



RURAL DELIGHT

November 2021 • Volume 81 • Issue 11
News from Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.
PO Box 438 • Mahnomon, MN 56557
www.wildriceelectric.com

From all of us at Wild Rice Electric

Happy

Thanksgiving

Wild Rice Electric extends a sincere **THANKS** to our **MEMBER -OWNERS** for your participation in your cooperative.

Our **EMPLOYEES** who make it possible to provide a vital service – Electricity.

Our **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** for their leadership and thoughtful consideration with the member's best interest in mind.

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative embraces the Cooperative Principles including Concern for Community, we do this through **GIVING**.

OPERATION ROUND-UP provides direct financial support to strengthen our local communities.

Sharing in the cooperative's financial success through our system of **CAPITAL CREDITS**. This year, \$917,615 in member equity was returned to cooperative members.

A total of \$232,250 has been awarded through **HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS** over the years.

This year Wild Rice Electric awarded 40 - \$750 scholarships to students at 10 local

Our office will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 25 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

To learn more about your cooperative membership visit www.wildriceelectric.com



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Kris Dolan

Mission Statement

// Energizing our member's future. //

We are very excited to announce our new mission, vision, and values statements. They have great importance as they describe who we are and what our driving purpose is. They are our organizational roadmap that we operate from each day.

The new mission statement, "Energizing our member's future.", is easy to remember and provides the focus of our daily mission. Everything we do fits within this statement. Whether it is safety, system maintenance, construction work plans, financial planning, member services, regulatory and legislative advocacy or restoring outages; all that we do preserves a sustained future of safe, reliable, affordable, energy for our members.

Our vision statement, "To exceed our members expectations!", is our ever-reaching goal that we employ as we execute our mission statement.

Vision Statement

// To exceed our members expectations! //

We do all of this through our values.

Values define how we consistently interact as we carry out our mission and achieve our vision. Each value contains a definition to further describe who we are and what our culture is, aligning our organization our collective values are:

Dependability - Holding strong our commitment to service, honoring our promises to our members.

Respectful - Treat others as they want to be treated.

Integrity - Live in our values in each of our daily interactions.

Visionary - Envision a future of safety, exceptional service, and success.

Energizing - We walk through the fear of change vs. in fear, with a focus on opportunities found within.

An easy acronym we use to keep our values near is the word **DRIVE**. This acronym also encompasses our values into an action statement. Every one of us here has the **DRIVE** to do the right things for our members and each other **ALWAYS**. Operating in our values, executing our mission and striving to carry out our vision each and every day is the formula for success for our members and for Wild Rice Electric. We are committed to our members and living within our mission, vision and values.

We at Wild Rice wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving and are thankful for the privilege to serve you.

Highlights from the Board Room:

Wild Rice Electric's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on August 31, 2021, at the Ruttger's Birchmont Lodge, Bemidji MN, in conjunction with a Strategic Planning Session. During the meeting, the following items were discussed: review of COVID-19 protocol and current status; review of after-hours call services; PCS on-site employee training review; ECO legislation review; 2022 Budget timeline; WRECI website upgrade; 2022 Capital Projects; and review of Cooperative Value Statements.

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

- **Authorized** entering into a 3-year audit agreement with Eide Bailly LLP;
- **Accepted** the 2020 Key Ratio Trend Analysis Report;
- **Accepted** Minnkota Power board report;
- **Accepted** MREA board report;
- **Accepted** Energy Issues Summit meeting report;
- **Accepted** Consent agenda reports as presented by department managers including financials, member services/load management, safety/operations; and CEO/director compensation report.

The November meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, November 30, 2021.

Give thanks for the off-peak program

Off-peak helps us all work together to use energy wisely, improve reliability of electric service and save money. The off-peak program is voluntary for consumers who agree to let Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, temporarily interrupt power to certain electric loads – like heating systems, water heaters or vehicle chargers – when demand for electricity is high. The off-peak program has been a success story since its implementation in 1977.



Member-consumers – receive a discounted electric rate (about half the retail rate) for participating in the off-peak electric heating, water heating or vehicle charging programs. In exchange for these savings, consumers voluntarily allow these electric systems and other interruptible loads to be temporarily turned off or switched to a backup fuel source primarily during periods of high demand for electricity. In addition to the lower electric rate, your cooperative offers numerous rebate and incentive programs to help offset the cost of purchasing new equipment.

The cost of electricity is not only based on how much is used, but also when it is used. Your cooperative saves on its wholesale power costs through the off-peak program by reducing its demand for electricity during peak events. These savings are passed back to you through the lower off-peak rate.

Minnkota and the grid – By utilizing the off-peak program, Minnkota can more effectively manage its existing power resources and avoid purchasing high-priced energy from other utilities or the energy market. It also prevents the need to acquire or build new electric generating resources that would carry a very high cost.

The off-peak program proved extraordinarily valuable during the electric grid challenges experienced in February 2021, when widespread power outages and high market prices impacted other areas of the country. Minnkota and Wild Rice Electric were able to strategically use the program to shield you from price volatility and other system issues.

As propane prices spike, off-peak program provides stability

The last two years have shown consumers how volatile pricing can be – from gas to building supplies to vehicles. Most recently, propane prices have skyrocketed, leaving some people planning for a costly heating season. If you're looking for something rock solid, take advantage of an air-source heat pump on your coop's off-peak electric heating program for your next system replacement or new home.

For the last decade, our low off-peak electricity price has remained stable, protecting you from volatile cost swings of fossil fuels. With the off-peak electric program, you still have the choice to utilize a backup fuel source when it's very cold, and you have more control over your monthly expenses. It's the comfort and security you've been longing for.



Save money with an air-source heat pump

Because of their advanced efficiency, the cost to run an air-source heat pump (ASHP) often falls well below the cost of propane-only heat. The difference grows when propane prices rise, which can happen without much notice. Wild Rice Electric offers hundreds

of dollars in rebates to help offset the cost of installing a qualified ASHP. In addition to protecting you from unpredictable fuel prices, ASHPs maintain the same comfort you expect without the need to endlessly monitor fuel levels. Electric heat doesn't run out, so you can avoid more seasonal refills and messy maintenance. Plus, less reliance on fossil fuels means fewer emissions inside and outside your home.

Operating cost estimates

Propane/ Air Conditioner	\$2,145	
Standard Air-Source Heat Pump (15 SEER)w/ propane backup	\$1,700	\$442 in annual savings
Cold Climate Heat PUMP (21 SEER) w/ propane backup	\$1,420	\$722 in annual savings

Annual Heating and Cooling Costs (August 2021)

Assumptions: Typical weather in a northern climate. Assumed heating requirements of 55,000 BTU/h. Average propane price of \$1.50 per gallon. Summer electric rate of 12.7 cents per kWh. Winter off-peak electric rate of 6.6 cents per kWh. (Estimates courtesy of Bryant Heating & Cooling.)

Also save
HUNDREDS
in rebates!

See how your home can go off-peak by calling Wild Rice Electric at 1-800-244-5709 or visiting our website: www.wildriceelectric.com.

Yard Light Agreement Form

With daylight savings time coming November 7, causing for an earlier sunset, Wild Rice Electric reminds consumers that we can help shed some light.

For only \$8.75/month, Wild Rice Electric can mount a yard light on our existing poles for you. If interested, visit our website at wildriceelectric.com and click on the Yard Light Agreement Form link on the home page or call our office at 1-800-244-5709.

Ads

For Sale

Single shot H&R/New England heavy barrel 17 caliber HMR. Accurate small game/varmint gun for \$250.00. I may sell the 3 x 9 scope on it for an additional \$50.00. Text or call 320.287.2799.

Wheat straw, small square bales at \$2.75/bale, Erskine area, 218-280-0732

Jenkins Skid steer attachments for Sale: Grapple and skeletal buckets, dirt and snow buckets new and used also brush mowers, pallet forks, tree pullers, stump buckets, receiver hitches plus lots more 701-261-3574

4 Bridge stone tires P275/55R20 on Helo rims 20x8. Used 5,000 or less miles. \$1,500. Call 218-849-9951.

Alumna Craft Lunker V-16 LFT powered by 4 stroke Yamaha, kept in shop, 410-259-9755.

John Deere six row, 30in all cross head. Small square alfalfa bales and 4x5 net wrapped round bales, 218-261-0971 or 701-866-0093.

Hardwood, seasoned maple & ironwood, \$75 per pickup load. Saddles – circle Y flex-lite, \$800. Roping saddle, \$350, 218-375-4054.

Crossbred meat rabbits both male/female, \$15 ea. Great pets, meat, or breeders, texting only 218-849-3954.

Sectional sofa with queen sleeper. Clean and good condition. \$50. 218-280-6331

Butcher hogs \$150 for half, \$75 for half delivered to Ulen Locker November 5th. You pay processing call 701-388-2747.

Dome topped trunk, \$25. Old steamer wardrobe trunk, \$65. 28 ft Keller ext. ladder, \$250. Barn wood table lamp, \$15, 218-983-3916.

1954 M Farmall runs well all tires like new, has PTO hydro, pump loader frame w/ rams also chains on back tires asking \$2,250, 218-983-3395.

Frigidaire 4 burner gas stove. Whirlpool washer & dryer. Jenn air refrigerator, 218-841-9355.

510 JD round baler, 2 sets rear tractor tire weights, 14 -ft JD tandem disc. 620 INT 16ft drill, 218-847-4017, lv message.

Blocked fire wood, circle saw arbor, snowblower (walk behind) new tires as is., 584-4603.

1996 Buick Park Ave. \$2,575, 1991 Buick Park Ave, \$1,575 both have good tires. John Deere 445 lawn tractor 54" deck, 880 hours, \$4,250 or best offer, 218-356-8626.

2 tillers, Cub Cadet RT 65 H, \$600. Earth Quake 5N \$400, 218-483-4154.

1 Running Cub Lowboy tractor w/ mounted cycle bar mower \$1,800. 1 not running \$900 both for \$2,400. 4 Goodyear tires 10R/22.5 \$50 ea. 6 tires 225/75/R16 mounted on Chevy dually rims \$25 ea, 218-841-3180.

4 wooden snow fence, 5 wire in very good condition, \$50 ea, 218-535-1891.

Wanted

Older – larger vehicle good condition, V6/V8 prefer bench seats not bucket, 218-937-5292.

Snowmobile, good shape, reasonable, 218-289-0612, lv mess, no text.

Pontoon trailer for a 22 ft pontoon, can be either bunk style or scissor style. 218-686-3452

1965 4 door Glaire passenger front door window, 218-841-9355.

Wind shield for 95 Ford 150, tire changer and square hay bales, 584-4603.

Give Away

Two Marvin Crank Out Windows. Fit in 49" x 49" rough opening. 218-238-5882.

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

Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.

This Institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Phone: Serving you 24 hours a day: 800-244-5709

Office Hours:

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

Website:
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 usage, pay your bill and more.

Directors:

Randy Bjornson
Mark Habedank
David Hamre
Jim Kaiser
Greg LaVoy
Jeff Nornes
Russ Okeson
Larry Sollie
Roger Winter

Celebrate with Savings

LED LIGHTING REBATE

Buy energy efficient Christmas lights and decorations

How to Apply:

1. Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery operated) lights and decorations in 2021.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to your utility or cooperative by Dec. 31, 2021, with a copy of your sales receipt and the packaging showing the number of lights per string. ENERGY STAR® LEDs are recommended.
3. Select the appropriate rebate in the box below. (**Rebate cannot exceed 50% of cost. Maximum of five strings per customer.**)



Name _____ City/Zip _____

Account # _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Number of Strings	Rebate per String	Total Rebate
Fewer than 99 lights	\$3	
100-199 lights	\$6	
200-299 lights	\$9	
Greater than 300 lights	\$12	

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

Download this
form online at
wildriceelectric.com

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

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

Mahnomen County
Social Services
311 North Main
PO Box 460

Mahnomen, MN 56557
218-935-2568
White Earth Nation Financial Services
PO Box 100
Naytahwaush, MN 56566
844-282-6580/ 218-935-2359

Clay County
West Central Minnesota
Communities Action, Inc.
411 Industria Park Blvd.
Elbow Lake, MN 56531
800-492-4805/ 218-685-4486

Clay County Social Services
715 11th St No, Suite 502
Moorhead, MN 56560
218-299-5200/ 800-757-3880

Polk County
Inter County Community Council
PO Box 189
Oklee, MN 56742
218-796-5144/ 888-778-4008

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

W. Polk County or
Norman County
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council
102 N Broadway
PO BOX 607

Crookston, MN 56716
218-281-5832/ 800-584-7020

Norman County Social Services
15 2nd Ave E
Ada, MN 56510
218-784-5400/ 833-543-1964

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing.

Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: energy.gov



Wild Rice Electric

requests that any unsafe or hazardous conditions involving our electrical equipment please be reported to the cooperative. Examples to report include old guy wires and anchor rods that may have worked their way above ground overtime.



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Steve Haaven receives award for Outstanding Service



Steve Haaven (left) receives award from Jim Matheson (right) NRECA CEO.

Former Wild Rice Electric Cooperative CEO, Steve Haaven, was recently selected by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Board of Directors to receive the Regional Award for Outstanding Service in Region 6. The award recognizes outstanding service to electric cooperatives by individuals at the regional and state level. Nominations for Haaven's selection included Mac McLennan - President & CEO of Minnkota Power Cooperative; Darrick Moe - President & CEO of Minnesota Rural Electric Association; Kristin Dolan - current CEO of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative and the Wild Rice Electric Board of Directors.

Haaven retired from Wild Rice Electric in January of 2021. During his 47-year career with Wild Rice Electric, 33 years as CEO, Haaven's guidance, passion and dedication to the electric

coop family gained him a reputation as a great leader in the electric cooperative industry. Haaven served as chairman for over 20 years on the board for Carr's Tree Service, which conducts vegetation management for the electric utility industry, as well as represented MN and ND on the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) board for six years. Haaven was instrumental in helping guide cooperative priorities through the Minnesota legislature to better serve cooperative members.

Haaven's longevity allowed for him to build lasting relationships with Wild Rice Electric member families, farms and communities that will benefit the cooperative membership well into the future. Wild Rice Electric would like to congratulate Haaven on this award and thank him for his many dedicated years of service.