

Taylor Report

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July 2025

July is National Grilling Month

Grilling outdoors is not only a good way to keep your house cooler and lower your energy bill, it's a great way to enjoy warm summer days with family and friends — but more than half of grill fires occur during these peak months.

Each year, grill fires cause thousands of injuries and millions of dollars in property loss, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Most grill fires can be prevented with proper maintenance and safe use.

Stay safe by following these simple tips:

Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from grates and trays.

Place the grill on a stable surface, away from homes, deck railings and overhanging branches.

Keep children and pets at least three feet away.

Never leave an active grill unattended.

Use propane and charcoal grills outdoors only to prevent fire hazards and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Gas grills pose a greater fire risk due to leaks. To ensure safe grilling, check for leaks each season:

Mix equal parts dish soap and water.

After attaching the gas cylinder, open the valve one turn counterclockwise.

Apply the soapy mixture to the hose and connections. If bubbles form, a gas leak is present.

If you detect a leak, turn off the gas and grill immediately and repair/replace faulty parts.

Bonus safety tip: Open the lid before lighting a gas grill to prevent gas buildup. If the flame goes out during use, turn off the gas and wait at least five minutes before relighting.

Charcoal grilling is a favorite way to cook outdoors but pose fire and carbon monoxide risks if not handled properly. Follow these essential safety tips:



Only use charcoal starter fluid designed for grills; never use gasoline or other flammable liquids.

Never add lighter fluid to a lit fire — this causes flare-ups.

Store starter fluid away from heat sources and out of children's reach.

Let charcoal coals and ashes cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container.

Electric grills are safe outdoors if proper safety precautions are followed:

Ensure your electric grill is outdoor rated to withstand exposure to moisture and varying temperatures.

Never use an electric grill in rainy or wet conditions. Store the grill in a dry place when not in use.

Keep electrical connections away from water, damp surfaces or pools to avoid electric shock.

Always plug your grill into a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlet to protect against shocks. If using an extension cord, make sure it's outdoor-rated and GFCI-protected.

Check the power cord for frays, cracks or damage before use.

Turn off and unplug the grill after use.

If your electric grill stops working, consult the manufacturer instead of attempting electrical repairs yourself.

Taylor Electric Celebrates 89th Annual Meeting

Taylor Electric held its 89th annual meeting on Tuesday, June 24th, at the Centennial Community Center in Stetsonville, with a total of 182 members participating both in person and by mail-in ballots.

Chairman Brian Hallgren addressed the membership by stating that sales were down and wholesale power costs were up in 2024. He also stressed the importance of reliability and rates and reported that demand billing has been delayed.

CEO Kenny Ceaglske began his report by announcing that the customer appreciation day will be held on Saturday, October 11th at the Centennial Community Center. Ceaglske also reported on the Co-op Day of Service held last October at the Sackett Lake Rec. Area, Medford. Employees from Taylor Electric, Jump River Electric and Dairyland Power worked together to improve the buildings and grounds area as part of a community service project.

Line Superintendent Wade Matyka gave the operations report, followed by Finance Manager Patti Nelson, who presented the 2024 financial report. Vice-Chairman and Dairyland Director, Chuck Zenner, reported on Dairyland's transmission projects, decarbonization goals and community projects.

Youth Leadership Congress board member, Owen Klussendorf, gave a presentation regarding his time on the board over the past year. Highlights included a recent trip to Washington DC, WECA Education and Lobby Days and the State FFA Convention. Klussendorf expressed his gratitude to TEC for the opportunity.

In a tight director election between incumbents Dave Makovsky and Lisa Kohn and challenger Bruce Gumz, the results were too close to call at the time this newsletter was prepared.

Everyone in attendance received a \$10 electric bill credit as well as 1 lb. packages of cheese and butter at the end of the meeting. Prize winners included: Catherine Scott—\$100 bill credit, and 4—\$50 credits went to: Agnes Paul, Margaret Cypher, Jackie Robinson and Warren Behling.



TEC Sec/Treasurer, Cheri Klussendorf, and her son, Owen, Youth Leadership Congress board member



Front right: Jack Henrichs, left Lincoln Johnas and back, Willow Fuchs, had big smiles as they joined their parents and TEC employees, Justin and Sheena Fuchs, at the meeting.



Members enjoy a good meal and conversation before the meeting!



TEC employees (l to r) Tim Habermeyer, Geoff Mueller, Sadie Kapusta and Wade Matyka assist members with registration.

Board Report – May 2025

- Approved April disbursements totaling \$678,190. 7 new member applications, and April 2025 construction in the amount of \$117,228.
- Reviewed financial results for April with \$248,241 Operating Margins and \$265,872 Total Margins year to date.
- There were 8 outages in April, with an average YTD outage time per meter of 0.0575 hours.
- Two applications for discounted early retirement of capital credits to estates were approved with total capital credits of \$2,658 to be paid out at the net present value of \$802.
- 21 delinquent accounts were processed for collection following the May 20th due date. The total amount owing on these accounts is \$17,083.
- Other topics covered included updates on the IT changes, demand billing, upcoming meetings, and utility scale solar project interest.