

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Thank you, dairy producers, for your hard work and commitment to community

In June, we celebrate National Dairy Month. Every day is a good day to enjoy tasty dairy treats and remember the health benefits that dairy products provide. Roughrider Electric Cooperative supports our members who are dairy producers, and thanks them for all they do.



Meet your Roughrider Electric Cooperative neighbors: Toby and Heidi Tormaschy, who live near Richardton. Their children, **Natalie, Kate** (at left) and **Emma** (above), are learning the circle of life, a hard day's work is not measured in hours, and nothing compares to working with family. They also know nothing is more refreshing than a glass of fresh, ice-cold milk. Thank you, Tormaschy family, for sharing your livelihood and joy.

What's inside:

- **Annual Meeting POSTPONED**
- **Youth Tour cancelled**
- **Power-supplier updates**
- **Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation discounts**
- **Meetings minutes, and more**

ANNUAL MEETING / JUNE 3, 2020, HAZEN HIGH SCHOOL, HAZEN



POSTPONED

The Annual Meeting of Roughrider Electric Cooperative will be rescheduled due to the coronavirus.

More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Annual Meeting **POSTPONED**

Members, your annual meeting of the membership scheduled for June 3 in Hazen has been postponed. We do not know the future of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are doing everything we can to keep members, communities and employees safe.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative will provide an update as alternate plans develop. Until then, know we look forward to visiting with you in person when the time is right.

Thank you for your support. ■

Youth Tour cancelled for 2020



The annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, scheduled this year from June 20 to 26, was cancelled mid-April due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jim Matheson, chief executive officer for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, said, “There will certainly be a void in Washington, D.C., without the 2020 Youth Tour.”

Sloane McCray, a sophomore at Hazen High School, won Roughrider Electric Cooperative’s essay contest this spring and had planned on going. She is the daughter of Roughrider members Kim and Kevin Kraft and Loren McCray.

We understand the trip was cancelled to protect the students, and we support the decision. We also know Sloane was looking forward to traveling to our nation’s capital and exploring museums, memorials and monuments for one amazing week.

At the time of publication, Roughrider Electric was still waiting to learn if an alternate plan will develop, on behalf of the state and nation’s electric cooperatives, to compensate the winners for their essay efforts.

Sloane, thank you for your understanding! Interested in writing and learning languages, and active in sports and science Olympiad, you are already a student leader in your community. ■

A message from your power supplier: **Upper Missouri Power Cooperative**

BY CLAIRE VIGESAA, GENERAL MANAGER

(Editor's note: Upper Missouri Power Cooperative supplies 100 percent of the power distributed to Roughrider Electric Cooperative members. That power is generated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration. We asked Claire Vigesaa to update our members on what is happening at Upper Missouri.)

I am writing this column in the midst of the COVID-19 event, mid-April. This event underscores the critical role that power supply and electric distribution plays in our communities and economy. Our commitment to our 11 member-systems, of which Roughrider Electric Cooperative is one, remains unchanged ... to be "Member Focused and Future Ready" ... providing dependable, reliable and affordable power supply to you, the ultimate member-owner.

Upper Missouri Power Cooperative (Upper Missouri) and your electric cooperative, Roughrider Electric Cooperative, went to great lengths in scheduling staff, altering work practices, and communicating with you and the public during this pandemic event; all to make every effort to keep the lights on and affordable for you. While simply expressed, it manifests the care and concern your electric cooperative network has for your safety and well-being.

What is Upper Missouri Power Cooperative? Upper Missouri was organized in 1957 to serve the transmission needs of electric cooperatives in eastern Montana and western North Dakota. Today, Upper Missouri provides service to 11 distribution cooperatives, six in eastern Montana and five in western North Dakota, including Roughrider Electric Cooperative. The 11 member-systems serve 74,834 meters to farms, ranches, homes and businesses in 37 counties, representing 54,762 square miles. Our service area spans east to west from Hysham, Mont., to the Missouri River near Washburn, N.D., and from the Canadian border to the South Dakota/Montana borders; serving an area equal in size to the state of Iowa or the state of New York.

Upper Missouri is a cooperative, governed by a board of 11, represented by one trustee from each member-system. Bill Retterath, from Center, is Roughrider Electric Cooperative's voice on the Upper Missouri board. We appreciate and respect Bill's participation, and enjoy his commitment to our cooperative family.

On behalf of Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Upper Missouri purchases power from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration (Western). As member-owners of Roughrider Electric Cooperative, you'd be well aware of Basin Electric and its long-term investment in generation facilities in your region near Beulah. Upper Missouri sources 96.7 percent of its power supply from Basin Electric. The remaining 3.3 percent is sourced from Western, electric energy generated from hydro facilities on the Missouri River system like Garrison Dam.



Claire Vigesaa

Upper Missouri has 241 delivery points to meter electric energy used by its 11 member-systems across the region. These metering points determine consumption and billing, and are important data collection points for assuring that power is available and delivered throughout the day, week, month and year. Upper Missouri's meter technology enables us to read meters every two seconds, ultimately forwarding this near real-time data to the Southwest Power Pool for power delivery scheduling.

While it sounds simple, it is nearly miraculous that power can be reliably delivered "just in time," 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. As you know, electricity can't be stored, so power use variability through consumer use (your ability to confidently know that the lights will come on when you flip the switch), coupled with the variability of power generation from coal, gas, wind and solar facilities, is a real feat.

In addition to data collection, metering and power-supply aggregation work, Upper Missouri is subject to North American Electric Reliability Corporation compliance and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rate oversight. Upper Missouri also supports its 11 member-systems through representation on several state, regional and national associations.

We are committed to being "Member Focused and Future Ready" for the benefit of Roughrider Electric Cooperative and you, Roughrider's member-owners. Thank you for your patronage. ■

Message from Basin Electric Power Cooperative

BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND GENERAL MANAGER PAUL SUKUT AND BOARD PRESIDENT WAYNE PELTIER

(Editor's note: Basin Electric Power Cooperative generates the majority of the power purchased by Upper Missouri Power Cooperative and transmitted to Roughrider Electric Cooperative members. We asked Paul Sukut and Wayne Peltier to update our members on what is happening at Basin Electric.)

As we write the message you are reading today, our world is shifting dramatically. The COVID-19 pandemic is a rapidly changing situation. These are extraordinary times that require exceptional measures to deal with a health risk that affects us all. We are committed to doing everything we can for the safety of our employees and members.

Additionally, our focus is to assure the continuity of business functions, as we have an important role to play, ensuring 3 million members across nine states have reliable electricity, along with continuing our operations at Dakota Gasification Company.

While the safety and health of our members and employees continue to be a top priority, it's inevitable that the effects of this pandemic hamper our business. Already-low commodity prices impact us at Dakota Gas, which produces synthetic natural gas from coal, and a growing list of products including urea, anhydrous ammonia and carbon dioxide.

Low commodity prices also affect the production of oil in the Williston Basin of western North Dakota and eastern Montana. Oil production is slowing, and in some cases, production is at a halt. We are closely monitoring this, as our pre-pandemic load forecast showed immense growth, for which we were making plans to buy and build generation capacity. The related financial impact and duration of this economic slowdown due to the pandemic cannot be reasonably estimated at this time.

We will continue to work with our members to find new ways to support them. Programs, like the demand period waiver, allow members to increase the number of consumers that can be placed under their load management system, and our load incentive rate meant to attract business and industry to our members' service areas. We implemented a 1 mill/kilowatt hour rate decrease for 2020, another step we took to help our members thrive.



What other decisions did we make in 2019 that promise to set us up for a strong future? Our board decided it makes good economic sense to add solar generation to our already diverse portfolio. We are buying more of our capacity in the market rather than building new generation, and repowering wind turbines to generate more electricity. We are investing in research to develop new technology to capture and store carbon dioxide from our coal-based power plants, which has the potential to keep our plants running for many more years, provide necessary stability to the transmission grid, and further protect our environment. We also continue to find new market opportunities for our Dakota Gas products to enhance its revenue stream.

Every decision we make is carefully researched and debated. We serve our members, and we are our members at the same time. We are facing many uncertainties, but our strong network of people is what will bring us through this challenging time. Our board, membership, and employees – we're all in this, together. ■

Report from **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **APRIL 24, 2020**

When, where and who: The Board of Directors met via conference call April 24.

Agenda: The Board reviewed and approved the meeting agenda.

Co-General Managers' report: Don Franklund and Travis Kupper presented the managers' report.

Discussion was held on the effects of low oil prices in the ethanol business, and the effects of the coronavirus on the cooperatives.

Bylaws: Bylaws for Article II, Section 1(a) and Section 3 of the Bylaws were amended as follows:

ARTICLE II

MEETING OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1. Annual Meeting of Members.

(a) The first annual meeting of members shall be held in June of 2008 at a location within one of the counties served by the Cooperative and at such specific place, date and time determined by the Board of Directors not less than thirty days prior to such meeting. Each year thereafter the annual meeting of members shall be held between June 1 and November 30 at a place within one of the counties served by the Cooperative and at such specific place, date and time determined by the Board of Directors not less than ninety days prior to such meeting.

SECTION 3. Notice of Members' Meetings. Notice stating the place, day and time of all meetings authorized by this Article and, in case of a special meeting or an annual meeting of members at which business requiring special notice is to be transacted, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than ten days or more than thirty days before the date of the meeting by or at the direction of the Secretary or upon a default in duty by the Secretary, by the persons calling the meeting, to each member. Notice may be provided to a member via electronic means, if agreed to by the member. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, or given to a private carrier, addressed to the member at his address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative with postage or delivery fee thereon prepaid. The failure of any member to receive notice of an annual or special meeting of members shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at any such meeting.

Operations and Construction report: Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report. Mr. Bentz reported that a lot of maintenance is being performed.

Upcoming meetings: The next regular Board meeting was set for 10 a.m. CT on May 22, 2020, to be held via conference call.

Other business: There being no other business, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned. ■

SAFETY@ROUGH RIDERELECTRIC.COM

Roughrider is an advocate of working safely. In fact, it is our way of life; the culture of your cooperative. We look out for the safety of ourselves and others — before, during and after work.

Did you know that members also play a key role in keeping our system safe? At times, you are our eyes in the sky and on the ground. Should you see a power line issue that may need Roughrider's attention, please call the office at 800-748-5533 or send us an email at safety@roughriderelectric.com with your concern. This correspondence should include the description of the location, your name and complete contact information, and a photo if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all!

MESSAGE FROM **Western Area Power Administration**

BY ACTING SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND REGIONAL MANAGER FOR UPPER GREAT PLAINS LORI FRISK

Engaging in the present with our eyes on the horizon



(Editor's note: Western Area Power Administration also generates power purchased by Roughrider Electric Cooperative. We asked Lori Frisk to update our members on what is happening at WAPA.)

Engaging at all levels pays dividends to Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and our customers. The partnerships and common goals we share are the foundation of a bright future that is stable and progresses WAPA toward a successful, relevant and valuable future.

Stability and progress initially sound like opposites, but in reality they are interconnected and dependent on each other. Being a progressive organization takes stability in our purpose, finances, people and operations. Remaining a stable organization requires making progress in our ability to deliver on our mission in a changing

energy world, modernizing our operations, securing our financing and developing our people into thoughtful, collaborative leaders capable of carrying on our legacy.

COVID-19 response

Like our customers, we are staying engaged and rapidly adapting to a new environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. We took swift actions across WAPA's 15-state region to protect our staff, successfully deliver on our mission and provide stability for our customers. At our telework peak, WAPA had more than 1,250 employees working remotely.

Of course we do have essential personnel who cannot work from home. Those mission-critical personnel are the primary focus, as we work to ensure safe social distancing for maintenance and operations employees. We also worked to get as many of our real-time merchant staff teleworking as possible. When real-time merchants work from home, we improve their safety, as well as the safety of those who still must work onsite.

WAPA helped shape some of the industry's best practices and a collective path forward. For example, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and North American Electric Reliability Corporation have shared WAPA's Pandemic Plan across the country as a model template from which to begin. Email us at COVID-19@wapa.gov to request it.

Cost containment

Since 2013, we have returned about \$2 billion to the Treasury, helping pay down that debt and ease pressure on cash flow. The power rates for Pick Sloan Eastern Division have decreased by about one cent per kilowatt-hour since 2013, and we anticipate Pick-Sloan's composite rate to remain stable through fiscal year 2022.

We continue to improve our business processes with the goals of better predictability, cost containment, and making sure we are properly managing the lifecycle of our assets. The tools we have developed over the past several years, from unified 10-year capital plans to asset management, reserve strategy and improving our planning processes, are allowing WAPA to be more efficient than ever.

The Continuous Process Improvement Program topped \$93 million this year in mostly cost avoidance. Implementing common tools, especially in IT with projects like selecting a common supervisory control and data acquisition system vendor, results in fewer maintenance, service, installation, employee training and other costs.

Our Office of Security and Emergency Management avoided a one-time cost of more than \$1 million by consolidating alarm monitoring, rightsizing the contract security force and implementing enhanced procedures for identifying security solutions. The office will also save us more than \$443,000

annually starting in fiscal year 2021 by absorbing the roles performed by contactors with no increase in federal staff.

We continue to find, evaluate and implement best practices in the utility industry to maintain our extensive transmission assets. Using aviation-assisted maintenance, we avoid costs, reduce time spent on maintenance projects and avoid environmental impacts. We can also complete more maintenance with less wear and tear on vehicles, and most importantly, reduce the physical stress and risk to our workers.

Cost savings and avoidance through continuous improvement allows us to redeploy limited resources to other pressing priorities, ensuring we are spending money and time on the right programs and activities.

Looking to the future

As we operate at cost, WAPA is wisely prioritizing funds and focusing on mission-essential and future-essential tasks beyond the immediate

pandemic-related activities.

Our regions are paving the way to move into new energy imbalance management options, including the Southwest Power Pool's Western Energy Imbalance Service or the California Independent System Operator's Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIS). Upper Great Plains-West in Montana will transition into SPP's WEIS market in February 2021.

Another future-leaning task is a study to combine transmission rates in the Southwest. Our goal is to proceed quickly toward these decisions and transitions to best meet our customers' needs based on region-specific circumstances.

As always, we are focused on reliability. Each day we work toward that goal so it can be one fewer thing to concern our customers and their communities.

Value of hydropower and WAPA

As baseload generation resources continue to retire, hydropower —

and by extension, WAPA — will become more critical. Hydropower is one of the main remaining baseload resources; the supercomputer of the energy world, given its unique black-start capabilities and low-carbon emissions.

WAPA is working to ensure the capacity, reliability, black-start capabilities and other operational benefits of hydropower — ignored in today's market structure — are appropriately and adequately compensated.

Working together with our customers and the industry at large, WAPA continually seeks ways to better understand our customers' specific and unique needs, manage the challenges and opportunities before us, and develop better tools for communicating and working together that yield tremendous results. We look forward to engaging with our partners to deliver value across North Dakota and the Upper Great Plains region in the years and decades ahead. ■



Spend the day in Medora — and save

In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, more than 10 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives in North Dakota have joined forces to make vacationing in North Dakota more affordable for families, including Roughrider Electric Cooperative. This summer, head west to Medora, where electric cooperative members are eligible for a 15-percent discount off the following reservations:

- ✓ Tickets to the Medora Musical
- ✓ Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- ✓ Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- ✓ Badlands Motel
- ✓ Elkhorn Quarters
- ✓ Rough Riders Hotel

Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code **Touch2020** at the door.

Roughrider members, if you are traveling to beautiful Medora this summer, call 1-800-MEDORA-1 to provide the discount code **Touch2020**, make reservations and receive your savings.

Don't let tragedy **STRIKE!**

Seek shelter

Lightning can strike many miles ahead of a storm front. If you hear thunder, seek shelter immediately, because that indicates lightning is within 10 miles of you. Safe shelters include inside a building or in an enclosed metal-topped vehicle.

Unplug

If you are inside a building, the National Weather Service advises you to stay off corded telephones and away from any electrical device that could carry an electrical surge if lightning entered into your home through wiring. Turn off or unplug such appliances, stay away from television sets, and do not depend on surge protectors to absorb a lightning strike. Conductors can also include the plumbing in your house.

Wait 30 minutes

Authorities warn against outdoor activities until 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder.

Roughrider will be closed Friday, July 3, to honor the Independence Day holiday

Roughrider wishes our members a Happy Fourth of July, as we celebrate our history and heritage! Line crews will be available in case of an emergency or power outage by calling 800-748-5533.

Happy Father's Day Sunday, June 21

"A dad is a son's first hero and a daughter's first love." ~ Unknown

www.roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box by Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Krause's Super Valu in Hazen or Bronson's Super Valu in Beulah.

DICKINSON OFFICE

701-483-5111 or 800-627-8470
P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.
Dickinson, ND 58602
7 a.m. – 4 p.m. MST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Dickinson City Hall, or the west and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Roger Kudrna, President; Dickinson483-8377
Darell Herman, Vice President; Beulah873-4371
Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley983-4222
William Retterath; Center794-8729
Arnold Kainz; Dickinson483-8207
Dan Price; Hensler794-3779
Greg Steckler; Dunn Center548-8122
Callen Schoch; New England290-3836

MANAGEMENT

Don Franklund Co-GM/CEO
Travis Kupper Co-GM/CEO



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