

84th Annual Meeting

Shooting Star Event Center
Thursday, April 18, 2024



Registration

- Begins at **4:30 pm** at Shooting Star Event Center, 777 S Casino Rd, Mahanomen
- Members will receive an annual report, election ballot and more.
- Members can enter to win prizes.



Dinner

- Plated meal served in the event center starting at **5 pm**.

Entertainment

Blū Kanū, Rhoda and Artie bring musical fun
5 pm to 6 pm. →



Meeting

- Convenes at **6 pm**.
- Election of Board Directors.
- 2023 Year in Review.





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

by Mike Wade

Lineworker Appreciation Day

Every April, electric cooperatives in Minnesota and across the nation celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day. On this day, we acknowledge the dedication of the lineworkers who build and maintain our electric lines. These skilled professionals work long hours and in the most challenging weather conditions to ensure the reliability of our electric distribution system. Our cooperative is blessed to have a committed and hardworking group of linemen who serve our membership around the clock. Join me in saying "Thank You" to Craig, Ken, Seth, Ross, Nick, Luke, Michael, Gary, Travis, Scott, Tanner, Ryan, Christian, Chris, Josh, Glen, Tim, and Cody for the exceptional job they do!

Annual Meeting

The 84th Annual Meeting of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is just around the corner and I hope you've already made arrangements to join us. This year we are excited to hold our meeting at the Shooting Star Event Center in Mahanomen. This will allow us to have our meal and hold our meeting in the same room which will minimize the amount of walking. We had another successful

year in 2023 and we are excited to talk with you about some of the milestones we have reached and projects we have completed. I think you will enjoy the new location and I look forward to seeing you there.

Power Plant Tour

Ever wondered how electricity is generated? This June, you will have the opportunity to travel with other members to visit the Milton R. Young Station in Center, ND. I personally went on the tour last year and I enjoyed every minute. The staff at Minnkota Power Cooperative does an excellent job of educating you on how power is generated and then safely delivered to our service

area. If you decide to go this year, you are in for an educational and eye-opening experience. Ensure your spot before the trip fills up.

Gopher State One Call (811)

With the arrival of spring and warmer weather, it's the perfect time to go outside and work on your outdoor projects. However, before you begin any digging, remember to prioritize safety. Take a moment to call 8-1-1, and let the experts locate and mark underground utility lines on your property. This precautionary step ensures that you have a clear understanding of what lies beneath the surface which will help keep you safe and your project going smoothly.

Please consider attending this year's annual meeting especially if you have not had a chance to join us in the past.

We are proud of our cooperative and what we are doing in Northwestern Minnesota to improve the lives of our members and the communities we serve. Thank you for allowing us to serve you and are excited to see you April 18th.



Spring Safety . .

Warmer weather stimulates an increase in outdoor work - here are a few safety tips.

Ladders—even those made of wood—that come into contact with a power line can prove fatal. Keep all ladders at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.

Water and electricity do not mix. Avoid damp conditions — including wet grass — when using electricity.

Highlights from the Board Room:

The Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on January 23, 2024. During the meeting discussion was held on membership in the America's Electric Cooperatives Political Action Committee and the Rural Electric Political Action Committee.

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

- **Approved** the board minutes, and financial reports and statements for December 2023
- **Approved** the Financial Review Committee's 4th quarter review report
- **Approved** the 2024 Goals and Budget
- **Authorized** a service boundary amendment for a new service in Clay County
- **Approved** a rate adjustment for Rate Schedules SL (street lights) and Schedule YL (yard lights)
- **Accepted** the 2024 Nominating Committee report
- **Approved** the format for the 2024 director ballot
- **Approved** the monthly board and management policy review
- **Accepted** the department and CEO reports
- **Accepted** the Minnkota Power report
- **Accepted** the Square Butte Report
- **Accepted** the MREA report
- **Authorized** two board members to attend the February meeting via electronic method

The April regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

GOT POWER

Thank a Lineworker

Wild Rice Electric would like

to **THANK OUR HEROES** who serve our members
24 hours a day, seven days a week in all extremes.

Their top priority is safety for themselves,
fellow lineworkers and you the member.

Our HEROES (left to right) Tim Stock, Christian Petron, Michael Korsgaden, Scott Olson, Ryan Omang, Glen Sommers, Cody Turner, Luke Klostermeier, Josh Roed, Craig Burrack, Tanner Olson, Chris Podlak, Ken Crane, Nick Jasken, Travis Obowa, Ross Halland, Gary Neis and Seth Felland



Meet **Chris Podlak** (tall one) and **Christian Petron** (not as tall), the cooperative's current Apprentice Linemen. Wild Rice Electric partners with the nationally recognized Merchant Job Training and Safety Program to advance apprentice linemen over a four year curriculum to become a certificate journeyman with the State of Minnesota. The Merchant program exceeds the US Department of Labors office of Apprenticeship minimum requirements. All apprentices seeking their journeyman status must complete a total of 7,500 hours of on the job training and 144 annual hours of related instruction each year. Chris recently entered into his 4th year of book training and Christian is actively working through year two. Thank you for your commitment to excellence, top skill and safety as a priority.

Ads

For Sale

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

Fishing equipment: Eskimo 8" gas auger, like new; Vexilar FL18; Eskimo 949 popup shelter; Eagle 480 fish finder; Muskie rod & reel; 3 Abu Garcia model 5500 reels; misc. rods & reels & ice equip. All great shape. \$800, for all, obo on individual items, 218-329-0755.

Snap on valve spring compressor. DeWalt Sawzall & impact driver. John Deere & IHC Rr Seal Ser. tools. Branik Strut machine w/ stand. Blue point cordless screw driver, 218-849-8963.

1980 IH 1086 5190 hrs. JD Rotary Mower 709, Farm King 960 snowblower, woods blade, small ditcher about 3 yds. \$30,000, 218-474-121.

14' Aluma craft boat, new floor, 3 pedestal seats, depth finder, live well & rod holder. Johnson 30 horse motor, electric start. Roller trailer w/ new tires. \$4,000. 701-238-8678.

Bosch #GRL160DHV laser for plumbing, leveling, grading, squaring, \$350 B.O., days 218-935-5110.

8'x16' hay wagon w/ all new wood rack on 6 ton New Holland running gear. Good tires. \$1,400. Also 8'x16' hay wagon w/new wood rack on 4 ton running gear. Fair tires. \$850, 218-841-2474.

2 new white Proflo soaking bathtubs still in their box 60x42. Beautiful purchased at Ferguson in Fargo. Only selling due to change of mind. Asking \$400 for both. Paid much more so your gain. Lv mess 612 210-4852. Located in Detroit Lakes.

Newmans Pontoon lift 120" wide. Rated for 3500 lb. Located at Island Lake, \$1,200, 218-280-6939.

1993 Lance Squire 4000, 9' 4" pickup camper. Excellent, stored inside. \$4,500, 218-238-5882 Lake Park.

3 yr old 20 ft. pontoon bunk trailer asking \$2,300. older paddle boat \$150. Basket for four wheeler \$70, 710-219-1486.

1975 Fiat 124 convertible, 1948 Ford Coupe, 1941 Dodge COB truck, 1941 Dodge super deluxe sedan body & frame only, 2 LTX M&S tires on 1998 Dodge 8 hole rims 245/75R16, 4 Firestone tires 265/60R18 new, call 701-866-4681.

1975 14' Lund fishing boat & trailer. Includes depth finder & electric trolling motor plus a 15hp Johnson motor, \$1,900, 218-289-1727.

Skid steer attachments: Brush mowers, grapple, pallet, hay forks, plus lots more new & used, Mahanomen, 701-261-3574.

3 male peacocks, \$50 ea, 218-847-8059.

Large oak buffet ornate back mirror from 1903. Primitive kitchen cupboard, pine, square nails late 1800s. 3 doz large field decoys and 2 ground blinds, \$100 decoys/blinds, 218-849-4527.

3 yr old black Angus bull, good despo /temperament. Push lawn mower fix up or for parts, 584-4603.

Callaway Epic Driver 11/12" adj 42" carbon fiber shaft. Loft & lie adj, draw & fade adj, \$175 cash, call 218-849-9976.

16' - LL166 John Deere grain drill w/ grass seeder & fertilizer attachment & 15' -400 versatile swather w/ cab & Ford engine. 281-937-5514 or 218-979-7100.

Small square bales, \$4 each, Ogema area, 218-261-2048.

16' Lund boat, 3 captain chairs, depth finder, live well, Evinrude 25 HP, electric start, trolling motor, trailer w/ spare tire, \$3,500, 218-945-6742.

New never installed Vector LH white glider window, 57.25" wide x 54.75 high w/ nail fin & extension jam channels, \$425, 701-261-7500.

Console organ \$50. Press bench & weights, \$40. Sewing machine, \$25. Desk & chair, \$25. (2) 2005 Escapes need transmission \$700 & \$800, 218-401-0041.

12 pc set China dishes (love lace) & 12 pc set of silverware, \$95 ea. Antique set oblong table & buffet, \$400 or best offer, call 701-800-3323.

Milk glass plates, cups / saucers, custom pedestal bowls & other pieces all, \$100. Coin glass pieces, crystal trim w/ sterling silver, many other fine glassware too much to list, 218-847-8623.

72" wide hydraulic grapple bucket for skid steer \$1800. Pallet fork extensions 82" length 5 1/2" width \$225, call 218-849-4028.

Round hay bales. 4X5 size. suitable for horses or beef cattle. 218-841-4166.

Maytag washer & electric dryer w/ pedestals. DP BodyTone Multi Gym; Weider Home Gym, excellent condition, 218-483-4203.

Wanted to buy

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

1 young (bred) for April, May black Angus cow or heifer that has had a calf. 12 ft steel gate & panels. Older 4x4 pick-up. Tractor mechanic give honest price, 584-4603.

74 yr old grandma looking for small boat & pontoon to use w/ grandkids reasonable & running condition, 701-282-0559 or 701-200-9530.

Two bottom dearborn/Ferguson mounted plow, 218-280-8862

Free

12x50, 2 br mobile home needs work, you move 218-401-1168.

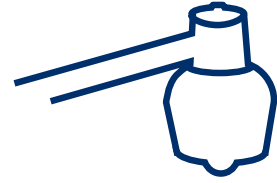
Our Ad Policy

- No real estate or commercial ads will be accepted.
- 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.
- Ads are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

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 Mahanomen, MN 56557

Security light cost adjustment



The Board of Directors has approved the recommendation of a security light rental cost adjustment. Effective April 1st, 2024, a \$0.50/month increase will be applied to those utilizing this service.

	Previous Rate	New Rate
Lights		
Yard light (individual)	\$11.00	\$11.50
Street lights (association group)	\$10.00	\$10.50

Effective April 1, 2024

Wild Rice Electric will be introducing a new member feature

to help you manage your account. In the event that your account becomes subject for disconnect due to non-pay, members will receive an automated phone call to the primary phone number on their account reminding them that their bill is due and account is subject to disconnect. Be sure to update your account information by visiting our website at www.wildriceelectric.com or by using our new SmartHub system.

Sample call:

"Jimmy Kilowatt,

As a reminder, your Wild Rice Electric bill is delinquent for the following account: 123146.

Your account is past due in the amount of \$398. Service is subject to disconnection if the past due amount is not paid by Feb 19, 2024."



Candidates Running for Director: Bios

District 1



Larry Sollie

Occupations / Position held (past or present): Own and operate Sollie Realty of Fosston with my wife Carol. I have served as the C.E.O., Certified General Real Estate Appraiser and Real Estate Broker for the past 36 years. My prior employment and formal education were in the Bio-Medical Electronic field.

Board or Council Experience(s) Volunteer Services: Served on the WRECI Board of Directors since 2006, currently as Vice Chair and previously as the Board Treasurer. I also serve on the Square Butte (co-generation partner of Minnkota Power) Board of Directors in the Vice President position.

Strengths you would bring to the Cooperative's board of directors: During my time as Director on both the WRECI and the Square Butte boards, I have gained extensive knowledge in the operation and electric generation, transmission, and distribution systems. I am confident that this experience will be utilized and relied upon as our Cooperative navigates significant industry challenges and changes.

Why do you want to serve as a Wild Rice Electric director? I take pride in engaging with my fellow WRECI members and representing their interests in a continuously evolving energy industry. Looking

forward, our cooperative must be ready to address aggressive legislation, regulations and mandates; maintain grid reliability while integrating renewable energy sources with base load generation; and implement load management strategies for the future of electric vehicle charging. We must do all of these while still maintaining affordable and equitable rates for all members. I firmly believe our cooperative is well-positioned and capable of meeting or exceeding our members' expectations into the future and I look forward to being a part of that.

District 2



Mark Habedank

Occupations / Position held (past or present): My wife Rhoda and I own/ operate a 5th generation family farm in eastern Norman county raising row crops and grains. My formal education background includes agronomy, economics, and finance.

Board or Council Experience(s) Volunteer Services: I have been a member of WRECI since 1983, a director on the board since 1996, and have served the cooperative board as chairman and currently as secretary. I also serve on the board of directors of Minnkota Power, a generation and transmission cooperative that supplies wholesale power to WRECI. Prior to serving on Minnkota Power's

board, I served on Square Butte Electric Cooperative's board of directors for 6 years with the last 3 as chairman. Square Butte has generation facilities adjacent to Minnkota Power and provides electricity to distribution cooperatives through them. There also is membership and involvement in a number of farm cooperatives and local service and religious organizations.

Strengths you would bring to the Cooperative's board of directors: Long history of being involved with the cooperative business model and the benefits it brings to member owners. As a small business owner for 45 years in a capital intensive industry

there is financial and strategic planning experience that I can bring to the board table. The years of serving the electric cooperative business model as a director has allowed for continuing education courses to equip and prepare for the changing electric industry.

Why do you want to serve as a Wild Rice Electric director? The electric industry is in a state of change of adapting to a carbon managed future while dealing with aging infrastructure. I am excited to use experience and skills gained to bring clean, reliable energy and prepare for the changing electric industry.

District 3



Paula Okeson

Occupations / Position held (past or present): I have been a Realtor since June of 2011. Prior to that I was the Office Manager with Human Resource, Accounting and Legal responsibilities for Luxury Landscaping and Lawn Care, LLP.

Board or Council Experience(s) Volunteer Services: I have been a Director, Vice President, President and now the current Past President for the Lakes Country Association of Realtors. I am also an Ambassador for the Detroit

Lakes Chamber of Commerce. I also volunteer as a collection counter for Holy Rosary Church in Detroit Lakes.

Strengths you would bring to the Cooperative's board of directors: I possess excellent communication, negotiation and listening skills along with a Bachelor of Science- Finance Degree. I believe my blend of skills, experience, and educational background positions me well to contribute effectively to the Wild Rice board's responsibilities, sup-

porting its mission and objectives with professionalism and dedication.

Why do you want to serve as a Wild Rice Electric director? I have a desire to serve and to learn. By actively engaging with the energy world and seeking opportunities to contribute and learn, I will be better-positioned to make a meaningful impact and further my understanding of how the energy industry functions.



Rural Delight (ISSN 0194 505X)

Published monthly by Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.,
P.O. Box 438, Mahanomen, MN 56557, in the interests of its members and others.
Periodical postage paid at Mahanomen and additional mailing offices. USPS 468-810.
POSTMASTER: Please send address changes, Form 3579 to:
Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.,
P.O. Box 438, Mahanomen, MN 56557-0438.
Subscription rates: Members, \$1/year; Non-members, \$2/year.
Phone: 218-935-2517.

Sample ballot

VOTING BALLOT
ANNUAL MEETING – April 18, 2024



BALLOT FOR DIRECTORS

As a member of the Cooperative, I cast my vote for the following three (3) candidates: one in District 1 for a three-year term, one in District 2 for three-year term, and one in District 3 for three-year term:

VOTE	CANDIDATE
District 1: (vote for 1 in District 1)	
	3-Year Term Larry Sollie (Incumbent) (Nominated by Committee)
District 2: (vote for 1 in District 2)	
	3-Year Term Mark Habedank (Incumbent) (Nominated by Committee)
District 3: (vote for 1 in District 3)	
	3-Year Term Paula Okeson (Nominated by Committee)

Schedule of Events

APRIL 18, 2024

SHOOTING STAR EVENT CENTER - BALLROOM

Registration 4:30 PM

SHOOTING STAR EVENT CENTER

Plated meal will be served 5:00 PM

Entertainment Blū Kanū – 5:00 PM

ANNUAL MEETING CONVENES – 6:00 PM

Call to Order..... Jimmy Kaiser, Board Chair
Presenting of Colors.....American Legion Color Guard
National Anthem.....Blū Kanū
Invocation Mark Habedank, Secretary
Notice of Annual Meeting – Proof of Mailing –
Minutes of 2023 Meeting Mark Habedank, Secretary
Election of Directors – Nominations and Voting Jimmy Kaiser, Board Chair
Financial Report..... Crystal Askelson, Director of Finance
Treasurer’s Report David Hamre, Treasurer
Report to Members Mike Wade, President/CEO

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING