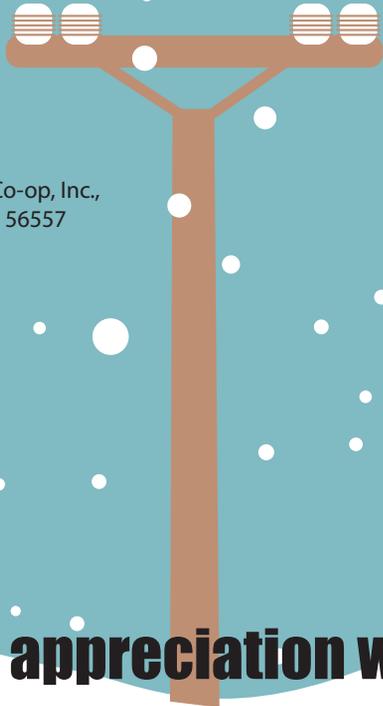


# RURAL DELIGHT



December 2017

•Volume 77 • Issue 12 •  
News from Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.,  
•PO Box 438, Mahanomen, MN 56557  
www.wildriceelectric.com



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In warm appreciation we wish you a

# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

## Employees

Crystal Askelson  
Mike Baukol  
Joe Block  
Jolene Brevik  
Al Brunner  
Craig Burrack  
Ken Crane  
Perry Doerfler  
Bobbi DuChamp  
Seth Felland  
Keith Geray  
Tom Guenther  
Duane Gunderson  
Steve Haaven  
Ross Halland

Blair Halvorson  
Tom Houdek  
Nick Jasken  
April Jirik  
Luke Klostermeier  
Jill Kettner  
Kristin Lafriniere  
Gary Neis  
Dan Noll  
Linda Noll  
Travis Obowa  
Scott Olson  
Ryan Omang

Nathan Pazdernik  
Josh Roed  
Lisa Schoenborn  
Glen Sommers  
Robert Spaeth  
Tim Stock  
Abby Stueness  
Sue Swanson  
Dave Thronson  
Cody Turner  
Mike Vasilakes  
Tim Voss

## Board of Directors

Gary Bergan  
Diane Christianson  
Mark Habedank  
Jim Kaiser  
Greg LaVoy  
Jeff Nornes  
Russ Okeson  
Larry Sollie  
Roger Winter

**Wild Rice Electric's** office will close at noon on Friday, December 22nd and re-open on Tuesday, December 26th for the Christmas Holiday. The office will also close at noon on Friday, December 29th and re-open again on Tuesday, January 2nd for the New Year's Holiday. In the event of an emergency or outage, please call **1-800-244-5709** and our answering service will be able to assist you.

**We wish all of you safe and happy holidays!**



# OVER THE MANAGER'S DESK

AROUND THE CO-OP ...

STEVE HAAVEN, CEO



## Prepare for Winter Weather

The Holiday Season is upon us and it seems impossible a new year is just around the corner. Already our area has experienced a taste of cold temperatures and windy conditions. A reminder is to make certain your heating systems are ready to keep you comfortable by checking the fuel in your tanks, replacing furnace filters, and warming up slabs if you have those systems. In recent weeks the price for alternative fuels used for heating has trended upward and let's hope they don't reach levels of several winters ago when they skyrocketed. I would also like to remind you the current rate for heating with off peak electricity remains at 5.3¢ per kilowatt hour plus the Minnkota surcharge equaling \$1.38 per gallon in a high efficiency propane system. The use of electricity to heat your primary residence is exempt from Minnesota Sales Tax from November to April. To qualify, an exemption certificate must be on file at the cooperative. If you have completed one previously we do have that on file and no refile is necessary. If you have not provided an exemption certificate previously please contact our billing department.



## Seasonal Ag Accounts

During the past several months a reminder has been included in the Rural Delight that accounts operating on a seasonal basis (irrigation or grain aeration, drying and handling) will see their season come to an end effective December 18th. This year there seems to be more corn standing so please keep the change in mind. Following meter readings taken on or near December 18th the cost will increase from 8.5¢ to 12.2¢ per kilowatt hour. The change mirrors the time of year our power provider, Minnkota Power, moves into their winter season for recording annualized winter demand readings and associated charges.



## Substation Projects

Several major substation projects located within Wild Rice Electric's service area are nearing completion which will add enhanced service to members. Minnkota Power, our wholesale supplier of electricity, owns and operates the transmission and substation facilities. From those substations Wild Rice distributes electricity to 14,200 services over a network of 3,966 miles of distribution lines. Minnkota Power is completing construction of a new transmission substation located south of Lake Park that will provide back-up capability for loop feeding the transmission system in the entire southern portion of the co-op's service territory impacting those members living in the Hawley, Lake Park, Audubon and Cormorant Lakes area. This provides an alternate means of delivering electricity on major transmission lines to the area should Minnkota Power's lines be placed out of service. The substation was cut over on the morning of Wednesday November 15th causing disruption of electricity to member-owners served in those areas. Wild Rice Electric delivers electricity from seventeen substations scattered throughout the co-op's nearly 85 mile by 45 mile service area. An eighteenth substation is being added in Woodside Township scheduled to be energized in January 2018. The new site will allow better service to those members in the Mentor, Erskine, Rindal, Maple Lake and Union Lake areas.



## New Answering Service

Since 1995 Wild Rice Electric and several other rural electric cooperatives in northwestern Minnesota have contracted with Garden Valley Telephone to answer phone calls made after regular business hours including week-ends and holidays or when overflow coverage is needed. Garden Valley recently notified us they will be discontinuing the service effective January 1, 2018. Wild Rice Electric has appreciated the

association with Garden Valley Telephone and thanks their employees for answering calls in a professional manner over the past twenty two years. I'm pleased to report arrangements have been made for the Cooperative Response Center (CRC) to begin providing similar services beginning in 2018. The CRC, headquartered in Austin MN, was formed by nineteen electric cooperatives in 1992 to handle their call center services and crew dispatch. Today 1 in 3 cooperatives nationwide utilize CRC serving over 6 million member-consumers. CRC has over 300 employees working out of three contact centers in Minnesota, Tennessee and Texas all able to seamlessly back up each site. The arrangement with CRC will offer enhanced capability for phone calls to be answered by a human voice during major outage situations by simply having additional employee resources available. Enhancements made to the cooperative's digital mapping system coupled with the installation of the replacement automated meter information (AMI) system scheduled during 2018 will greatly improve the ability of the cooperative to respond faster and communicate better during outage situations. Follow-up discussion and surveys taken indicate a strong desire by members to be able to have their phone calls answered by a human voice and not get busy signals, have quicker response and better communication during major outage situations. The expanded services come with additional cost; however, in the long run will elevate the communication and response during major outage situations. If you experience an outage, dial 1-800-244-5709, Wild Rice Electric crews are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.



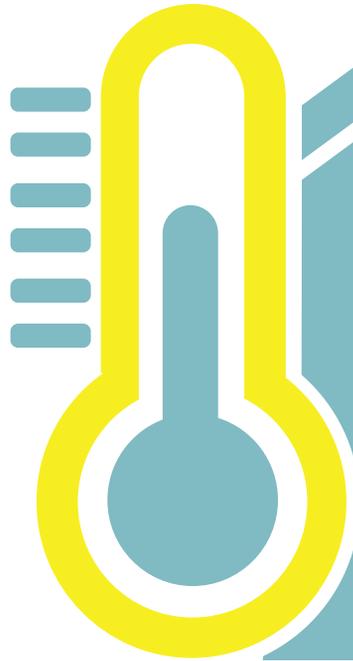
## Generating Electricity Cost

Last month's issue of the Rural Delight highlighted the difference between demand and energy of electricity as well as provided an overview of the path of electricity from the generation, transmission,

**Continued on Page 4**

# Get your **Questions** Answered

## About Cold Weather Shut-Off Protection



### **What is the Cold Weather Rule?**

The Cold Weather Rule protects some members from having their electricity shut off due to non-payment between October 15 and April 15.

### **Can my heat be shut off in the winter?**

Yes. The Cold Weather Rule still allows electricity to be shut off for non-payment. You will only be protected if electricity provides your primary source of heat AND you have done all the following things:

- Your household income meets the state guidelines (less than 50 percent of the state median income).
- You provide Wild Rice Electric with a completed Application for Electric Shut-Off Protection; and
- You have a payment arrangement with the Co-op that you have remained reasonably current with.

### **What must I do to receive shut-off protection?**

If you are behind in your electricity payments and you will not be able to catch up, your first step is to **call Wild Rice Electric**. We don't want to shut off anyone's electricity. We will work with you to set up

a payment arrangement or help you to see if you qualify for shut-off protection. There is no way we can know what your financial situation is unless you tell us. On Page 5 is a list of providers that can help with your energy bills. It is up to you to contact them for help.

### **Will you disconnect me without my knowledge?**

No. You will receive a "Notice of Disconnection" in your bill, along with the list of agencies that may help you; a form for you to fill out stating you can't pay; a list of rights and responsibilities for you as well as the Cooperative. If you receive this information, you **MUST** take the next step and call us or one of the agencies who can help you. We will not disconnect electricity without first notifying you.

### **If my electricity has been disconnected, how can I be reconnected?**

In order to re-establish power, contact Wild Rice Electric for the total balance due, which may include additional fees and a

deposit. Our members are important to Wild Rice Electric. We would rather work with you to set up a plan to pay your bill than disconnect your service. But everyone who needs help must ask for it by calling 218-935-2517.

### **Are Military personnel subject to shut-off?**

When a household member has been ordered into active duty, for deployment, or for a change of duty station, some customers may find it hard to pay their utility bills. Minnesota law protects these military personnel from shut-off if they cannot pay their utility bills in full. For more information or to apply for protection and set up a payment plan, please contact Wild Rice Electric at 218-935-2517.

For more information or additional answers to your questions on the Cold Weather Rule, please call our office at 218-935-2517.

# Ads

## For Sale

225-75R good used set of 4 tires. New \$400, asking \$240, 218-280-3288.

Reloading equipment for 223 caliber. Press, scale, powder, measure & many more items, 218-331-1301.

Snowmobile - 1991 Yamaha Exciter 570, electric start, 7,400 miles, 218-841-2452.

Boombox, cassettes & vinyl records-Christmas, country western & old-time music. 218-937-5551.

Wheat straw bales: 5x6 - \$38 each and 4x5 - \$28 a bale, 218-849-6352.

5ft Polaris ATV plow, \$175. Good Radiator 58 Chevy truck, \$100. MC-Smith cutting torch set, \$100. Gander Mountain-Guide Series "X" Vexilar w/ bottom zoom, \$200, 218-935-5110 days.

Tandem axle frame from 24 ft travel trailer, \$350. Also have a smaller single axle for \$250. 218-686-4310.

Snow buckets, hay forks, skid steer attachments, cattle panels, 701-261-3574.

Alfalfa mix hay in 5x5 round bales, \$35.00 per bale. 218-902-0344.

1½ cords seasoned birch fireplace wood, \$250 will deliver. White Idle garage door 8'x14'-wide good shape hardware also \$100, 218-401-0381.

Sears Craftsman 8hp, 26 in c dual stage, electric start snow blower w/ tire chains & lights, \$400. Vega 360

Telescope w/ all glass eye pieces & up to 80x magnification, \$30, 218-687-3407.

6 cord hard wood, \$810 all or \$135 cord. Poplar, \$100 cord, 218-935-5576 leave message.

Mixed grass hay in 5x5 big round bales, \$30 bale, 218-847-8777.

Custom built 6' X 10' fish house, 4-holes, dinette/bed, custom steel skis, metal shake siding & roof, L.E.D. 12 volt lights and custom hitch, \$2,000, 701-809-4490.

Beautiful Helmut Gerhardt Viola, case & bow, \$250 trade for gun pay difference in cash, 701-293-1295.

2014 Breckenridge Perfect Cottage 12' wide park model trailer, 399 sq. ft. furnished plus double loft, excellent, buyer must professionally move, \$35,000, firm, 218-596-8532.

Bear skin rug, 2 colors of felt, very nice, \$350, 218-435-1255.

Walker w/ wheels seat & storage, brakes, \$50. Shower stool, \$10, 218-584-8388 or 218-261-1176.

1 set of 3½" hubs for a John Deere tractor. 1 set of 3½" hubs for Int. tractor. Also a JD 8 ft CC cultivator for parts or repair, \$75, 218-431-0442. Black leather dual recliner love seat excellent, like new. For pickup only, \$295, 701-361-6426.

Holstein steers ready to butcher. Can buy live or processed. Processed can be purchased in quarters or halves as well, 218-280-3288.

72" Cycle Country plow, plow mount for Yamaha Rhino, \$150. Soft cab w/ doors for Rhino, \$200, 218-850-7098.

30" wide Cast Iron Wood Burning Franklyn Stove, \$50. 2 pioneer seed cleaners w/ screens, no motor. (One

has 3 & other has 4 bottom rollers.) \$200 & \$ 300. 4 x 4 ft fiberglass storage roof topper for a car. Best offer. 218-435-6793 or 218-280-7793.

2004 Fimco sprayer, double disc, 2-bottom plow, Tank Trailer sprayer, 2 antique rims, corn planter, 2-wheel trailers. Misc parts for > 50 electric fence posts, 310-429-1316.

4 tires Michelin 246/60/r18. ½ tread left. \$60 for all, 218-849-4176.

Snowblower, walk behind, new tires as is, 218-584-4603.

## Wanted

Looking to buy horses & ponies, 218-849-6352.

Chest freezer, 218-935-5110 days.

235 75R, 15 tires and chain saw preferably 16 Sthil 218-584-4603.

## Free

Wooden spools ask for Dan or Blair, 218-935-2517.

Upright piano, 218-567-9901.



Wild Rice Electric is getting a new after hours calling service so it is even more important when you call in an outage to dial: **1-800-244-5709**

## Our Ad Policy

- All ads must be 30 words or less.
- Ads will be abbreviated at the coop's discretion.
- No real estate or commercial ads will be accepted.
- Ads are published for members at no charge as space permits on a first-come, first served basis. Unpublished ads will not be carried over.
- Ads are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication.
- Members may submit only one ad per issue.
- Ads must be resubmitted to run an additional month.
- Ads must be typed or in clear readable print. Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- You can submit your ad by mail, email, fax or drop off in office. Phone ads will not be accepted.
- Fax ads to . . . 218-935-2519
- Email ads to . . . info@wildriceelectric.com
- Mail ads to . . . Wild Rice Electric P.O. Box 438 Mahnomen, MN 56557

## • OVER THE MANAGER'S DESK continued from Page 2 • • •

substation and distribution systems. A member called to express his appreciation about the coverage and suggested further detail on comparable costs for generating the electricity from the various sources would be interesting. In other words, how is the electricity we purchase generated and what does it cost for that generation? Wild Rice Electric purchases all power requirements from Minnkota Power Cooperative. Minnkota has available stated capacity of 1,335.8 MW of generation resource capability comprised of 54.9% from coal plants (Milton R Young #1 and #2 and Coyote), 34.3% from wind farms owned by NextEra Energy purchased under lease by Minnkota, 8.2% in Hydro power from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), and the remaining purchased from regional power sources. The above statistics list the size of the units making electricity available. The actual power used by members is different. 69.5% of the base load electricity delivered is generated from coal

at an average price of 4.9¢ per kilowatt hour, wind leases result in only 20.8% of the power actually available at an average purchase price of 3.9¢ per kilowatt hour, and hydro from WAPA amounts to approximately 3% at an average price of 2.9 cents. Electricity purchased from regional resources can vary significantly depending upon demand and timing. As you can see coal is the main resource providing a majority of base load energy and is a priority in our ability to provide reliable electricity when needed.



## Happy and Safe Holiday

On behalf of all of us at Wild Rice Electric I wish each of you a safe and happy holiday season. Thank you for your continued support and patronage. We look forward to serving you in the new year ahead.

# Celebrate with savings



Number of Strings		Rebate per String	Total Rebate
<input type="text"/>	Less than 99 lights	\$3	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	100-199 lights	\$6	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	200-299 lights	\$9	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Greater than 300 lights	\$12	<input type="text"/>

**Rebate cannot exceed 50 percent of the cost. Maximum of 5 strings per consumer.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Wild Rice Electric Cooperative • PO BOX 438 • Mahnomen, MN 56557

## To apply

Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery operated) lights and decorations in 2017. Complete rebate form and submit it to Wild Rice Electric by Dec. 31, 2017, with a copy of your sales receipt. Energy Star LEDs recommended.



## Energy Assistance Providers

**Becker or Mahnomen County Mahube Community Council**  
PO Box 747  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502  
218-847-1385

**Mahube Community Council**  
PO Box 76  
Mahnomen, MN 56557  
218-935-5022

**Energy Assistance Program**

**Polk County Social Services**  
612 N Broadway,  
RM 302  
Crookston, MN 56716  
218-281-3127

**Clearwater County Clearwater Social Services**  
PO Box X  
Bagley, MN 56621  
218-694-6164

**West Polk or Norman County Tri-Valley Opportunity Council**  
1407 Erskine St  
Crookston, MN 56716  
1-866-264-3729 or  
218-281-9080

**Norman County Social Services**  
15 2nd Ave E  
Ada, MN 56510  
218-784-5400

3303 US Hwy 59  
Waubun, MN 56589  
218-473-2711

**Becker County Social Services**  
712 MN Ave  
Detroit Lakes MN 56501  
218-847-5628

**Mahnomen County Social Services**  
311 North Main  
PO Box 460  
Mahnomen, MN 56557  
218-935-2568

**If you are a White Earth Tribal Member White Earth Nation Financial Services**  
PO Box 100  
Naytahwaush, MN 56566  
844-282-6580 or  
218-935-2359

**East Polk County Inter County Community Council**  
PO Box 189  
Oklee, MN 56742  
218-796-5144 or  
1-888-778-4008

## Director Elections 2018

At the Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. annual meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 22, 2018, director elections for Districts 1, 2 and 3 will be held. If you are a Wild Rice Electric Cooperative member interested in becoming a director, contact Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. at 218-935-2517 for information and director qualifications. Directors standing for re-election include District 1 – Larry Sollie, District 2 – Mark Habedank and District 3 – Russell Okeson. Directors are elected by ballot for a three-year term.

In accordance with Article III, Section 4 of the Bylaws; it shall be the duty of the board of directors to appoint, not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety days (90) before the date of a members' meeting at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nomina-

tions consisting of nine (9) members in good standing, whereby three(3) members shall be selected from each district of the Cooperative so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical area served by the Cooperative. The board of directors will appoint the nominating committee at their monthly meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 28th, 2017. A list of those appointed will be provided in the January issue of the Cooperative's newsletter, the Rural DeLight.

The Cooperative's service territory is divided into three director districts. Each of the districts is represented by three directors who are qualified members of the Cooperative and reside within the district to be represented. One director from each district is elected at each an-

nual member meeting for a term of three years.

The nominating committee is scheduled to meet January 17th, 2018 at the Cooperative's offices. The committee shall nominate one or more qualified member(s) from each district for each office of director slated for election, to be elected by the membership at large at the annual meeting, and shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least thirty (30) days before said meeting, a list of nominations. Any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than twenty (20) days prior to the annual meeting and the secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.



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### **Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.**

*This Institution is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.*

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hours a day: 800-244-5709

**Office Hours:**  
8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.  
Monday- Friday

**Website:**  
[www.wildriceelectric.com](http://www.wildriceelectric.com)

**Pay bill 24 hours/  
7 days a week:**  
877-885-7968

Also download the  
Wild Rice Coop app for  
free at your App Store of  
choice, to monitor usage,  
pay your bill and more.



The City of Mahanomen recently received a 0% interest loan from Wild Rice Electric Cooperative through the Rural Economic Development Loan Program towards the purchase of a new firetruck. This USDA program provides funding for rural projects through local utility organizations and is designed to enhance rural life. Loan papers were signed at the cooperative's October board meeting.

Pictured left to right front row: Diane Christianson, WREC Board Secretary; Jeff Nornes, WREC Board Chairman. Back row: Steve Haaven, WREC President & CEO; Dave Wiemer, Mayor of Mahanomen; Mitch Berg, Mahanomen City Administrator and Andrew Sorbo, Minnkota Staff Attorney.

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