



# A circle of benefits

State-of-the-art Waukon Dairy produces gallons of opportunity in Wild Rice Electric Cooperative territory

Right now, somewhere in Norman County, Minn., exactly 128 dairy cows are rotating on a circular platform, chilling to polka as they enjoy their 8.5-minute carousel ride. This carnival spins day and night at Waukon Dairy (a subsidiary of Riverview, LLP), with each of the facility's 9,500 cows receiving a ticket to ride twice a day. The daily price of admission? Seven or eight gallons of milk.



the latest of more than a dozen Riverview dairies spread across the Upper Midwest. The milk produced at Waukon Dairy is hauled by tanker to a local creamery to be made into cheese.

As visitors walk through the barn, they notice there are no flies, and there are no agitated moos. An endless row of industrial fans keep a clean breeze moving through the facility, and the pens are cleaned twice a day. "It's a good life," said Ron Visser, Waukon Dairy's site manager. "You get milked once every 12 hours, then you come back and you eat and you lay down on a fresh bed, drinking water and hanging out with your friends."

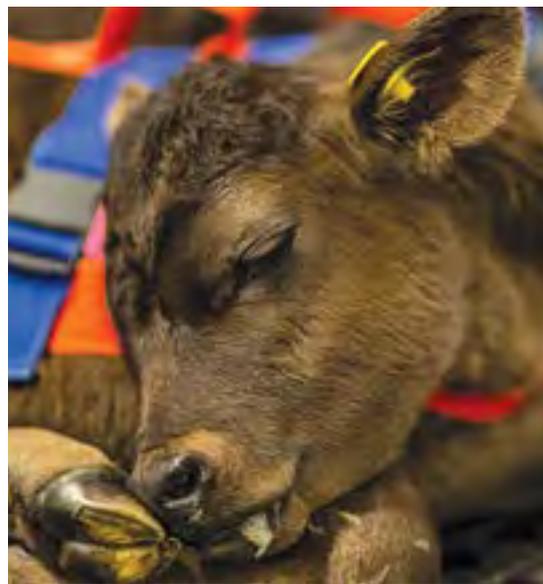
Manure is the unsung hero of Waukon Dairy. After the waste travels through a high-powered separator, the fluffy, liquid-free manure can be used as fresh bedding for cows. The liquid manure can then be used by farmers as natural fertilizer. It creates a mutually beneficial system in which



Waukon Dairy buys feed silage and haylage from regional growers and then sells them non-commercial fertilizer.

The initial plans for the dairy project garnered an incredible amount of support in Waukon Township. Koehl says it's important to the company to find areas where farmers see value in working with them. Riverview worked alongside Wild Rice

**WAUKON DAIRY:** See inside



"They're usually excited to get on," said Riverview's Martha Koehl, peeking into the milking parlor from the observation deck. Waukon Dairy, one of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative's newest members, began milking in June 2022. The operation sits on 160 acres of land, employs 45 people and is



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Elaine Garry

## Mission Statement

# “Energizing our members’ future!”

Greetings to the members of Wild Rice Electric. I am serving as the Interim CEO at your cooperative while your Board proceeds through the process of hiring a new leader. I was out of the workplace (retired) for almost three years before I returned in this interim role. Lucky me --- because I missed the difficult time of managing during the COVID years. However, it has truly been a wonderful experience returning to the work place.

Your cooperative is well-served by your Board of Directors. They have shared their vision and goals for this cooperative. Service quality is at the top of that list. In fact, at the end of 2021, your board adopted an updated Mission, Vision, and Values Statement. (See the insert below.) Note that the Vision Statement is “to exceed our member’s expectations!” That’s a high expectation and a difficult challenge to present to the employees of this cooperative.

However, the employees are ready and willing! In the past couple of years, the employees have been asked to adopt new technology, update policies and past practices, and assume new responsibilities. This takes time, commitment, and determination. If you are like me, adopting new technology and new practices is hard. My grandson has schooled me a couple times on how to use my smartphone!

Adapting to these changes also takes patience, cooperation, energy, and vision. As we all know, change can be very difficult. To help guide employees, the Board also adopted Values which actually consists of five words --- **Dependability, Respect-**

## Vision Statement

# “To exceed our members’ expectations!”

ful, Integrity, Visionary, and Energizing (**DRIVE**). Those are powerful words! If every person adopted the behaviors associated with each of those words, our world would be a different place.

Hopefully you have noticed and will continue to notice the hard work the Cooperative staff has already completed including a new automatic metering system, a new outage management system, implementation of mobile service orders, a new billing statement, an updated web site, the use of social media to communicate with members, and access to outage information via your phone or computer.

In addition to those changes that you see as a member, a significant number of internal changes have also occurred. Your line workers use ipads for service orders and maps. Mapping and staking work are done in-house. All employees have emails for improved, quicker, and consistent communications. We use Zoom meetings as appropriate. A new security and fire system for the building has been added. We are working with a new engineering firm and a new engineer. And, more changes are planned.

To help us adapt to these changes, we have added an IT manager who has been tasked with managing all the hardware and software used by the cooperative and to assist all employees to learn and grow in their use of that technology. We have a HR manager who is responsible for all aspects of employee care --- from wages and benefits, training and continuing education, supervision and job skills to organizational

culture. Lastly, we have tasked a talented, long-term employee with the role of safety coordinator. Many of our employees work in a safety-sensitive position and our goal is to return them to their home in the same or better shape than when they arrived at work. It takes a team to make this all work! Each and every employee has an important role at the Cooperative. And, that role is to serve you, our members. In this holiday season, if you see them out and about, please take a minute to thank them and your Board members.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year to you!

## Values

**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.

# How to Become a Director

The grassroots participation in nominating and electing directors is one of the most important powers that you, the members, have in controlling your Cooperative – Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. 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 annual member meeting for a term of three years. If a circumstance arises where a director leaves his/her seat prior to the end of their term, a special election will be held to fill that director seat until the term would expire.

At the Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. annual meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2023, director elections for District 1, 2 and 3 will be held. This year the three-year terms of the following directors will expire at the 2023 Annual Meeting. They are: David Hamre, Erskine; Roger Winter, Callaway; and Jimmy Kaiser, Lake Park.

To qualify as a director candidate, you must:

- Be a member in good standing receiving electric service from Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Be only one, and not more than one, member of a joint membership.
- Have voting rights within the district from which the director is to be elected.
- Not be employed by, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in any individual or entity which is either directly or substantially competing with the Cooperative, selling goods or services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative, or possess a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative.
- Not be an employee or not have been an employee of the Cooperative within the last three (3) years.
- Not be a close relative of an employee.
- If a representative or agent of a member is not a natural person, i.e., a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or similar, then the



representative or agent designated as a nominee for director shall be an individual residing within the external boundaries of the district from which (s)he is nominated.

- Never have been convicted of a felony.
- Agree to regularly attend all board, regular and special, member’s meetings.

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 one hundred and twenty days (120) before the date of a members’ meeting at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations 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 appointed the Nominating Committee at their October monthly meeting held Tuesday, October 25, 2022. This Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 11 a.m. for the purpose of nominating 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.

If you are interested in being considered for nomination or if you know a member who you believe would be a qualified candidate, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee for 2023 is as follows:

- **Mark Klinkhammer**, 40223 US Highway 59 SE, Winger, MN 56592 --- PH: 218-938-4100
- **Raymond Sundrud**, 35563 300th St SE, Fosston, MN 56542 --- PH: 218-435-1029
- **Michael Weik**, 14779 Cable Lake Rd SE, Mentor, MN 56736 --- PH: 218-637-8250
- **John Darco**, 2785 Brothers Point Rd, Waubun, MN 56589 --- PH: 218-473-2776
- **Marjorie Fabre**, 1215 300th St, Waubun, MN 56589 --- PH: 218-473-2591
- **Karen Lefebvre**, 37175 County Rd 111, Waubun, MN 56589 --- PH: 218-983-3128
- **Dwight Aakre**, 7612 290th St S Hawley MN, 56549 --- PH: 701-371-4831
- **Bradley Lindstrom**, 16912 County Hwy 1, Lake Park, MN 56554 --- PH: 218-238-5734
- **Richard Zurn**, 25472 Whiskey Creek Dr, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 --- PH: 218-847-8788

**Petition for Nominations**

The following members wish to nominate [insert name] \_\_\_\_\_ for the three-year term in [insert District 1, District 2 or District 3] \_\_\_\_\_ director position, and to place such name on the ballot for the March 23, 2023, election at the annual meeting of the Cooperative, in accordance with Article III Section 4 of the bylaws. This form does not constitute a request for an absentee ballot; request for absentee ballot must be made by individual account holder contacting the office of Wild Rice Electric directly at 1-800-244-5709, email at [service@wildriceelectric.com](mailto:service@wildriceelectric.com), or request through our website at [www.wildriceelectric.com](http://www.wildriceelectric.com).

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Customer Account #
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
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13. _____	_____	_____	_____
14. _____	_____	_____	_____
15. _____	_____	_____	_____
16. _____	_____	_____	_____
17. _____	_____	_____	_____
18. _____	_____	_____	_____
19. _____	_____	_____	_____
20. _____	_____	_____	_____

Any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Completed petition must be received no later than the close of business at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 21, 2023. At the annual meeting scheduled for March 23, 2023, elections will be held for a three-year term each for one director in District 1, one director in District 2, and one Director in District 3. Directors whose terms expire in 2023 are as follows:

District 1	District 2	District 3
3-year term	3-year term	3-year term
David Hamre	Roger Winter	Jimmy Kaiser

This is a Wild Rice Electric Cooperative approved official Nomination by Petition form

Doc. 2023-11

Any 15 or more members can make other director nominations in writing on or before February 21, 2023. Petitions for Nominations form can be found at [wildriceelectric.com](http://wildriceelectric.com) or contact Wild Rice Electric directly at 1-800-244-5709. Director candidates may only be nominated by the committee on nominations or by petition. Voting will take place during the Annual Meeting. The director candidate receiving the highest vote for each District will serve on the Board of Directors until the end of their designated term.

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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  
Mahnomon, MN 56557  
218-935-5022

### **Mahube Community Council**

PO Box 747  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502  
218-847-1385

### **Energy Assistance Program**

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

### **West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc.**

411 Industria Park Blvd.  
Elbow Lake, MN 56531  
800-492-4805/ 218-685-4486

### **Inter County Community Council**

PO Box 189  
Oklee, MN 56742  
218-796-5144/ 888-778-4008

### **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.

# Ads

## For Sale

115 wool sweaters for the crafters out there to make wool mittens. Variety of colors. \$15 for all. Call/ text 218-478-4185.

2003 Ski Doo 00 MXZ red color pull start has reverse, 1,200 miles, \$2,500, 218-435-6820.

(2) 23X8.50-12 R4 \$200.00 (2) 12-16-5 R4 \$300.00 used very little, 218-483-4172.

Rhino ruff cut mower 48" w/ 8 hp motor, \$850. Smith cutting torch tips, tanks & cart, \$650. 22" 5 hp snowblower w/ chains "noma", \$150, 218-935-5110.

2000 Polaris 325 Magnum 4 x 4 VERY low miles \$2500, 701-680-9310.

Skid steer attachments. Snow buckets, ice scrappers brush mowers. Dirt buckets, bale spears, pallet forks, grapples of different sizes, 701-261-3574.

Dachshund/yorkie. Bichon/yorkie. And Siberian Husky. Date of birth 8/29/22. Male and female available. \$300/offer. 218-234-7487. Vet checked & shots up to date.

Mail boss mailbox. Large, strong, locking mailbox. It provides security for your mail and can store many days worth of mail. Less than 1 year old. 11W x 11H x 21L. Pictures available. \$70 OBO. 701-516-4740

Homemade quilts different sizes, 218-983-3538.

2033 Jeep Liberty bad trans, selling for parts, 375-2291.

Chaparral Firebird snowmobile, excellent. Walk behind snow blower new tires as is. Circle saw arbor & belt. Bull 2 1/2 year old good desp., 584-4603

Fresh meat born and raised on farm. Choose from a variety of standard beef and pork products, create your own bundle, or place an order for bulk beef, 218-350-1144.

3 pc luggage, free. 32" storm door, 218-935-1044.

3rd cutting grass hay, 218-227-9034/ 218-596-8383.

Console organ, \$100. Wringer wash machine, \$50. Press bench & weights, \$40. Riding lawn mower, \$100. Sewing machine, \$25. Weed eater, \$75. Push lawnmower, \$25. Bunk bed, \$25. Desk(s) \$25/\$75, 218-375-2649.

Polaris XS, Raider XL & 3 bike helmets all \$50. Jiffy hand drill, 8 in, \$15, 218-979-0730.

1984 Chevy 3/4 ton 4x4. 4x5 net wrapped hay bales, 218-261-0971.

Thomasville dining table & 4 accompanying chairs. Country French style. Table measures 60"x 42" & has three 12" leaves. Custom table protectors for all pieces. \$275 or best offer, 701-293-9441.

## Wanted

John Deere 318 or 322 garden tractor. Need not be in running order, 218-791-8993.

18 or 24 inch used culverts, 218-563-3312.

Black Angus (young) cow, 584-4603.

## To give away

Mama is a good mouser. Kittens tame and friendly. Call/text 218-841-7226.

## Did you Know?

As a Wild Rice Electric member you can sign up for electronic statements.

Sign up by emailing [info@wildriceelectric.com](mailto:info@wildriceelectric.com).

Please include: Email address Account number and if you would like email only or email and paper statements.

## Our Ad Policy

- Ads are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication.
- Email ads to . . . [info@wildriceelectric.com](mailto:info@wildriceelectric.com)
- Mail ads to . . . Wild Rice Electric  
P.O. Box 438  
Mahnomon, MN 56557



Wild Rice Electric Cooperative would like to introduce a new member to its Wild Rice team. Chris Podlak was hired as an apprentice lineman to help assist in building, securing and maintaining the cooperative's distribution grid. Congratulations Chris and welcome to the Cooperative team!

# WAUKON DAIRY: from the front

Electric to ensure they had the electricity they would need and to find ways to conserve and save. Waukon Dairy participates in a load shedding program, which allows Minnkota Power, Wild Rice Electric's wholesale power provider, to switch the dairy to a backup generator when regional electric demand or market prices are high. The program helps the cooperative balance the grid while offering Waukon Dairy a reduced rate.

Tommy Houdek, Director of Member Services and Communications for Wild Rice Electric, explained that many of the site's separators and fans run on variable frequency drives (VFDs). These VFDs are beneficial to the co-op because they can ramp up slowly when they're turned on,

reducing the chance of tripping a breaker or causing a blink on the lines.

Riverview worked with Wild Rice Electric to plan several energy conservation measures throughout the site, from VFDs to lighting with occupancy sensors. By incorporating these energy efficiency strategies, Riverview was rewarded with cooperative rebate incentives.



"We were very excited to see Waukon Dairy come to our region, and hope to see them continue to grow," Houdek said.

## 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  
Hadedank, David Hamre,  
Jim Kaiser, Greg LaVoy, Jeff  
Nornes, Russ Okeson, Larry  
Sollie and Roger Winter.

# LED LIGHTING REBATE

Buy energy efficient Christmas lights and decorations

Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery operated) lights and decorations in 2022.

Complete this rebate form and submit it to Wild Rice Electric by December 31, 2022 with a copy of your sales receipt and the packaging showing the number of lights per string. ENERGY STAR LEDs are recommended.

Rebate cannot exceed 50% of the cost. Maximum of five strings per member.



Lights per string	# of strings	Rebate per string	Total rebate
Fewer than 99		\$3	
100-199		\$6	
200-299		\$9	
Greater than 300		\$12	

NAME

ACCOUNT

INSTALLATION ADDRESS

CITY/ ZIP

Mail to: Wild Rice Electric • PO BOX 438 • Mahnomon MN 56557



PERIODICAL

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# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at Wild Rice Electric



Wild Rice Electric's office will close at noon on Friday, December 23rd and re-open on Tuesday, December 27th for the Christmas Holiday. The office will also close at noon on Friday, December 30th and re-open again on Tuesday, January 3rd for the New Year's Holiday. In the event of an emergency or outage, please call 1-800-244-5709 for assistance.