

## Cooperation among Cooperatives

**O**n Christmas Day of 2023, eastern North Dakota and parts of northwestern Minnesota were struck with a freezing-rain storm of rare proportions. The system lingered long enough to encase the entire region in inches of heavy ice, making roads undrivable, bringing down tree limbs, and snapping hundreds of power lines and poles in several rural communities. The impact to the electric grid was devastating.

But your cooperative answered the call.

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative – along with several other cooperatives in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota – joined Cass County Electric Cooperative in its effort to restore power to thousands of members. In total, more than 1,200 poles needed replacement or repair in the wake of the storm. With the many hands and teamwork involved, power was successfully restored to the membership.

“We are grateful for the mutual assistance from Wild Rice Electric to help restore power to Cass County Electric members. The crews did an amazing job, and a

huge thank you goes out to Wild Rice Electric for helping to restore power in the Valley City, North Dakota, area” said Marshal Albright, President/CEO Cass County Electric Cooperative. Fourteen Cooperatives from ND, MN and SD were called into help.

We would like to thank our line crew for the long hours and hard work they dedicated to helping our cooperative family during this time of need. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our core co-op principles. In times like this, our shared commitment to serving our communities is what keeps us strong.

Thank you for being a member of an electric cooperative.

**Out in  
the Field**





# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

by Mike Wade

As I write this column, we are experiencing sub-zero temperatures which is not necessarily unusual for this time of year. I can bear the winter cold, but the occasional gusts of wind make it a challenge to be outside. Although I can limit my time outdoors, I want to thank our line crews and field technicians who work in these weather conditions to keep the power on for our members. Despite the frigid conditions, they persevere and carry out their responsibility to the Cooperative and our members.

The front cover of this month's Rural DeLight is dedicated to a recent ice storm that hit Cass County Electric Cooperative in the Fargo area just after Christmas. Their electric distribution system, like ours, is designed for winter weather, but the excessive ice load caused over 1,200 poles to break. I want to thank our employees, Cody Turner, Tim Stock, Mike Korsgaden, Nick Jasken, Chris Podlak, Christian Petron, and Jake Zima for helping Cass County during their time of need. Our crew worked with Cass's crews and other linemen from other co-ops to restore power to their membership. A great example of one of our

co-op principles, Cooperation Among Cooperatives.

In the spirit of cooperation, electric cooperatives use mutual aid agreements to come to each other's assistance during times of need. These agreements create a collaborative network where co-ops can lend a helping hand in the face of emergencies, natural disasters, or unexpected challenges. When one cooperative faces an outage or a situation that exceeds its capacity, neighboring cooperatives mobilize their resources, personnel, and expertise to provide prompt assistance. This quick action ensures that communities served by electric cooperatives have their power restored as quickly as possible. Wild Rice Electric Cooperative has

these agreements in place so that in times of need, we can be assured that help is on the way.

Working through a software conversion can be a challenge for our employees and it can also be a challenge for our members. Our new consumer accounting software has new features and online tools and many of our members who utilize these tools have gone through a learning process along with us. We have heard from many of you and we appreciate your patience and understanding throughout this process.

Despite encountering some unexpected twists and turns, we're happy to announce that we are now live on the new software platform. While the December billing cycle presented challenges, we have diligently addressed those issues, and the January cycle proceeded much more smoothly. This transition has been a learning experience for our team, and we are actively working to iron out any remaining kinks. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding your electric service and the new customer interface.

## SAFETY TIP

### How to beat winter fatigue . . .

**Improve sleep hygiene**, having a consistent sleep schedule.

It's vital to get as much **exposure to sunlight** as possible since sunlight affects your sleep-wake cycle.

**Exercising** in the winter can increase the production of hormones and mitochondria to give your body a much-needed boost.

## Highlights from the Board Room:

The Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on November 28, 2023. During the meeting discussion was held on the NRECA PowerXchange meeting, Credentialed Cooperative Director certification, and 2024 Cooperative goals.

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

- **Approved** the board minutes, and financial reports and statements for October 2023
- **Appointed** the 2024 MREA voting delegate and alternate
- **Approved** a revision to the Cooperative's in lieu of medical coverage incentive
- **Approved** the monthly board and management policy review
- **Adopted** a resolution authorizing the Cooperative to obtain a work plan loan from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS)
- **Accepted** the department and CEO reports
- **Accepted** the Minnkota Power report
- **Accepted** the MREA report

The February regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

# Nominating Committee Report

Mahnomen, Minnesota

January 17, 2024

The undersigned duly appointed Nominating Committee met at the Wild Rice Electric office, 502 North Main Street, Mahnomen, Minnesota on January 17, 2024, at 11:00 A.M.

Richard Zurn was duly nominated and elected Chair and Karen Lefebvre was duly nominated and elected Secretary of the Committee. The Committee then proceeded to make nominations and respectfully submits the following report thereof, viz:

WE, the undersigned, duly appointed Committee on Nominations by the Board of Directors of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. at a meeting duly held on January 17, 2024, hereby, respectfully nominate the following for directors in Districts 1, 2 and 3: to succeed in District 1 – Larry Sollie (three-year term); District 2 – Mark Habedank (three-year term); and District 3 – Russell Okeson (three-year term); whose terms expire and whose successors will be elected at the annual meeting of said Cooperative to be held on April 18, 2024, viz:

## Nominees

**District 1** (3-Year Term) Larry Sollie

**District 2** (3-Year Term) Mark Habedank

**District 3** (3-Year Term) Paula Okeson

Respectfully Submitted,

District 1: Mark Klinkhammer, Raymond Sundrud (absent)  
Michael Weik

District 2: John Darco, Majorie Fabre, Karen Lefebvre

District 3: Dwight Aakre, Bradley Lindstrom, Richard Zurn

## Statement of Secretary with Respect to Election of Directors

At the Annual Meeting of the Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. to be held at Mahnomen, Minnesota, on April 18, 2024, three directors are to be elected to fill the directorships now held by Larry Sollie (three-year term), Lengby, MN; Mark Habedank (three-year term), Twin Valley, MN; Russell Okeson (three-year term), Detroit Lakes, MN. The following nominations have been received from the committee on nominations, viz:

**District 1** (3-Year Term)

Larry Sollie, Lengby MN

**District 2** (3-Year Term)

Mark Habedank, Twin Valley MN

**District 3** (3-Year Term)

Paula Okeson, Detroit Lakes MN

In accordance with Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Bylaws, any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the Committee is posted.

Any member who may be absent from said annual meeting may vote by mail for directors by requesting a ballot for

directors from the Secretary of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 438, Mahnomen, MN, 56557, and by marking on the ballot, an "X" opposite the names of the number of candidates equal to the number of directors to be elected and enclosing the ballot in a sealed envelope bearing their name, addressed to the Secretary of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 438, Mahnomen, MN, 56557, and mailing the same in time so that it will reach the Secretary on or before, the date of the annual meeting and before the ballots for directors are collected and canvassed by the ballot inspectors.

Any provisions relating to the rights of a membership apply equally to all holders of a joint membership, specifically and without limitation: The presence at a meeting of any member constitutes the presence of all members and is a waiver of notice of the meeting, and the vote of any of those holding joint membership, separately or all, jointly constitutes one joint vote. Dated at Mahnomen, Minnesota, January 17, 2024.

**Mark Habedank, Secretary**  
**Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
**Mahnomen, Minnesota 56557**



### The 2024 Nominating

**Committee: Back (left to right)**

**Attorney Samuel Schmitz, Dwight Aakre, Richard Zurn, Michael Weik, Karen Lefebvre, and John Darco.**

**Seated (left to right) Mark Klinkhammer, Marjorie Fabre, and Bradley Lindstrom.**



## Notice of Annual Meeting

for Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. Mahnomen, Minnesota

The annual meeting of the members of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at the Shooting Star Casino and Event Center, 777 S Casino Rd, in the City of Mahnomen, Minnesota at 6:30 P.M. on April 18, 2024, to take action on the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors, and committees.
2. The election of three directors of the Cooperative.

One director shall be elected from District 1 for a term of three years; one director shall be elected from District 2 for a term of three years; and one director from District 3 for a term of three years. A member who is absent from a member's meeting may vote by mail on a ballot (an "Absentee Ballot"). Absentee Ballots are available by request. A properly executed Absentee Ballot must be received on or before, Thursday, April 18 2024, to be counted as the vote of the absent member at the meeting.

3. All other business which may come before the meeting and adjournment thereof.

Dated at Mahnomen, Minnesota, January 25, 2024.

**Mark Habedank, Secretary**  
**Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
**Mahnomen, Minnesota 56557**

## Proof of Mailing

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF MAHNOMEN

Mark Habedank, being first duly sworn, on oath, deposes and says that he is duly elected, qualified and acting Secretary of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.; that on January 25, 2024, he caused to be mailed to each member of the Cooperative, a Notice of the Annual

Meeting of the Members of the Cooperative by having the Notice published in a periodical, published by and on behalf of the Cooperative which is mailed to each and every member monthly, and that the attached is a true and correct copy of said notice of said meeting as aforesaid.

**Mark Habedank, Secretary**  
**Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
**Mahnomen, Minnesota 56557**

## Cogeneration Notification to Members:

In compliance with Wild Rice Electric Cooperative adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection

requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by Wild Rice Electric Cooperative Board. Interested members should contact Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, 502 N Main St, Mahnomen, MN 56557 or call 1-800-244-5709.



## State law for active duty military personnel

State law offers active military personnel additional payment options for their electric bills. The law covers disconnection, payment arrangements, appeal and annual notice to cooperative members. Similar to the state's Cold Weather Rule, an application must be completed and income guidelines exist. It's available for active duty military personnel, deployed or a permanent duty station change.

## 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  
Mahnomen, MN 56557  
218-935-5022

**Mahube Community Council**  
1125 West River Rd  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502  
218-847-1385

**White Earth 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.**  
715 11th St N Suite 100  
Moorhead, MN 56560  
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.

# THE PROS AND CONS OF COAL

# Ads

## For Sale

Walk behind snowblower (new tires) circle saw arbor & belt, 584-4603

Steel insulated overhead white raise panel 16'x 17'6" w/ opener, new shape can send pics, \$750 for both 218-849-2223.

Heavy duty snow buckets, snow blades & scrapers, pallet & hay forks, different types of grapples, 701-261-3574.

Electric Invacare hospital bed w/ 2 half rails & Invacare mattress, includes 2 sets sheets w/ pillow cases & 2 blankets. Excellent. \$650. 218-850-0381 or 701-318-1170.

Set of 4 12" tires & rims from Polaris Ranger, \$400. 4 -205 65R 16 tires lots of tread left, \$150. 600 or more used brick 8"x4"x2" make offer, 218-439-6505.

Spear house 4'x6' portable, canvas & plywood, like new, \$200 obo, call 218-849-5607.

2002 Artic Cat Panther snowmobile 570 Twin , fan cooled w/ reverse classic touring- 2 up less than 800 miles on new engine, \$2,495 obo great for ice fishing. Flo pro edition aluminum tilt bed snowmobile trailer- 2 place - forever license, \$900 obo, 218-356-2638, lv message.

Jiffy ice auger, DeWalt Sawzall & impact driver, new handyman jack & blue point cordless screwdriver kit, 218-849-8963.

Windshield & rear window, wiper transmissions and fuel tank for 1956 chevy Belair 4 door sedan. 4 new Firestone all season tires 265/60R18, 3 child size bent wood chairs, call 701-866-4681

17 1/2ft 2016 American Ice Castle RV edition, sleeps 6, 6 hole, 2 tables, stove, oven, fridge, microwave, full bathroom, furnace, used only once since purchased, always stored inside \$22,000 obo, 701-261-5180.

New radiator for 91-93 mid-size chevy car, \$125. 1997-99 Dodge Durango/ Dakota radiator (new), \$150. Seasoned firewood, \$200 cord. Sled-bed 8'x10' trl trailer, \$900, 218-935-5110 days.

## Wanted

Horse hay. Call 218-289-1582 or 218-945-6646

Older 4x4 pickup (must be good) & 12 ft steel gate, 584-4603.

6' or 7' 3 pt tandem disc, 218-439-6505

Official size ping pong table conversion top, to sit on an 8 ft pool table, 218-483-3296.

10 or 15 ft 3-pt mounted multiweeder preferably 2 rank or heavy duty drag, 218-686-6592.

## 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 Mahnomen, MN 56557

## STRENGTHS

### 24/7 RELIABILITY

Coal-fired power plants provide a stable and continuous source of electricity, which is important for maintaining a consistent baseload power supply. Minnkota's Milton R. Young Station can produce coal-based power every minute of every day, as electricity needs to be used the moment it is generated.

### ECONOMIC STRENGTH

Dependable power generation leads to stable costs. North Dakota's coal-based power plants provide competitively priced electricity that people across the Upper Midwest depend on. In North Dakota alone, the coal industry creates thousands of jobs in mining and power plant operations, and still more in those industries that support coal generation.

### RESILIENT OPERATIONS

Coal-based power plants have consistently proven they can operate in extreme conditions – from 100-degree summer days to 30-below-zero winter nights. While resources like wind and solar are dependent on ideal weather conditions, coal-based power plants can operate through the harshest of conditions.

### CONCENTRATED LAND FOOTPRINT

A 2020 report from the Brookings Institution found that electric generation from wind and solar requires at least 10 times as much land per unit of power produced than coal-based power plants. The concentrated nature of a coal power plant also means fewer transmission lines need to be constructed to bring electricity from generation point to substation.

## CHALLENGES

### EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT

Coal-based power plants must manage emissions levels to ensure environmental stewardship. Approximately \$425 million in state-of-the-art technology has been invested at the Milton R. Young Station to capture emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury, particulate matter and more. Plus, Minnkota is pursuing Project Tundra, a carbon capture and storage system that would significantly reduce CO2 emissions.

### BYPRODUCT MANAGEMENT

Generating electricity from coal requires the management of byproducts, like coal combustion residuals (CCR). Much of the bottom ash from the power plant is responsibly recycled into materials, including shingle grit and sandblasting material. CCRs that cannot be recycled are safely stored in approved storage cells. Plus, some CCRs can be reused safely to strengthen concrete, wallboard, bricks and more.

### TEMPORARY LAND DISRUPTION

While coal mining does require the use of land, Minnkota and its partners at BNI Coal have developed an award-winning land reclamation program that returns these areas to their natural state (or better) once mining is complete.



PERIODICAL

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## **Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

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

**Telephone:** 800-244-5709 or to  
make a payment 855-949-5868

**Website:** [wildriceelectric.com](http://wildriceelectric.com)

**Email:** [info@wildriceelectric.com](mailto:info@wildriceelectric.com)

**App:** SmartHub



### **Officers and Directors:**

**Chair** ..... Jim Kaiser, District 3  
**Vice Chair** ..... Larry Sollie, District 1  
**Secretary** .. Mark Habedank, District 2  
**Treasurer** ..... Dave Hamre, District 1

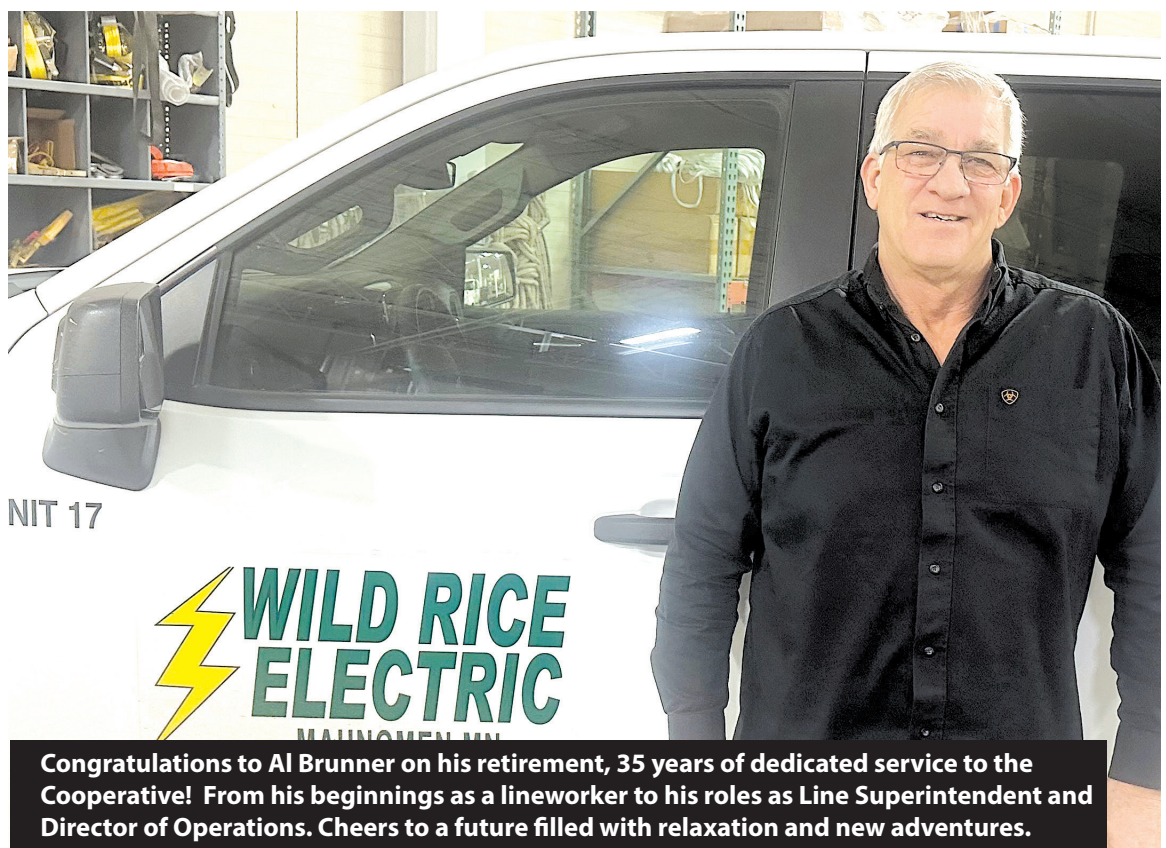
**District 1:** Jeff Nornes

**District 2:** Greg LaVoy & Roger Winter

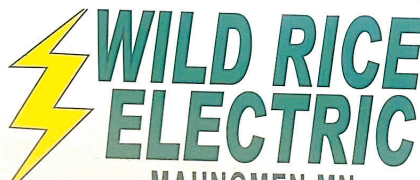
**District 3:** Randy Bjornson &  
Russ Okeson

**President & CEO** ..... Mike Wade

*This Institution is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.*



NIT 17



**Congratulations to Al Brunner on his retirement, 35 years of dedicated service to the Cooperative! From his beginnings as a lineworker to his roles as Line Superintendent and Director of Operations. Cheers to a future filled with relaxation and new adventures.**

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