

Cooperative Connections



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Modernizing Minnesota CIP



Joel Janorschke, General Manager

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Twenty-five years ago, the notion of Minnesota using less electricity and reducing carbon emissions seemed like one of those lofty ambitions that could happen “someday” in the distant future.

Well, “someday” has been happening for the past decade. Yes, Minnesota

has been lowering demand for electricity while emissions have continued to fall.

Day after day, year after year, Traverse Electric Cooperative and the state’s network of electricity providers have been answering the call to find smarter and cost-effective ways to provide safe and reliable electricity. We are doing so at a time when innovations and new technologies are emerging rapidly and reshaping the energy industry.

The State of Minnesota and electricity providers have been partners working toward an economy that is built on clean and efficient energy production. As part of this effort, Minnesota’s Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) sets annual goals for investments in conservation by utilities, including our cooperative.

CIP has produced many positive results over the years, including reducing the demand for new power plants by limiting both overall electricity usage and peak period usage. Often with the help of rebates and programs offered by cooperatives, homes and businesses are adopting conservation measures, such as energy audits and investments in high-efficiency appliances and machines.

While CIP has been a success, the program’s narrow focus on lowering electricity consumption limits opportunities to leverage Minnesota’s greening electric grid and implement innovations that could produce greater benefits for our members and communities.

This legislative session, the state’s cooperatives have proposed a bill (HF 1839/SF 1915) that will modernize CIP and build on its successes. Our proposal allows municipalities and member-owned cooperatives to explore a wider range of options to meet new standards for energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions at greater rates.

Further, this initiative recognizes that today’s energy policy needs

to be multi-faceted, allowing us to create new opportunities to produce greater energy efficiencies and consumer savings.

This means acknowledging that efficient electrification should complement our goals to lower electricity consumption, which is not currently the case. For example, supporting the growing electric vehicle market seems like a perfect role for CIP. The problem is that electric vehicles use more electricity than gas-powered cars, and that contradicts CIP’s goal of lowering electricity use.

But why? Electric vehicles are a far more energy efficient option compared to ones that burn gas. In fact, an electric vehicle uses 72 percent less total energy than a gasoline vehicle (as measured by British Thermal Units) and has a significantly lower carbon footprint.

And then there’s the cost savings for consumers. If a gasoline vehicle uses an average of 400 gallons of gas a year, that would cost about \$900 to \$1,000. The cost of powering an electric vehicle for a year would be about \$525 (4,000 kilowatts), though some cooperatives offer off-peak charging that could cut the amount even more. That’s a significant savings.

There are other examples where electrification produces net benefits in terms of cost, carbon footprint and efficiency. An air-source heat pump can be a better alternative over propane. But again, it would use more electricity and that’s not part of CIP’s mandate, even though a heat pump would use 70 percent less total energy for the same amount of heating (and yes, it would be cheaper and cleaner, too).

Since 2017, we have been working closely with many stakeholders to develop a strategy that is more flexible and comprehensive, which led us to propose modernizing CIP. It fully rewards efficiency and emission reduction. By emphasizing overall energy efficiency, we lay the groundwork for broader benefits for all.

How important will energy efficiency be in the 21st Century? One national study found that more than 60 percent of energy produced in the U.S. is wasted. Meanwhile, the electric grid is rapidly becoming greener. We can’t simply focus on using less electricity when we should be leveraging the investments we have all made in the electric grid to provide economic and environmental benefits for all.

Our voices matter. Minnesota’s 50 cooperatives serve about a third of the state’s population. Collectively, there’s tremendous diversity among cooperatives that could lead to smarter experimentation and more collaboration.

We have a plan to move us forward. Please contact your state lawmakers to support the CIP modernization proposal found in HF 1839 and SF 1915, for a better energy policy that supports all Minnesotans.

Traverse Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-903)

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**In case of a power outage call
 1-800-927-5443**

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Web site: www.traverseelectric.com. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Our Mission: To provide dependable service at the lowest possible rates, consistent with sound business principles.

Design assistance by SDREA.



Current Addresses Missing for These Former Consumers

We have capital credit checks for these people, but they were returned to us marked unknown. Please call the office at 1-800-927-5443 if you know their new address. Thanks.

Name	Address	Years On
Timothy Bailey	Becker, MN	2002-2004
David Bushey	Tintah, MN	1995-2009
Edward or Chris Fossum	Brookings, SD	1999-2008
Amy Hagel	Minot, ND	2002
Dustin Hartman	Moorhead, MN	2001-2006
Curt and Sandi Hove	West Fargo, ND	2002
Lance Howard	Lindstrom, MN	2002-2004
Terrance Hubbard	Norcross, MN	2002-2003
Roger Johnson	Otsego, MN	1999-2000
Daren J. Kaehler	Breckenridge, MN	2002-2005
Bob Kierie	Farwell, MN	2002-2003
Greg Krause	Claire City, SD	2002-2005
Matthew Krause	Tintah, MN	2002-2003
Jeff Kube	Wendell, MN	2001
Donald Larsen	Wilmot, SD	2001-2006
Nancy Luger	Sisseton, SD	2002
Marvin Maskewit Estate	Sisseton, SD	1992-2016
Calvin McLean	Roseville, MN	2001-2014
Mary Nelson	Apple Valley, MN	2002-2003
Roger Peterson	New Ulm, MN	2002
Roger and Stephanie Peterson	New Ulm, MN	2001-2002
Harlan Plagge	Montevideo MN	1996-2010
Harold and Lorealee Renelt	Big Lake Township MN	2002-2005
Donald Riedler	Des Moines IA	1973-2004
Richard Riemann	West Fargo, ND	2001-2006
Schroeder Construction (Robert)	Glenwood, MN	2001
Don Sherman	Ortonville, MN	1973-2012
Cyril Spinler	Browns Valley, MN	1976-2014
Dennis Shipman	Rosholt, SD	2002-2003
Tom Wolfe	Peever, SD	2000-2004
Duane Zibell	Lewistown, MT	1999-2002

IN CASE OF OUTAGE

- 1ST** Check the fuses or breakers in your home or building in which you do not have power.
- 2ND** Check your breaker below your meter on the yard pole. Some residential members may not have breakers.
- 3RD** If you still do not have power, call your neighbor to check if their electricity is also off.
- 4TH** Call immediately; do not wait for your neighbor to call in the outage.
- 5TH** Call Traverse Electric Cooperative at 1-800-927-5443.



High Water, High Stakes

Flooding can happen in a number of ways including river and stream overflow, excessive rain or storm surge to name a few. Floodwater contaminants can create serious fire hazards if electrical wiring and equipment have been submerged in water.

In the aftermath of a flood, there may be hidden electrical hazards. Before beginning the cleanup effort, have a qualified electrician check the house wiring, assess other damages and proceed with repair work. Then, follow these important safety tips:

- Follow any directives to turn off utilities. If you're advised to switch off the main power source to your home, flip each breaker and THEN turn off the main breaker. You may also need to shut off the main valve for your home's gas and water.
- DO NOT go near any downed power lines especially if there is standing water nearby.
- Take care when stepping into a flooded area. Be aware that submerged outlets or electrical cords may energize the water, posing a potentially lethal trap.
- Have an electrician inspect electrical appliances that have been wet and do not turn on or plug in appliances unless an electrician tells you it is safe.
- A qualified service repair dealer should examine all electrical equipment that has been wet. Certain equipment will require replacement, while a trained professional may be able to recondition other devices.
- Do not touch a circuit breaker or replace a fuse with wet hands or while standing on a wet surface. Use a dry plastic- or rubber-insulated tool to reset breakers and use only one hand. If using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or pressure washer, follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Replace or Recondition?

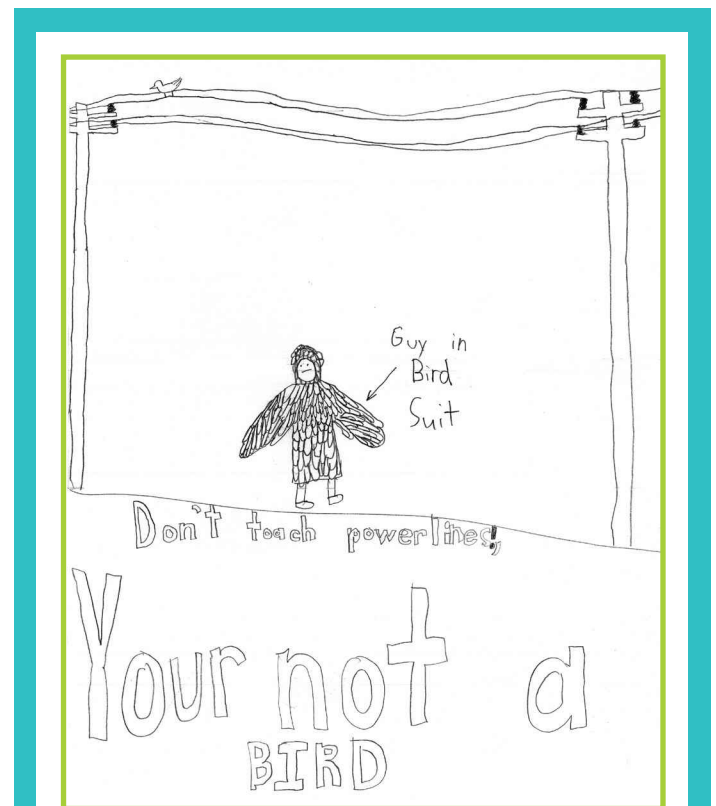
After a serious flood, some items may be reconditioned, while others will need to be completely replaced to protect you and your family. It is recommended that you allow an electrician or electrical inspector to guide the restoration or replacement of any electrical wiring or equipment. Corrosion and insulation damage can occur when water and silt get inside electrical devices and products. Water can also damage the motors in electrical appliances. Therefore, you should be prepared to replace:

- Circuit breakers and fuses
- All electrical wiring systems
- Light switches, thermostats, outlets, light fixtures, electric heaters and ceiling fans
- Furnace burner and blower motors, ignition transformers, elements and relays for furnaces and hot water tanks
- Washing machines, dryers, furnaces, heat pumps, freezers, refrigerators, dehumidifiers, vacuums, power tools, exercise equipment and similar appliances
- Electronic equipment, including computers and home entertainment systems

Source: esfi.org



KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Don't touch power lines! You're not a bird."

Jack Bartscher, 11 years old

Jack is the son of Jon and Tanya Bartscher, Mitchell, S.D. They are members of Central Electric Cooperative, Mitchell.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Comforting Casseroles

Turkey Noodle Bake

1 T. oil	Seasoning Mix, Original
1 cup chopped onion	3 cups uncooked wide egg noodles
2 (14.5 oz. each) cans diced tomatoes, undrained	2 cups shredded cooked turkey
2 cups water	1 (4 oz.) package cream cheese, cubed
1 (4.5 oz.) can chopped green chiles, undrained	2 cups shredded Mexican cheese blend, divided
1 package McCormick® Chili	

Heat oil in large saucepan on medium heat. Add onion; cook and stir 3 minutes or until tender. Stir in tomatoes, water, chiles and Seasoning Mix. Bring to boil. Remove from heat. Stir in egg noodles, turkey, cream cheese and 1 cup of the shredded cheese. Pour mixture into 9x13-inch baking dish. Cover with foil. Bake at 375°F. for 15 minutes. Remove foil. Stir mixture and sprinkle with remaining 1 cup shredded cheese. Bake, uncovered, 5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Serve with assorted toppings such as sour cream and guacamole, if desired. Makes 8 servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 325, Total Fat 17g, Saturated Fat 9g, Sodium 530mg, Cholesterol 93mg, Carbohydrates 23g, Protein 20g, Dietary Fiber 3g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Chili Pheasant Casserole

8 to 10 oz. egg noodles	1 to 2 tsp. chili powder
1/2 cup chopped raw onion	1 tsp. smoked paprika
1/2 cup chopped celery (optional)	1 cut-up cooked pheasant
1 can cream of chicken soup	1/2 cup of sour cream
1 T. fresh or dried parsley flakes	1/2 lb. of white Cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese, grated

Cook noodles in boiling water 8 minutes; drain. Combine all ingredients in a greased 3- to 4-quart casserole; stir together. Pour 1/2 cup hot water over casserole before baking. Bake at 350°F. for 40 minutes.

Laurie Wernke, Lennox, SD

Wonder Tot Casserole

3/4 lb. salmon	1/2 cup chopped celery
3/4 lb. tater rounds	1 can cream of mushroom soup
1/4 lb. American cheese	3/4 cup milk
1/2 cup chopped onion	

Put salmon and tater tots in a greased casserole, reserving a few tots for topping. In a saucepan, combine cheese, onions, celery, soup and milk; heat until cheese is melted. Pour over salmon and tater tots. Bake at 325°F. for 1 hour. Season with salt and pepper.

Deb Merkwan, Yankton, SD

Crescent-topped Cheeseburger Casserole

1 lb. lean ground beef	1/8 tsp. pepper
1/4 cup chopped onion	1-1/2 cups shredded American cheese
1/4 cup chopped dill pickles	1 (8 oz.) can refrigerated crescent rolls
1/2 cup water	1 egg, beaten
1/2 cup ketchup	1 T. sesame seed
1 T. yellow mustard	

In a 10-inch nonstick skillet, cook beef and onion over medium-high heat 5 to 7 minutes until thoroughly cooked; drain. Stir in pickles, water, ketchup, mustard and pepper. Spoon beef mixture into an 11x7-inch glass baking dish. Sprinkle with cheese. Unroll crescent dough; press into 12x8-inch rectangle. Cut into 6 squares; place on top of cheese. Brush with egg; sprinkle with sesame seed. Bake at 375°F. for 25 to 30 minutes or until deep golden brown.

Stephanie Fossum, Hudson, SD

Please send your favorite dairy, dessert or vegetarian recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3).

Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in June 2019. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Keep Cool for Less



Pat Keegan

Collaborative Efficiency

Dear Pat: We moved into our home last spring. It's pretty new and seems well-insulated in winter. But it was hot last summer, so we had to run the A/C a lot, and the electric bills were a killer. Do you have any tips on how we can cool our home this summer – without going broke? – Brandon

Dear Brandon: We've discussed some of the easiest ways to make your home more efficient, like reducing solar gains, insulating and ventilating the attic, and sealing air leaks. You may need to focus on inefficiencies in your home's cooling system. But before we address that, let's look at some other potential problems:

- Do you have freezer or second refrigerator in the garage? This can be a major energy hog, especially if it's old and you live in a warmer climate.
- Do you have a well? Your pump may be draining your energy use as you rely on it more during the summer. Start by looking for leaks in the system, and if necessary, reduce irrigation.
- How about a swimming pool? It may be time to overhaul or replace the pool pump. If the pump is in good shape, try putting it on a timer.
- If you have central air conditioning (A/C) or a heat pump, make sure your filter has been changed or recently cleaned. The next step is to call an HVAC contractor for a tune-up and a complete an assessment of the system. A tune-up can improve the efficiency and extend the life of the unit. The tune-up includes cleaning the condenser coil, a check of the refrigerant levels and a good look at the pump and electrical contacts. Talk to the contractor about the efficiency of the A/C unit. If it's old, it may be cost-effective to replace it, even if it's still functional.
- Ductwork is equally important as the A/C unit, so make sure the contractor you choose is capable and willing to provide an expert assessment. A real pro will know how to measure the air flow at each supply and return register. If you're not getting cool air to the rooms that need it, the contractor may be able to make modifications to the ductwork.
- Leaky ductwork could be your problem. If the ducts are in unconditioned areas like a crawl space or attic, it's especially important to make sure they're sealed and insulated. It will also help to seal ducts that are in conditioned spaces.
- Some HVAC contractors can do a duct-blast test to measure duct leakage. Discuss whether you should ever close any supply registers. Most experts recommend that supply registers are always open.
- If you cool your home with window A/C units, there are a few things you can do to maximize your cooling while keeping costs as low as possible.
- Use window A/C units in rooms that can be closed off with a door, to make the cooling as effective as possible.
- Make sure you have the right sized unit for the size of the room. A unit that's too big will cool the room before the humidity has been lowered, which will make it feel less cool, while a unit that's too small will have to work harder, causing a shorter life span—and it may not do the job.
- Use an electric fan or ceiling fan to help distribute the cold air throughout the area you are cooling.
- Turn off the A/C unit when no one is in the room.
- If your window A/C unit isn't cooling properly, it may need to be replaced. Look for an ENERGY STAR-certified unit to make the most of your cooling dollars.



That old fridge or freezer in your garage could be taking a bite out of your wallet.
Photo Credit: Alex Weimer

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

Of course, the simplest way to save money on your A/C is to not use it. As much as possible, keep your activities limited to rooms that are easily cooled. Try to spend more time cooking and eating outside. If you have a basement, think about setting up a second bedroom down there where it's cooler. Think of it as your new summer hideaway!

Work Begins Wyoming CarbonSAFE Project Test Site

Dirt work started March 31 on the Dry Fork Station plant site where geologic testing will be done for the Wyoming Carbon Storage Assurance and Facility Enterprise's (CarbonSAFE) Phase II project.

The CarbonSAFE initiative, implemented by the U.S. Department of Energy, is focused on investigating the feasibility of underground carbon dioxide emissions storage from coal-based electric generation facilities. Feasibility will be determined by whether storage is found to be practical, secure, and permanent. Several deep geologic layers are being studied for their suitability for carbon dioxide storage, including the site at Dry Fork Station near Gillette, Wyoming.

James Sheldon, Basin Electric supervisor of reliability and performance engineering, and Basin Electric lead for CarbonSAFE activities, said dirt work should be finished within a few days. "Currently, our schedule shows drilling of the test well could occur as soon as mid-April," Sheldon said. "Core samples will be collected from the well, and the well will be plugged and abandoned according to regulations. The results of the analysis of the data will be used by geologists at the University of Wyoming's Center for Economic Geology Research to create geologic computer models to test storage scenarios."

Analysis of the geologic cores, coupled with collected seismic survey data, may suggest carbon dioxide storage is technically feasible near Gillette. If project partners decide it makes business sense to do so, University of Wyoming would seek additional Department of Energy funding for a more detailed examination of the geology for a specific carbon dioxide storage project.

Wyoming CarbonSAFE is one of just six Phase II projects funded through that initiative; another, sponsored by Basin Electric, is in North Dakota. Sheldon said the initiative could play a role in the development of an environmentally friendly, economical, and long-term carbon mitigation strategy for coal-based power generation facilities.

Member Matching Program Maxes Out For Third Time

For the third time in the history of the program, Basin Electric's member matching program maxed its budget.

Sixty-two co-ops from Basin Electric's service area participated in the 2018 member matching program, helping support organizations in their communities.

In total, 314 donations were made last year through the member match program, according to Jennifer Holen, Basin Electric's charitable giving administrator.

"Our goal every year is that our members use this program to the fullest," Holen said. "Our members know their communities best, and we're proud to be their partner in supporting their communities."

Each year, one-third of Basin Electric's charitable giving budget is allocated for member matching donations. Funds are allocated to member matches on a first-come, first-served basis.

Basin Electric's board of directors established the co-op's Charitable Giving Program in 2001 to bring greater support to rural America. Basin Electric had provided charitable donations for decades prior, but the board wanted to do more and make sure the program was managed in an equitable manner.

Scholarships Awarded to Future Linemen



The South Dakota Rural Electric Line Superintendents Association awarded \$500 scholarships to eight Mitchell Technical Institute Power Line Construction and Management Program students. An additional Scholarship, the Mark and Kathy Hofer Power Line Scholarship, was awarded to Oakley Denne of Madison. Pictured are front row, from left are: Colt Moyer, Baltic; Wiatt Hively, Madison; Kameron Cochran, Sturgis; Tanner Griebel, Parkston; Oakley Denne, Madison – Braeden Bruning, Onida; Logan Ruesink, Dell Rapids; and Jack Hasche, Lake Preston. In the back row are members of the SDRE Line Superintendents Scholarship Committee: Jon Christensen, Whetstone Valley; Mark Iyotte, Cherry-Todd Electric; Trever Turner, Union County Electric; Rob Vetch, FEM Electric; Jared Terhark, Codington-Clark Electric and SDRELSA Scholarship Committee Chairman Bill Brisk, Black Hills Electric.



SKYWARN® weather spotter training aids volunteers in providing first-hand information to the National Weather Service.

AN EYE ON THE SKY

Spotters Play A Role in Weather Alert Process

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

Trained volunteers form a network of weather observers providing critical first-hand information for National Weather Service.

The spotters give first-hand accounts of what they are observing at ground level, an area often times obscured from what radar can detect. (Depending on the distance from the radar, that gap can extend from several hundred feet to nearly two miles.)

“Spotter reports add credibility to our warnings,” said Kelly Serr, who was conducting a training in Pierre in March. “We’re never sampling the lowest level of the storm.”

Serr kicked off the training with some basics: “This is weather spotter training, not weather chasing training. Never risk the safety of yourself or others and do your observation from a safe location.”

In most years, thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning caused hundreds of injuries and deaths and billions in property and crop damages. To obtain critical weather information, the National Weather Service (NWS) established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. In South Dakota, several hundred volunteers attend training throughout the spring each year.

Although SKYWARN® spotters provide essential information



Clouds form a backdrop to a power line in northeastern South Dakota.

Photo by: Northern Electric Cooperative member C.J. Lane

for all types of weather hazards, the main responsibility of a SKYWARN® spotter is to identify and describe severe local storms. In an average year, the United States experiences more than 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and more than 1,000 tornadoes.

Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods.

Who is eligible and how do I get started?

NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service to join the SKYWARN® program. Training is free and typically lasts about two hours. Volunteers learn:

- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- Information to report
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety

Weather Spotter Class

While many training classes were held in March and April, a few are still being offered in South Dakota through May:

Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m. – Bon Homme County Spotter Class, Avon Fire Hall, 106 E 1st Ave.

Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m. – Lebanon, S.D. Community Center

Thursday, April 18, 7 p.m. – Clay County, S.D., Spotter Class, Vermillion, S.D., High School

Friday, April 19, 1 p.m. – Custer Highlands/Elk Mountain, Elk Mountain School, 10222 Valley Rd, Dewey, S.D.

Monday, April 22, 7 p.m. – Clark, S.D., Community Center, 120 N Commercial St

Monday, April 22, 7 p.m. – Douglas County Spotter Class, 4-H Building, 408 9th St, Armour, S.D.

Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m. – Lake/Moody County Spotter Class, East River Electric Power Cooperative, 211 Harth Ave S, Madison, S.D.

Monday, April 29, 7 p.m. – Minnehaha County Spotter Class, Washington Pavilion, 301 S Main Ave, Sioux Falls

Wednesday, May 1, 6 p.m., Murdo, S.D., Ambulance Shed, 101 N Main

Wednesday, May 1, 7 p.m. – Yankton County Spotter Class, 201 W 23rd St, Yankton, S.D.

Online spotter training available: The Cooperative Operational Meteorology Education and Training (COMET) offers an online Skywarn® Spotter Training course in two sections: "Role of the Skywarn® Spotter" and "Skywarn® Spotter Convective Basics". The course is designed for people interested in becoming storm spotters. The course is free and each section takes one to two hours to complete.

Weather Ready

Aberdeen Weather Team Aims to Improve Preparedness and Response

by Ben Dunsmoor

The Aberdeen office of the National Weather Service is bringing together emergency managers, broadcast media, transportation officials, and private sector organizations – including electric cooperatives – to prepare for severe weather events. Officials with the office in Aberdeen held the second annual Integrated Weather Team (IWT) workshop on March 20 to improve communication and coordination between these groups.

"The IWT is an ad-hoc 'team' of people and entities who are involved in the preparedness and response to high-impact weather events," NWS Aberdeen Warning Coordination Meteorologist Kelly Serr said.

The goal of the annual one-day workshop is to meet with organizations and discuss best practices and methods to improve communication with the public before, during, and after a severe or high-impact weather event.

According to Serr, the IWT is a nationwide initiative led by the National Weather Service. The weather service offices in Sioux Falls and Rapid City have held similar events, but the Aberdeen office is the first in South Dakota that is meeting every year.

"The IWT philosophy was born out of the desire to bring together those involved in the weather warning and public safety process," Serr said. "The vision of the workshop is to better understand each group's role in public safety, expectations, and how each IWT member can work together toward mutual goals."

Northern Electric Cooperative Communications Director Ben Dunsmoor and retired Operations Manager Mike Kelly presented information during the March 20 workshop about a mid-October winter storm that caused widespread power outages. The information was intended to help the National Weather Service, emergency managers, and those attending the workshop understand the weather conditions that cause power outages.

"My hope is that we continue to learn from each other, understand each other's strengths and weaknesses and make central and northeast South Dakota as ready, responsive and resilient as possible," Serr said.

More than 30 people attended the March 20 workshop.



About 30 people attended Integrated Weather Training in Aberdeen in March.

Board President Alan Veflin gives his report at the Traverse Electric annual meeting held March 21.



Members and guests of Traverse Electric enjoy a delicious meal before the start of the annual meeting.



Notice of Summer Office Hours

Summer office hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. starting May 1 and ending Sept. 30.

Member Comments

Thank you so much for the slow-cooker I won at the Traverse Electric annual meeting.
Gary Findlay, Herman, MN

Thank you for the gift card and credit off my bill I won at the annual meeting.
Jerome & Geraldine Broz, Breckenridge, MN

Thanks to the guys that fixed my yard light. I don't need to run Christmas lights any longer outside. The yard light helps keep the coyotes away from the house.
Laura Hagelin, Beardsley, MN

Thanks for the great dinner and meeting on March 21. Also thanks for the \$25 credit we won at the meeting.
Gerald & Janice Faas, Beardsley, MN



February Board Meeting Highlights

The February board meeting was held on Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019, at 9 a.m. Absent was Doug Diekmann.

Staff members present were General Manager Joel Janorschke, Dale Schwagel, Jerrel Olson and Karen Lupkes.

- The minutes of the January board meeting were approved.
- The January check register was approved.
- The board discussed a board vacancy in District 1 and reviewed the Bylaws related to board vacancies. A special meeting of District 1 was held for District 1 members interested in the position.
- Janorschke reviewed with the board the Minnesota Co-op Group Retention Plan Agreement.
- The board viewed the East River and Basin Electric board reports
- Homan reported on East River Board and Basin Electric business.
- Monson, Marks and Homan reported on the East River Energize Forum.
- Armstrong, Marks and Homan reported on the MREA annual meeting.
- Schwagel gave the Operations Report. Items discussed included:
 - ▶ January outages were reviewed.
 - ▶ Crews are doing overhead line patrol and plan to complete half of our system this year.
 - ▶ Two URD faults need to be repaired in the Spring.
 - ▶ OCR maintenance and inspection will start in March. Crews are switching out OCRs now.
 - ▶ Recent safety meeting covered at-risk behaviors and concluded with truck and facilities inspections.
 - ▶ Reviewed and gave an update on the new AMI metering system.
 - ▶ We are in the process of obtaining easements for the new dairy facility.
 - ▶ Work for a ditch move will begin this summer and we are currently working on the easements and permits.
- Janorschke informed the board about the possibility of a new large facility in our service territory.
- The board reviewed and approved revisions to Board Policies 101 Statements and Viewpoints and 104 Board Organization.
- Olson reviewed the new Minnesota CMIP for a uniform distributed resources generation interconnection process, applications and contracts. The board reviewed and adopted Board Policy 313 Cogeneration/Distributed Energy Resources Policy, the 2019 Cogeneration Report and revisions to Rate Schedule Q Cogeneration and Small Power Production.
- The board selected James Conroy for the \$1,000 Basin Electric scholarship and Isaac Deal for the \$500 Traverse Electric scholarship.
- Janorschke presented the Manager's Report, which included:
 - ▶ Recapped the East River manager's meeting topics.
 - ▶ Reported on the January East River power bill credit.
 - ▶ Updated the board on Minnesota and South Dakota legislative issues.
- Reviewed and approved the January Financial Report.
- Discussed providing iPads and company email addresses to board members.
- The deadline for submitting an essay for the Washington, D.C., Youth tour is March 20. Board members were encouraged to contact high school students and promote it.
- A list of upcoming meetings and attendees was reviewed.

Scholarships Awarded

Traverse Electric is proud to announce that **James Conroy** was selected to receive this year's \$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship.



James is a senior at Wheaton High School in Wheaton, Minn., and is the son of Tanya Conroy Pittman and Josh Pittman of Wheaton and the late Steven Conroy.

In high school, he participated in football, wrestling and baseball. He is also a member of the Sons of the American Legion.

James plans to attend Lakes Area Technical Institute in Watertown, S.D., this fall. He was accepted into

their physical therapy assistant program.

His own sports injuries introduced him to physical therapy where his interest in the field grew. His job as a certified nursing assistant in a local long-term care facility showed him the impact physical therapy has on all ages and reinforced his desire to make people feel better.

We wish James the best of luck!

Isaac Deal was selected as this year's \$500 Traverse Electric Scholarship recipient.



Isaac is the son of Steven and Melissa Deal of Herman, Minn. Isaac is a senior at Wheaton High School in Wheaton, Minn.

He was involved in high school football, wrestling and baseball in addition to the National Honor Society and many other school groups.

Isaac grew up and worked on the family farm and also helped other area farmers. Isaac plans to attend North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D., in the fall and major in agricultural business and minor in precision agriculture and agronomy.

Traverse Electric is proud to support Isaac and wishes him the best of luck.

Describe How a Cooperative Can Build a Culture To Best Serve Its Members

Cooperatives are business that are owned and operated by its members. These cooperatives are found in many areas of the world and strive to provide the most reliable and cost-effective power to millions of consumers and in many different areas. In our rural area, we have many different cultures including multi-generational families that utilize and depend on the resources from their cooperative. Two of the areas that I feel are most important in sustaining and continuing to build our rural culture is by maintaining the current lowest rates as possible and by continuing to strive to provided the most reliable service to our area. Both of these areas allow our community to keep its identity.

I live in Traverse County along with my family including my parents, both sets of my grandparents, an uncle and even a set of great-grandparents. We all live within four miles of each other and are all Traverse Electric members. Multiple generations this close to each other, I believe, is very common in our area with many of these families being on fixed or limited budgets. I feel that the low interest rate loans, rebates and keeping the rates low all contribute to these multi-generational cultured families all being able to stay in their hometowns and pass on their history of our community. For example, our water heater quit working recently and through our cooperative we were able to purchase one at their rates and receive a rebate. The new water heater is not only more efficient and saves us money, but the rebates allowed for my family to use that money on other necessities. With the rise in prices on nearly everything, I believe that the cooperative being able to give back their cost savings is allowing many members of our community to remain here and keep our community and families intact.

Another area that I feel a cooperative builds the culture of our community is their commitment to providing reliable electricity. It is very important to a rural community to be able to know that when your power goes out, that reliable help is just one call or click away. Calling rural Minnesota our home has many advantages and knowing that we have a electric cooperative that is committed to providing reliable power is a huge advantage. When you have a county that is one of the larges counties in the state and has the highest population of aging members, being able to sustain and get their power restored is crucial. It can literally be the difference between life and death.

Living in a rural cultured community has been a very positive experience for me. It has taught me to value spending time with my family, have a strong work ethic and that I have a passion for helping others. I believe that our cooperative strives and succeeds at carrying out their core values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to our community by allowing the family cultures of rural America to continue thriving.

By James Conroy

There are many substantial pieces that go into making a successful cooperative.

The foundation piece for a cooperative is having personable employees. The individuals that work every day for a cooperative should greet customers with a smile on their face and with a friendly tone. All customers should be treated in the same manner and helped as fast as possible.

In small communities such as ours, cooperatives have many benefits to offer. Large communities tend to take these benefits for granted. Cooperatives should also have 24-hour on call service to serve its patrons. Our electric cooperative, Traverse Electric, serves a large rural farming community that consists of a low population and large farms in a diverse topographical area. Our cooperative has great service at all hours of the day and night. Working on a farm I have encountered many experiences with employees during outages. These employees always show up with a smile on their face, and they solve the problems efficiently.

Customer service is vital in making a strong cooperative. The stronger these cooperatives are in a small community, the stronger the community will be as a whole.

Another important aspect to recognize is the philanthropy of cooperatives. Strong cooperatives give back to their patrons through scholarships, community loans and gifts. Cooperatives do this to show appreciation of community support through business and in hope that the benefits will help attract more people in the community. Strong customer service and philanthropy are just some ways to build a culture in a cooperative.

By Isaac Deal

Fun Rolls into Huron

Wheel Jam Celebrates Two, Four and 18 Wheels – and more

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdra.coop

More than 40 competitors are also expected for the South Dakota BBQ Championships.

Whether two wheels, four wheels or 18 wheels, vehicles of all types will be rolling into Huron May 31-June 2 for the 16th annual Wheel Jam.

The celebration of transportation takes place on the South Dakota State Fair Grounds and will include the 13th annual Original South Dakota BBQ Championships cook off as well as musical entertainment.

Organizers of the event note, “When semi-trucks, classic cars, motorcycles, stock car races, and a few rock and roll bands all get together, it means one awesome weekend for the state of South Dakota!”

Between the concurrent shows for big rigs, cars and pickups and motorcycles, visitors to Wheel Jam will see thousands of gleaming wheels. They can also watch (or be in) the BIG RIGS run in the Dynamic Engine Brake Competition, listen to



A truck in the 2017 Wheel Jam Dynamic Engine Brake Competition gives the course a run.



classic rock bands in South Dakota or just sit back and enjoy the weekend on the South Dakota State Fair Grounds.

Smokin’ hot wheels won’t be the only

Wheel Jam Schedule

Poker Run

Friday, May 31 • 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. • Registration: 5 p.m. at Red Arrow Bar – A free will offering meal will be served during registration. The poker run is open to all vehicles. Entry fee: \$10. The entry fee includes admission into the Big Jim Jam Fest.

Pick-Up Party

Saturday, June 1 • Registration from 9 a.m. to noon; show from noon to 4 p.m. • Awards at 4 p.m.

Come to Wheel Jam and bring your 25+ year old pickup – in any stage of repair or dis-repair. No fee to park in designated area! We will be giving trophies for the pickup that is the ugliest, best of show, and came the furthest. Come park your pickup, set up your camper/lawn chair and set back and enjoy the fun!

Make It Mine Show-n-Shine (Classic cars/motorcycles)

Saturday, June 1 • Registration from 9 a.m. to noon; show from noon to 4 p.m. • Awards at 4 p.m.

There is no entry fee to participate in the Make it Mine Show n' Shine. Vehicles do not have to be in a "judged car show" condition. Winners are chosen by trophy sponsors. Each sponsor will choose from cars and bikes to award its trophy to. There is no criteria to follow. The winner is chosen based on the sponsor's preference.

11th Annual Midwest SPL Sound Competition

Saturday, June 1 • Registration from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. • Qualifying Time: 11 a.m.

JM & TEAM FLEXICUTION presents the 11th annual Midwest SPL Sound Competition located in the Hippodrome.

Wheel Jam Parade

Saturday, June 1 • 10:30 a.m. • Participants line-up on Market Street starting at 9 a.m. – All wheels are welcome to participate!

Parade route: Market St. east to Dakota Ave. south to 21st St. and back around to the fairgrounds.

Dynamic Engine Brake Competition

Saturday, June 1 • 1 p.m. • Located on Nevada Ave. between Market St. and Gate 3

Biker Games

Saturday, June 1 • 6 p.m. • East side of carnival mat

Wheel Jam Truck Show Light Show

Saturday, June 1 • Dusk • Located in West Machinery

Trucks will tune into Big Jim 93.3 from 10 pm - 11 pm for Saturday Night Rockin' Lights w/ Wheel Jam Truck Show Light Show.

Backstreet Cruisers Car Show

Sunday, June 2 • Registration Time: 9 a.m. to noon • Show Time: 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Windriders ABATE Motorcycle Show

Sunday, June 2 • Registration: 9 a.m. to noon • Show from noon to 4 p.m. • Family Living Center



The Wheel Jam Parade takes to the streets of Huron on June 1.

feature of the weekend as grilling maestros light up their grills to compete in the Original SD BBQ Championships. The event began in 2007 and is a Kansas City BBQ Society sanctioned event. Each year, more than 40 teams compete in the event, which offers more than \$14,000 in total KCBS purse. The grand champion wins \$2,500 as well as an invitation to compete at the prestigious American Royal in Kansas City, Mo. The Reserve Grand Champion pockets \$2,000 in the competition.

The event also features the Backyard BBQ People's Choice Competition, which is open to anyone. Participants do not have to compete in the KCBS portion of the event to register for the Backyard BBQ Competition.

And for chili lovers, there's the F.A.T. Friday Chili Challenge on Friday, May 31. The people's choice public tasting is held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information on the BBQ, visit <http://www.sdbbqchampionships.com/>

Learn more about Wheel Jam at <http://www.wheeljam.com/> or by calling the South Dakota State Fair office at 800-529-0900 or 605-353-7340.



Above: The Wheel Jam Truck Show Light Show illuminates the evening on Saturday. Right: Cars of all types will be on display during Wheel Jam.





12 WAYS TO PREPARE

<input type="checkbox"/>  Sign up for Alerts and Warnings	<input type="checkbox"/>  Make a Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>  Save for a Rainy Day	<input type="checkbox"/>  Practice Emergency Drills	<input type="checkbox"/>  Test Family Communication Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>  Safeguard Documents
<input type="checkbox"/>  Plan with Neighbors	<input type="checkbox"/>  Make Your Home Safer	<input type="checkbox"/>  Know Evacuation Routes	<input type="checkbox"/>  Assemble or Update Supplies	<input type="checkbox"/>  Get Involved in Your Community	<input type="checkbox"/>  Document and Insure Property

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

Storm Preparation Key

Federal Emergency Management Agency

<https://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>

Make a plan today. Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is important to know which types of disasters could affect your area. Know how you'll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that's familiar and easy to find.

Step 1: Put together a plan by discussing these four questions with your family, friends, or household to start your emergency plan:

- How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
- What is my shelter plan?
- What is my evacuation route?
- What is my family/household communication plan?

Step 2: Consider specific needs in your household.

As you prepare your plan tailor your plans and supplies to your specific daily living needs and responsibilities. Discuss your needs and responsibilities and how people in the network can assist each other with communication, care of children, business, pets, or specific needs like the operation of durable medical equipment. Create your own personal network for specific areas where you need assistance. Keep in mind some these factors when developing your plan:

- Different ages of members within your household
- Responsibilities for assisting others
- Locations frequented
- Dietary needs

- Medical needs including prescriptions and equipment
- Disabilities or access and functional needs including devices and equipment
- Languages spoken
- Cultural and religious considerations
- Pets or service animals
- Households with school-aged children

Step 3: Fill out a Family Emergency Plan.

Fill out a family emergency plan or use them as a guide to create your own.

Step 4: Practice your plan with your family/household.

Family Emergency Communication Plan

FEMA P-1095/July 2017HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

Family Name:	
Home #:	
Address:	
Name:	Mobile #:
Other # or social media:	
Email:	

Important medical or other information:	
Name:	Mobile #:
Other # or social media:	
Email:	

Important medical or other information:	
Name:	Mobile #:
Other # or social media:	
Email:	

IMPORTANT NUMBERS and INFORMATION

Police/Sheriff:	Dial 911 or ☎
Fire:	Dial 911 or ☎
Poison Control:	☎
Doctor:	☎
Doctor:	☎
Pediatrician:	☎
Dentist:	☎
Medical Insurance:	☎
Policy #:	
Medical Insurance:	☎
Policy #:	
Hospital/Clinic:	☎
Pharmacy:	☎
Homeowner/Rental	☎
Insurance: Policy #:	
Flood Insurance:	☎
Policy #:	
Veterinarian:	☎
Kennel:	☎
Electric Cooperative:	☎
Gas Company:	☎
Water Company:	☎
Alternate/Accessible Transportation:	☎
Other:	

SCHOOL, CHILDCARE, CAREGIVER and WORKPLACE EMERGENCY PLANS

Name:	
Address:	
Emergency/Hotline #:	
Website:	
Emergency Plan/Pick-Up:	

Name:	
Address:	
Emergency/Hotline #:	
Website:	
Emergency Plan/Pick-Up:	

Name:	
Address:	
Emergency/Hotline #:	
Website:	
Emergency Plan/Pick-Up:	

Name:	
Address:	
Emergency/Hotline #:	
Website:	
Emergency Plan/Pick-Up:	

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (ICE) CONTACT

Name:	Home #:
Home #:	Email:
Address:	

OUT-OF-TOWN CONTACT

Name:	Mobile #:
Home #:	Email:
Address:	

EMERGENCY MEETING PLACES

Indoor:	
Instructions:	
Neighborhood:	
Instructions:	
Out-of-Neighborhood:	
Address:	
Instructions:	
Out-of-Town:	
Address:	
Instructions:	

April 27

River Rat Marathon, Yankton, SD, 605-660-9483

April 27-28

Annual JazzCrawl, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-335-6101

May 1-5

Black Hills Film Festival, Hill City, SD, 605-574-9454

May 17-19

State Parks Open House and Free Fishing Weekend, Pierre, SD, 605-773-3391

May 17-19

Sound of Silence Tesla Rally, Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

May 24-26

Annual Off Road Rally, Sturgis, SD, 605-720-0800

May 24-26

South Dakota Kayak Challenge, Yankton, SD, 605-864-9011

May 25-26

Annual SDRA Foothills Rodeo, Wessington Springs, SD, 605-770-4370

May 30-June 1

Senior Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Contact Nick Brady at 605-978-6924

May 31-June 1

South Dakota BBQ Championships, Huron, SD, 605-353-7354

May 31-June 1

Pork Palooza, Sioux Falls, SD, garrett@agemedia.pub

May 31-June 2

Wheel Jam, Huron, SD, 605-353-7340

May 31-June 3

Fish Days, Lake Andes, SD, 605-487-7694



May 31-June 2: Fort Sisseton Historical Festival, Lake City, SD, 605-448-5474

Photo courtesy: travelsouthdakota.com

June 1

Dairy Fest, Brookings, SD, 605-692-7539

June 1

Annual Casey Tibbs Match of Champions, Fort Pierre, SD, 605-494-1094

June 1-2

Spring Volksmarch, Crazy Horse, SD, 605-673-4681

June 2

Mickelson Trail Marathon, Deadwood, SD, 605-578-1876

June 2-8

Ride Across South Dakota (RASDAK), Rapid City, SD, rasdakbiketour@gmail.com

June 2-August 11

Annual Red Cloud Indian Art Show, Pine Ridge, SD, 605-867-8257

June 6-9

South Dakota Shakespeare Festival, Vermillion, SD, 605-622-0423

June 7

East of Westville with Kenny Putnam Kiwanis Club Concert, 7 p.m., Riggs Theatre, Pierre, SD, 605-280-0818

June 7-8

Senior Games, Spearfish, SD, Contact Brett Rauterkus at 605-722-1430

June 7-9

Annual Black Hills Quilt Show & Sale, Rapid City, SD, 605-394-4115

June 8

Train Day, Redfield, SD, 605-472-4566

June 8-9

Siouxland Renaissance Festival, Sioux Falls, SD, 1-866-489-9241

June 13-15

Czech Days, Tabor, SD, 605-463-2478, www.taborczechdays.com, taborczechdays@gmail.com

June 21

Dalesburg Midsummer Festival, Dalesburg Lutheran Church, Rural Vermillion, SD, 605-253-2575

June 28-29

Senior Games, Madison, SD, Contact Bernie Schuurmans at 605-270-3327

June 29

Rhubarb Festival, Leola, SD, 605-824-0014

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.