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Thanks for joining us at your Annual Meeting!

Members, including Glenda and Duane Miller, received a thank-you gift which included a logo bag and blanket!



Cooperative members and guests gathered to hear about cooperative updates from the Board of Directors, CEOs and staff.

Cooperative members gather for Annual Meeting

Roughrider Electric Cooperative members gathered in Hazen for the cooperative's 2026 Annual Meeting on June 3. Upon registration, members and guests received an appreciation gift for attending the meeting. Before the business meeting, those in attendance were encouraged to visit with Roughrider Electric Board of Directors, CEOs, staff and other members.

Roughrider Electric Board President Greg Steckler welcomed and thanked members for attending the Annual Meeting. The membership voted to fill board positions, with Arnold Kainz, Dickinson, reelected in the Western District, Dan Price, Hensler, reelected in the Eastern District and Steckler, Dunn Center, reelected in the Central District.

Members listened to cooperative updates from co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason

Bentz and Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile. Chief of Staff/Operations Manager Shawn Olson and Manager of Member Services Larissa Eslinger also provided updates to the membership.

Roughrider Electric's Operation Round Up program was highlighted. Area high school scholarship recipients and the Youth Tour delegate were recognized. Three luck-of-the-draw scholarships were awarded to Mattea Hysjulien, Alaina McKenna and Logan Peterson, all from Hazen High School.

After the business meeting, members enjoyed a complimentary meal served by L Bee's Catering and door prizes were drawn.

The Board of Directors, CEOs and staff at Roughrider Electric thank our members for participating in the 2026 Annual Meeting and look forward to meeting your needs in the future. ■



Cooperative Board of Directors listened to and answered member questions.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Cybersecurity tips for safer digital world



Travis Kupper

Co-General Manager/
CEO

Did you know the average household with internet access owns about 17 connected devices? That figure covers a wide range of electronics, including smartphones, computers, streaming devices, smart speakers, home assistants and more. Given our increasing reliance on internet-connected technologies, the likelihood of new cyber threats is ever-present.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is deeply

committed to ensuring our local system is safe and secure. We routinely monitor and manage cyber risks, and we work together with other co-ops to share the latest advancements in cybersecurity measures that make us stronger. But you can help, too.

When we all work together to stay safe online, we lower the risk of cyber threats to our systems, online accounts and sensitive data.

Learn how to spot and report phishing attempts.

Phishing occurs when criminals use phony emails, direct messages or other types of digital communications that lure you to click an unsafe link or download a malicious attachment. If you

receive a suspicious email or message that includes urgent language, offers that seem too good to be true, generic greetings, poor grammar or an unusual sender address, it could be a phishing attempt. If you spot one, report it as soon as possible, and don't forget to block the sender.

Create strong, unique passwords. When it comes to passwords, remember length trumps complexity. Strong passwords contain at least 12 characters and include a mix of letters, numbers and symbols.

Enable multi-factor authentication when available. Multi-factor authentication (also known as two-factor authentication) adds an extra layer of security to your online accounts. These extra security steps can include facial recognition, fingerprint access or one-time codes sent to your email or phone.

Update software regularly. Software and internet-connected devices, including personal computers, smartphones and tablets, should always be current on updates to reduce the risk of infection from ransomware and malware.

Let's all do our part to stay cyber smart and create a safer digital world for all. ■

BE CYBER SAFE

- VERIFY THE SOURCE**
- RED FLAGS**
- RECOGNIZE SCAM TACTICS**
- REPORT ANY SCAMS**
- STAY INFORMED**



MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: **Summer storm safety**



Shawn Olson

*Chief of Staff/
Operations Manager*

Now that summer is in full swing, many of us find ourselves outdoors, enjoying the warmer weather.

Summertime brings grilling with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also create conditions for dangerous storms, especially tornadoes across the state. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electric system, but Roughrider

Electric Cooperative crews are ready to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they start working on any downed lines. Members can also take steps to practice safety and preparedness during major storms and extended outages.

- Stock your pantry with a supply of nonperishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials, such as toiletries.
- Have adequate hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including chargers, flashlights, batteries and a battery-powered radio or TV.
- Stay away from downed power lines. Always assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. Call us to report the downed power line immediately.
- If you plan to use a portable generator as a power source, be sure you have the proper disconnects, so back feeding does not occur. The generator should also be located outside your house for proper ventilation. It is also important to follow the manufacturer's directions for operating the generator.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of power interruptions or power outages, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help reduce damage from a power surge and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power

restoration. It is helpful to leave one light on, so you will know when power is restored.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information. Check Roughrider Electric's Facebook page for power restoration updates and visit roughriderelectric.com to view an outage map. Outages can be reported by calling our office at 800-748-5533 or by using the SmartHub app.

Advanced planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

We hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. There is power in planning. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer. ■



**We are excited
for the America 250
celebration in Medora
on July 2-5!**

Read about the proud role
Roughrider Electric Cooperative had
in the Medora area expansion in the
August issue of our local pages.

MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES: Stay in budget with budget billing



Larissa Eslinger
Manager of
Member Services

Managing monthly energy costs can feel unpredictable, especially as seasonal changes cause spikes in heating or cooling usage. Roughrider Electric Cooperative has an option, known as budget billing, to help members gain more stability and peace of mind. Budget billing is a program in which members pay a consistent, averaged amount each month. This creates a smoother, more predictable payment plan that

can make budgeting easier for households.

Budget billing works by calculating a member's monthly payment based on energy usage over the past 12 months and current rates, creating a consistent, predictable bill each month. Even though the payment stays the same, Roughrider Electric continues to track actual energy use to make sure everything stays accurate.

It's important to understand budget billing doesn't reduce the total amount paid for electric services. It simply spreads the cost evenly throughout the year. Because the monthly amount is an estimate, be sure to review your bill to ensure everything is on track. If you see your actual adjusted rate balance is getting too high, please contact Roughrider Electric so we

can adjust the amount. If there's a difference, the payment may be adjusted to keep it aligned.

Members must enroll and be approved to take part in budget billing. Once enrolled, members can enjoy greater control over their monthly expenses and avoid the stress of fluctuating bills. For anyone looking to simplify their budget planning and maintain steady utility payments throughout the year, budget billing offers a reliable and convenient solution.

In fact, July is a great time to enroll in the program for Roughrider Electric members who are interested. Roughrider Electric's budget billing schedule is based on usage July 1 through June 30. If you have any questions, call our office and visit with one of our customer service representatives. ■

Energy efficiency tip of the month

Grill instead of using your oven to lower home energy use during warm weather. This approach avoids using electricity for the stove and keeps your home cooler.



Discounts offered for Medora vacation

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is able to offer its members a discount by being a Touchstone Energy® member. Simply call 1-800-MEDORA-1 and give the discount code of "TOUCH2026" for a 15% discount on all of the following during any night of the season.

- Medora Musical
- Pitchfork steak fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Gospel Brunch tickets
- Old Town Hall Theater shows

LODGING AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel
- Hotel 1883



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

The code is good for reservations over the phone, website or in person. A green fees discount will be applied at check-in for a tee time at the golf course.

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Tips to reduce wildfire risks



Kyle Irwin

Journeyman Lineworker

While much-needed rainfall has brought relief to many of our drought-impacted areas and has reduced the immediate risk of wildfires, Roughrider Electric Cooperative remains committed to fire mitigation. Weather conditions can change quickly, and we prioritize taking precautions to ensure safety for our employees, members and communities.

As Roughrider Electric employees work across the service territory, everyone is equipped with fire mitigation knowledge and equipment. Equipment includes a water tank and fire extinguisher on each co-op vehicle.

Cooperative employees are also briefed with the fire mitigation plan to ensure they can respond accurately to an emergency while working in the field. Through regular vegetation management and grid maintenance and hardening practices,

Roughrider Electric is proactively working to reduce risks and improve the reliability of our local system.

As a member of Roughrider Electric, there are steps you can take to prevent wildfires as well.

- **Follow local fire regulations.** Always check for burn bans or restrictions in your area before burning anything or using open flames outdoors.
- **Don't burn on windy days.** Avoid outdoor burning when it's windy or dry, as embers can easily spread and ignite surrounding areas.
- **Use equipment safely.** Tools like lawnmowers or chainsaws can spark fires. Use them during cooler times of the day and keep them in good working condition.
- **Clear vegetation and debris.** Maintain a defensible space around your home by removing dry leaves, dead branches and other flammable materials.
- **Properly extinguish campfires.** Always douse your campfire with water, stir the ashes and ensure everything is cool to the touch before leaving the area.

Let's all work together to make this summer memorable and do what we can to ensure safety across our service area. ■



CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATIONS

Capital credits represent a member's share of the cooperative's earnings, or "margins," which are allocated to members based on their usage of the cooperative's services. Essentially, when a cooperative has money left over after paying its expenses, those leftover funds, or margins, are allocated back to the members as capital credits.



Co-op Earns a Margin (Profit)

At the end of a fiscal year, the co-op calculates its revenues minus expenses. If there's a surplus, it's not called a "profit," but a margin.



Board Approves Allocation

The Board of Directors allocates the margins back to every member based on the amount of purchased electricity that year.



Credits Are Allocated

Allocated capital credits are recorded in a member's name, but are not paid out immediately. The Board of Directors determines when they are paid out.



Credits Are Retired Over Time

Over time (usually a 20 + year cycle), the co-op retires (pays out) these credits to members, typically delivered by check.

ALLOCATIONS ARE:



Recorded in your account, but not paid out.



Happen on an annual basis, once the financials are closed.



Based on the amount you paid for services for the year.



Think of this as the co-op's way of keeping track of your share.

RETIREMENTS ARE:



Approved payout of past allocations by board of directors.



Dependent on the cooperative's financial health.



Typically delivered by check



Think of it like a refund check from the cooperative.

Roughrider Electric board meeting highlights April 24

The meeting of the board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative was held on April 24 at Roughrider Electric's Hazen office. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. CT. A quorum was present. Also attending were co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, CFO Alex Craigmile, Chief of Staff/Operations Manager Shawn Olson, Business Manager Michaela Perbix and Legal Counsel Jennifer Grosz. Member Services Manager Larissa Eslinger and Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative Manager of Member Support Anne Hansen attended a portion of the meeting.

Consent agenda: The consent agenda was approved as proposed.

Strategic items: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on this month's North Dakota managers meeting and Upper Missouri Power Cooperative's annual meeting. Several additional Basin Electric Power Cooperative reports and board documents were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report that included a review of the financials, highlighting items in the executive

summary. Olson provided an operations report outlining the work crews are performing, which includes line patrol, breaker checks and pole change-outs. Olson also gave an employee update. Perbix presented a member services report that included youth programs, the annual meeting and other items. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report. Grosz provided an update on legal matters, including contract matters.

Action items: The board discussed and resolved the emergency response plan/crisis communication plan, margin allocations and other items. Eslinger reported on a donation request.

Discussion: Hansen provided a member satisfaction survey recap. The board discussed capital credit policies, future board meetings and other items.

Executive session: The board entered an executive session during the meeting.

The meeting concluded with adjournment. Secretary Troy Sailer certified the accuracy of the minutes.

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 9 a.m. MT in Medora on July 31. ■



roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. CT 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 800-748-5533
P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.
Dickinson, ND 58602
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. MT Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or the west and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Greg Steckler, President, Dunn Center..... 548-8122
Roger Kudrna, Vice President, Dickinson..... 483-8377
Troy Sailer, Secretary, Golden Valley 948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer, Golden Valley 983-4222
Jesse Flath, Hazen 880-0386
Darell Herman, Beulah 873-4371
Arnold Kainz, Dickinson 483-8207
Dan Price, Hensler 794-3779
Callen Schoch, New England 290-3836

MANAGEMENT

Travis Kupper..... Co-GM/CEO
Jason Bentz..... Co-GM/CEO

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Simplified

The SmartHub mobile app puts your cooperative in the palm of your hand - giving you more convenience and control.



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