



Tom Smith
Board Chairman

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

It is with great pleasure that I am able to pen the “Year 2023 in Review” for our membership. It

has been a challenging and rewarding time for the Board of Directors and our cooperative family. We all worked diligently to set goals and achieve those things necessary to serve our members.

One of the most important duties a board is faced with is upholding the fiduciary responsibility of leadership to its members. “Fiduciary responsibility is the obligation to treat the resources of the organization as a trust, and the responsible Board will ensure that these resources are utilized in a reasonable, appropriate, and legally accountable manner.”

Due to the absence of a CEO for part of the year, many necessary responsibilities became apparent to the Board of Directors. Among those responsibilities were many hours of lengthy discussions and decision-making processes for the following:

- Appointing and hiring a new CEO for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative.
- Creating an updated strategic plan for the cooperative moving forward.
- Reviewing and setting expectations

for future expenditures because of inflation.

- Setting a fiscally responsible budget.
- Keeping informed through WECA/NRECA (state and national) of changes in the electrical industry.

While CWEC was without a CEO, Lila Shower and Kevin Kurtzweil stepped up during that time to serve as co-interim president and CEO. The board thanks both Lila and Kevin for assuming that responsibility while moving the cooperative forward.

During the year, CWEC embarked on many projects, including:

- 68 new connections
- Replacing 3.4 miles of #6 solid overhead conductor
- Grounding and adding gravel to the Almon Substation
- Replacing unjacketed single-phase and three-phase cable
- Replacing poles that inspections showed needed to be replaced
- Hazard recognition of all overhead lines
- Replacing the automated meter infrastructure (AMI)
- Brush and tree trimming of 120 miles off the Iola Substation circuits
- Underground cable inspections
- Preventative maintenance inspection of the Tigerton Substation
- Oil circuit recloser maintenance



Speaking of our new AMI system, after a delay due to supply-chain issues, work continued in 2023 on replacing the meters the cooperative uses. The new meters are required for an updated metering infrastructure system CWEC is moving toward as part of a commitment to provide safe and reliable power to its members. As of this writing, we have completed 94% of the project.

Other noteworthy items regarding the cooperative from throughout the year included:

- Sending two linemen to work on the Navajo Nation lighting project.
- Increasing the monthly facility charge of \$5—a slight increase to the demand charge and a slight increase to the kilowatt hour charge.
- Retirement of capital credits.
- No major storms.

As I conclude this year in review, I’d like to thank all the CWEC employees for their commitment to our members. Your work does not go unnoticed! I’d also like to thank our membership for its support to the cooperative.

We look forward to 2024 and will strive to continue to provide our members safe and reliable energy. I look forward to seeing you at our 86th Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 18 at 6 p.m.