

December 2019  
Volume 79 • Issue 12



News from Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.  
PO Box 438 • Mahnomon, MN 56557  
www.wildriceelectric.com

# RURAL DELIGHT

SINCE 1939

# CELEBRATING 80 years

## OF SHARING THE POWER



### Employees

- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Crystal Askelson  | Kristin Lafriniere |
| Mike Baukol       | Gary Neis          |
| Joe Block         | Dan Noll           |
| Jolene Brevik     | Linda Noll         |
| Al Brunner        | Travis Obowa       |
| Craig Burrack     | Scott Olson        |
| Ken Crane         | Ryan Omang         |
| Perry Doerfler    | Christopher Otto   |
| Bobbi DuChamp     | Nathan Pazdernik   |
| Seth Felland      | Josh Roed          |
| Keith Geray       | Lisa Schoenborn    |
| Tom Guenther      | Glen Sommers       |
| Duane Gunderson   | Robert Spaeth      |
| Steve Haaven      | Tim Stock          |
| Ross Halland      | Abby Stueness      |
| Tom Houdek        | Sue Swanson        |
| Nick Jasken       | Dave Thronson      |
| April Jirik       | Cody Turner        |
| Luke Klostermeier | Mike Vasilakes     |
| Jill Kettner      | Tim Voss           |

# Merry Christmas

from all of us at  
Wild Rice Electric

**Wild Rice Electric's** office will close at noon on Tuesday, December 24th and re-open on Thursday, December 26th for the Christmas Holiday. The office will also close at noon on Tuesday, December 31st and re-open again on Thursday, January 2nd for the New Year's Holiday. In the event of an emergency or outage, please call **1-800-244-5709** for assistance.

**We wish all of you safe and happy holidays!**

### Board of Directors

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Randy Bjornson | Jeff Nornes  |
| Mark Habedank  | Russ Okeson  |
| David Hamre    | Larry Sollie |
| Jim Kaiser     | Roger Winter |
| Greg LaVoy     |              |



# OVER THE MANAGER'S DESK

AROUND THE CO-OP...

STEVE HAAVEN, CEO



## Happy Holidays

What a great time of the year to enjoy family and friends. From a business perspective, the challenging fall weather has made finishing projects very difficult. Wild Rice has struggled to finish construction projects including upgrading and building new services, clearing right-of-way areas and replacing poles scheduled for replacement. The Cooperative provides electric service to many farmers who have likewise fought difficult conditions all the way through the wheat, beans, beets and corn harvest. Hopefully mother nature will be more accommodating so we can move forward with catching up on much of the unfinished work.



## Seasonal Accounts

Last month I reminded members on seasonal basis of the change to the winter season effective December 18th. We have calls from a number of farmers with aeration and grain drying accounts about the cutoff date. The winter season is established by our power provider Minnkota Power Cooperative consistent with regional power markets. The cost for purchasing electricity from Minnkota Power can increase dramatically during winter peak conditions occurring between December 1 and the following April 1. Therefore, on a retail basis, the rate for electric usage from Wild Rice Electric increases from 8.7 to 12.4 cents per kilowatt hour for the winter period from December 18th to March 18th of each season. The impact of added demand during a peak control period can become very costly. For example, a 100 KW load coming on during a billing window would result in additional month costs of \$1,202 or \$14,424 over the future twelve-month period from April 1st to March 31st of the following year.



## Right-of-Way Clearing

Expanded effort continues in ramping up the cutting of trees in the Cooperative's right-of-way. Wild Rice Electric maintains the area under and around our equipment in order to keep it safe and free from hazards, such as trees. Right-of-way tree trimming and clearing is a vital part of keeping our electric system safe and reliable. The general guideline is to keep trees and other vegetation cleared back 20 feet on each side of the electric line. The distance increases to 30 feet for heavy three phase lines. Large transmission lines require an even greater distance of 40 feet or more.

Cooperative crews do cut a significant number of trees found in or near power lines. Unfortunately, many of those after they have fallen on lines from wind, heavy snow or ice causing power outages. In addition, the cooperative contracts with Carr's Tree Service to proactively cut, mow and spray right of way areas to avoid safety and reliability situations. More recently an added effort includes working with Paul Mahlen, a retired Minnkota Power employee with significant right-of-way experience, contacting members ahead of time to allow for a more structured approach to clearing those areas.

We need your help. Improperly maintained trees and plants that grow into lines can cause spark fires, create power outages and stop crews from making important and timely repairs. If there are trees, shrubs or other woody plants growing near your power lines, report the problem to Wild Rice Electric. Also do not plant trees in the right-of-way areas that have a growth of more than 12-15 feet and that could grow into the lines.



## Winter Demand Reponse

Many of us remember the January 2019 polar vortex with winds that hurt the skin and dangerous overnight lows. Fortunately, homes and businesses stayed warm as the power stayed on within Wild Rice Electric Cooperative's service area. On a regional basis, energy teams were able to balance overwhelming electric needs across the region by leveraging energy markets and use of demand response programs allowing off-peak loads to be controlled. More of a challenge in today's energy world reliant on wind and solar in addition to firm coal and gas plants. When the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining the demand for electricity doesn't go away.

Todd Sailer, Minnkota Power senior manager of power supply & resource planning, comments that if you have a polar vortex where there's no wind, or it's so cold that the wind isn't generating, that is going to result in demand response. He adds that wind generators start to shut down somewhere between 20 and 25 below zero, temperatures that our entire area experienced for multiple days last winter. The cold temperatures were over a wider area of the country, which put additional stress on our system. That led to higher electrical needs, which resulted in higher energy costs across the entire region. The demand response program allowing for control of loads was very helpful in the ability to manage both costs and consumer electrical needs during widespread emergency weather conditions. The entire regional supply of electricity was stressed and challenged during last year's polar vortex conditions.

Those participating in the off-peak program need to check their backup heating sources to make sure their fuel tanks are full and functioning. The polar vortex showed that you need to make sure your systems are working properly so that when we end up in those events, everybody is able to get through it safe and sound.

**Continued on Page 4**

# Why do we clear trees in the right-of-way?

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as right-of-way to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs.
- Restore power outages more quickly.
- Reduce unexpected cost for repairs.



Maintaining right-of-way improves service reliability for you — **our members!**

Wild Rice Electric has been granted the right-of-way (or an easement) to build power lines on property owned by others. This right includes our ability to maintain the area under and around our equipment in a manner that keeps it safe and free from hazards, such as trees. Right-of-way tree trimming, and clearing, is a vital part keeping our system safe and reliable.

Depending on the type of overhead line, Wild Rice Electric has general

guidelines to keep the trees out of the power lines. On single-phase distribution lines, trees and other vegetation will be cleared back 20 feet on each side of the electric line. For three-phase distribution lines, that distance increases to 30 feet. Transmission lines require a distance of 40 feet. By creating this distance between the power line and surrounding vegetation, we will continue to improve our system reliability.

## Energy Assistance Providers

### Becker or Mahnomen County

**Mahube Community Council**  
PO Box 747

Detroit Lakes, MN 56502  
218-847-1385

**Mahube Community Council**  
PO Box 76

Mahnomen, MN 56557  
218-935-5022

### Energy Assistance Program

3303 US Hwy 59  
Waubun, MN 56589

218-473-2711

### Becker County Social Services

712 Minnesota Ave  
Detroit Lakes MN 56501

218-847-5628

### Mahnomen County Social Services

311 North Main  
PO Box 460

Mahnomen, MN 56557  
218-935-2568

### White Earth Nation Financial Services

PO Box 100  
Naytahwaush, MN 56566

844-282-6580/ 218-935-2359

### Clay County

#### West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc.

411 Industria Park Blvd.  
Elbow Lake, MN 56531

800-492-4805/ 218-685-4486

### Clay County Social Services

715 11th St No, Suite 502  
Moorhead, MN 56560

218-299-5200/ 800-757-3880

### Clearwater County

#### Clearwater Social Services

216 Park Ave NW  
Bagley, MN 56621

218-694-6164

### Polk County

#### Inter County Community Council

PO Box 189

Oklee, MN 56742

218-796-5144/ 888-778-4008

#### Polk County Social Services

612 N Broadway, RM 302  
Crookston, MN 56716

218-281-3127

### W. Polk or Norman County

#### Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

102 N Broadway  
PO BOX 607

Crookston, MN 56716

218-281-5832/ 800-584-7020

#### Norman County Social Services

15 2nd Ave E

Ada, MN 56510

218-784-5400/ 833-543-1964

# Ads

## For Sale

2005 John Deere 1420 62" mowing deck & 48" snowblower, 218-349-6351.

New Kirby vacuum w/ shampooer, asking \$275, 218-935-5942.

Sioux value grinder. 25x11-10 ATV tires. 2005 Jeep Liberty limited fully loaded, sunroof new tires, batt, rad needs head gaskets, 218-849-8963.

Geese 4 months old 1/2 Toulouse 1/2 Sebastopol \$25 each or \$20 for 2 or more. Not aggressive 218-401-1168.

1956 Dodge truck has been kept inside garage, 218-936-7002.

Minnesota 7 ton wagon, \$375. St. Croix pellet stove excellent \$800. Corner entertainment center like new, \$75. Computer desk, \$25. Coffee table, \$25. Blue rocking recliner, \$35. Mauve rocking recliner, \$35, 701-552-1317.

Arctic Cat 2001 Mountain Cat 600. Arctic Cat 1992 Prowler 440. Double-wide Flo snowmobile trailer. 218-435-6923.

Snow & dirt buckets, tree pullers, brush mowers, bale spears, brush grapples, 701-261-3574.

Workman - 2 passenger bicycle in great shape! \$100, 701-793-3030.

2003 Dodge Ram 1500 4Dr. 4x4 6ft box, AT, PS, E-locks, cruise, AC, 5.7L Hemi, 20 inch Whls, avg. tires, 300K, rust over back whls, \$3,400, 701-367-9614, excellent runner.

Snow Blower. V type. Three-point mount. 80 in. wide. Hydraulic chute. 218-937-5331.

Jiffy Ice auger, Legend 3 hp, 9 in, with 12 in extension & extra set of new blades. \$300, 219-280-7776.

Many Christmas items also Christmas vinyl LP records by, "Goodyear & Firestone" in 1960s/70s. Pretty cloth Thanksgiving & Christmas table cloths, 218-280-7035.

New Ruger 10/22 auto w/ truglo w/ box of shells, 218 790-4197.

1996 Ford escort, 5 speed manual, 1.9 l, 600 ft. lb snap-on torque wrench, 1 1/2 ton truck transmission jack, rod & main bearings for C-13 Cat engine text 701-866-4681.

Over 100 older paper back book 25 cents ea. Take as many as you want or will trade, 218-584-5589.

Ruger .22/45 MK III target model pistol w/ box \$360. Stoeger Condor Out back 20 ga o/u polished nickel barrel \$395. Older 30.06 w/ mauser action 4x32 scope \$200, 218-983-3916.

Kimball console piano \$100 OBO. Good condition - includes bench & music books. You pick it up before the real winter gets here! 218-230-9356 (will send photo via text if interested)

2000 Ford Ranger Stepside, V-6, automatic, 4 wheel drive, good tires, \$850, 218-439-6492 or 701-238-9836.

All varieties Christmas trees near Rochert \$35 to \$45, taller trees (over 8 feet) are cut your own, 218-841-2688.

815 combine hydro drive lots of hyd controls must see, hyd pto. 1969 Chev 1 1/2 ton truck grain box 6 cyl hoist set up to haul wood, 218-846-0125.

16x32 GP tent, Griswald 2 burner camp stove, Husqvarna 257 chainsaw, Home light xL12 chainsaw, 2 HP Hobart meat grinder. 18x24x4" butcher block, Howe #5 platform scale, Herters model 3 reloading press, 218-983-3498.

2002 Skidoo MXZ 500, 1999 Skidoo Formula 500, 3 place alum. sled bed trailer, package deal, \$3,000 obo, 218-766-3928.

Olsen fuel oil forced air furnace 101,000 BTU. Low use. \$500, 218-590-6915.

Oak firewood, unsplit, cut into about 2 foot sections. \$50 for a pickup load (half cord). You pick it up & move it. Possibly 10 loads available. Call/text 701-238-6867.

2008 Chev Impl. LTZ 115,000 miles, 3.9 engine, red four door \$7,500 or best offer. 218-483-3371 lv mess.

Lots of horizontal vinyl siding. Also trim work different color, 218-435-6227.

2008 Chev Impl LTZ 1115,500 miles, 3.9 eng red 4 door, \$7,500, excellent cond, 218-483-3371.

4x4x8 insulated meat smoking house. 2 gas augers - 8", 218-637-0293.

1960 Ford truck, box & hoist, also 1985 Buick Riviera offer, 218-574-2576.

## Wanted

1940 thru 1956 pickup or grain trucks in any condition, w/ or w/out title, 701-793-3030.

Want composted horse or cow manure, 218-790-6433.

1,000 gallon LP tank, 218-849-7590.

Someone to repair an old radio, 218-793-2447, leave message.

## 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 Mahnomon, MN 56557

## Over the Manager's Desk continued from Page 2 . . .



### Portable Generators

The use of backup generators is becoming more popular. No utility can guarantee one hundred percent reliable service. The option for use of backup generators can be valuable when power outages occur. Please keep proper use and safety in mind when operating a portable or backup generator. The unit should be rated for the amount of power required to operate critical equipment or plan to stagger operating

times. If the equipment draws more power than the generator can produce, a fuse may blow on the generator or equipment may be damaged. A power transfer switch is required, by code, when connecting to system wiring. A qualified electrician should do the work. Never use a portable generator indoors since they can pose hazards of carbon monoxide poisoning from engine exhaust and fire.

On behalf of all of us at Wild Rice Electric, I would like to wish each of you a safe and happy Holiday Season. Thank you for your business and we look forward to meeting your future needs.

# Celebrate with savings

Number of Strings	Rebate per String	Total Rebate	
<input type="text"/>	Less than 99 lights	\$3	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	100-199 lights	\$6	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	200-299 lights	\$9	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Greater than 300 lights	\$12	<input type="text"/>

**Rebate cannot exceed 50 percent of the cost. Maximum of 5 strings per consumer.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Installation Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Wild Rice Electric Cooperative • PO BOX 438 • Mahanomen, MN 56557

## To apply

Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery operated) lights and decorations in 2019.

Complete rebate form and submit it to Wild Rice Electric by Dec. 31, 2019, with a copy of your sales receipt. ENERGY STAR LEDs recommended.



**YES, I want to help make a difference**

**Please sign me up for Operation Round-Up.**

Operation Round-Up aims to make a big difference with small change.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

Your donation to Operation Round Up® allows you as a member of Wild Rice Electric to help organizations. If you would like to help the Wild Rice Trust help others, please submit the sign up form. If you have any questions please contact Wild Rice Electric at 218-935-2517.

## Director Elections 2020

At the Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. annual meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2020, director elections for Districts 1, 2 and 3 will be held. If you are a Wild Rice Electric Cooperative member interested in becoming a director, contact Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. at 218-935-2517 for information and director qualifications. Directors standing for re-election include Director to be elected by ballot for a two-year term District 3- Randy Bjornson; Directors elected by ballot for a three-year term are District 1- David Hamre, District 2 - Roger Winter, District 3 - Jim Kaiser.

In accordance with Article III, Section 4 of the Bylaws; it shall be the duty of the board of directors to appoint, not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than ninety days (90) before the date of a members' meeting at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations

consisting of nine (9) members in good standing, whereby three (3) members shall be selected from each district of the Cooperative so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical area served by the Cooperative. The board of directors will appoint the nominating committee at their monthly meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 26th, 2019. A list of those appointed will be provided in the January issue of the Cooperative's newsletter, the Rural DeLight.

The Cooperative's service territory is divided into three director districts. Each of the districts is represented by three directors who are qualified members of the Cooperative and reside within the district to be represented. One director from each district is elected at each annual member meeting for a term of three years.

If a circumstance arises where a director leaves his/her seat prior to the end of their

term, a special election will be held to fill that director seat until the term would expire. At the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Membership a two-year term will be voted upon to fill an unexpired term in District 3.

The nominating committee is scheduled to meet January 15th, 2020 at the Cooperative's offices. The committee shall nominate one or more qualified member(s) from each district for each office of director slated for election, to be elected by the membership at large at the annual meeting, and shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least thirty (30) days before said meeting, a list of nominations. Any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than twenty (20) days prior to the annual meeting and the secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.



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### Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.

*This Institution is an equal opportunity  
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**Office Hours:**  
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Monday- Friday

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

**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.

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