

DIRECTOR

WIPCO  **WESTERN IOWA
POWER COOPERATIVE**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

GUIDE



“

OUR MISSION

The mission of Western Iowa Power Cooperative is to enhance our members' quality of life by providing safe and reliable electric services.

”

About WIPCO

Western Iowa Power Cooperative (WIPCO) is a not-for-profit, member-owned rural electric cooperative providing service to approximately 3,400 members in nine counties in west central Iowa. Our service territory covers 2,000 square miles and includes nearly 2,100 miles of electric distribution lines.

In 1997, South Crawford Rural Electric Cooperative and Monona County Rural Electric Cooperative consolidated and incorporated to form Western Iowa Power Cooperative. Both REC's began providing electric service to rural areas in 1936.

WIPCO Facts

Members:	3,408	Members Per Mile:	1.64
Meters:	5,604	Meters Per Mile:	2.69
Miles of Line (OH):	1,528	Number of Directors:	10
<u>Miles of Line (URD):</u>	<u>552</u>	Number of Employees:	30
Total Miles of Line:	2,080		

Board of Directors

WIPCO's Board of Directors is elected by our membership to govern the Cooperative. WIPCO has a 10-member Board of Directors, with one director representing each of 10 districts within WIPCO's service territory.

The Board meets monthly to set policies and review operations. The Board is also responsible to member-owners for management of internal affairs of the Cooperative and for maintaining good community and public relations.

The Board annually elects an Executive Committee consisting of four members of the Board. These four board members assume the roles of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. An Assistant Secretary-Treasurer is also elected to service on the Executive Committee in the absence of the Secretary or Treasurer.

The Role of the Board of Directors

In addition to the responsibilities described above, the role of the Board of Directors includes the following:

- Selecting and evaluating the Cooperative's General Manager
- Borrowing money and establishing control of disbursements
- Informing membership with respect to Cooperative activities
- Be available to discuss questions and concerns with members
- Make decisions and set policy for the Cooperative
- Approving selection of consultants and contractors utilized by the Cooperative
- Approval of annual budgets, financial forecasts, and work plans
- Review of monthly and annual financial reports as well as annual audit
- Overseeing the Cooperative's strategic vision and plan

Director Eligibility

The following requirements must be met in order for an individual to qualify as a candidate for director at WIPCO. The individual:

1. Must be a member of Western Iowa Power Cooperative.
2. Must live and receive service in the district he/she represents.
3. Must not be employed by the Cooperative nor hold interest in any competing enterprise, or one that sells supplies and materials to the Cooperative.
4. Must be a firm believer in the Rural Electric Cooperative program and willing to devote the time and effort necessary to continued established objectives which are in the best interest of the Cooperative and its entire membership.
5. Must be willing to approach issues presented to the Board of Directors with objectivity and open-mindedness.

Director Time Commitment

- WIPCO directors are elected to a three-year term.
- Board meetings are held once per month during a business day. The specific date each month can vary based on director and employee availability, but when possible, meetings are scheduled for Wednesday in the third full week of a given month.
- Board meetings begin at 9:00 AM and are typically concluded by 12:00 PM. On some occasions, a meeting may last until 1:00 PM. Lunch is provided on monthly meeting days unless the meeting's agenda suggests an unusually early adjournment time.
- At least three business days prior to each monthly board meeting, a set of documents are uploaded digitally. These documents are accessible via iPads issued to each WIPCO director, and they include a meeting agenda, a report from the General Manager, financial reports, and many other documents. The intent is for these documents to be reviewed in advance of the meeting if possible.
- Each WIPCO director is assigned to at least one committee. These committees typically meet one or two times annually, and these meetings are generally held before a board meeting around 8:30 AM. The current committees are Labor, Vehicle, Building & Property, Annual Meeting, Economic Development, and the Executive Committee.
- Each August, WIPCO hosts an Annual and a District Meeting. The location of each meeting rotates each year between Denison and Onawa. These meetings are held in the evening on the final Tuesday and Thursday of August.
- There may be additional time commitments for other meetings, trainings, and conferences which WIPCO directors attend on the Cooperative's behalf. Outside meeting activities may include meetings or events hosted by Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Midwest Electric Consumers Association, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, CoBank, and National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative, among other organizations. All organizations listed are cooperative organizations run by member representatives. Members of Western Iowa Power Cooperative's Board may be selected to be directors on these boards to represent the Cooperative and take part in the decisions made on behalf of these organizations. Any appointment to a board outside WIPCO would be voluntary at the appointed board member's discretion.

Director Opportunities

WIPCO directors have a unique opportunity to serve and represent their communities and the WIPCO membership as a whole. There are numerous opportunities available for directors to travel to regional and national meetings, conferences, and training sessions in different locations throughout the state, region, and country. Directors are encouraged to attend meetings, conferences, and training sessions that provide education on finance, electric rates, power requirements, legal risks, legislation, and other regional and national issues relating to rural electric members. Seminars and training are designed to broaden directors' knowledge and abilities to make decisions on the complex issues facing rural electric cooperatives. Directors are currently paid a per-diem rate of \$275 for each day they spend at a regular or special board meeting, conference, or training session, and are also reimbursed for travel and out-of-pocket expenses.

Board members are an important and necessary link between the membership and the general manager, who is responsible for the day-to-day activities of the Cooperative. WIPCO directors serve with honesty, consistency, and good conscience to make decisions and set policies for the Cooperative, which are in the best interest of the entire membership. A director should establish communications with their members and understand their members' concerns and issues while welcoming their opinions, with a goal of assisting in finding the best long-range solutions for the cooperative and its members.

Contact Us

Please call us at 712-263-2943 or e-mail wipco@wipco.com with any questions.