THE MPPD MINUTE

October 2026

Powered by Local Values

Local people. Local decisions. Local power.

When you flip a switch, you expect the light to turn on; however, it does more than just light a room. It powers the dreams of a teenager studying for a test, the community gathering to support one another, and the critical processes that keep the local economy running. This is the heart of public power and the energy that continues to fuel Nebraska.

Yet, this seamless access to electricity was once a distant reality for many Nebraskans. During the early 20th century, many rural areas of Nebraska lacked access to electricity from private utilities, prompting the state to establish a public power system to serve all communities. In the 1930s, the Nebraska legislature passed legislation allowing the creation of public power districts, such as McCook Public Power District, to bring electric service to rural areas not served by private utilities. Public power districts deliver more than electricity; they add significant value to the quality of life within the communities they serve. Now, Nebraska is the only state in the country with a fully public power system.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, public power is owned and operated by public entities, including cooperatives, public power districts, and municipalities. Public power operates on a not-for-profit basis, allowing utilities to reinvest revenue in the electric system. Since public power is operated by public entities, it allows for local control that fits the community's needs.

Public power provides great value to the community, and we take pride in serving as your public power provider. This October, we celebrate Public Power Month and the value of local people, local decisions, and local power in the communities we serve.

Public power begins with people. At MPPD, we recognize the importance of service and being active in our local communities. Our employees and board members live and work throughout the area, providing a thorough understanding of the needs of those we serve. Having local people serve the PPD allows us to directly connect with our customers and learn about their needs.

Public power is built on local people making decisions that benefit the local community. Since PPDs are publicly owned and governed by locally elected board members, PPDs prioritize community and district needs over shareholder profits. This structure ensures our customers have a direct voice in how the utility operates and plans for the future.

Additionally, our Board of Directors regularly meets to discuss the future of the public power district. Not only do we hold monthly board meetings, but our directors also participate in community meetings, conferences, and other trainings to ensure they have all the resources they need to fully serve our community.

Public power districts operate for the benefit of their customers, making every investment a direct contribution to service quality and the long-term prosperity of our community. PPDs continually invest in infrastructure, including substations, power lines, poles, transformers, and technology, to ensure safe and dependable electric service. These investments help maintain reliability today while preparing for the future needs of our homes, farms, businesses, and industries.

Local power also plays a vital role in supporting economic growth as well. Access to reliable electricity is a key factor for businesses, as it helps create opportunities for growth, new investments, and provides local jobs.

This Public Power Month, we celebrate the importance of public power and the value of keeping it local. From the lights in our homes to the critical infrastructure that drives our local economy, public power is the steady and reliable source for our communities. Thank you for trusting us to power what matters most to you.