

Since 1940

# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* March 2024 NEWS



**RIVERLAND**  
Energy Cooperative

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**Riverland Energy Cooperative  
ANNUAL MEETING  
Saturday, March 23**

**Breakfast &  
Registration  
8 a.m.**

**Business Meeting  
10 a.m.**



# 7 COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES



**VOLUNTARY AND  
OPEN MEMBERSHIP**



**DEMOCRATIC  
MEMBER CONTROL**



**MEMBERS' ECONOMIC  
PARTICIPATION**



**AUTONOMY AND  
INDEPENDENCE**



**EDUCATION, TRAINING  
AND INFORMATION**



**COOPERATION AMONG  
COOPERATIVES**



**CONCERN FOR  
COMMUNITY**



In this annual report you will find facts and figures about your cooperative along with updates and reports regarding 2023.

We thank you for being an active and engaged Riverland Energy Cooperative member.

## PRIZES!

Riverland Energy Cooperative will offer its members who attend the annual meeting a chance to win prizes! Prizes will be given to all ages!

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## THIS IS YOUR ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

Cut out and bring with you to the annual meeting!






# 2023 Annual Report



**RIVERLAND**  
Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Riverland Energy Cooperative is a democratically controlled business. It is governed by local people that are elected by you and your fellow cooperative members. With members in charge, you can feel confident that board decisions are made in the best interest of you and your community.



**District 1**

**Brad Schmidtke**



**District 2**

**Bryce Lisowski**



**District 3**

**Cletus Foegen**



**District 4**

**Dennis Frame**  
Secretary/Treasurer



**District 5**

**Dan Filla**  
Vice President



**District 6**

**Steve Hogden**



**District 7**

**Gary Dvoracek**



**District 8**

**David Paudler**

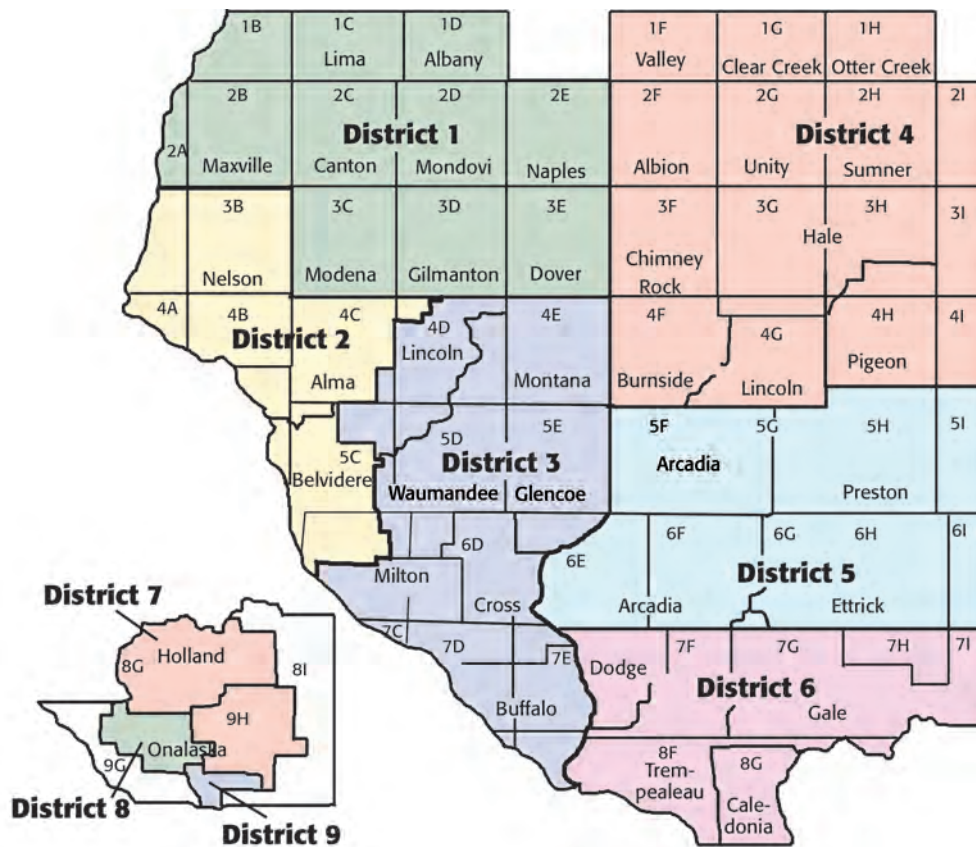


**District 9**

**Bea Zingsheim**  
President



# Our Service Area



## BUFFALO COUNTY

### District #1

Towns of Maxville, Canton, Gilmanton, Dover, Mondovi, Modena and Naples; and Pepin County - Portion of Towns of Durand, Lima and Albany.

### District #2

Buffalo City, Towns of Alma, Belvidere and Nelson, and portion of City of Alma

### District #3

Towns of Cross, Buffalo, Milton, Waumandee, Lincoln, Montana and Glencoe and a portion of Fountain City.

## TREMPEALEAU COUNTY

### District REC #4

Towns of Albion, Unity, Sumner, Chimney Rock, Hale, Burnside, Lincoln, and Pigeon in Trempealeau County. The towns of Pleasant Valley, Clear Creek, Otter Creek in Eau Claire County. The towns of Garfield, Northfield, Franklin and Curran in Jackson County.

### District REC #5

Towns of Arcadia, Preston, and Ettrick in Trempealeau County. The towns of Springfield, Franklin, and Sections 6, 7, and 18 in the Town of North Bend in Jackson County.

### District REC # 6

Towns of Dodge, Trempealeau, Caledonia, and Gale in Trempealeau County. Section 19 and 30 of the Town of North Bend in Jackson County.

## LA CROSSE COUNTY

### District REC #7

8G (T18N-R8W) All Sections in La Crosse County, 8H9T18N-R8W) All Sections Located in La Crosse County, 8I (T18N-R6W), 9G (T17N-R8W), Section 1 and 2 only; 9H (T17N-R7W) All Sections Except 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, & 35; 7I All Sections in La Crosse County; 9I All Sections.

### District REC #8

9G (T17N-R8W) All Sections Except Sections 1 and 2, 9H (T17N-R7W) Sections 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 30, and 31 All Located in La Crosse County. Plus the following detail map numbers in La Crosse County: 9H29A 9H29B 9H29C 9H29D 9H29E 9H29F

### District REC #9

9H (T17N-R7W) Sections 32, 33, 34, & 35. Also the following detail map numbers in La Crosse County: 9H29J 9H29K 9H29L 9H29M 9H29N 9H29P 9H29Q 9M04A 9M33A

# OFFICIAL NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF RIVERLAND ENERGY COOPERATIVE

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the members of Riverland Energy Cooperative will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at the Arcadia High School in the City of Arcadia, Wisconsin. Breakfast and registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. The business meeting will be called to order at 10:00 a.m.

## Agenda

1. Report on Registration
2. Approval of the 2023 Annual Meeting minutes
3. Reports of the officers and directors
4. Any old or new business to be brought before the membership
5. Adjourn

Dennis Frame, Secretary

## ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- Call to Order, Bea Zingsheim, President
- Pledge of Allegiance, Bea Zingsheim
- Introduction of past directors and guests, Bea Zingsheim
- Notice of Meeting and Due Proof of Mailing, Board Secretary Dennis Frame
- Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes, Attorney Niles Berman
- Guest Speaker, Dairyland Power Cooperative CEO, Brent Ridge
- CEO Report, Riverland Energy CEO, Tim Holtan
- New Business, Niles Berman
- Adjourn, Niles Berman
- Scholarship drawings
- Door prize drawings



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Board President, Bea Zingsheim**

Like any good cooperative, Riverland Energy is governed by members who strive to make good decisions on behalf of the membership. As your board president, I am proud to share the accomplishments made by your cooperative in 2023.

Tim Holtan started May 1 as the new CEO, transitioning from interim CEO. We had an agenda to complete a strategic plan, cost-of-service study, and a four-year workplan.

The board of directors along with the management team participated in a two-day strategic planning session to develop strategic goals for the co-op. These goals will help guide our efforts to ensure we are well-positioned for continued success in the future. The following goals were identified by the board as the top priorities for the cooperative and will help guide the decision-making of the management team:

- Improving safety culture
- Ensuring financial stability through equity management
- Maximizing value to our members through modern communications, education, and outreach
- Attract, retain, and develop an optimal workforce
- Support members in achieving their distributed generation goals

We look forward to implementing the next steps related to all action items within our strategic plan, as they all contribute to our purpose of assuring we provide our members with safe, reliable, affordable electricity.

The co-op completed a cost-of-service (COS) study that looks at our costs to serve each rate class and cost components within rate classes. The COS study helps to ensure we have sufficient revenue to keep the

cooperative financially stable while maintaining fair rates. The study indicated a need to modify our rate structure to ensure fairness to all members and should be considered for implementation in 2024.

The four-year workplan was completed with the focus again on safe, reliable, affordable electricity. Areas were identified to reduce costs through technology and efficiency while maintaining system integrity. The plan included major and minor upgrades throughout the system, including the construction of the new

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In the last decade the cooperative has returned more than \$9 million in capital credits and will continue to do so when the cooperative's financial position allows.

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Tamarack substation, which was completed in 2023. We also started preparing property by Ettrick for a future substation and upgraded or rebuilt single-phase lines to three-phase lines, completed transformer and meter replacements, service upgrades, pole change-outs, and added 404 new services.

The board also approved the return of \$1,045,043 in capital credits to members in October 2023. In the last decade the cooperative has returned more than \$9 million in capital credits and will continue to do so when the cooperative's financial position allows.

I would personally like to thank my fellow board members and the employees of Riverland Energy for a successful year and their dedication to moving the co-op into the future. We look forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting on March 23.



# CEO MESSAGE

**CEO, Tim Holtan**

It has been a pleasure to serve as your CEO this year. As we are approaching the cooperative's annual meeting, I am eager to share our vision and plans, with the primary focus on ensuring fairness to all our valued members.

Making decisions on rates is a balancing act between meeting revenue needs and cost recovery, with an objective of fairness to all our members. Rates are complicated, but I would like to briefly discuss the cost breakdowns and key rate drivers.

Approximately 60 percent of your electric dollar goes toward the cost of the generation and transmission system required to deliver wholesale purchased power. The largest component of the remaining 40 percent of your electric dollar goes toward the costs of constructing and maintaining REC's distribution system. Many of these items are currently affected by inflation, as well as supply and demand. Material and equipment to build and maintain Riverland Energy's infrastructure has seen an average increase of 40% over the last three years. This means building one mile of power line costs 20 percent more than it did a year ago. Electric cooperatives typically have a less dense user base to spread costs across. Our density factor is just under six members per mile compared to Investor-owned utilities with an average of 35 and municipal utilities over 40. Utilities must fully recover the costs of the system.

To help ensure we remain fair to all members, Riverland conducted a cost-of-service study in 2023. As a result of this study, it was determined that a 2.5% increase in revenue was needed for 2024 along with modifying some rate structures.

In response to this, members will see a shift in our residential rate structure. The co-op will also have new residential rate options that will provide our members with a choice and allow them to better manage their energy usage. All other rate structures will remain the same with an average 2.5% increase.

Residential members will see a slight decrease in the kilowatt-hour energy charge offset by an increase in the monthly service charge and a newly implemented demand charge. On average, the typical residential bill should remain largely the same, plus 2.5 percent.

Under our current residential rate structure, we bundle the energy and the demand into one energy rate. But the industry and many utilities are beginning to see a need to move to a three-part bill, with a demand charge, energy usage charge, and a base service charge.

In the past, our only option was to simply bill metered kWh usage on residential services. With affordable technology today to capture demand, it makes sense to unbundle demand and make sure everyone pays their fair share, removing subsidies among ratepayers. This gives members the opportunity to control their usage. Unbundling charges for demand ensures a more equitable distribution of costs, particularly for those members who consume large amounts of electricity at specific times.

Members will also see a change to our optional Time-of-Use (TOU) rate structure for small single-phase rates. Our time-of-use rate structure charges for energy depending on the time of day the energy is used.

Members can work to control their electric bill if they choose to do so by being cognizant of their usage. To learn more about all rate structures and changes, along with optional rates and information to help reduce your electric bills, please visit our website at [riverlandenergy.com](http://riverlandenergy.com), or give us a call at 800-411-9115.

I think it's also important to point out that the board of directors that determines rates also pays the same rates for their own homes and businesses. Together, the Board and I will continue to do our best to maintain our steadfast commitment to you to provide safe, reliable and affordable power.

Thank you for your continued support.



# 2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, March 25, 2023

President Paudler called the Riverland Energy Annual Meeting to order at 10:14 a.m. After welcoming members to the meeting, Paudler led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Paudler then asked that veterans stand and be recognized. He then asked all the past directors of the cooperative to stand and be recognized.

President Paudler then introduced the cooperative's attorney, Jessica Shrestha, and asked her to chair the meeting. Jessica reviewed the annual meeting rules and voting procedures adopted by the District Committee. Jessica introduced Dennis Frame, Secretary/Treasurer of the board. Director Frame reported that at this time there are 230 members registered at the meeting and announced that a quorum was present. Frame then turned the meeting over to Jessica.

Attorney Jessica Shrestha asked for corrections to the minutes from the 2022 annual meeting and asked for a motion to approve as mailed or corrected. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes. There was a motion and second and the minutes were approved as printed.

Jessica then introduced the proposed Bylaw change as published in the annual report. The Bylaws were proposed to be amended to change the title of the general manager position to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Jessica asked if there were any objections to the Bylaw changes. There was a motion and second to amend the Bylaw as presented. Jessica asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none the vote was held, and the Bylaw amendment was passed unanimously.

Jessica discussed that Districts 1, 6 and 7 are up for election in 2023. If you live in one of those districts and have not yet voted, you can do so today. Jessica introduced the director candidates: District 1 – Brad Schmidtkecht; District 6 – Daniel Beck and Steve Hogden; and District 7 – Gary Dvoracek. The two candidates for District 6 were given a few minutes to discuss their desires for the position. Jessica went through the unopposed elections and asked the members from each district to hold up their voting cards to indicate their vote for or against each candidate. Both Brad and Gary were elected by unanimous consent. Jessica then explained that there are tellers selected for counting votes. She indicated that the electronic and mail-in votes have already been tabulated. However, the tellers still need to count today's ballots. The tellers selected were Nancy Filla, Susan Frame, Dee Neitzel, and Sue Schultz. She asked that the tellers go out and count the ballots and bring the results of the election back to her when finished.

Jessica introduced the interim general manager of Riverland Energy Cooperative, Tim Holtan. Tim gave a brief introduction

of his experiences with Riverland Energy. Tim then went through the employees that have retired in the past year. Tim indicated that today's message is focused on safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Tim introduced the guest speaker, Brent Ridge, Dairyland Power Cooperative CEO, who talked about reliable electricity. Brent welcomed the members in attendance. Brent then thanked Dave Anderson for his time and leadership on the Dairyland Power board. Brent then explained what goes into producing reliable power within the Dairyland system.

Interim manager Holtan provided a manager's report including:

- Asked the members to pay attention to what is happening with power reliability.
- Safety is the number one mission of Riverland Energy Cooperative and the cooperative does a number of safety demonstrations.
- To maintain reliability the cooperative invested \$6.4 million in equipment and infrastructure.
- Affordability is a challenge. Costs for equipment and supplies have been increasing at a rapid rate, which affects the cost of power. The cost of power from Dairyland Power has increased 6.64% this year. In addition to the increase in the cost of power, there can be increases and/or decreases through power cost adjustments. This year Riverland will adopt the Dairyland Power increase and pass it through to our members.

Tim then asked if there were any questions.

President Paudler presented David Anderson and Fran Fedie, retiring board members, with plaques showing our appreciation. President Paudler thanked the entire board for working together to support Riverland Energy Cooperative. Interim manager Holtan then turned the meeting back to Jessica. Jessica called on the tellers for the results of the election: Candidate Steven Hogden received 210 votes and Candidate Daniel Beck received 105 votes. Jessica indicated that unless someone requests it, the ballots will be destroyed.

Jessica called on President Paudler for some closing comments. President Paudler thanked everyone for coming. Jessica announced there was no unfinished business from the 2022 meeting and asked for new business for this meeting. Hearing none, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the business meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dennis Frame, Recording Secretary

# 2024 DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, February 17, 2024

The 2024 District Committee Meeting was held at the Arcadia High School in Arcadia, Wisconsin, on Saturday February 17, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m. by President Bea Zingsheim, who asked if there were objections to her serving as chairperson and Dennis Frame serving as secretary for the meeting. There were no objections. President Zingsheim asked for all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, then recognized retired and active military and introduced the board of directors. Zingsheim turned the meeting over to CEO Holtan, who welcomed everyone attending the meeting and introduced staff at the meeting. He reviewed the responsibilities of the District Committee members and per diem and mileage and explained the Yes or No ballot. CEO Holtan turned the meeting over to Kristina Marsolek to present the financial report including: the income statement, balance sheet, and key ratios. Marsolek reviewed the revenue sources, types of expenses, and the impact on rates.

Marsolek turned the meeting over to the Operations Manager Rob Sosalla who reported on the impact that inflation had on budget (43% increase in the past three years). He then reviewed the 2023 accomplishments including reviewing the capital projects, maintenance projects, and challenges facing the workers. Rob turned the meeting over to Scott Hayes, energy services manager, who reported on demand response and load management. Demand response is a way to encourage member to change demand peaks to times of lower demand. He discussed the load management modernization project and load control events. The group took a five minute break.

CEO Holtan's report included the office remodel in Arcadia, and then went through the changes to the rate structure. The goal is fair rates for all members. Holtan ran through several scenarios showing the current rate verses the new rate with demand factored into the bill. CEO Holtan introduced Jeremy Browning, the vice president of generation at Dairyland Power Cooperative. Jeremy discussed: safety, big picture of Dairyland Power, government oversight and markets, power supply challenges, generation-decarbonation, market volatility, maintaining capacity, and transmission/congestion. CEO Holtan thanked Jeremy for his presentation and then opened for questions. There were a number of questions from the audience and there was good discussion.

CEO Holtan turned the meeting back to President Zingsheim who went through the proposed Bylaw changes:

## *Article III – Directors SECTION 3. TENURE AND QUALIFICATION*

*(3) Tenure: Commencing with 2009, directors shall be elected for four-year terms, with one-third(1/3) of the directors representing three different director districts being so elected each year, provided, however, that no regular election shall be held in 2012 or in every fourth year thereafter. Each director so elected shall serve until the annual meeting when his or her term expires, or until his or her successor is elected and qualified, subject to the provisions of these Bylaws with respect to the removal of directors. A director who has been elected to serve four or more terms, whether those are full or partial terms and whether they are consecutive or not, shall be ineligible for re-election or appointment to any further term on the Board.*

President Zingsheim then opened the meeting for discussion. She asked for a motion and a second to approve the Bylaw change. President Zingsheim received a motion to move the question. The motion was voted on by voice vote and the Bylaw amendment failed. Zingsheim then reviewed the rules for conducting the annual meeting, after which a motion was made and second to approve the rules for the annual meeting which was approved.

Director Paudler came on stage to discuss the Political Action Committee (PAC) funding and requested that members consider supporting the Wisconsin Electric PAC. President Zingsheim thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reminded all attendees of the per diem and mileage. Meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dennis Frame, Recording Secretary



# 2024 DAIRYLAND POWER COO

## Dairyland Director, Dennis Frame

The safe, reliable, and cost-competitive delivery of electricity to all members when and where they need it is a complex process. Riverland Energy Cooperative is one of 24 distribution cooperative members of Dairyland Power Cooperative (La Crosse, Wis.). As Riverland Energy's director representative to Dairyland, I am pleased to recap some 2023 highlights.

Dairyland's generation portfolio is a mix of renewables (solar, wind, hydro, biomass) and always-available baseload generation resources, such as natural gas and coal. Dairyland prioritizes projects that will strengthen reliability, reduce carbon emissions, and support more renewable generation. Since 2014, Dairyland has retired 579 megawatts (MW) of coal and is exploring the viability of emerging technologies, including pumped storage hydro, small modular nuclear reactors, and long-duration battery storage.

The Nemadji Trail Energy Center (NTEC) is a proposed 625 MW combined-cycle natural gas plant in Superior, Wis., planned in partnership with Minnesota Power and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. It is a critical-capacity resource that will provide reliable power on-demand, in any weather. In December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) issued its second Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for NTEC. Construction is planned to begin in 2024, with operation by 2028.

There are 161 renewable generation projects dependent upon the completion of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line between Dubuque County, Iowa, and Middleton, Wis. (up from 115

projects last year). Dairyland, ATC, and ITC Midwest are co-owners of the project. Last December, the eastern half of the 102-mile line was energized with the remainder of the project expected to be in service later this year.

Last year, Dairyland won a competitive bid from the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) to develop, own, and operate a 345 kV line from the Mississippi River near Alma, Wis., to the Tremval substation (Blair, Wis.). The Alma-Blair Transmission Project will foster the delivery of renewable energy and strengthen regional reliability.

These projects are critical pieces for a lower-carbon future; however, power plants and transmission lines cannot be constructed overnight. When permitting red tape delays timelines—jeopardizing electric reliability, stalling progress on the clean energy transition, and increasing costs—we advocate on our members' behalf both at the state and federal levels.

Dairyland's John P. Madgett (JPM) Station (Alma, Wis.)



*Photo courtesy of Dairyland Power Cooperative*



# PERATIVE REPORT

underwent a 10-week outage in Spring 2023 when employees and more than 200 business partners completed a turbine overall and precipitator upgrade. The precipitator collects fly ash, which reduces emissions, and is sold as an additive to cement and concrete applications. The precipitator upgrade resulted in twice as much fly ash being collected.

JPM is critical to regional reliability and financially beneficial to members. The value of always-available baseload generation was demonstrated during an August heat wave when temperatures, humidity, and electricity demand were high, and wind resources were low. The Dairyland system set an all-time peak load of 1,177.5 MW on Aug. 23.

## Growth & Grants

Dairyland's Economic Development team works with member cooperatives to support innovation and load growth through business and community development opportunities. In 2023, the Dairyland system had 28 new projects, totaling 15 MW, and secured more than \$4 million in economic development funding.

Additionally, Dairyland was awarded more than \$20 million in grant funding to support middle-mile infrastructure, a microgrid project, and long-duration energy storage project.

## Financial Strength

Dairyland takes a balanced and measured approach to its financial and competitive strength. The cooperative has earned credit ratings of "A3" with a stable outlook from Moody's Investors Service and A+ with a stable outlook from Standard and Poor's (S&P).

Regionally, Dairyland's wholesale electricity rates are among the lowest. The 2024 budget was approved with a 1 percent average wholesale rate reduction for Dairyland's member cooperatives across all 24 member cooperatives. In 2023, Dairyland returned \$11.9 million

in power cost and revenue volatility adjustments, and \$5.1 million in capital credits. Riverland Energy was able to return just over \$1 million in capital credit to its members.

## Community

In 2023, Dairyland focused Cooperative Contributions toward its member cooperatives by donating up to \$1,000 to an organization of their choice in each of the 24 members' service territories. Riverland Energy worked with Dairyland to donate \$1,000 to Onalaska's

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Riverland Energy worked with Dairyland to donate \$1,000 to Onalaska's All-Inclusive Playground, which will benefit children of all abilities, but more critically for children with disabilities or illnesses.

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All-Inclusive Playground, which will benefit children of all abilities, but more critically for children with disabilities or illnesses. Dairyland also coordinated a Day of Service event in October where more than 120 volunteers participated in six community service projects throughout Dairyland's service territory.

Just like directors are elected from our membership to govern Riverland Energy Cooperative, the same applies to Dairyland's Board of Directors. I've had the privilege of being a director of Riverland Energy Cooperative for seven years and have been proud to serve as your representative on the Dairyland Board this past year.

Dennis Frame,

Dairyland Power Cooperative Director

# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

**JANUARY** The co-op added the line item “demand charge” on electric bills with a zero charge.



**MARCH** The members elected two new members of the board of directors, Brad Schmidknecht from Mondovi in District one and Steve Hogden from Galesville in District six. Both were elected to fill vacancies left by outgoing directors Fran Fedie and David Anderson.



Brad Schmidknecht

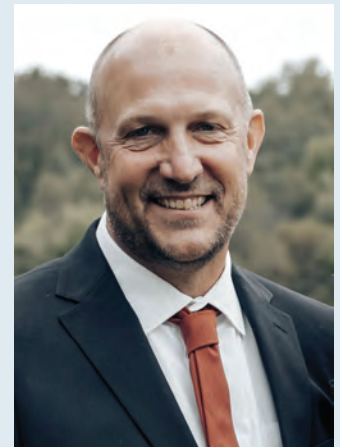


Steve Hogden

**APRIL** Spring storm slammed our area, dumping over a foot of heavy, wet snow and leaving 1,000 members without power on April 16. Crews worked through the night restoring power and received assistance from Dunn Energy Cooperative, Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative, Oakdale Electric Cooperative and St. Croix Electric Cooperative.



**MAY** Tim Holtan was announced as Riverland Energy Cooperative’s new CEO, effective May 1. Tim has been with the cooperative since 1988 and was operations manager prior to being named as CEO.



**JUNE** Members brought 6.5 semi loads of appliances and electronics to be recycled at our annual recycle drive held June 6-8.



**JULY** Four youth ambassadors attended the Youth Leadership Congress at UW-Stout July 11-13. Adysen Slusser and Josie Alesch of Holmen, and Claire Goeldner and Roland Goeldner of Alma attended the conference.



## AUGUST

Riverland Energy won an award for presentation of local news in the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine.



Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News Editor Dana Kelroy (left) and Riverland Energy's Manager of Communication Beth Alesch.

## Prepaid Billing puts you in control of your electric bill



You purchase electricity before you use it. Payments can be made when and how you want – online, in person, or through our IVR. When your account runs low, you will get an alert.

Prepaid Billing allows you to control your budget well beyond what you can with monthly billing. Because you pay in advance on prepaid billing, you control how much you use and spend BEFORE you get billed for it. Keeping an eye on your account in SmartHub helps you recognize how you use electricity and when you need to cut back to stay on budget. More information can be found on our website.



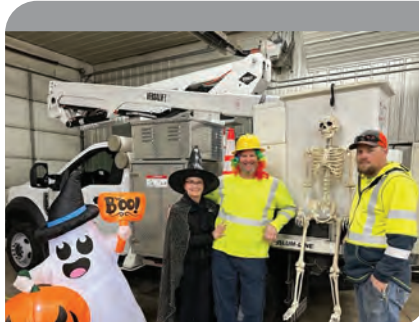
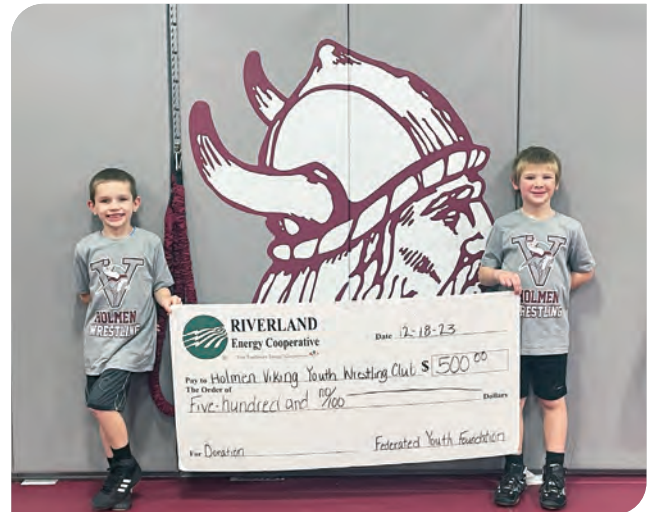
## Delivering for our Community

Riverland Energy continued its longstanding tradition of helping local communities through its support of local businesses, schools, food pantries, and more. We gave away over \$12,000 in donations in 2023.

REC offers electrical safety training for students of all ages. We provided safety demonstrations to over 2,500 students in 2023.

REC loaded up 6.5 semi-loads of appliances and electronics to be recycled during our recycle drive in June.

REC participated in local parades, career fairs, and other local events in support of the communities we serve.



# Riverland Energy Community Cares 2023

## THE POWER OF CHANGE

Riverland Energy Cooperative does more than provide power to its members; we give back to our community. Hundreds of Riverland Energy members have opened up their hearts and joined our Community Cares program. Members who participate choose to round their monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar amount, and the spare change is distributed to non-profit organizations in our communities.

The average contribution for members is around \$6 per year, and every penny goes to 501(c)(3) organizations and community projects in our service territory.

### BY THE NUMBERS

Annually the number of participants in Community Cares has increased slightly. In 2022, we saw the number reach the 1,000 mark, at 1,075 accounts participating. In 2023, that number grew to 1,184.

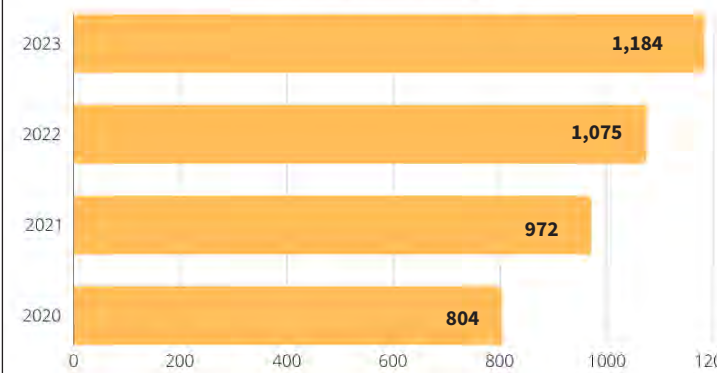


*Spare change for community needs.*

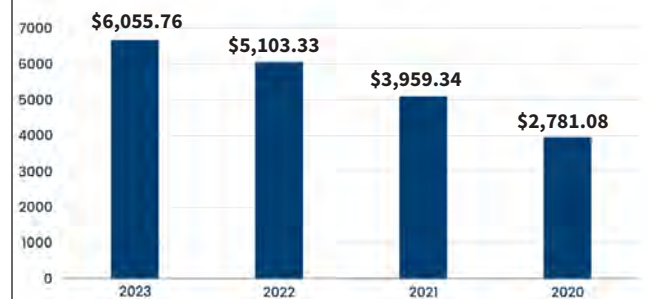
### 2023 BENEFICIARIES

Arcadia Youth Association	\$518.50
Area Community Food Pantry	\$1,000.00
Boy Scouts of America – Gateway Area Council	\$581.50
Coulee Cap	\$500.00
Eleva-Strum Community Support	\$500.00
Elk Creek Lutheran – Community classes	\$518.50
Feed my People Food Bank	\$500.00
Friendship First Foundation/Blair Comm. Center	\$581.50
G-E-T Food Pantry	\$518.50
LifeLink Critical Care Services	\$500.00
Pigeon Falls Lions Club	\$500.00
Safe Families for Children – Wisconsin	\$500.00
Town of Buffalo Baseball Field	\$500.00
	<hr/>
	\$7,092.50

### Annual Member Opt-In



### ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS



# Balance Sheet

## ASSETS:

### UTILITY PLANT, at cost

Electric Plant in Service	\$152,073,389	\$142,514,760
Construction Work in Progress	1,340,077	2,577,766
Total Utility Plant	\$153,413,466	\$145,092,527
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(54,969,592)	(50,388,137)

### NET UTILITY PLANT

\$98,443,874      \$94,704,390

### INVESTMENTS, at cost

Investments in Associated Org.	\$20,912,908	\$19,929,620
Investments in Economic Dev.	2,665,724	2,683,437
Other Investments	3,626	3,626
Total	\$23,582,257	\$22,616,683

### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,208,793	\$896,728
Notes Receivable – net	72,827	50,631
Accounts Receivable – net	4,557,064	4,465,954
Materials and Supplies	1,576,813	1,577,710
Other Current Assets	120,608	109,145
Total	\$7,536,105	\$7,100,167

### DEFERRED DEBITS

\$749,156      \$897,338

### TOTAL ASSETS

\$130,311,392      \$125,318,578

## EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES:

### EQUITIES

Patronage Capital	\$42,040,034	\$41,237,503
Operating Margins – Current year	1,842,948	613,000
Non-Operating Margins	2,061,005	1,510,435
Other Margins and Equities	8,378,560	8,002,119
Total	\$54,322,547	\$51,363,058

### LONG-TERM DEBT

\$70,580,369      \$67,107,488

### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Notes Payable	\$850,000	\$2,355,000.00
Accounts Payable	2,639,013	2,608,567
Consumer Deposits	221,051	224,586
Other Accrued Liabilities	1,541,758	1,583,928
Total	\$5,251,821	\$6,772,081

### DEFERRED CREDITS

\$156,655      \$75,952

### TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES

\$130,311,392      \$125,318,578



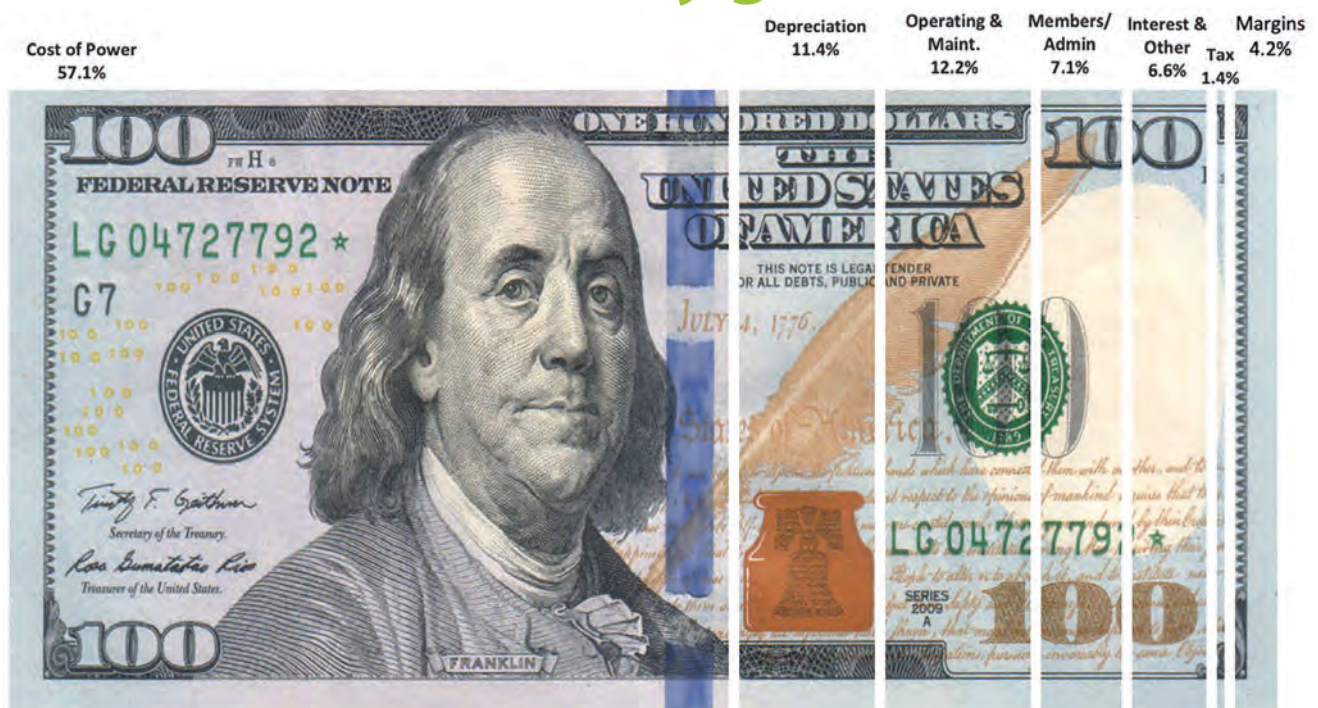
# Income Statement

	2023	2022
<b>OPERATING REVENUES:</b>	<u>\$43,747,544</u>	<u>\$41,196,108</u>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>		
Cost of Providing Services	\$24,969,060	\$24,833,173
Distribution – Operations	2,071,811	1,983,434
Distribution – Maintenance	3,281,323	2,988,694
Consumer Accounts	391,457	367,537
Consumer Services & Information	772,095	698,210
Administrative & General	1,946,056	1,791,608
Depreciation	4,987,145	4,747,483
Taxes	600,262	533,751
Other Deductions	11,247	10,430
Total	<u>\$39,030,457</u>	<u>\$37,954,320</u>
<b>OPERATING MARGINS BEFORE FIXED CHARGES:</b>	\$4,717,087	\$3,241,788
<b>FIXED CHARGES:</b>		
Interest on Long-term Liabilities	\$2,758,758	\$2,594,723
Other Interest	\$115,395	\$33,349
Total	<u>\$2,874,153</u>	<u>\$2,628,071</u>
<b>OPERATING MARGINS AFTER FIXED CHARGES:</b>	\$1,842,934	\$613,716
<b>G&amp;T AND OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS:</b>	\$1,917,934	\$1,293,365
<b>NET OPERATING MARGINS</b>	<u>\$3,760,868</u>	<u>\$1,907,081</u>
<b>NON OPERATING MARGINS</b>		
Interest Income	\$64,232	\$144,047
Other Non Operating Margins	\$78,854	\$73,024
Total	<u>\$143,085</u>	<u>\$217,070</u>
Margins before income taxes	\$3,903,953	\$2,124,152
Income taxes	0	0
<b>NET MARGINS FOR PERIOD</b>	<u><b>\$3,903,953</b></u>	<u><b>\$2,124,152</b></u>

## Financial Data & Growth Comparison

	2004	2024	% Change
Total Utility Plant	\$60,455,437	\$153,413,466	154%
Investment per Consumer	\$3,944	\$7,877	100%
Average Residential Bill	\$107.31	\$158.69	48%
Total Margins	\$4,786,751	\$3,902,625	-18%
Total Revenue	\$21,463,400	\$43,746,228	104%
Cost of Purchased Power	\$11,948,958	\$24,969,060	109%
Cost of Power as % of Revenue	55.7%	57.1%	3%
Equity Ratio (Equity/Total Assets)	43.4%	41.1%	-5%
Full-Time Employees	45	43	-4%
Average Number of Services	15,328	19,475	27%
Total Miles of Line	3124	3488	12%
Consumer per Mile of Line	4.91	5.58	14%
kWH Sold	236,223,154	301,774,209	28%
Line Loss	5.2%	3.9%	-25%

## Where did the money go?



**16,795**  
Members

# Riverland Energy Cooperative

**\$6,733**

Collected for Community  
Cares Donations  
(Rounding up your bill)

**60%**

Purchased Power  
Portion of  
Total Expenses

Over  
**\$12,000**

Donated to Members Through  
Riverland Programs

**20,376**

Services

**2,011**

Miles of  
Overhead Line

**22,916 Meters**

**1,477**

Miles of  
Underground Line

Average Residential  
Use

**1,061**

Average Residential  
Bill

**\$162.70**

Services per Mile  
of Line

**5.58**

**3.9%**

Line Loss

**\$34,250**

Given in  
Scholarships

kWh Purchased  
**313,681,441**

kWh Sold  
**301,774,209**

**43**

Full-Time  
Employees  
Working in:  
Alma, Arcadia,  
& Holmen

Percent of Assets  
owned by Members

**41%**

**\$1,244,601**

Retired in Capital Credits



## Youth Ambassador Program



Twenty-one high school students took part in Riverland Energy's Youth Ambassador Program during the 2022-2023 school year. The high school juniors toured the JPM power plant, participated in a leadership workshop, attended the Youth Leadership Conference, and learned about cooperatives, careers, and the electric industry.

### 2022-2023 Youth Ambassadors

#### Alma High School

Cainnin Mann  
Keegan Stiehl  
Zoey Danzinger  
Madox Stewart

#### Aquinas High School

Walter Berns

#### Arcadia High School

Samantha Berg  
Gerardo Ceballos-Lopez  
Brianna Ruiz

#### Gilmanton High School

Whitney Ottum  
Alyson Turner  
Colton Fedie  
Grady Meier

#### Holmen High School

Josie Alesch  
Rayna McCardle

#### Independence High School

Gracie Rombalski

#### Mondovi High School

Peyton Snyder

#### Rural Virtual Academy

Roland Goeldner  
Claire Goeldner

#### Whitehall High School

Sophia Skoyen  
Vivian Kulig



# Riverland Energy Employees

## Tim Holtan, CEO

Josh Abramczak, Line Superintendent  
Beth Alesch, Mgr. of Communications & Member Services  
Todd Anibas, Lineman  
Brody Back, Lineman  
Jenny Curran, Lead Meter Technician  
Sue Christ, Member Services  
Brandon Foss, Meter Technician  
Brian Glass, Lineman  
Carrie Goldbeck, Member Accounts Rep/Billing  
Hayden Gran, Lineman  
Scott Hayes, Manager of Energy Services  
Kevin Helgeson, Line Foreman  
Tammy Hilmanowski, Accounting/Payroll  
Todd Hong, Assistant Line Superintendent  
Jim Huffman, Manager of Information Technology  
Trey Johnson, Mapping & Engineering Rep.  
Wyatt Johnson, Apprentice Lineman  
Nick Koval, Lineman  
Brandon Lee, Lineman  
Jordan Lien, Manager of HR/Executive Assistant  
Jake Limberg, Apprentice Lineman

Dale Kircher, Line Foreman  
Royce Kosik, Lineman  
Jeff Kulig, Meter Technician  
Tammy Madden, Member Accounts Rep/Billing  
Marc Mades, Lineman  
Dillon Marten, Lineman  
Kristina Marsolek, Manager of Finance  
Barb Mathson, Accountant  
Bill Mason, Assistant Line Superintendent  
Sarah Ott, Member Services Rep.  
Brett Palmer, Lineman  
Zachary Pax, Help Desk Technician  
Adam Pronschinske, Lineman  
Ted Ravnum, Mechanic  
Adam Siebenaler, Lineman  
Sharon Sluga, Operations Coordinator  
Rob Sosalla, Manager of Operations  
Dean Sonsalla, Inventory and Facilities Coordinator  
Chase Stello, Lineman  
Mitchell Thompson, Apprentice Lineman  
Tyler Vitse, Line Foreman




## Tim Holtan, CEO

608-323-3381 • 1-800-411-9115 • [www.riverlandenergy.com](http://www.riverlandenergy.com)

## Beth Alesch, Editor



**Riverland Energy  
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

### Arcadia Office

N28988 State Road 93,  
P.O. Box 277,  
Arcadia, WI 54612

### Holmen Office

1800 Granary St.  
Holmen, WI 54636

### Outages & Emergencies

Call 1-800-927-6206  
24 hours a day

### Office Hours

Arcadia: 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.  
Holmen: 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

### Officers of the Board of Directors:

Bea Zingsheim, Onalaska, President  
Dan Filla, Arcadia, Vice-President  
Dennis Frame, Osseo,  
Secretary/Treasurer



## 2023 Scholarship Recipients

Katrina Heller, Alma	Kyla Christnovich, Holmen
Emma Myren, Alma	Carter Gault, Holmen
Connor Weltzien, Arcadia	Riley Olson, Holmen
Tristan Lyga, Arcadia	Jocelyn Perry, Independence
Abby Thompson, Blair-Taylor	Benjamin Pyka, Independence
Andrew Bissen, C-FC	Jake Accola, Mondovi
Egan Knecht, C-FC	Ryan Feuling, Mondovi
Hale Madsen, C-FC	Emily Nelson, Mondovi
Shane Prissel, Durand	McKenna Murphy, Onalaska
Cora Gehrke, Eleva-Strum	Abigail Rudrud, Onalaska
Jodran Moen, Eleva-Strum	Emilee Bauer, Osseo-Fairchild
Shayna Kirkey, G-E-T	Delaney Lyngen, Osseo-Fairchild
Caydence Kokott, G-E-T	Zoey George, Whitehall
William Mack, G-E-T	Shay Hanson, Whitehall
Hunter Guenther, Gilmanton	Chase Ernst, At-Large, Luther
Carter Lessman, Gilmanton	Grace Johnson, At-Large, Eau Claire North

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## *Our Mission*

To provide safe, reliable, innovative and affordable energy and related services.

## *Vision Statement*

Riverland Energy Cooperative shall be a trusted provider of reliable electric service, superior customer service, innovative energy solutions, and a respected business partner in the communities we serve.