

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative

83rd Annual Meeting

Members gathered to celebrate Wild Rice Electric's 83rd Annual Meeting of the members on Thursday, March 23rd at the Mahanomen High School. Attendees enjoyed a meal catered by Erickson's Smoke House of Fertile; musical entertainment by singer, songwriter and recording artist Terry Mackner; a review of cooperative happenings in 2022 as well as strategic goals for 2023. Members also signed up for their chance to win one of many draw prizes. Wild Rice Electric thanks all whom were able to attend the meeting.



Meeting at a glance



**Members
registered**

199



**Meals
served**

360



**Directors
elected**

District 1: David Hamre
 District 2: Roger Winter
 District 3: Jimmy Kaiser



Weather

Sunny day
 High 41 degrees
 Following another
 snow storm



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Mike Wade

Based on the weather we have seen in March, I have no idea what April will offer. I hope we will be saying goodbye to winter and hello to warmer temperatures and melting snow. I'm sure you are ready to get outside to enjoy spring after a long winter of spending so much time indoors. Our line crews have been busy all winter replacing poles and performing maintenance, but they will be extremely busy as the weather warms. As our construction season becomes more active, I encourage you to be courteous and respectful to our employees and contractors as they work on our system. If you have any questions about the work being done, do not hesitate to contact our office to get answers. Safety is our number one priority so let's all do our part to keep our employees safe on the job.

Thank you to everyone who attended our 83rd annual meeting in March at the Mahanomen High School. The meeting was well attended and we appreciated the opportunity to discuss the business of the cooperative from the previous year. Also, thank you for your participation in this year's director election. Service as a director is a challenging, but extremely rewarding experience. Our success depends on engaged and committed members willing to serve on our Board of Directors and our member committees.

Our member committees fill a vital role in the operation of our cooperative. Our Nominating Committee seeks

qualified candidates to run in the Director elections. The Operation Round Up Trust Board ensures that our fund dollars make their way to community organizations that need our help and students in need of a scholarship. The Member Advisory Committee meets several times each year to discuss and offer feedback on co-op programs and services. Thank you, committee members, for your service to the co-op.

As you know, we are changing our rates beginning on April 1. For residential service, the base charge will be increasing based on your transformer size, but the energy charge per kWh will be decreasing. The resulting additional revenue will help offset the inflationary increase in distribution materials and other goods and services. Although no one likes an increase in rates, the increase was necessary to ensure our financial stability while continuing to offer safe and reliable electric service.

On a side note, as you work on your property this spring, remember to call Gopher State One Call (811)

at least two business days before you dig. This will ensure that underground utilities are properly marked so you don't come in contact with them while digging. It's a free and easy service, and it's the law. Be safe!



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
Electric 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.

The average home
in our area can be
powered for about
\$5 a day – the price
of your favorite snack
at the movies.



**VALUING EVERYTHING
THAT POWERS YOUR DAY.**

**THAT'S THE VALUE
OF ELECTRICITY.**

WILD RICE ELECTRIC COOPERTIVE INC. MISSION STATEMENT
Energizing our members' future.

Power Plant Tour dates have been set

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is planning a power plant tour to Center, ND for Wednesday and Thursday, June 7th and 8th, 2023. This has been a popular tour for members to enjoy and learn about the delivery of energy to our homes and businesses. Planned visits include Minnkota Power Cooperative headquarters, Fort Mandan, the Milton R. Young Station as well as the BNI coal mine. Preference will be given to those who have not yet experienced this trip. Cost is \$100/person or \$180/double occupancy and seats are limited so please don't delay. Please complete and return the sign-up form with payment or call 1-800-244-5709 today to reserve your spot.



Sign Me Up

Power plant tour dates
Wednesday & Thursday,
June 7th and 8th.

Name(s): _____

Phone #: _____

Cell(s) #: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____



Number Attending: _____

Enclosed: _____

(\$100/person or \$180/double occupancy)

SHARE the ROAD

with Farmers

Be safe.
Be Courteous.

Farm season means sharing the road with large farm equipment. Farmers must move slowly in large equipment, but public roads are often the only available routes.

When you find yourself following or meeting large farm equipment on the road, do the following to keep everyone safe:

- 1 Be alert and cautious, and give large farm equipment and other slow-moving vehicles space.
- 2 Do not pass if you are in a "No Passing Zone," or in any area where it is not safe to do so, such as intersections, bridges and railroad crossings, among others.
- 3 Be careful when you do get the chance to pass. Oftentimes, farmers will move their equipment over when it is safe to do so.
- 4 Do not tailgate.
- 5 Make sure the tractor is not trying to make a left turn before you pass on the left.

Share the road with care.
Farmers are just trying
to get to and from their job, too.

 Safe
Electricity.org®

Ads

For Sale

Skid steer attachments, grapples, walk thru pallet forks, buckets, brush mowers, receiver hitches & more 701-261-2574.

15' Forester tri hull boat w/ pro 50LF hrs Yamaha motor, \$1,500, good shape, 218-687-2356.

Snowblower walk behind (new tires as is) Chaparral Fire-bird Snowmobile, excellent, 584-4603.

Hay 5x5 round bales first and 3rd crop some grass alfalfa or hard grass. 32" Larson storm door, 218-596-8383 or 218-227-9034.

3-piece luggage set, 218-935-1044.

3 black shoulder peacock, \$40 ea. Golden pheasants, \$30 ea., 218-841-0283.

Demco 550 grain box roll tarp. 1982 Case IH 1680 combine lots of new parts, both shedded, 218-261-2048.

2x12 lumber, green treated, 36' (approximately), used, \$40 OBO, 701-516-4740.

Oak firewood split for next winter season, 218-401-0450.

1996 Four Winns boay 130 hp outboard motor. Johns elec trolling motor, LLowrance Elite 5 fish finder, \$4,000, 218-596-8307.

Wanted to buy

10-12-year-old pony gelding, must be gentle and safe for kids and be well broke, 218-289-1582.

A young bred Angus cow, 4-6 young laying hens, give us price 584-4603.

Rear tractor tires size 13-36, 701-371-9507.

To give away

Female kitten/cat to give away to a good home. great mouser/ outdoor barn cat, but would transition easily to indoors, 218-841-1267.

Our Ad Policy

- 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.
- Ads must be resubmitted to run an additional month.
- Ads must be typed or in clear readable print. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad.
- Ads will be abbreviated at the coop's discretion.

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 Cooperative
PO Box 438, Mahnomen, MN 56557

April 10th is Lineworker Appreciation Day.

Wild Rice Electric would like to THANK our Lineworkers
who serve our members in all extremes.

Remember safety is our top priority.

THINK SAFE

WORK SAFE

BE SAFE

Statistics

from 2022

Miles driven

536,626

Services
built

132

Miles of
underground
line installed

52

Lineworkers

18

Hours lost
with injuries

0

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Phone: 218-935-2517.

Rate changes

Beginning April 1, 2023, a rate change will be effective for WREC members. The rate change includes a change in rate philosophy.

A class cost-of-service study was completed in late 2022. The results showed that additional revenue was needed due to increases in labor, materials, and equipment as well as an increased need for system maintenance and right-of-way clearing. The Board of Directors voted to restructure the rates to match the results of the cost-of-service study --- to recover the infrastructure costs regardless of the amount of energy used by the member. For most

of the member classes, this resulted in an increase in the base charge and a decrease in the energy charge.

There are a number of fixed costs to deliver power to a service, including poles, wires, transformers, meters, trucks, etc. These costs are incurred whether or not energy is being used at the service. The purpose of the base charge is to ensure these costs are being recovered fairly and equitably from the members of the various classes of service regardless of the energy used. The energy charge is basically a passthrough of the costs from our power supplier, Minnkota Power Cooperative.

Residential Service Rates

Effective April 1, 2023

	Previous Rate	New Rate
Energy charge		
per kWh	11.6¢	11.0¢
Minnkota Surchage		
per kWh	.0044¢	.0000¢
Base Charge (for farm & home accounts)		
Up to 7½ KVA transformer	\$35.00	\$50.00
10 KVA transformer	\$37.50	\$52.50
15 KVA transformer	\$40.00	\$55.00
25 KVA transformer	\$42.50	\$57.50
37½ KVA transformer	\$45.00	\$60.00
50 KVA transformer	\$47.50	\$62.50
Off Peak Rates		
Short-Term (Spot Heat)	6.8¢	7.4¢
Intermittent Storage Heat (Cycled)	5.3¢	6.0¢
Intermittent Storage Heat (Non-Cycled)	6.1¢	6.7¢
Long-Term (Dual Heat)	5.3¢	6.0¢
Lights		
Yard light (individual)	\$9.75	\$11.00
Street lights (association group)	\$8.75	\$10.00