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Mark Your Calendar

- June 15 Electric Bills Due
- June 30 Board Meeting



Find Your Account Number & Win!

TEC has hidden an account number in this newsletter. If you find your account number, notify us by July 1st and you will get a **\$10 bill credit**.

Welcome to the **TEAM**



Traverse Electric Welcomes Two New Linemen

Kolby Goff (pictured left) and Heath Kvatum (pictured right) joined Traverse Electric on May 11 as apprentice lineworkers. Welcome to Traverse Electric Kolby and Heath!



Why Vegetation Management Matters

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK
General Manager

There's something timeless about trees. They ground us. They remind us of where we've been, and they stretch toward what's ahead. Here in our community, we take pride in the natural beauty that surrounds us—the shade on a summer afternoon, the colors that mark the changing seasons, the quiet strength of something that grows slowly but endures.

At the same time, we share another responsibility—one that's just as essential to our daily lives. The responsibility to keep the lights on, to power our homes and businesses, to make sure that when you flip a switch, the energy you depend on is there.

That's why Traverse Electric works every day to strike a careful balance between preserving the beauty we cherish and delivering the reliable electricity you expect.

One of the most important ways we do that is through regular tree trimming.

Now, it may not always be obvious, but keeping lines clear of overgrown vegetation plays a major role in preventing power outages. We've all seen what can happen when severe weather rolls in—strong winds, heavy ice or sudden storms can bring down branches and, with them, power lines and poles.

That's why you may notice crews from Carr's Tree Service, our trusted contractors, working in neighborhoods throughout the year. Their crews are highly trained and certified, following the latest industry standards to ensure the job is done safely and effectively. Their work might seem routine, but it's anything but—it's a proactive step that helps prevent problems before they start.

And it's not just good practice—it's required. Electric utilities across the country are obligated to manage vegetation near power lines. Scheduled

trimming helps remove dead or weakened limbs and keeps fast-growing trees from becoming hazards. It's about staying one step ahead, especially as we prepare for the increasing frequency and intensity of severe weather events.


But beyond reliability and efficiency, there's another reason this work matters: safety.

Electricity is a powerful force, and when trees grow too close to power lines, that power can become dangerous. Branches that touch lines—or even come close—can carry electrical current. Children climbing trees in their own yards may not realize the risk. And during storms, fallen trees can create hazardous conditions not only for families but also for our lineworkers working to restore service.

There's also a financial reality we can't ignore. Preventative maintenance—like tree trimming—is far more cost-effective than repairing widespread damage after an outage. Left unchecked, overgrown vegetation can lead to more frequent disruptions and higher costs for everyone. A thoughtful, strategic vegetation management program helps keep those costs down for our members.

You can help, too. When planting new trees, consider their mature height and distance from nearby power lines. Trees that grow up to 40 feet should be planted at least 25 feet away from overhead lines. Larger trees—those that exceed 40 feet—should be planted at least 50 feet away. If you're landscaping near pad-mounted transformers, keep shrubs at least 10 feet from the front and 4 feet from the sides to allow safe access.

If your neighborhood has underground lines, don't forget to call 811 before digging. It's a simple step that can prevent serious accidents.

At the end of the day, we all want the same thing: a community that's safe, resilient and beautiful. At Traverse Electric, we're proud to be part of that effort. Our roots run deep here, just like the trees we work to care for. 

December 2025 Capital Credit Checks - Invalid Address List

Name	Address	Years In Service
Chris O Blue Jr	New Effington SD	2007-2014
Charlyne Budack	Sisseton SD	2004-2005
Charrieth Cloud-Castillo	Watertown SD	2002-2004
Steph Ebsen	Chetek WI	2009-2010
Kim Head	Elbow Lake MN	2008-2011
Barbara Jorgensen Trust	Marshall MN	1973-2017
Shelly Joyce	Tintah MN	2007-2009
Andreas Neumann	Dilworth MN	2009-2017
Roxanna Patton	Wheaton MN	2008-2009
Rural Cellular Corp	Columbus OH	1994-2011
Michelle Stage	Springfield MN	2009-2022

Global Mapping Solutions will be working to GPS Traverse Electric's system from May until October. Please follow our Facebook page to follow along with their journey through our system. If you have any questions, please call the office.



Standby Generator Systems

Together We Save Energy and Money



Benefits of Owning A Generator System

Our standby power systems are designed to provide peace of mind and keep your life uninterrupted. Lights stay on, the sump pump keeps running, and your furnace or AC keeps your family comfortable.

- ⦿ Standby generator system intelligently powers your whole house, automatically powering what you need when you need it most.
- ⦿ Generator automatically starts when the power goes out.
- ⦿ Sold and installed by Traverse Electric Cooperative.
- ⦿ Financing is available.
- ⦿ From Briggs & Stratton – The Power Experts!
- ⦿ Runs on natural gas or LP (provided by others).



STANDBY GENERATORS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

Source: energy.gov

April 2026 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The April regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 8 AM.

- Absent: None.
- Staff members present were General Manager, Jeremy Huhnstock, Dale Schwagel, and Karen Lupkes.
- President Diekmann called the meeting to order. #2319
- The agenda was approved.
- The minutes of the March regular board meeting and March 19, 2026 Annual Meeting were approved.
- The March check register was approved.
- Discussed the East River and Basin Electric video reports, and the NRECA training video: *Filling Board Vacancies*.
- Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.
- Huhnstock presented the General Manager's Report, which included:
 - ◊ Provided a Basin Electric update.
 - ◊ Provided an East River update.
 - ◊ REED Fund review.
 - ◊ NRECA update.
 - ◊ MREA and MN legislative update.
 - ◊ SDREA and SD legislative update.
 - ◊ Other matters of interest.
- Lupkes gave the Office Manager's Report, which included:
 - ◊ March 31, 2026 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
 - ◊ A list of new members was reviewed.
 - ◊ Audit will be held the week of May 11.

- ◊ A new electrician starts on May 20.
- ◊ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- ◊ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.
- Reviewed and approved the March 2026 Financial Report.
- The Operations Report was presented per written report. Items included:
 - ◊ Provided a crew update.
 - ◊ Reported that our contractors began working on underground projects the beginning of April.
 - ◊ Contractors started doing pole inspections and will inspect about 2,000 poles this year.
 - ◊ East River had equipment failure at the Victor Substation that resulted in two short outages.
 - ◊ One new apprentice lineman is starting on May 11.
 - ◊ Reported that linemen recently attended Hot Line training and Leadership training.
 - ◊ We participated in Big Stone Colony's Youth Safety Day Event on April 22.
 - ◊ Reviewed our Safety Program.
 - ◊ Outages were reviewed.
- Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.
- Meeting adjourned. ▶

TEC March 2026 Financials			
	Mar 2025	Mar 2026	YTD 2026
Total Revenue.....	\$1,225,081.50	\$1,367,569.83	\$4,259,557.16
Cost of Power.....	\$697,991.92	\$821,538.11	\$2,500,709.33
Total Cost of Service.....	\$1,155,788.79	\$1,314,922.25	\$3,860,711.00
Operating Margins	\$69,292.71	\$52,647.58	\$398,846.16
Total Margins.....	\$80,306.12	\$88,938.03	\$451,702.08
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	11,354,399	11,783,459	36,442,728
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	10,859,374	11,226,406	34,741,740
Line Loss	4%	4%	4%

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN
 Vice-President: Terry Monson, Veblen, SD
 Secretary: Matthew Glynn, Sisseton, SD
 Treasurer: Michael Marks, Norcross, MN
 Stacy Ehlers, Wheaton, MN
 Michael Gaulrapp, Breckenridge, MN
 Jared Hamling, Rosholt, SD
 Bradley Rudolph, Dumont, MN
 Kaley Thoennes, Chokio, MN

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Jeremy Huhnstock – General Manager
 Karen Lupkes – Office Manager
 Dale Schwagel – Operations Manager
 Melissa Przymus – Accountant
 Stacie Johannsen – Billing Clerk

OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Richard Davis – Foreman
 Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker
 Kolby Goff - Apprentice Lineworker
 Health Kvatum - Apprentice Lineworker
 Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker
 Tristan Varpness – Journeyman Lineworker
 Jordan Pearson – Journeyman Lineworker
 Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician
 Robert Groebner – Facility Technician

GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Jeremy Huhnstock
 Cell: 320-349-9901 | Direct: 320-563-1055
 jhuhnstock@traverseelectric.com

MEMBER SERVICE REP/ MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Connor Bartz
 – Journeyman Electrician 320-287-0009
 Eric Rikomoto
 – Load Management/Electrician 701-971-3827

ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS MINNESOTA

Brandon Lennox 320-808-5309
 Big Stone County Grant County
 Stevens County Traverse County
 Brent Piekarski 651-420-0855
 Wilkin County

NORTH DAKOTA

Mark Moderow 701-226-3779
 Richland County

SOUTH DAKOTA

Nick Helseth 605-280-2188
 Marshall County Roberts County

In case of a power outage, call (800) 927-5443

6590 State Highway 27

P.O. Box 66

Wheaton, MN 56296 USA

Toll-free phone: (800) 927-5443

Local phone: (320) 563-8616

Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
 May 1–September 30

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.