

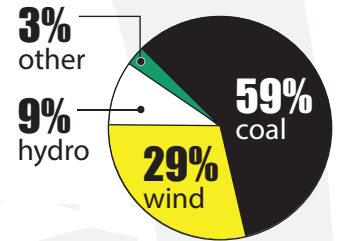
RURAL DeLIGHT



PO Box 438
Mahnomen, MN 56557
www.wildriceelectric.com

Where your power comes from . . .

Wild Rice Electric receives its wholesale power from Minnkota Power Coop. headquartered in Grand Forks.



Wild Rice Electric is a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative that allocates excess revenue to its members as . . .

Capital credits



In July 2019, WREC retired capital credits for 1993 with the value of **\$760,952**

Making the total of capital credits in WREC 80 year history to about **\$24 million**

SINCE 1939 CELEBRATING 80 years OF SHARING THE POWER



A member owned utility that was organized in October 1939 to provide electric and utility based services to its members in northwestern Minnesota .

Maintains **3,992** miles of distribution lines

3,495 miles of overhead and **497** miles of underground

Covers **3,200** square miles

Approximately **40 miles** east and west by **80 miles** north and south. It covers all of Mahnomen County and parts of Polk, Norman, Clay, Becker and Clearwater counties



Members of the first board . . .

Front row (left to right): Iver J. Westad, Fertile; Alfred R. Olson, Gary; Oscar J. Olson, Lake Park & O.P. Refling, Rindal. Second row: Lewis Kirkeby, Twin Valley; Maybell Milstein, Mahnomen and J.A.G. Olson, Detroit Lakes. Standing: Hugo Bromander, Ulen and Clarence Kampstad, Lengby.



Peter Ingebretson of Flom arranged a meeting held August 15, 1939 in the Flom Hall for the purpose of discussing Rural Electrification for the area

Managers

over the years

Peter Ingebretson
1939-1942

Kenneth Martin
1942-1952

John A Marshall
1952-1962

Manley G Hillstad
1962-1987

Steven Haaven
1987-current

Who
we are . . .

14,363
accounts

9 board
of directors

41 employees

OVER THE MANAGER'S DESK

AROUND THE CO-OP ...

STEVE HAAVEN, CEO



Happy New Year!

The end of the year is a busy time. Our accounting staff has been busy closing out the books for the past year and preparing to complete reporting and auditing requirements. Similarly, the operations side of the business is preparing and planning for the construction season ahead whenever spring arrives.

Preliminary results verify Wild Rice ended 2019 in strong financial condition able to cover all expenses plus allow for a sufficient margin at year end satisfactory to meet financial covenants of our Bankers. Actual results are pending the year end audit to be performed by Eide Bailly and reported to the board of directors at their February board meeting. The financial position was impacted by a slight decrease in sales during 2019 as compared to the previous year 2018 sales of 256 million. A very cold winter early in 2019 did cause members to increase use of electricity, however later in the year a very difficult harvest season stalled sales for crop handling and aeration. Unfortunately, much of the corn crop still remains to be taken. The co-op's major expense continues to be the purchase of wholesale electricity from Minnkota Power Cooperative. During 2019 289 million kilowatt hours were purchased for \$23.6 million accounting for approximately 70% of the total cost of doing business. The good news is the rate paid for the purchase of wholesale electricity remained stable during 2019 and is projected to continue in the new year. Overall Wild Rice's wholesale costs did increase as a result of higher system demands during peak periods. Other expenses increased by 3% when compared to the previous year ending near budgeted numbers for 2019.

The 2020 Budget presented to the board of directors does include several items of interest projected to impact revenues, expenses and related work activities in 2020. Annual sales are projected to remain fairly level with a small growth of 1.5% generating annual revenue of \$34 million. On

the other side of the ledger expenses are projected to increase to cover wholesale power costs, labor, transportation and other related costs. If estimates fall as planned a margin of \$1.2 million is projected at year end. Expanded efforts will be made to clear right of way of growth to improve the ability to provide safe and reliable service. The Budget calls for over a million dollars to be spent to cut, trim, mow and spray under lines with the work to be completed by contractors and the co-op's own crews. A number of system improvement projects are planned in the Lake Park, Erskine and Detroit Lakes areas to upgrade facilities to meet expanded load levels.



Portable Generators

No matter where you get your electricity, power outages are going to occur from time to time. A portable generator can be valuable in powering electrical equipment such as heating, lighting and sump pumps when a power outage occurs. It is very important to keep proper use and safety in mind. Make sure the generator is rated for the amount of power needed to operate critical loads and equipment. If your equipment draws more power than the unit can produce, a fuse may blow on the generator or electrical equipment can be damaged. An option is to stagger operating times to spread the various impacts. The National Electric Code requires the installation of a power transfer switch when connecting a generator to structure wiring. The work must be done by a qualified electrician. Never use a portable generator indoors, even in shops or garages, since it can pose hazards of carbon monoxide from toxic engine exhaust and fire.

The installation of standby power systems designed to provide peace of mind and keep your life uninterrupted are becoming more predominate. A standby generator system powers your whole house and automatically starts when the power goes out. Homes and businesses are becoming more reliant on uninter-

rupted service for critical loads and digital electronics. The process of sizing, selecting, purchasing and installing a standby unit can be a complicated process. Take the steps to work with a qualified vendor. Make sure the unit comes with a warranty that covers parts, labor and travel. Availability to future maintenance is critical to assure the unit will run when required. Most are set up to exercise on a regular basis.



Wild Rice Annual Meeting

Wild Rice Electric's 80th Annual Meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 26, 2020 at the Mahnommen High School. We encourage you to mark your calendar and participate in your right as a member-owner to stay abreast at the happenings of your Cooperative. The evening makes available a great meal, socializing, fantastic entertainment and a short business meeting. An important part of the meeting is the election of directors to represent your interests in governance. Should you not be able to attend, please be reminded absentee voting by mail is an option. More details will be available in the March issue of the Rural Delight.

The 2020 Nominating Committee met on Wednesday January 15th to name a slate of candidates to be placed on the ballot for this year's election. Terms expire for the following director positions: District 1- David Hamre (3 year), District 2 – Roger Winter (3 year) and District 3 – Jim Kaiser (3 year) and Randy Bjornson (2 year). Randy Bjornson was appointed to fill the board position of former director Gary Bergan who unexpectedly passed away shortly after last year's annual meeting. Please look elsewhere in this issue of the Rural Delight for the Annual Meeting Agenda and the Nominating Committee's report listing the slate of candidates for the various positions.

Stay safe and warm!



High School Juniors & Seniors!

The deadline to apply is quickly approaching for the Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington D.C., June 20-25, contact Wild Rice Electric or click on the 2020 Youth Tour banner on our website at www.wildriceelectric.com for an application. Applications must be submitted by March 11th.

Make 2020 the year you experience the monuments dedicated to our country's leaders and heroes. Let your voice be heard and get your questions answered.

State law for active duty military personnel



State law offers active military personnel additional payment options for their

electric bills. The law covers disconnection, payment arrangements, appeal and annual notice to cooperative members. Similar to the state's Cold Weather Rule, an application must be completed and income guidelines exist. It's available for active duty military personnel, deployed or a permanent duty station change.

Conveniently
Pay Your
Energy Bill



24 Hours a Day,

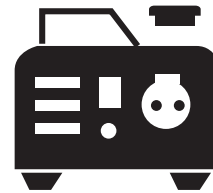
7 Days a Week!

1-833-250-4481

Please have your account number available when calling

Cogeneration Notification to Members

In compliance with Wild Rice Electric Cooperative adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from co-generators and small power producers whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All



interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution

by Wild Rice Electric Cooperative Board. Interested members should contact Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, 502 N Main St, Mahnomen, MN 56557 or call 218-935-2517.

Notice of Annual Meeting

for Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. Mahnomen, Minnesota

The annual meeting of the members of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at the Mahnomen High School Auditorium, 209 First Street SW, in the City of Mahnomen, Minnesota at 6:30 P.M. on March 26, 2020, to take action on the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of four directors of the Cooperative. One director shall be elected in District 1 – for a term of three years; one director shall be elected from District 2 for a term of three years; and two directors from District 3 – one for a term of two-years and one for a term of three years. A member who is absent from a member's meeting may vote by mail on a ballot (an "Absentee Ballot"). Absentee Ballots are available by request. A properly executed Absentee Ballot must be received on or before 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 26, 2020, to be counted as the vote of the absent member at the meeting.
3. All other business which may come before the meeting and adjournment thereof.

Dated at Mahnomen, Minnesota, January 28, 2020.

**Mark Habedank, Secretary
Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Mahnomen, Minnesota 56557**

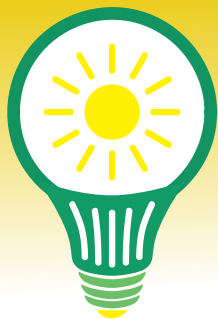
Proof of Mailing

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF MAHNOMEN

Mark Habedank, being first duly sworn, on oath, deposes and says that he is duly elected, qualified and acting Secretary of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.; that on January 28, 2020, he caused to be mailed to each member of the Cooperative, a notice of the annual meeting of the members of the Cooperative by having the notice published in a periodical, published by and on behalf of the Cooperative which is mailed to each and every member monthly, and that the attached is a true and correct copy of said notice of said meeting as aforesaid.

**Mark Habedank, Secretary
Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Mahnomen, Minnesota 56557**

Save the Date
Thursday,
 March 26
 for the **80th**
Annual Meeting
 of the Members
 and come
VOTE
 at the
Mahnomen
 High School gymnasium



Energy Efficiency Tip

Got leftovers? Let them cool first to save energy.
 Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge.

Source: energy.gov

Energy Assistance Programs

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

- Skid steer attachments, snow & dirt buckets, tree pullers, brush mowers bale spears, brush grapples, 701-261-3574.
- Sausage stuffer, \$25, 218-935-5276.
- Small square bales, grass, alfalfa mixed, stored inside \$6 ea, 218-261-0971.
- Westinghouse 21kw electric furnace plenum heater, \$50. Jonsered 451EV chainsaw, \$130. Jonsered 52 chainsaw, \$130, 218-847-9545.
- Fender lap steel guitar, case & amp, real nice, \$900 or BO would trade for gun or guns & pay difference in cash, 701-293-1295.
- Snowblower walk-behind, new tires (as is) 218-584-4603.

Wanted

- Someone to repair the mechanism in a reclining sofa. Please call 218-983-3443 or e-mail cdf@arvig.net.
- Bumper hitch to fit 1999-2011 Crown Vic, 218-236-5818.
- Someone to get snowmobile going, 218-584-4603.

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 Mahnomen, MN 56557

Nominating Committee Report

Mahnomen, Minnesota
January 15, 2020

The undersigned duly appointed Nominating Committee met at the Wild Rice Electric office, 502 North Main Street, Mahnomen, Minnesota on January 15, 2020, at 11:00 A.M.

Richard Zurn was duly nominated and elected Chairman and Karen Lefebvre was duly nominated and elected Secretary of the Committee. The Committee then proceeded to make nominations and respectfully submits the following report thereof, viz:

WE, the undersigned, duly appointed Committee on Nominations by the Board of Directors of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. at a meeting duly held on January 15, 2020, hereby, respectfully nominate the following for directors in Districts 1, 2 and 3: to succeed in District 1 – David Hamre (three-year term); District 2 – Roger Winter (three-year term); and District 3 – Randy Bjornson (two-year term) and Jimmy Kaiser (three-year term); whose terms expire and whose successors will be elected at the annual meeting of said Cooperative to be held on March 26, 2020, viz:

Nominees

District 1 (3-Year Term)	David Hamre
District 2 (3-Year Term)	Roger Winter
District 3 (2-Year Term)	Randy Bjornson
District 3 (3-Year Term)	Jimmy Kaiser

Respectfully Submitted,
District 1: Mark Klinkhammer, Raymond Sundrud, Michael Weik
District 2: John Darco, Karen Lefebvre, Curtis Reardon
District 3: Dwight Aakre, Bradley Lindstrom, Richard Zurn



The 2020 Nominating Committee
Front (left to right): Karen Lefebvre, Bradley Lindstrom, Dwight Aakre and Attorney Samuel Schmitz.
Back (left to right): Richard Zurn, John Darco, Curtis Reardon, Raymond Sundrud, Michael Weik and Mark Klinkhammer.

Statement of Secretary with Respect to Election of Directors

At the annual meeting of the Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. to be held at Mahnomen, Minnesota, on March 26, 2020, four directors are to be elected to fill the directorships now held by David Hamre (three-year term), Erskine, MN; Roger Winter (three-year term), Callaway MN; Randy Bjornson (two-year term), Hawley, MN; and Jimmy Kaiser, (three-year term) Lake Park, MN. The following nominations have been received from the committee on nominations, viz:

District 1 (3-Year Term)	David Hamre
District 2 (3-Year Term)	Roger Winter
District 3 (2-Year Term)	Randy Bjornson
District 3 (3-Year Term)	Jimmy Kaiser

Also, any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than twenty (20) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the Committee is posted.

Any member who may be absent from said annual meeting may vote by mail for directors by requesting a ballot for directors from the Secretary of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 438, Mahnomen, MN, 56557, and by marking on the ballot, an "X" opposite the names of the number of candidates equal to the number of directors to be elected and enclosing the ballot in a sealed envelope bearing his name, addressed to the Secretary of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 438, Mahnomen, MN, 56557, and mailing the same in time so that it will reach the Secretary on or before, the date of the annual meeting and before the ballots for directors are collected and canvassed by the ballot inspectors.

Any provisions relating to the rights of a membership apply equally to all holders of a joint membership, specifically and without limitation: The presence at a meeting of any member constitutes the presence of all members and is a waiver of notice of the meeting, and the vote of any of those holding joint membership, separately or all, jointly constitutes one joint vote.

Dated at Mahnomen, Minnesota, January 15, 2020.

Mark Habedank, Secretary
Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Mahnomen, Minnesota 56557



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Phone: 218-935-2517.



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

*This Institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

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

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

Website:
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.

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative would like to welcome the
newest member to its team. **Phil Shequen** was hired as
a journeyman lineman. Phil's first day was January 16th.
Congratulations Phil and welcome to the Cooperative.