

Have you celebrated your role as a Wild Rice Electric member this month?

# October is National Co-op Month

It's an excellent time to reflect on what makes the cooperative model the most democratic, efficient and collaborative system for energizing your community!

Join us at Wild Rice Electric from 8:30 to 4 to celebrate **YOUR** cooperative membership on **Wednesday, October 12th.**

Refreshments will be provided. Learn about services and programs provided through the co-op including off peak heating savings and rebate programs.



Be sure to sign up for a chance to win 1 of 3 bill credits (must sign up in person on October 12). Members will have the opportunity to see the latest craze – A Ford F-150 Lightning all Electric Vehicle (EV) as well as a Surface Rook Electric Bike from 10am – 2pm. Tours of the facility will also be available to those interested. Come and experience the power of your membership!



<p>OPEN &amp; VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP</p>	<p>DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL</p> <p>VOTE</p>	<p>MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION</p>	<p>EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION</p>	<p>CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY</p>
<p>SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES</p>		<p>AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE</p>	<p>COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES</p>	

Unlike many areas of government, every year is an election year for your member-owned electric cooperative. Our board of directors is chosen by YOU. You get to experience democracy in action at every annual meeting and meet your elected directors in person – if you don't already know them as neighbors.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, electric co-ops aren't organized to make profits. That means that decisions made by your board of directors are based on what is best for end-users – not what will make shareholders the most money. If a co-op makes more than it needs to cover the cost of safe and reliable service, that money is returned to member-consumers in the form of capital credits.

Unlike the majority of private businesses, electric co-ops are not competitors of neighboring co-ops. In fact, co-ops pride themselves in working with each other – merging their collective industry knowledge, sharing generation resources and assisting each other during out-age events. A cooperative system is strongest when everyone is moving the same direction toward mutual goals for the future.

## TYPES OF CONSUMER CO-OPS

- Rural electric co-ops (like us!)
- Water co-ops
- Grocery co-ops
- Telephone/communications co-ops
- Credit unions
- Housing co-ops

## FUN FACT

It was a former Minnesota governor, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, who first proclaimed October to be Co-op Month. That was all the way back in 1964!



# STAFF COMMENTS

Director of Finance

## AROUND THE CO-OP ...

by **Crystal Askelson**

It's National Co-op Month and what better way to celebrate than to tell our story. In 1935, Wild Rice Electric was once a part of the territory serviced by Lake Region Co-op. Electrical Association. On August 15, 1939, a group of citizens gathered at the town hall in Flom, MN to listen as Peter Ingebretson



**Ingebretson**

of Ulen, introduce Albert R. Knutson, project superintendent of Lake Region and Julius Ausen, representing the examining division of REA in Washington. With the Wild Rice Electric territory not seeing any progress of electricity, Ausen, encouraged the Wild Rice Electric territory to withdraw from the Lake Region system, stating it was in the best interest of Wild Rice Electric territory to have a smaller project area. A motion was made to appoint Ingebretson as acting chairman for the evening, as well as Arnold J. Christenson as temporary secretary. A motion was made by Ed Her-

berger of Fertile and seconded by John Christenson of Twin Valley that members in all of Mahnomon and parts of Clay, Becker, Norman and Polk counties withdraw from the Lake Region Co-op. Electrical Association and form their own cooperative. The motion was carried unanimously. The newly formed association was named Wild Rice Co-op. Electrical Association. The group then elected nine citizens to represent and serve as incorporators and also as directors.

Ingebretson was named the first president, Refling

vice president, Olson secretary, and Westad treasurer.

In a meeting on September 19, 1939 the name was changed to Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. It was also at this meeting that Ingebretson resigned as president of the Cooperative to accept the office of project superintendent role. Refling was then named president.

### **November 22, 1939:**

REA officials urged Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc to merge with the Red Lake project. Westad offered a resolution rejecting the

proposed merger. All the directors voted in favor of the resolution.

### **December 18, 1939:**

Ingebretson, Refling, and A. Olson traveled to Grands Forks to get information on a proposed generation plant. It was in March 27, 1940, the directors voted unanimously to join the two-state generation cooperative, known today as Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

### **September 1940:**

Construction began of the electrical lines. By December 1940, roughly 150 farmers were now ready to take electric services.

### **December 18, 1940:**

Andrew Freeman, manager of Minnkota Power Cooperative, turned the switch, sending the first electric current into Wild Rice lines.

From the first 150 members to the current 11,874 members, Wild Rice Electric has been proudly serving our members for 83 years.



**Members of the First Board:** Front row (left to right): Iver J. Westad; Fertile, Alfred R. Olson; Gary, Oscar J. Olson; Lake Park & O.P. Reing; Rindal. Second row: Lewis Kirkeby; Twin Valley, Maybell Milstein; Mahnomon and J.A.G. Olson; Detroit Lakes. Standing: Hugo Bromander; Ulen and Clarence Kampstad; Lengby.

Compiled from information taken from The Night They Turned on the Lights. By Harold Seveson

## Note from the Board ...

As of August 15, 2022, Kristin Dolan is no longer with Wild Rice Electric Cooperative as its President & CEO. The Board appointed a group of key employees to assist in managing the day to day affairs until an interim CEO could be selected. The Board has named Elaine Garry, a recently retired electric cooperative manager, to serve in the role of Interim CEO until such time as it names a permanent CEO. Ms. Garry is expected to start her service on October 10, 2022.

-- Wild Rice Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

# Are you ready for winter?

## Last winter was brutal.

Countless blizzards and extreme cold weather were made worse by rapid increases in the price of home heating fuels, such as propane, fuel oil and natural gas. With the price of those fuels expected to remain high, it's a good time to consider switching to off-peak electric heating. Off-peak provides your home or business with comfortable, efficient heating, while also protecting you from heating fuel price spikes. The off-peak electric heating rate is remarkably stable in comparison to the alternatives.

So, how does it work? The off-peak program is voluntary for members who allow for their electric heating system to be temporarily controlled and switched to an automated backup resource (like propane or electric storage) during times of peak demand for electricity in the region. In exchange, members receive a discounted electric heat rate, which is about 50% less than standard electricity rate.

Here are a few things we want you to know before the winter season begins.

## 1) There's still time to switch to off-peak heating

Call our Member Services Department at 1-800-244-5709 to discuss your options for adding off-peak electric heating equipment to your home or business. The process is typically simple and straightforward, and your electric cooperative provides great rebates, incentives and other programs to significantly lower installation and equipment costs.

## 2) There is a potential for earlier-than-normal off-peak load control hours

From now until mid-December, Minnkota Power Cooperative, your electric cooperative's wholesale power provider, will have its largest power plant offline for scheduled maintenance. With this plant not producing electric-

ity, Minnkota may need to utilize off-peak load control to avoid costly electricity purchases from others on the grid. The savings from this practice are passed on to you through the low off-peak rate.

## 3) Fill your propane or fuel oil tank so your back up heat is ready

Be sure to fill your propane or fuel oil tank as soon as possible, and make sure your tank is large enough to hold an adequate supply. If your propane tank gets low during extreme cold temperatures, there is a possibility, it may not work properly. Remember, prices typically rise as demand increases during the heating season.

## 4) Check your furnace

Make sure to change your furnace filter regularly. Contact a heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) professional to inspect/maintain your system as needed. Early attention to maintenance can help prevent failures in the heart of heating season.

Members have had to spend more on energy to heat their homes and for transportation this past year, but the good news is that the price you pay for electricity is forecasted to remain stable. If you have questions about how to save on your winter heating bills or are having issues making payments, please contact our offices. We are here to help and can connect you with the right resources, no matter the situation.



## Highlights from the Board Room:

Wild Rice Electric's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on July 26, 2022, at the Wild Rice Electric headquarters. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and then the following items were discussed: update and review of right-of-way maintenance plan presented by Carr's Tree Service; report on the accounting methodology for major storm events; Construction Work Plan update; review of Minnkota Power critical load classifications in preparation of planned power supply interruptions; and follow up of Strategic Plan initiatives and status updates.

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

- **Accepted** the second quarter Financial Review Committee report;
- **Accepted** the Minnkota Power report as presented;
- **Accepted** the MREA report as presented;
- **Appointed** delegates and alternates to the NRECA Region 5&6 meetings;
- **Accepted** Consent Agenda Reports – Financial Reports as presented by Director of Finance; Operations Reports as presented by Director of Operations; Member Services Reports as presented by Director of Member Services; and Director Compensation Report & CEO Expense Report as presented by board treasurer.

The October meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, October 25, 2022.

# Ads

## For Sale

85 gal service tank w/ a dc electric pump, \$500, 218-935-2471.

Farmall "H" parts: Grill \$350, Hood \$200, misc parts include bull gears \$50 ea, Air Cleaner \$25, light bar w/12V lights \$25, gages \$10, PTO Hyd pump w/ directional valve \$100, also old pump jack \$50, 218-483-4610.

Hoyer lift w/ 2 batteries, 2 slings, 450-pound weight limit, Brand is Driver, 3 yrs old, 218-687-2072.

40 ft dock w/ 8x8 out end w/ ladder. 32 ft dock, 218-233-4051 or 218-443-8328

7 ft. woods 3 point blade \$700, BX 2200 Kubota with cozy cab, heater, windshield wiper, snow-blower, 60 in. mower deck, front bucket, 3 point, all lights work \$14,000, 1959 MF65 \$3500, mid mount sickle mower for MF 65, not complete, make offer, call 701-866-4681.

1949 8N Ford Tractor. Included are the plow, cultivator, blade & mower. Has good rubber but needs valve job. 1964 MM tractor, Tri Star 3. Included also are the loader and mower. It has good rubber & new battery, 701-367-5574.

Side mount pick up tool boxes, 69" long, 12" wide, white steel good condition, \$300 cash, 218-535-1891.

Diamond plated tool box for small pickup good shape. 1980 CX 500 Honda needs battery, 218-847-4017 lv message.

Clam Yukon portable fish house w/ cover & runner kit. Non-insulated, \$300, 218-841-1694.

1996 four winns 170 horizon 130 hp Johnson, 218-596-8307.

1940s Minneapolis Moline 2B Narrow front, great running tractor, \$2,000. 2016 Arctic Cat Alterra 450 4-wheeler, \$3,200. 1980s Arctic Cat EXT 580 snowmobile \$700, 218-401-2586.

John Deere tractor 1520 w/ 48" loader w/ Farm King cutter, \$6,500 obo, 218-350-3090.

Schmitt Music Aria Organ has 2 manuals, full pedal keyboard in good condition, will consider all offers, 218-574-2503.

E-Z Roll aluminum boat lift, 2500 lb. rating, manual crank, \$750, 218-935-5798.

New & used skid steer attachments. Grapple/ pallet fork stump/ snow buckets, tree pullers and more, 701-261-3574 .

John Deere tractors for parts. Model 70 with original Roll-O-Matic front plus Norden wide front. Model A with narrow front. Both tractors NOT running. \$750 for the 70, \$300 for the A. Also have trip bucket loader that fits the 70 for \$150. \$1000 takes all 3. 218-563-2469.

2022 Class C 24' Mercedes Thor Quantum Coach. Perfect new condition. 5,000 miles on odometer diesel, \$110,000, 701-371-3235.

110 Stihl Kombi, comes w/ leaf blower, weed wacker, pull saw w/ extensions, \$350, 218-574-2997.

Purebred Pembroke Welsh corgi puppies, 3 tri males available for \$1,100 or best offer. Farm raised in our home, potty trained, well mannered, kid friendly, raised w/ other dogs, 218-234-0095.

New Sealy Response Premium Ridge Crest 14 Inch Mattress. \$600, new, \$400, 218-275-9725.

Mixed hay in round bales; \$30. Second cut square bales alfalfa, \$7, near Cotton Lake, 218-841-2688.

36ft antenna tower, \$40 or best offer, 520-431-0757.

Left handed violin, 2 bow, beginner book, Christmas music, tuner & voice recorder, \$800, 406-471-4273.

20' long steel sheets, 2x6 - 20' & shorter lengths, also 20' 2x4's & shorter all used & reconditioned, 218-574-2269 or 218-289-4047.

1996 Chev HD 1/2 T 4x4 new reb tran- transper case complete rebuilt frt sup very good, no rust. Northstar Pro series Com Gen 8000 13hp Honda mtr, 4 outlets, 1- 240 outlet whl cart, handle, new cond. John Deere service tools for trans & clutch work, 218-849-8963.

Pickup box trailer good wood hauler. 8'x6' steel flat bed w/ lights. Old potato planter -works. 8' diameter old school merry-go-round needs wood floor replace, evenings, 218-962-3302.

Remington Model 7, 243 cal. Bushnel scope, like new, \$675, 218-847-7824.

2 black angus bull calves 5/6 months old, good temperament. Black angus bull 2 1/2 yr old good despo. Snow blower - walk behind (new tires) 8 hp - 26 in -as is. Circle saw arbor. Chaparral firebird snowmobile, 584-4603.

Portable adjustable basketball stand \$75.00 701-237-9301

Driver hoier lift w/ 2 batteries, 2 slings 450 pd weight limit- 3 years old, 218-687-2072.

72 inch beige Silestone counter top w/ backsplash and under mount sink, 218-280-7776.

1984 Chevy 3/4 ton 4x4 w/ summer sprayer. 1981 MF 2705 tractor. Also small square straw bales, 218-261-0971.

Gould water pump model BFO3S, \$150, 218-849-9444.

1997 Ford Ranger, good motor, transmission, step box for parts. 1992 Ford for parts, make offer, 218-439-3509.

Hobart Cable Upright Piano, \$100. Singer Sewing machine in wooden cabinet, \$75, 218-439-6073.

## Wanted

Propane cook stove w/ pilot lights, 218-935-2471.

Eight Ball Deluxe Pinball Machine. 218-275-9725. Leave Message.

Old granary building near Twin Valley, 701-238-1552.

## Free

Kimball piano. Needs work. You pick up and haul, 218-356-8505.

## Our Ad Policy

- Ads are published for members at no charge as space permits on a first-come, first served basis.
- You can submit your ad by mail, email, or drop off in office. Phone ads will not be accepted.
- Email ads to . . . info@wildriceelectric.com
- Mail ads to . . . Wild Rice Electric P.O. Box 438 Mahnomon, MN 56557

Minnesota Rural Electric Association (representing rural electric cooperatives), other utilities including Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power, Xcel Energy, and the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (rep-



resenting municipal power utilities) joined with the Minnesota Farm Bureau, Minnesota Farmers Union,

the Cooperative Network and the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association in developing an important tool for dealing with stray voltage challenges. Also joining in the effort and research were the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry and Department of Agriculture. As a result, the Minnesota Stray Voltage Guide is available for livestock organizations across the state and is being used to address any concerns that may arise.

The presence of stray voltage is a normal result of electricity traveling through utility distribution systems, which must be grounded to earth to ensure safe and reliable operation. However, if problems occur, the level of voltage present on a farm can reach levels that could impact livestock. Dairy farmers are our member-owners. The Guide provides another tool to ensure any challenges they may be experiencing in this area are being addressed.

Other states have adopted standard practices to address stray voltage concern, and there has been a lot of research done. This research was used in developing this guide, and has served as the foundation for the development of standards in other states. The entire guidebook can be downloaded at [minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com](http://minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com). There is no cost to download the guidebook. As always we encourage anyone with questions to contact us.

# COLD WEATHER RULE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule (216B.096), electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by Wild Rice Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from Wild Rice Electric Cooperative.

## Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects.

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, Wild Rice Electric Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

# ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below the state median income (\$58,793 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2023.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.

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

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

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

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

**Energy Assistance Program**  
3303 US Hwy 59/ PO Box 418  
White Earth, MN 56591  
218-473-2711 or 888-458-1385

**Tri-Valley Opportunity Council**  
102 N Broadway PO Box 607  
Crookston, MN 56716  
218-281-5832/ 800-584-7020

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact us immediately to work out a mutually agreeable payment plan.

# USPS Statement of Ownership

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Frequency: Monthly 12 12-member 12 member

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802 N MAIN ST. PO BOX 438  
MAHNOSENS, MN 56557

THOMAS HOUDEK, CO-OWNER  
802 N MAIN ST. PO BOX 438  
MAHNOSENS, MN 56557

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802 N MAIN ST. PO BOX 438, MAHNOSENS, MN 56557

THOMAS HOUDEK, CO-OWNER  
802 N MAIN ST. PO BOX 438, MAHNOSENS, MN 56557

4340 S Fosters green rd, greenwood village, CO 80111  
National Rural Utilities Finance Corp 38781 Cooperative Way, Dulles, VA 20166  
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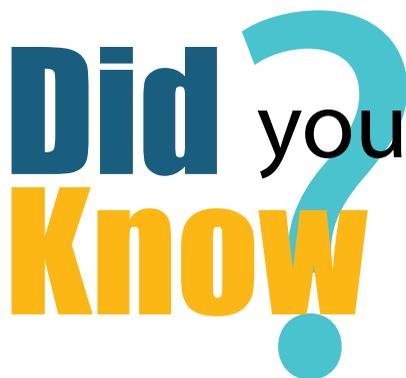
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From the first members to the current **11,874** members, Wild Rice Electric has been serving our members for **83 years.**

	January	
	1941	2022
Number of Services Billed	189	14,627
Total Billing	\$663.02	\$3,777,731.19
Average kWh Used per Household	39.1	2,144
Wholesale Power kWh Purchased	12,900	37,3705,896
Density (Members per Mile of Line)	1.4	3.6

**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](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 usage, pay your bill and more.

**Directors:**  
Randy Bjornson,  
Mark Habedank, David Hamre,  
Jim Kaiser, Greg LaVoy,  
Jeff Nornes, Russ Okeson,  
Larry Sollie and Roger Winter.