



RURAL DELIGHT

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News from Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc. PO Box 438 • Mahnomen, MN 56557

Condensed

Annual Meeting

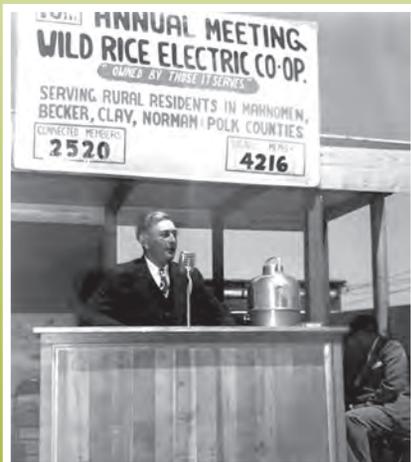
Wild Rice Electric will be conducting its 80th annual meeting of the members on Tuesday, August 25th starting at 9:00am. As a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, please note there have been a number of modifications to this year's meeting. The meeting will be held on-site in the cooperative warehouse at 502 N Main St. in Mahnomen. Historically, a meal has been served, entertainment available, as well as draw prizes, however, in order to limit the possible exposure to the COVID-19 virus, a decision has been made to abstain these interests keeping the health and safety of our members and employees in mind. Should you feel ill or suffering from underlying health issues, we ask you please refrain from attending. For those not attending, Annual Report booklets will be available at our lobby following the annual meeting. Our Annual Report is also available by clicking the 'Bylaws / Annual Meeting' link on the Member Advantages page on our website www.wildriceelectric.com. Anticipated is a condensed meeting to fulfill the official requirements of the cooperative's bylaws. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. We wish your families safety and health and hope to return to a more familiar format for our meeting of the members in 2021.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a condensed version of the annual meeting will be held fulfilling the requirements of the cooperative's bylaws. As a precautionary measure, there will not be a meal, entertainment nor draw prizes.



A bit of history

Below: OP Refling speaking at the 10th Annual meeting held at the Mahnomen County Fairgrounds.



COVID-19
Suspended
Disconnections
Expire

See Inside



OVER THE MANAGER'S DESK

AROUND THE CO-OP ...

STEVE HAAVEN, CEO



Rescheduled Annual Meeting

The Wild Rice Electric board of directors has made the decision to hold the Co-op's 80th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, August 25th at 9:00 AM. The meeting was originally scheduled to be held on March 26th but was postponed only days before due to the COVID-19 restrictions. After much thought the meeting has been re-scheduled for Tuesday August 25th and will be somewhat different than in past years. Planning is extremely challenging given unknown directions the pandemic will take from both associated impacts and restrictions. Therefore, the board thought it prudent to hold the required Annual Meeting sooner than later and then move on.

The Annual Meeting will be held to conduct essential business only and will not include a meal, draw prizes or entertainment. All of which were in place for the original meeting and will hopefully return to be part of next year's meeting. This year's condensed meeting will be held at the Co-op's headquarters. The shortened agenda will consist of the election of directors, a brief financial report and general comments about operations. The Nominating Committee previously completed their task to nominate the slate of director candidates for election in each district. Absentee ballots are available by request and would need to be returned prior to the meeting. Annual Reports, prepared months ago, will be handed out at the meeting but are also available in the cooperative's lobby, mailed upon request or on the website at www.wildriceelectric.com.

We will continue to be diligent about COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines, which seem to change often, but presently include social distancing, the need to wear a mask and taking temperatures in certain situations. We expect the condensed meeting will dramatically limit attendance but allow the Cooperative to meet Bylaw requirements to a hold a meeting. We trust the membership will understand the altered meeting and precautions being taken are to best protect the safety and health

of employees, members and the general public. Especially when many attending the Cooperative's Annual Meeting would fall into a higher risk category.

On a personal note I must admit frustration as well. A number of months ago I did inform the board of directors about plans to retire effective the end of this year. As a result, they have been in a search and replacement mode which will be announced in the upcoming months. My hope was to be able to thank the membership at this year's annual meeting for the opportunity to work on their behalf for the past 47 years. More on that in next month's issue of the Rural Delight.



Holiday Overload

The Independence Day Holiday typically includes fireworks. For crews at Wild Rice Electric this year's activities included a different form of sparks and overheating. The extreme hot weather, noticeable increase in lake traffic, crowded campgrounds and packed resorts did impact service to a number of areas. Undoubtedly the holiday falling on a very hot week-end and the COVID-19 precautions causing people to stay closer to home and not traveling distances did add to the crowded conditions. Many have mentioned as they traveled about it was not uncommon to see one, two or even three campers/RV's parked by lake homes and packed into resorts. Most of those units running one or two air conditioning units almost constantly. The result was a significant loading challenge to the distribution system. Analysis of the outages showed service interruptions in the Union Lake, Lake Sarah, Maple Lake, Twin Lakes, White Earth Lake, Strawberry Lake and Long Lake areas. Crews did work through the night to restore power. Engineers are looking at options to avoid similar problems in the future. In fact, existing engineering and construction plans already in the works will be addressing a number of those situations.



Harvest Season

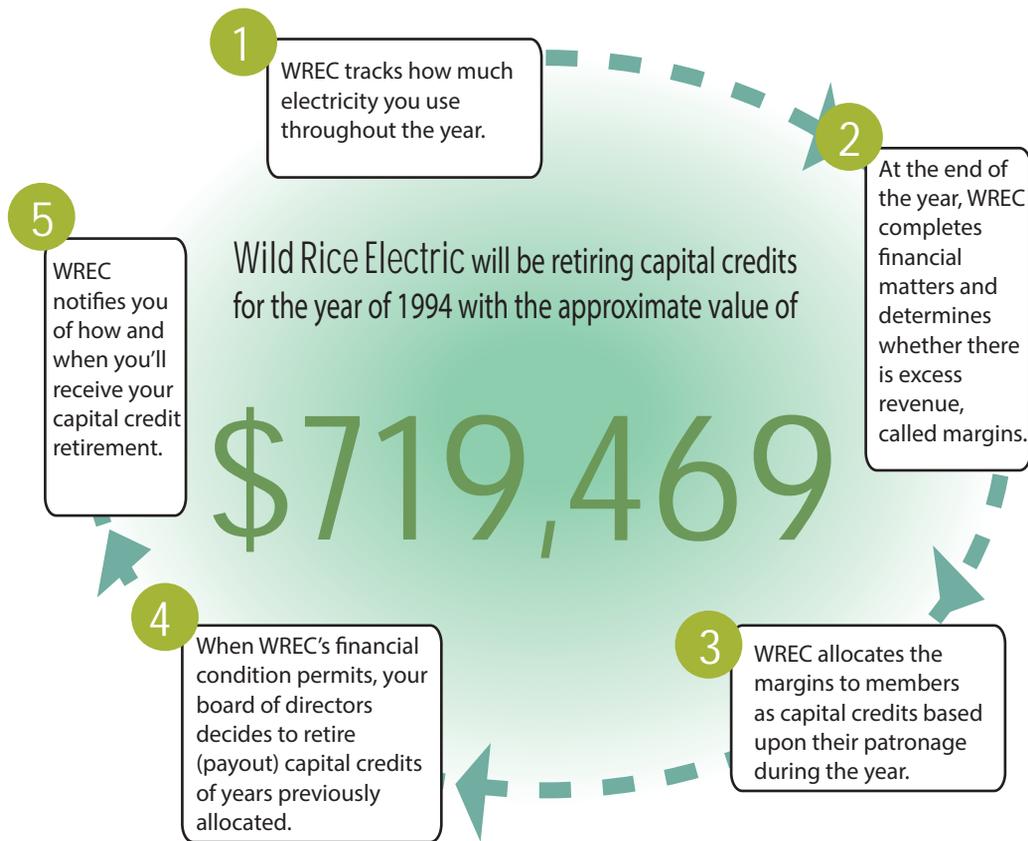
August means farmers are, or will soon be, busy with harvest. Please keep safety in mind and take the time to review power line locations with those involved in your operation. Do not take for granted everyone knows or remembers where lines (overhead and underground) run. If you notice low hanging wires, poles in poor condition or a situation that does not look right please help by giving us a call. We encourage farmers to place stickers on augers reminding anyone moving them around to keep overhead lines in mind. If you have increased the size of fan motors or added other electrical equipment please contact us in advance so the appropriate size service including transformer capacity can be checked to assure adequate power is available. Every year larger bins and related electric equipment are installed without proper notification and sizing. Eventually this will cause problems including possible damage and injury. The member is responsible for damages caused without notification. If you will be digging remember it's the law to "Call before you dig" at 811 (Gopher State One Call) to get your utility lines marked and protect you from injury and expense.

The hot weather often brings storms which can cause electric delivery challenges. Already this summer high winds and tornados have caused major interruptions to neighboring utilities. In July Wild Rice Electric did have employees in the Dalton area assisting Lake Region Electric Cooperative to restore power following a tragic tornado. You are encouraged to prepare for outages ahead of time. Have battery operated flashlights, radios and water on hand. Keep refrigerators and freezers closed. If you have a generator remember to run it ahead of time and check for fuel. We also suggest having your account information to Wild Rice Electric close at hand to call in should you experience a problem.

Stay healthy, safe and have a nice summer.

How do Capital Credits Work?

Because Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc., operates at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.



Active members: Capital credit earnings were applied in July and will be reflected on your current bill. Notification of allocation for 2019 and retirement will be provided at the bottom of your billing statement.

Inactive members: Capital credit checks will be issued. Retirements for \$5 and under will not be mailed out- they will be returned to the equity of the co-op.

Gopher State One Call

KNOW
WHAT'S
BELOW
CALL



BEFORE YOU
DIG.

One free,
easy call gets your
utility lines marked
AND helps
protect you from injury
and expense.

COVID-19 Suspended Disconnections Expire

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative temporarily suspended service disconnections due to nonpayment of bills to assist members when the COVID-19 pandemic forced many businesses to shut down and communities were forced to shelter in place.

Electric co-ops are built by, and belong to, the communities we serve. That community focus drives our co-op as we respond to evolving COVID-19 challenges and local concerns. The temporary suspension of disconnects was one of many steps that Wild Rice Electric took to reduce the stress on our members and provide local families and businesses with certainty during an uncertain time. Since the start of the pandemic, we've worked to support families and businesses throughout our communities including Capital Credit Re-

turns in the amount of \$719,469 paid back to our members, delivering safety presentations to students via video distant learning, modified work schedules and working from home to continue to offer safe and reliable services to all of our members.

We recognize the significant economic fallout from COVID-19 on local families and businesses. The economic health of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is directly tied to the wellbeing of our local community. Not-for-profit electric co-ops like Wild Rice Electric have no shareholders and routinely return excess revenues to their members. Because of this structure and the desire to keep energy costs as low as possible, some co-ops have more limited reserve margins to sustain high rates of nonpayment. Nationally, the pandemic is projected to

cost the electric cooperatives \$10 billion through 2022, according to new research by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Starting August 10th, 2020 Wild Rice Electric will resume disconnections for accounts with a past due balance. We want to help you avoid disconnection of your electric service. The COVID-19 pandemic was unprecedented. We know our members may be facing financing challenges and we understand you may have trouble paying your electric bill during this critical time. If you missed payments and have a past-due balance or are unable to pay your bill, we encourage you to contact us at 1-800-244-5709 as soon as possible to discuss payment options or setting up a payment plan.

Ads

For Sale

Starcraft pop up camper. Good condition, asking \$1,500, can be seen at 11335 State Highway 200. 20 miles east of Mahanomen, 701-317-5558.

2003 GMC Sierra 2500 HD ext. cab(4dr.). SLT 210k mi. Blk 6.75 bx, \$8,900, 218-841-2912 or 219-849-8483.

Skid steer attachments, Jenkins brand Tree pullers, grapple buckets, tela booms, brush mowers, bale spears, pallet forks, 701-261-3574.

1992 International Feed truck 8200 Series 773 cu. ft capacity, 4 equal compartments, 8"x26' discharge auger & front lid crank opener, \$25K, 218-847-1050.

Kohler USA 4-cylinder gas motor 240 volt single phase generator, mounted on trailer, \$350 obo, 218-689-2255.

2000-Ford F350 w/ 7.3 Diesel engine, six speed manual transmission. 4x4 only 99,750 miles, dully long bed, ext cab, like new condition inside & out, \$16,500, 701-541-2814.

Grey Dock Rite Canopy Cover 114" x 26' \$175.00. 25' yard light pole good condition, make offer, 701-371-1902

Corner shelves made from old panel door, 38" pull behind lawn sweep, 7 foot Lorenze 3-point snowblower, 2008 Harley Davidson ultra-classic, 701-866-4681.

Vogel Wick Weeder; 40 ft new, never used. Trailer type w/ 4-16 inch adjustable gauge wheels, \$3,800 obo, 218-791-9258 or 218-435-6245.

Hewitt aluminum lift, 1100 lbs. excellent condition, \$100, Tulaby Lake, 701-238-0730.

Dining room table & 4 chairs (wood), like new (small), \$100. Oak computer desk w/ nice chair, \$100, Sony 50" TV works good w/ stand, \$50, 218-280-9494.

INT "M" power steering narrow front 15.5-38 tires, chains, snow bucket, dirt plate, Int. 2001 loader, 218-532-7858.

Chicago Electric 220 wire feed welder. John Deere Donahue trailer. Plastic sports off John Deere Flex head, 218-261-0971.

Sheep equipment hay feeders, tanks, lambing pens, gates, scale & much more, 218-935-2471.

Back blade for 3 pt hitch 7 ft non hydraulic, used very little. Sears Craftsman 1/2 HP shaper on a stand. Artic Cat cutter can be restored, 701-866-1075.

Picnic tables, gliders, benches, 218-850-9316.

Ford 8 N tractor/ new paint good rubber. B- Allis Chalmers/ belly plow, good rubber. Both ran when parked them inside, 218-532-2990.

1981 Honda CM 400 motorcycle. Not pretty, but runs great. Everything works. Text 218-849-3226 will send you a picture, Frazee area, \$400.

Australian Shepard/ Poodle cross puppies, very friendly parents, (some black & some are spotted black, gray & blue merle (white)) \$1,000, 218-435-2010.

Smaller type of fuel oil furnace excellent shape. Good for cabin/ hunting shack, make an offer, 218-962-3384.

Deluxe arched wood grain pergola 9'x9' new still in box, pd \$355 + tax will sell for \$250, 218-280-0011.

2- Fender Telecasters Electric Guitars, 1 Am Standard & 1 MX Deluxe Nashville model. Also cab for older tractor, 218-567-8511.

Beautiful Kingston Electric Guitar, \$250. Very nice 3/4 size Harmoanu Acoustic guitar, \$65 will trade for gun(s) pay difference in cash, 701-293-1295.

1941 Mercury (Rocket) out-board motor, 7.5 hp model kb-4, sn#2552, turns over, \$200/offer, 218-356-8626.

All Aluminum Boat Lift for smaller boat and motor. \$200 or best offer. Located at Tulaby Lake. 763-242-5454.

Lighted China hutch lg 6 ft 3 section drawers & doors, \$1,699. Dining room table extends to 10 ft/ leafs/ 6 chairs, \$1,599. TV center lots of storage, \$1,399. 4 - counter/bars stools 30", \$50 ea. 218-532-7359.

Outdoor wood boiler, new never used, fire box is 44" deep x 40" high & 36" wide, \$4,500 offer, 218-435-6820.

Wanted

Metal porch swing. 218-457-3000

Estimate on removal of large trees in grove. Wood can be kept for saw logs or firewood. 218-983-3443 or 218-204-1199. If no answer, leave message.

Used set of arco tracks plastic or rubber with repair, 218-841-5849.

Electric trolling motor, 218-846-0805.

Garden tomatoes for canning. Buying by the bushel. 218-793-2447. Leave message.

Pickup or grain truck from the 1940's or 50s. Does not have to be running, w/ or w/out title, 218-280-9973.

Free

Granary to take down lots of good wood, Hitterdal, 218-962-3384.

Kittens born late May. Mother is good mouser, kittens are playful and tame. 218-841-1267

Our Ad Policy

- All ads must be 30 words or less.
- Ads will be abbreviated at the coop's discretion.
- 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. Unpublished ads will not be carried over.
- Ads are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication.
- Members may submit only one ad per issue.
- Ads must be resubmitted to run an additional month.
- Ads must be typed or in clear readable print. Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- You can submit your ad by mail, email, fax or drop off in office. Phone ads will not be accepted.
- Fax ads to . . . 218-935-2519
- Email ads to . . . info@wildriceelectric.com
- Mail ads to . . . Wild Rice Electric P.O. Box 438 Mahanomen, MN 56557



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Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.

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Phone: Serving you 24 hours
a day: 800-244-5709

Office Hours:

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

Website:
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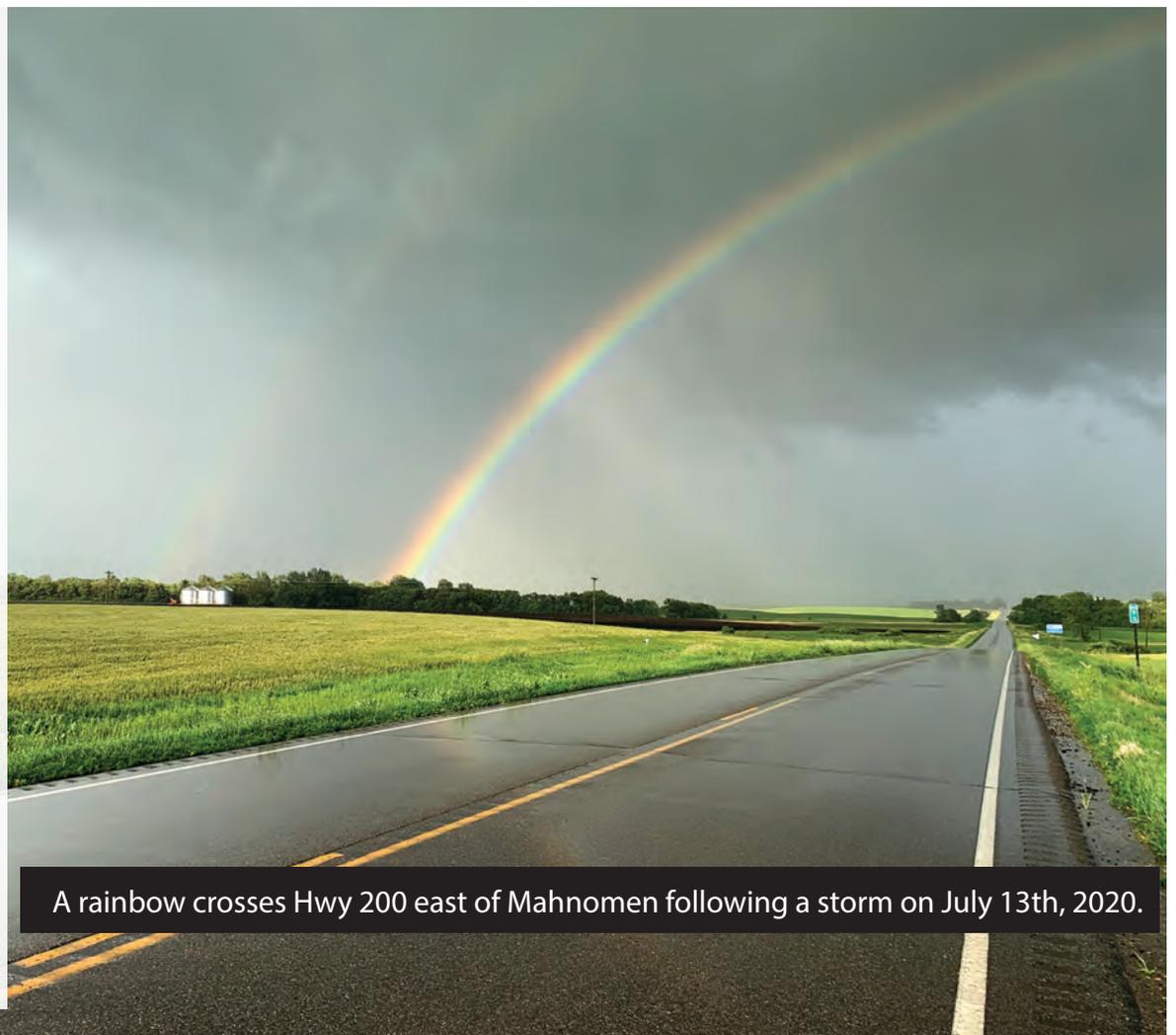
Pay bill 24 hours/ 7 days
a week: 833-250-4481

Also download the Wild Rice Coop
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 regular scheduled meeting
of the board of directors is held
at the Wild Rice Electric office
on the last Tuesday of each month.*



A rainbow crosses Hwy 200 east of Mahanomen following a storm on July 13th, 2020.