SAFETY:

- ▶ Never use a generator indoors or in partially enclosed spaces such as garages or porches, or near open windows and doors. Place a generator at least 20 feet away from your home to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ▶ Keep the generator dry by placing it on a tarp or under a canopy and follow all manufacturer's instructions.
- ▶ Never plug a generator directly into a wall outlet. This can inadvertently energize power lines and pose a lethal risk to you, neighbors and utility workers.

Stay informed, stay alert, and share this information to help protect your family and community during severe weather events.

## SAFETY TIP

If you're outside during a tornado, get to a sturdy building if possible. Never stay in a vehicle during a tornado or try to outrun it. If no shelter is nearby, lie flat in a ditch or low-lying area away from cars, trees and power lines.

Protect your head with your arms. SOURCE: [WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG](http://WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG)

