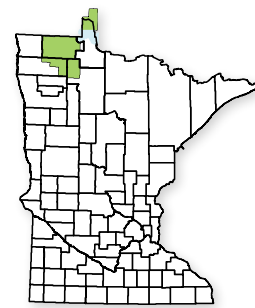
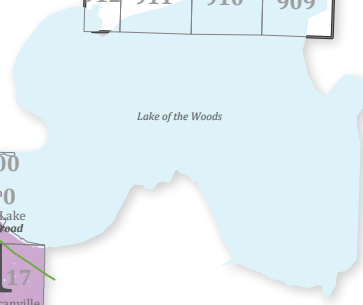
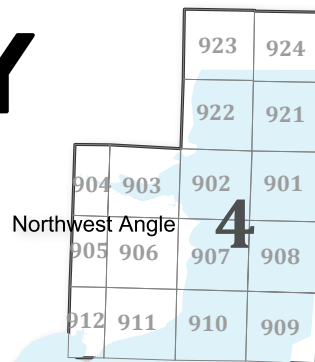
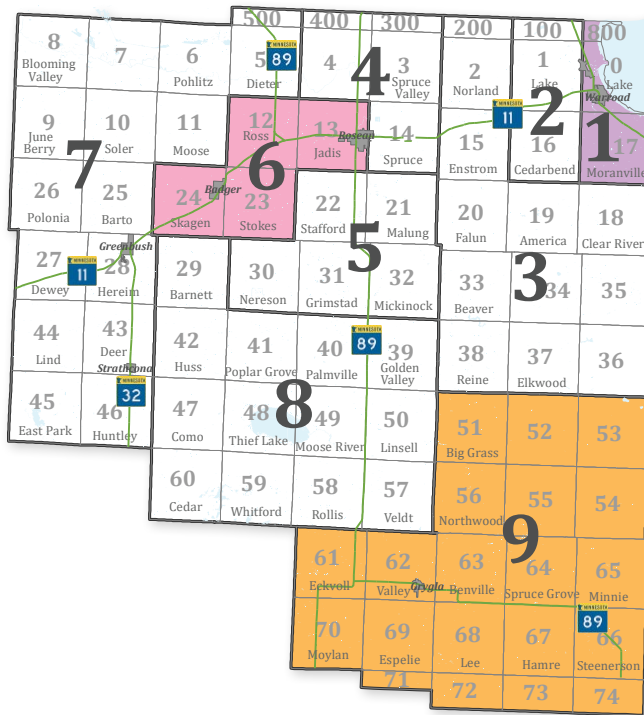


VOLTS & VIEWS



OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE!

2024 Director Elections



THREE DISTRICTS OPEN
See page 5

VOLTS & VIEWS

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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.



From the manager

Tracey Stoll, General Manager

Opportunities to get on board

Our Feb. 6 deadline for petitions is coming up fast! Three seats – Districts 1, 6, and 9 – are up for election to a 3-year term. At this time, only Jim Hallan, District 1, has chosen to NOT run for reelection. His choice creates an opportunity for someone to serve. If you reside in Moranville or Lake (eastern part) township, and are a member in good standing who's ready to serve your cooperative, please stop by and pick up a petition packet! Please see our full-page 2024 Director Elections page in this issue for more information on what it takes to be a director of Roseau Electric Cooperative.

New year outlook

Right before we closed the door on 2023, your board of directors met and approved the 2024 operating

budget. While 2022 and 2023 have provided good operating margins, the outlook for 2024, with higher costs of borrowing, slightly higher cost of power per kilowatt, and slightly less energy sales forecasted created the need for a look at our rates. After significant discussion on when the energy rate (per kilowatt hour rate) may have to be increased, the board agreed with staff that most, if not all of the current upward cost pressures are directly related to our fixed charge. That "facilities charge" attempts to represent to you, the member, what it costs to provide electrical service to each and every one of you without regard to how much energy you are using. As of your April billing, received the first part of May 2024, you will see a \$1 increase in that charge. Without using more electricity this new year, this rate increase will cost you \$9 more in 2024 than in 2023.

Facility charge vs. kWh rate

What does each component accomplish?

Your residential electric bill has two major parts – a facility charge and an energy charge (kWh).



The facility charge is designed to cover the costs to deliver and maintain power to a service regardless of the amount of energy used. Fixed costs to deliver power to a service include poles, wires, transformers, meters, labor and other services associated with providing electric service.

The energy or kWh rate is based on power consumption. This rate is comprised of wholesale power costs, transmission, substation, environmental controls and capacity charges.



From the line

Mike Millner, Line Superintendent



I am sure enjoying this mild winter so far, but it has definitely impacted our electric heat sales. These mild temperatures are also favorable for potential ice storms and we sure hope that doesn't happen. I have both mowers going now clearing right of way. Our crews also completed rebuilding 3 miles of single-phase line southwest of Grygla. This line had copper-weld conductor that had been severely damaged by frosting and icing conditions. We have also started to rebuild 2 miles of two-phase line in Stokes township. The crossarms and poles are in really tough shape. I also have plans to rebuild 2 miles of three-phase line northwest of Roseau. We will convert this line to heavy construction framing, with larger conductor that will be able to handle larger loads. We also have a dozen or more reject poles to change out in the Grygla area.

I would like to congratulate Steve Severson on his upcoming retirement! I have known and worked with Steve for many years and he will definitely be missed at this cooperative. He is a very knowledgeable

individual in many areas, especially with metering and troubleshooting. I would also like to point out that he is one of the better fishermen that I know and I plan on fishing with him more in my retirement years. Way to go Steve – stay healthy and have fun!

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and happy and healthy New Year! I hope everyone gets to spend quality time with your friends and family during this wonderful time of the year, and let us not forget what Christmas is all about! Before I leave you, I have some reasons-for-the-season quotes to share with you. "Christmas is a necessity. There is at least one day of the year to remind us that we're here for something else besides ourselves," Eric Sevareid said. "Some Christmas tree ornaments do more than glitter and glow, they represent a gift of love given a long time ago" – words from Tom Blake.

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



Steve Severson and his lovely wife, Lenore



REC power pole damaged by a black bear



REC line crew rebuilding two-phase power line in Stokes township

What does it mean to be a part of a cooperative?

Did you know not all electric utilities are the same? Some utilities are investor-owned (IOUs) while Roseau Electric Cooperative's members are partial owners of a cooperative. While both provide electrical services to the region, there are some key differences between the two types of utilities – and cooperatives have some impressive benefits!

Being a member-owner of Roseau Electric Cooperative means you have a say in how we operate. All our decisions about maintaining reliable, affordable and safe electricity are made with our members – LIKE YOU – in mind.

Thank you for being a member of the cooperative!

Investor-Owned Utilities

Electric Cooperatives

OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE



Investor-owned utilities are **for-profit corporations** that are typically publicly traded in the stock market. Profits are distributed to shareholders.



Cooperatives are **not-for-profit organizations** that are member-owned and controlled. Profits made by co-ops are either reinvested in the co-op or returned to the members as capital credits or scholarships.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



IOUs have a board of directors that is chosen by shareholders with a goal of maximizing shareholder value. The board is often comprised of **folks outside of the communities being served**.



As a cooperative, our board of directors is made up of members from around your region – **your friends and neighbors**. Representatives are voted in by the membership and serve a three-year term on the board.

PRIMARY BUSINESS OBJECTIVES



An investor-owned utility's primary business objectives include **investments that yield the highest return for shareholders**. Their goals are often guided by profit.



Cooperatives operate first and foremost for their membership. Our primary priority is **always to act in the best interest of our members**. A few of the guiding principles for all cooperatives include the prioritization of reliability and the well-being of the community.

WHO THEY SERVE



Investor-owned utilities typically serve more **urban areas** and have many more customers on a mile of power line than a cooperative.



Electric cooperatives were formed to meet the growing electrical needs of **rural communities** when larger utilities wouldn't. They were formed by rural people to serve their rural neighbors, and that service continues today.

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). **Jim Hallan has decided not to run for reelection.**

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 "District 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.

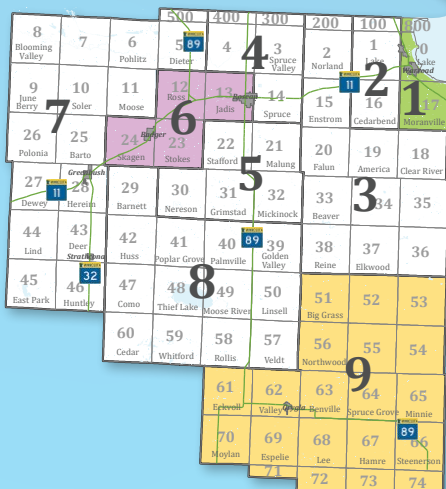
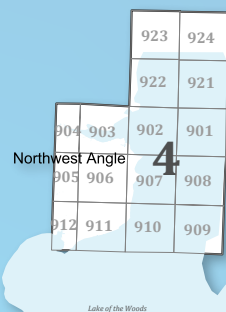
PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	CUSTOMER NO.
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____
13. _____	_____	_____
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.

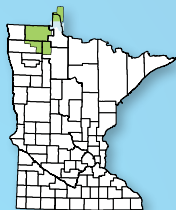
The directors whose terms expire in 2024 are as follows:

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

Congratulations

to these employees in recognition of their years
of service to Roseau Electric Cooperative



From left to right:

**Chad
Nelson**

Line Crew Foreman
30 years

**Steve
Severson**

Metering Technician
25 years

**Ross
Nelson**

Line Crew Foreman
25 years

**PeggySue
Bergstrom**

Accountant
10 years

**Neal
Vatnsdal**

Lineman
10 years

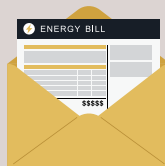


**Grant Application Deadline
Feb. 28, 2024**

To be considered at the March 2024 meeting, grant applications must be received by **Feb. 28, 2024**.

Grant applications are available at the REC office or by visiting our website at roseauelectric.com.

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/>

Over the past five years, your electricity prices have remained stable while average U.S. bread prices have increased about **50%**.



ELECTRICITY – DELIVERING A POWERFUL VALUE EACH AND EVERY DAY.



OPERATING STATISTICS

	Monthly		Year to Date	
	November 2022	November 2023	November 2022	November 2023
Members	6,650	6,702	6,650	6,702
kWh purchased	14,790,944	14,337,336	142,585,297	137,779,117
% change		-3.07%		-3.37%
Revenue	1,781,205	1,755,646	17,547,673	17,423,810
Cost of power	1,043,672	1,044,080	10,553,977	10,412,095
Other expenses	506,486	472,155	6,121,624	5,929,863
Operating margins	231,047	239,411	872,072	1,081,852
Non-operating margins	16,016	48,541	94,403	201,104
Patronage dividends	-	-	199,013	53,359
Total margins	247,063	287,952	1,165,488	1,336,315

member connection

ENERGY TIP

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed and properly insulated to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills. Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is needed.

Source: energystar.gov



DATES TO REMEMBER

January 21
Electric bill due

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](https://www.facebook.com/RoseauElectricCooperativeInc)

VOICES FOR GRID RELIABILITY

America's electric grid is beginning to face significant reliability risks. As more baseload and dispatchable power plants are retired without adequate replacement, the margin for error is becoming razor thin.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Roseau Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider, maintains a diverse resource mix that includes coal, wind and hydro power that contribute to a reliable grid. However, the Minnkota system is connected with other utilities across the central United States – from North Dakota and Minnesota down through Louisiana. Challenges in other parts of the country can contribute to reliability issues in our region.

Regulators, policymakers, utilities and others are voicing their concerns about transitioning too quickly toward intermittent resources – like wind and solar – without retaining the stability provided by coal, nuclear and natural gas power plants. Here's what some of the major entities responsible for reliability are saying.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING: “

We are heading for potentially very dire consequences, potentially catastrophic consequences in the United States in terms of the reliability of our grid.” – MARK CHRISTIE, FERC COMMISSIONER, AT A HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE, ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON JUNE 13, 2023.

North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING: “

... one of the important things that these plants provide is the ability for the grid to maintain voltage and maintain frequency and to resist disturbances. Other resources can't do that nearly as well as large spinning mass generation. And that's why the loss of coal plants and natural gas plants and nuclear plants is so concerning from a grid reliability perspective.” – JIM ROBB, NERC PRESIDENT AND CEO, AT A SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES HEARING ON JUNE 1, 2023.

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING: “

The recent acceleration in the pace of fleet change is increasing risks to system reliability for MISO. Dispatchable generators that we need to ensure reliability are being removed from the system before new resources with the needed reliability attributes are being brought online.” – TODD RAMEY, MISO SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETS AND DIGITAL STRATEGY, AT A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY, CLIMATE AND GRID SECURITY HEARING ON SEPT. 28, 2023.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MNPUC)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING: “

A major reliability event will set us backwards. The public will absolutely revolt.” – JOE SULLIVAN, VICE CHAIRMAN OF MNPUC, AT A CONFERENCE HOSTED BY THE MINNESOTA SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION, ON OCT. 9, 2023 (COURTESY MINNPOST).

Minnkota Power Cooperative (MPC)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING: “

Despite all the regulatory uncertainty, our board and staff have committed to the view that we are going to live in a carbon-managed world and we'll need to develop technologies and strategies to help us navigate this challenge. We want to be part of the solution, but there needs to be an understanding that America's electric grid can't be completely transformed overnight.” – MAC MCLENNAN, MINNKOTA PRESIDENT AND CEO, IN AN OCT. 9, 2023, ARTICLE ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RULES.