

DECEMBER 2023

VOLTS & VIEWS

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.

NORTHSTREAM
FIBER
Powered by Roseau Electric Cooperative

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

... from all of us at Roseau Electric Cooperative ...

Roseau Electric Cooperative sincerely thanks all of our members for the continuous support they've given us this year.

We wish you a very merry Christmas and a wonderful new year!

Board Members

Jim Christianson
Brian Grafstrom
Shawn Gust

Jim Hallan
Kermit Jensen
Mark Sax

Joe Tesarek
Mike Wahl
Ed Walsh

Employees

Cassy Anderson
Shane Ballard
PeggySue Bergstrom
Devyn Brandt
Cliff Dahl
Marc Halvorson
Jay Hodny
Luke Holland
Mark Jennings
Bryden Johnson

Chad Johnson
Ralph Landman
Jeremy Lindemann
Rebecca Lundgren
Alex McMillin
Mike Millner
Chad Nelson
Ross Nelson
Justin Olson
Mary Preteau

Stacy Rose
Ryan Severson
Steve Severson
Jeremy Sisler
Tracey Stoll
Madison Strand
Dillion Thompson
Neal Vatnsdal
Jedd Von Ende

Our offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 25, and Monday, Jan. 1.

If you experience a power outage, please call to report it. Call 218-463-1543 or toll-free 888-847-8840. Please have your location number ready to give to the dispatcher (shown on your bill; for example, "000-00-000").

VOLTS & VIEWS

DECEMBER 2023 – Vol. 68, No. 12

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc.

1107 3rd Street N.E.

The Volts & Views (USPS-663420) is published monthly by Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 100, Roseau, MN 56751. Periodicals postage paid at Roseau, MN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ROSEAU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC., P.O. Box 100, Roseau, MN 56751.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chairman Mark Sax
Vice Chairman Jim Hallan
Secretary-Treasurer Mike Wahl
Directors . . Jim Christianson, Brian Grafstrom,
Shawn Gust, Kermit Jensen,
Joe Tesarek, Ed Walsh
Tracey Stoll General Manager
Ryan Severson Assistant Manager
Mike Millner Line Superintendent
Jeremy Lindemann Member Services
Alex McMillin Office Manager

Regular Business Hours: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 218-463-1543

OUTAGE CALLS:

Toll-Free: 1-888-847-8840

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. (Mon. thru Fri.)

Northwest Angle, Kittson, Marshall,
Pennington and Roseau counties
and parts of Beltrami County:

Ronald Ditsch – 651-368-2195

Lake of the Woods County:

Curt Collier – 218-966-5070

Inspector list is subject to change at any time.

The State of Minnesota has high wiring standards, which are in the best interest of you and your family or business. Improper wiring can damage your home, your property and equipment, and injure or kill the people you love. Currently, the state does allow homeowners to do their own residential wiring; however, it is critical that the current electrical code is followed. Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. For more information visit dli.mn.gov and go to the electrical page.

Gopher State One Call
1-800-252-1166 or 811
www.gopherstateonecall.org



Anyone who plans to dig is required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in advance. All digging requires the 48-hour notification so that buried telephone line, television cable, pipelines, utility electrical lines, municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Roseau Electric Cooperative is committed to providing its member-owners low-cost, high-quality, safe and reliable electricity with friendly, efficient and knowledgeable service.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

12 Days of Holiday Safety

Don't let the most wonderful time of the year end in disaster. As you prepare for a holly jolly holiday season, here are 12 electrical and fire safety tips to keep you and your home safe during all your wintertime festivities.



1
Remember to only use outdoor-grade extension cords when hanging decorations or lights outdoors. Be sure to keep them clear of snow and water.

2
Have a winter preparedness kit ready to go in case severe weather causes an outage or keeps you at home for an unexpected amount of time.

3
Use battery-powered flameless candles instead of real candles when decorating.

4
Keeping sidewalks and walkways well-lit and clear of snow and ice can help prevent slips and falls all winter long.

5
Make sure to water your tree daily to prevent any fire risk and to keep your tree in tip-top shape!

6
Use LED bulbs for your holiday lights. They are not only more energy efficient than typical bulbs, but they stay cooler longer.

7
Keep everyone in your home safe this holiday season by changing the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

8
Check for broken or frayed cords before plugging in any decorations or lights in your home.

9
Don't place decorations near open heat sources like fireplaces or space heaters.

12
Keep any extra or dead batteries stored in a safe location away from small children and pets.

10
Don't overload your circuits. Use a self-timer power strip or unplug any extension cords in use every night to prevent power surges.

11
When hanging lights, use insulated staples or hooks to prevent puncturing the electrical wire in the lights.

Roseau Electric Cooperative wishes everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!

From the line

Mike Millner, Line Superintendent



I have been told many times in years past that the older you get the faster time goes by, well they were definitely right. I have kept the guys quite busy. We are rebuilding three miles of single-phase line southwest of Grygla. On this rebuild, we will shorten the spans and reconductor with ACSR conductor. These power lines have had some significant damage due to frost and icing conditions in the past. It has been nice to see that we have been knocking out several service orders for right-of-way clearing. I'm going to try keep both mowers going most of the winter. In our construction season, it is very hard to have the manpower to take care of trees and maintenance. We try to capitalize on those issues this time of the year. Also, in the Grygla and Fourn town area, we contracted with a company to test our poles for rot, decay and other damage. Finally, I also have a crew hanging fiber on poles a few days of the week and that's going quite well. The weather so far has been just great!

Now on a fun note! I had the RDO media team reach out to me and ask about doing a commercial for RDO equipment. At first I turned it down and they called back again, so I changed my mind. They interviewed my crew and me and filmed some equipment operation. They feel we have a very unique company and have a great story to tell. It will be interesting to see the final cut. They say it will be out after the first of the year. I also had the editor of Dig Different magazine reach out to me. They want to do a story on our Northwest Angle project and all of the unique challenges that we encounter.

My family ended up having a great deer season. We passed up plenty and also ended up with some great meat to put on the table. However, no trophies were taken. The best part is really just having all the family around. It was also so much fun spending time with my grandson, Cole. I think he is going to be quite the hunter. He was hunting ruffed grouse with his

mom and dad at our house during deer season. He had to have a little flashlight on in broad daylight to track and retrieve the grouse that were harvested with his pellet gun by his mom and dad.

I am opening up another chapter in my life! I am heading down to Florida in January, with several friends, to form and pour concrete for a new home for my wife and I. We would eventually like to spend our winters out of this cold.

Before I leave you, I would like to share a few quotes with you. "Experience is not what happens to you, it is what you do with what happens to you," Aldous Huxley said. The next words from T.H. White are what I have to work on around my wife (LOL) – "The most difficult thing in the world is to know how to do a thing and to watch somebody else doing it wrong, without comment."

May your lights stay on and your arrows fly straight. Until we meet again...Mike



The RDO media team interviews Bryden Johnson



RDO captures video of directional drilling



Ruffed grouse hunting with Ashley, Ryan & Cole



Grandpa's future lineman, Cole

With mild winter predicted, demand response program prepared for system/market anomalies

In Minnesota, we can always appreciate a break from brutally cold and snowy winters. We might get that break this season – the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting above-average temperatures and below-average precipitation for our region.

However, the winter climate isn't the only consideration behind the deployment of your cooperative's demand response (off-peak) program. The power supply experts at Minnkota Power Cooperative (our wholesale power provider) will be monitoring several factors throughout the winter season, but they anticipate the standard 150-200 hours of demand response.

"What actually happens depends largely on weather, but also on system and market conditions," explained Dan Trebil, Minnkota's energy supply manager. "While the energy market has softened somewhat from the previous two years, we are still experiencing significant volatility. Any unusual system condi-

tions, generator outages, icing on wind farms, etc., can adversely affect this."

Trebil says that at this time his team is not expecting any conditions wildly out of the ordinary, especially given the baseload nature of Minnkota's coal-based plants. The Milton R. Young Station and Coyote Station have proven time and time again to be reliable sources of electricity for the cooperatives and communities served through the Minnkota-Northern Municipal Power Agency Joint System, and they are well prepared for the upcoming winter season. With that being said, unplanned outages can occur at any time – even with wind generation.

"In the winter, the wind farms can experience anything from icing to cold-temperature and/or high-wind shutdowns. These types of generator outages can lead to an increased need for demand response, especially if they occur during extreme weather conditions," Trebil said.

Minnkota works hard to keep any "control periods"

to less than 200 collective hours a season to lessen the impact on member-consumers, while also garnering the value that the demand response program provides to homes, the co-op itself, and the entirety of the electric grid. In cases where Minnkota's systemwide load exceeds its generation capabilities, they can implement the demand response program to avoid purchasing high-priced energy from the regional grid. This not only balances energy across the grid, but also saves the cooperatives money, which allows them to keep electric rates stable year to year.

If you are a demand response program participant, now is the time to make sure your home is prepared for the winter. Be sure that all backup heat sources are functioning and that any necessary fuel sources (such as fuel oil or propane) are refilled. Demand response can activate without much notice, even during somewhat mild weather in your area.

If you have questions about the demand response program, please call our office at 218-463-1543.

2024 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

PETITION DEADLINE TUESDAY, FEB. 6, 2024

Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., is organized as a cooperative and is owned by its members. The membership elects a board of directors to represent them in the operation of the cooperative.

Three directors will be elected at the 2024 Annual Meeting scheduled for April 6 at the Roseau School Theater. The directors whose terms expire in 2024 are: Jim Hallan, District 1 (3-year term); Ed Walsh, District 6 (3-year term); and Mark Sax, District 9 (3-year term).

NOMINATION BY PETITION

No nominating committee will be used. All nominations will be done by petition, including the incumbents.

Any 10 or more members who reside in Districts 1, 6 or 9 may nominate an eligible member for a director position in that district. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. No write-in ballots shall be accepted.

PETITION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE

Director candidates must pick up a petition and a director packet at Roseau Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Roseau. The packet contains additional forms that must be signed and turned in before the deadline.

PETITION DEADLINE

The cooperative must receive the completed petition **no later than the close of business at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024.**

Petition for Nomination

The following members wish to nominate (insert name) _____ for the three-year (insert Districts 1, 6 or 9) _____ director position, and to place such name on the ballot for the April 6, 2024, election at the annual meeting of the Cooperative, in accordance with Article III, Section 5, of the bylaws.

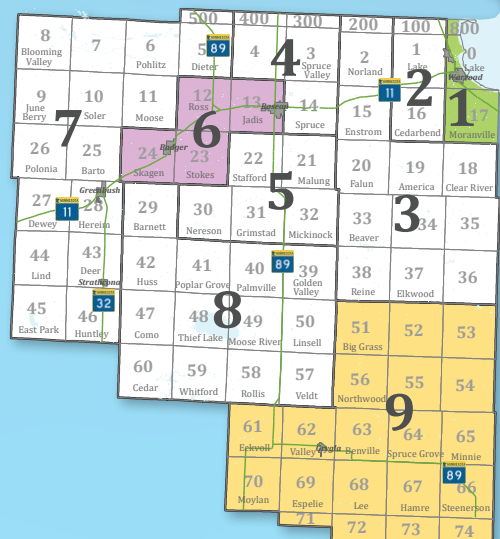
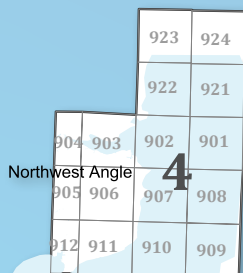
PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	CUSTOMER NO.
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		

The Cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than the close of business Tuesday, February 6, 2024. At the Annual Meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2024, elections will be held for a three-year term for one director in District 1, one director in District 6, and one director in District 9.

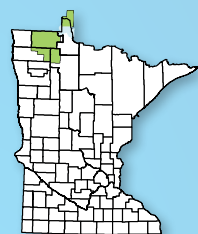
The directors whose terms expire in 2024 are as follows:

DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 6	DISTRICT 9
3-year Term	3-year Term	3-year Term
Jim Hallan	Ed Walsh	Mark Sax

Any 10 or more members who reside in District 1, 6 or 9 may nominate an eligible member for a director position in that district. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. In the event of joint membership, only the signature of one joint member shall be acceptable.



Roseau Electric Cooperative
Director Districts



SO, YOU WANT TO BE A DIRECTOR

Three directors will be elected at the 2024 Annual Meeting scheduled for April 6. Directors whose terms expire in 2024 are: Jim Hallan, District 1; Ed Walsh, District 6; and Mark Sax, District 9.

OBJECTIVES:

- To establish relationships between the board, the membership and the manager
- Define principles and practices
- Delegate authority
- Analyze operations

MEETING ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Monthly board meetings:** Board meetings are held 12 times per year, usually the fourth Wednesday of the month, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Other meetings:** Roseau Electric annual meeting; Minnkota annual meeting; MREA district meetings; other meetings to learn policies and procedures of the electric industry. Expect 5 - 12 extra days per year.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Report to the membership.
- Hire and delegate authority to the manager.
- Maintain legal entity and practices.
- Review and update bylaws.
- Require a continuous member and public relations program.
- Keep informed and grow in skills of the program.
- See that members are informed of operations.
- See that accurate minutes are prepared and maintained.
- Consider and adopt plans for objectives and goals.
- Review and update policies.
- Examine and approve annual budget and cash flow.
- Review and approve a sound financial plan.
- Establish policies and programs for good employee relationships.
- Assist in planning meetings.
- Establish special or standing committees.
- Review responsibilities of board and manager.
- Approve the selection of consultants and attorney.
- Establish measures and controls to determine effectiveness of management.
- Authorize and review annual financial audit.
- Implementation and enforcement of this position description is the responsibility of the board of directors.



REMINDER:

Get your 2023 rebates turned in by December 20, 2023!

NEED HELP PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?



Energy assistance may be available!

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, the following agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY ACTION
PO Box 67
Badger, MN 56714-0067
218-528-3258 or 800-568-5329
nwcaa.org

BI-COUNTY CAP, INC.
6603 Bemidji Ave. N
Bemidji, MN 56601-8669
218-751-4631



You can also apply online:

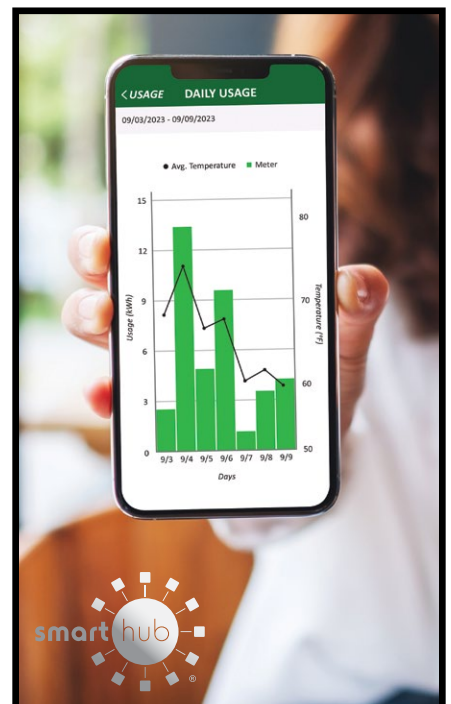
<https://energy-assistance.web.commerce.state.mn.us/>

The average home in our area can be powered for about **\$200 per month** — the price of a new winter coat.



VALUING EVERYTHING THAT POWERS YOUR MONTH.

THAT'S THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY.



USE SMARTHUB 24/7 TO:

- Review your account
- Access energy usage graphs
- Make a payment securely
- Review billing and payment history
- Sign up to receive email and text alert notifications



SIGN UP TODAY!
[roseaelectric.coop/
account-management/
smarthub](https://roseaelectric.coop/account-management/smarthub)

member connection

ENERGY TIP

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away. For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Department of Energy

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 21

Winter begins; Electric bill due

December 25

Merry Christmas; Office is closed

January 1

Happy New Year; Office is closed

April 6

2024 Annual Meeting;
Districts 1, 6, & 9 are up for director elections

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 218-463-1543

AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE NUMBER

Toll-Free: 1-888-847-8840

(main outage call center)

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

1-800-252-1166 or 811

PAY BY PHONE

1-877-999-3412

SMARTHUB

<https://roseauelectric.smarthub.coop/>

WEBSITE

roseauelectric.coop



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
TO STAY UP TO DATE!

@RoseauElectricCooperativeInc

Celebrate with Savings

* LED Lighting Rebate *

* Buy energy-efficient holiday lights and decorations *

How to Apply:



1. Purchase LED holiday plug-in (not battery-operated) lights and decorations in 2023.
2. Complete this rebate form and submit it to your utility or cooperative by Dec. 31, 2023, with a copy of your sales receipt and the packaging showing the number of lights per string. ENERGY STAR® LEDs are recommended.
3. Select the appropriate rebate in the box below. **(Rebate cannot exceed 50% of cost. Maximum of five strings per customer.)**

Name _____ City/Zip _____

Account # _____ Phone # _____

Address _____

Lights on String	Rebate per String	Total Rebate
Fewer than 99 lights	\$3	
100-199 lights	\$6	
200-299 lights	\$9	
Greater than 300 lights	\$12	

MAIL TO: Roseau Electric Cooperative,
1107 3rd Street NE, Roseau, MN 56751

OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Year to Date	
	October 2022	October 2023	October 2022	October 2023
Members	6,647	6,702	6,647	6,702
kWh purchased	12,401,830	12,181,814	127,794,353	123,441,781
% change		-1.77%		-3.41%
Revenue	1,574,642	1,586,787	15,766,468	15,668,164
Cost of power	929,468	929,111	9,510,305	9,368,014
Other expenses	581,130	570,143	5,615,138	5,457,709
Operating margins	64,044	87,533	641,025	842,441
Non-operating margins	8,588	19,684	78,387	152,564
Patronage dividends	362	-	199,013	53,359
Total margins	72,994	107,217	918,425	1,048,364

WINTER STORM PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST



Cold, blizzarding weather is just part of life here in the North – being prepared comes with the territory. As you and your family start assembling your winter weather emergency kits, here is a helpful checklist to make sure you have everything you need to keep everyone in your home safe.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN AN EMERGENCY KIT:



Nonperishable foods
 • Canned foods, crackers, protein bars



One gallon of water per household member
 • 5-day supply



Pet food



Extra blankets



Extra warm clothing
 • Hats, mittens, socks, scarves



A first-aid kit



Prescription medications
 • 5-day supply



Battery-powered radio or TV



Flashlights with extra batteries



Basic toiletries
 • Toilet paper, facial tissues, diapers, wipes



Full-charged portable chargers

If your power is ever out for an extended period of time, here are some helpful tips to keep your home and appliances safe:



At night, cover windows and doors with sheets, blankets or extra towels.



Keep doors of unused rooms closed and place towels underneath to keep heat from escaping.



Allow a small drip from your faucets to prevent pipes from freezing.



Unplug major appliances and electronics to protect them from power surges.



Take precautions and never operate a backup generator inside your home.

Make sure to check out roseauelectric.coop for more information and updates during severe winter weather.