



# Power over the market

Energy marketers combine reliable resources and demand response to avoid a cold-weather crisis

In mid-February, millions of Texans were learning how to get through brutal winter temperatures with no electricity. During that same subzero-weather event, a group of energy marketers at Minnkota Power Cooperative (Wild Rice Electric's wholesale power provider) was successfully protecting its members from facing similar ice-cold consequences.

The February cold snap that essentially crippled the Texas power grid started up north. From approximately Feb. 8-14, Minnkota's service area experienced some of its coldest temperatures of the stretch. As the polar vortex dropped south, both regional demand and weather-related generation issues began to rise.

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) – the organization that manages the transmission grid and energy markets of a region that includes Minnkota's territory – asked its providers to enter conservative operations Feb. 14-20 and declared a Maximum Generation Event on Feb. 16. Over those days, the combination of expanded regional need and less generation availability (from frozen plants, natural gas pipeline constraints and less production from wind farms across the midsection of the country), made the cost of buying energy from the grid skyrocket. Minnkota had to protect itself from relying on the volatile market. Although the coal-based Young Station continued to provide electricity reliably throughout the event, wind power generation dropped due to low winds and temperatures. Minnkota's healthy demand response program –

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## 81st Annual Meeting

Wild Rice Electric's 81st Annual Meeting was held onsite at the Cooperative Headquarters on Thursday, March 18th and convened at 9am. The meeting included an election of directors for each of the Cooperative's 3 districts, a financial review by Director of Finance and Administration Duane Gunderson, as well as a cooperative review of 2020 by CEO Kristin Dolan who also highlighted cooperative initiatives for 2021. Thank you for all who attended this year's Annual Meeting of the Members.



# OVER THE MANAGER'S DESK

AROUND THE CO-OP . . .

KRISTIN DOLAN, CEO



## 81st Annual Meeting

Wild Rice held its 81st annual meeting on the morning of March 18th. We operated under modified conditions to safely conduct the meeting due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the modifications, it was certainly nice to hold the meeting during our normal scheduled timeframe once again.

The annual meeting is an important meeting for the membership. Annual progress reports of your cooperative are provided, the election of directors is conducted, and we have an opportunity to engage with our membership. Speaking of, I really enjoyed visiting with the members who attended. I hope to see more of you next year as we hopefully get back to more normal conditions.

Thank you to all the candidates who ran for a director position. We appreciate your interest to serve in this capacity at your cooperative. Wild Rice's service territory is divided into three districts. Annually a director election is held for the membership to select a director from each of the three districts. The elected director serves a term of three years on the Wild Rice board of directors. Thank you to Harold (Joe) Herbst, Detroit Lakes MN and Michael J. Guetter, Detroit Lakes, MN for participating in the election process. Congratulations to the following directors who were elected.

**District 1** - Larry Sollie, Lengby MN

**District 2** - Mark Habedank, Twin Valley MN

**District 3** - Russell Okeson, Detroit Lakes MN



## Grid Access Charge

Effective March 1, 2021 a Grid Access Charge rate change went into effect. This rate recovers the cost of the grid from distributed generation facilities that are under 40KW in size. Wild Rice utilizes a prescribed methodology in determining this rate, in compliance with Minnesota Statute 216B.164 Subdivision 3(a).

Distributed generation facilities self-produce a portion of the energy needed to power their home or business. This reduces

the amount of energy they need from Wild Rice. A portion of the cost of the grid is recovered in Wild Rice's published energy rate. With their reduced consumption, grid cost recovery is also reduced from distributed generation (DG) owners. The DG owners still utilize the grid however. They receive energy from Wild Rice Electric when their generator is not producing enough energy. Likewise, they send excess energy onto the grid when their unit produces more energy than they can consume. The excess energy produced is purchased by Wild Rice from the DG owner.



## Cold Weather Event

Over the course of a two-week period in February the upper Midwest experienced a prolonged cold weather event. As the cold enveloped a large portion of the United States during the second week of this event, demand for electricity increased significantly.

Wild Rice's power supplier, Minnkota, is a participant in a regional wholesale market called Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). Utilizing this wholesale market helps to mitigate reliability and economic risks.

We are prepared for cold weather events in the Midwest. We employ all strategies available, including the use of load control and a call to conserve energy to help the region navigate through the event. Thank you to our members for your participation in our energy management programs. They are a win-win solution in saving money for you and helping our region navigate through extreme weather events.



## Spring Fieldwork

Soon our farmers will be out preparing the fields for spring planting. We wish you a safe spring and send a reminder to all of our members to look up and look out for electrical infrastructure as you work in your yards and fields.

## Highlights from the Board Room:

Wild Rice Electric's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on January 26, 2021. The board met virtually, following COVID-19 safety guidelines. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: retirement of Director of Finance & Administration, report on the assessment of developing a grid access charge, review of IT enhancements, overview of 2021 right-of-way maintenance plan, review of upgrades to the headquarters security system, report on the Minnkota Management & Advisory Committee meeting, and COVID-19 updates as related to the Cooperative.

A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- **Accepted** Consent agenda reports as presented by department managers including financials, member services/load management, safety/operations report; director compensation report;
- **Approved** amending Policy B-02 to include director board meeting attendance requirements;
- **Approved** amending the time to conduct the Annual Meeting to registration at 7:30 a.m. with general business meeting at 9 a.m.;
- **Approved** the director ballot format;
- **Appointed** Annual Meeting tellers;
- **Accepted** MREA District 1 Meeting and MREA Resolution Committee reports;
- **Appointed** directors to 2021 Board Committees;
- **Approved** compensation for Nominating Committee Chair to present report at the Annual Meeting.

The April meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

# Power over the market: from the front cover

through which member-consumers volunteer to have certain electric loads controlled for a reduced rate – helped Sailer’s energy market-ers decrease the demand on the grid.

“With events like these, we’re identifying where our exposure is in the market,” said Todd Sailer, Minnkota senior manager of power supply and resource planning. “We’re making sure we’re doing something that is beneficial to our members and maximizing the value of our resources.”

Ultimately, Minnkota’s members experienced few weather-related service interruptions. The cooperative used 84 hours of dual-fuel heat control, which helped avoid high energy market costs. The electricity provided by the Young Station covered the remaining demand and added needed power into the national grid.

“Our value of reliability shined through in a moment where others were facing crisis,” said plant engineering and environmental manager Tim Hagerott, adding that the Young Station is specifically designed to operate in a cold-weather climate.

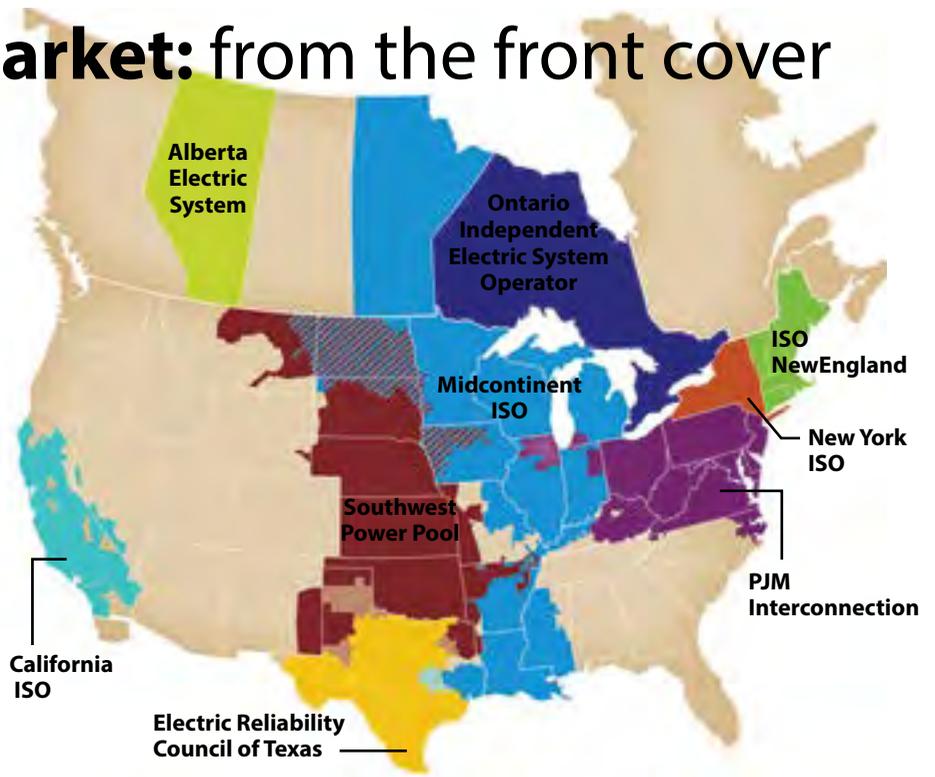
In Texas, the situation was starkly different. Many generation resource technologies, including natural gas pipelines, coal plants and wind turbines, could not perform in the low temperatures. For most of the country, this would mean importing energy from a neigh-

boring grid system operator. However, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) is nearly independent of those grid interconnections.

Additionally, hundreds of Texas power consumers who were enrolled in programs that connect them directly to wholesale power rates were burned by that week’s market volatility, receiv-

ing bills that were thousands of dollars higher than normal. Minnkota and its member cooperatives protect their member-consumers from this price fluctuation by using their own generation resources to limit market exposure.

**To learn more, read “Power over the market” at [news.minnkota.com](http://news.minnkota.com).**



## 5 steps for safe digging

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what’s below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

**1. NOTIFY**  
Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



Source: call811.com

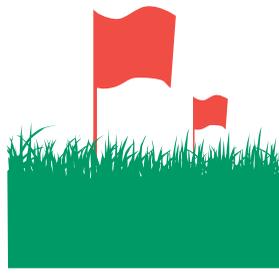
**2. WAIT**  
Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility line.



**3. CONFIRM**  
Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



**4. RESPECT**  
Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



**5. DIG CAREFULLY**  
If you can’t avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



# Ads

## For Sale

2000 Subaru Legacy Outback LE Sedan, needs work, 218-849-0910.

Jenkins skid steer attachments dirt buckets, grapples, scrapers, pallet forks, tree pullers & stump buckets, 701-261-3574.

Yard light pole, 25' good condition, make offer, 701-371-1902.

1 male, 1 female white blue-eyed Siberian Husky. Born 12/20/20. Vet checked/ up to date on vaccinations, \$450, 218-234-7487.

Grad special 2007 Nissan Murano only 118K miles, front wheel drive, Pictures available \$4,200. Franchi Renaissance 12Ga. O/U Less than 2 boxes of shells shot through it, \$1,500. 1960 Allstate Jet sweep motor scooter made by Cushman. Some restoration done to it but basic parts are there, \$750, as is, 218-483-4610 after 6pm.

4x5 net wrapped 3rd cutting alfalfa round bales – no rain. 4- LT 325/60R20 tires dynopro brand, 701-866-0093.

2 10:00 x20 truck grip tire only 150 miles on them, mounted on 2-ton Ford rims, 218-847-4017 lv message.

Circle saw, blocked firewood, arbor belt, snow blower-new tires, 218-584-4603.

Band duals size 14-34 w/ hardware. 3 cattle gates 15 ft long x 4 1/2 ft high, 218-596-8383.

1988 fender stratocaster made in Japan, \$400 obo. Like new Fender Blues Jr Amp, \$450, 218-567-8511.

Butcher hogs \$150 for whole \$75 for half you pay processing. Delivered to Ulen Locker April 16th, 701-388-2747.

Counter chairs leather & metal swivel, 3 of them, \$35 ea. 4-swivel upholstered island chairs, \$75 ea. Beige & rust love seat, \$85. Dark lg lighted hutch/buffet & dark lg TV center both lots of storage. Antique wood highchair, \$40, 218-532-7359.

Charilyn orbit motor, \$50. 300 lb sportsman scale, \$40. Two new clamp-on boat seat, \$50 pair. 265-70-R-6 new tire on 6 hole, \$50. 275-60 R-17 -two good tires, \$60. 4x8 trailer w/ sides, \$250, days 218-935-5110.

JD 3010 tractor, gas, wide front, cab, 2700 hrs, with two snow-blowers (7 foot McKee 720 on back, 76 inch Lucke Mtg in front) - \$8,000 JD No 5 sickle mower, 7 foot bar, has small trailer wheel. Bolts to flat draw-bar - \$300, 218-849-9317.

Luggage carrier to fit in rear bumper trailer hitch. 10 hp 36" snowblower Briggs engine. Chassis 3/4 hp sears shaper. Homemade log splitter, 18 hp engine 4" cylinder splits & starts, excellent lots of power can be to weed, 701-866-1075.

Model 434 Heatmore wood fired boiler, extra draft fan included, 218-574-2341.

8 steel pipes - each 20 feet long \$300, 218-790-4197.

2004 16 1/2 ft aluminum fishing boat, 50 horse Yamah w/ trailer. 2000 Polaris Sportsman 500, 4 wheel dr w/ front bumper. John Deere 320 garden tractor, 701-306-4526.

Farm fresh beef 1/4's, 1/2's, whole also hamburger, 218-849-5901.

## Wanted

16' pontoon, prefer a sun tracker 2013-2016. One that you drive from the rear seat. Vinyl floor. 4 stroke motor, 218-687-2150.

Someone to get snowmobile running, 218-584-4603.

Someone to overhaul carburetor on Briggs & Stratton generator, 701-371-1902.

Small air stream camper in good condition, must be clean - "fussy wife", 218-779-3500.

Looking for female duck(s). Drake lost his partner last fall. He is very lonely! Text 218-234-5595.

Pickup or grain truck from the 1940's or 50's w/ or w/out title, 218-280-9973.

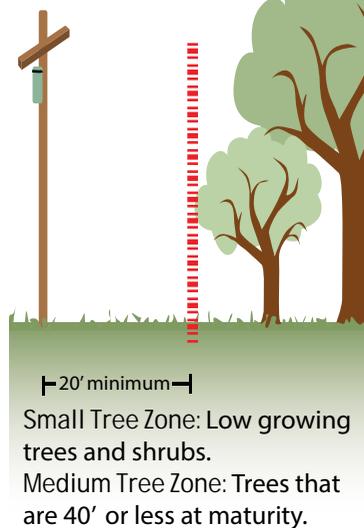
A free standing wood stove. Must in good condition, call 218-790-2862.

Building to move onto our land from the area of Twin Valley, Ada, Ulen, Fertile, 701-238-1552

Rent hayland/pasture land, 218-350-1957.

## No tree zone

Do not plant in center portion of right-of-way. Equipment and personnel need access during line repair operations.



## 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 Mahnomon, MN 56557

## Distributed Generation (DG) Grid Access Charge

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative (WREC) recovers the fixed cost to serve a DG qualifying facility sized 40kW AC and under through the DG Grid Access Charge. This charge applies to DG qualifying facilities having a nameplate rating over 3.5 kW for each new interconnection after March 1st, 2021. The fee is calculated based on a methodology that is compliant with Minnesota Statute 216B.164 Subdivision 3(a). The calculation uses a cost of service approach based on the true cost of serving a member, the kWh rate, and

the current fixed charge. Because the cost shift is different based on the size of the distributed generation facility, the fee is applied per kW of installed distributed generation that exceeds 3.5 kW. In addition to a 3.5 kW allowance there is also a not-to-exceed or capped dollar amount associated with the fee. DG qualifying facilities that interconnected with WREC prior to March 1st, 2021 will be grandfathered in and not be subject to the DG Grid Access Fee. Please contact WREC for more details on the DG Grid Access Fee.



# Gunderson Closes the Books

After a distinguished 45-year career at the Cooperative, Duane Gunderson, Director of Finance & Administration for Wild Rice Electric, closes the books one last time. Duane grew up on a farm by Bejou, MN, and at a young age was quickly introduced to hard work and setting priorities. Gunderson attended Moorhead State University where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Data Processing and Accounting.

After working for Northwestern Bell Telephone for over two years as a lineman, and one year for Twin Valley-Ulen Telephone Company as an accountant, Gunderson was hired by Wild Rice Electric on October 16, 1975, as an Accountant.

In 1979, he was named Member Service Director where he enjoyed working directly with members at their homes and businesses. Gunderson also helped with the inception of the Load Management Program, also known as Off-Peak.

In 1987, Gunderson was named Office Manager, which later became known as Director of Finance and Administration. When asked what Gunderson liked most about working at Wild Rice Electric, he said, "I loved all aspects of the job. I thoroughly enjoyed the people I worked with, and the people I worked for, namely the members of Wild Rice."

Gunderson's last official work day is

March 31st. He will join Sue, his wife of forty-eight years, in retirement. Duane and Sue have been blessed with two children, and 5 grandchildren. During Duane's career at Wild Rice, he also farmed with his family by Bejou, raising small grains and row crops, as well as served on the township Board and church council. After working two jobs for 45 years, Gunderson expressed that it will be nice to have a change whereby he can enjoy activities that he has missed due to time restraints required by his work.

The Cooperative would like to wish Duane and his wife Sue many happy, healthy years of enjoyable retirement.



PERIODICAL

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## Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.

*This Institution is an equal  
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Phone: Serving you 24  
hours a day: 800-244-5709

### **Office Hours:**

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
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Website:  
[www.wildriceelectric.com](http://www.wildriceelectric.com)

Pay bill 24 hours / 7 days  
a week: 833-250-4481

Also download the Wild Rice  
Coop app for free at your App  
Store of choice, to monitor  
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Directors:  
Randy Bjornson, Mark  
Hadedank, David Hamre,  
Jim Kaiser, Greg LaVoy, Jeff  
Nornes, Russ Okeson, Larry  
Sollie and Roger Winter.

**April 12th is National Lineworker Appreciation Day. Wild Rice Electric Cooperative (WREC) would like to salute our guardians of the grid as they keep us connected so that we may power on each and every day. Thank you to our crews that work in the extremes of weather and who's top priority is safety, not only for themselves and their fellow lineworkers, but for you, the member. Remember to Thank a Lineworker on April 12th.**

**Above, WREC crews work safely along the road to convert a single-phase line to a 3-phase line.**