

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

March 2021

**Riverland Energy Cooperative
ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, March 27, 2021

Registration Opens – 9:30 a.m.

Business Meeting – 10:15

Bring in the slip below for registration.



**Riverland Energy
Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

NOTICE

2021 Annual Membership Meeting of Riverland Energy Cooperative on Saturday, March 27, 2021

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the members of Riverland Energy Cooperative will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2021, at the Arcadia High School in the City of Arcadia, Wisconsin. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. The business meeting will be called to order at 10:15 a.m.

Agenda

1. Approval of the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes
2. Reports of the officers and directors
3. Proposed Article and Bylaw changes set forth as a part of this Notice
4. Election of three directors:
 - District #2 for a term of one year
 - District #3 for a term of four years
 - District #4 for a term of four years
 - District #8 for a term of four years
5. Any old or new business to be brought before the membership
6. Adjourn

Dennis Frame, Secretary

2021 ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

9:30 a.m. Registration
10:15 a.m. Meeting

ARCADIA HIGH SCHOOL
GYMNASIUM
756 RAIDER DRIVE

**Business Meeting
Director Elections
Boxed Lunch To Go**

- No pancake breakfast
- No scholarship drawings
- No door prize drawings
- No kids' activities
- No booths or displays
- Chairs will be spaced apart
- Please wear a mask

THIS IS YOUR ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

Cut out and bring with you to the annual meeting!

ANNUAL REPORT

PROGRAM

Saturday, March 27, 2021

Arcadia High School, Arcadia, WI

9:30 a.m.

- Registration Opens

10:15 a.m.

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation
- Notice of Meeting
- Due Proof of Mailing
- Announcement of Quorum
- Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Review and Action of Proposed Article and Bylaw Changes
- Manager's Report
- Financial Report
- Election Results
- New Business
- Adjourn

RIVERLAND ENERGY COOPERATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



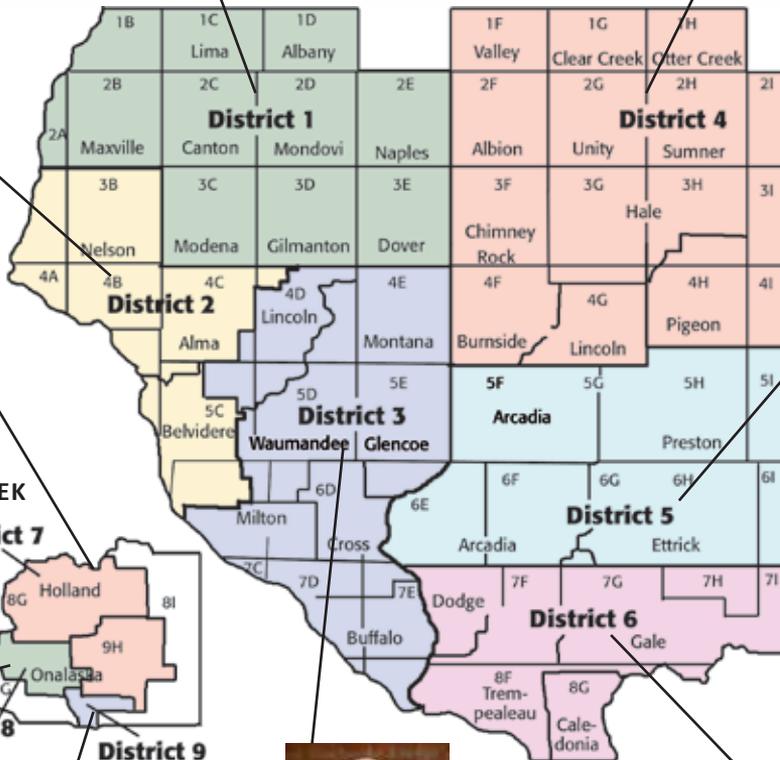
DISTRICT 1
FRAN FEDIE



DISTRICT 4
DENNIS FRAME
Secretary/Treasurer



DISTRICT 2
BRYCE LISOWSKI



DISTRICT 7
GARY DVORACEK



DISTRICT 5
DAN FILLA
Vice President



DISTRICT 8
DAVID PAUDLER
President



DISTRICT 9
BEA ZINGSHEIM



DISTRICT 3
DAVID ERNST



DISTRICT 6
DAVID ANDERSON

General Manager's Report

Jerry Sorenson



I would like to invite you all to attend our annual meeting on Saturday, March 27. Due to the current health crisis, we have scaled back our meeting to just the business meeting. This will include cooperative reports, director elections, and proposed bylaw amendments. Unfortunately, we will not be having any door prize drawings, scholarship drawings, or serving a pancake breakfast. We will instead have a boxed lunch for you to take at the door and a gift for attending. We ask that you adhere to the current mandates and wear a mask and social distance if you plan to attend. The meeting will also be livestreamed through YouTube, found on our website at www.riverlandenergy.com, if you are unable to attend.

Preparing our co-op for the next decade of service

No one expected we would begin the 2020s the way we did—facing a new challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic. Riverland worked quickly to make the necessary adjustments to co-op operations to ensure continued reliability for our members, and as we look toward the future there remains a lot to be optimistic about.

Over the past several years, the cooperative has put significant resources toward planning for the future. This has been done through both large and small-scale projects to improve the reliability of electric service across the region. The process has included brush control efforts and modernizing co-op equipment to better meet the needs of modern power distribution.

Additionally, the cooperative constantly evaluates not just what members' needs are today but what they will look like far into the future. We are in a strong position for the future because of the amount of time we invest in thinking about what comes next. From rebate programs to line construction, everything is evaluated with a vision for long-term solutions.

Despite our forward-thinking mentality, the Board of Directors and Riverland staff know that not everything can be predicted. In the first quarter of 2020, we had to quickly craft a strategy to address rising COVID-19 concerns that focused on protecting the well-being of members and employees alike while also providing relief to those impacted by the outbreak. The fact that Riverland Energy is a community-led organization means that we can quickly and effectively address issues as they arise, as was the case with our COVID-19 response. An early return of capital credits and a temporary suspension of disconnects and late fees helped ease the financial burden of coronavirus-related stay-at-home orders on our membership. The focus on future needs that began long before the pandemic remains a guiding light for the co-op's strategic planning.

Safety

Our safety performance was excellent this year. I'm happy to report that the cooperative achieved no time loss by remaining accident free during 2020. While we strive to prevent or avoid any incidents, this laudable performance was accomplished through training, awareness, and collaboration among employees. We address potential issues and take advantage of opportunities to prevent accidents before they happen.

Reliability

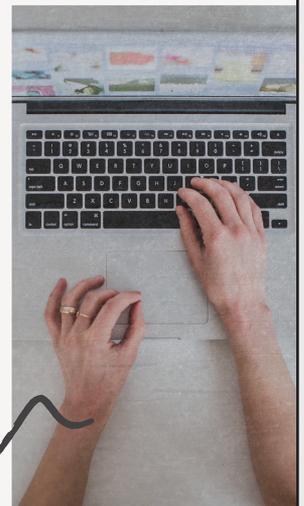
Reliability has always been one of the co-op's strategic goals. Riverland Energy is continually improving its distribution system by aggressively maintaining right-of-way and other maintenance programs. Our outage time per member was 1.29 hours per member for the whole year. We are proud that our outage time remains among the lowest of all electric cooperatives nationwide. This is due to proper planning and commitment from directors and employees to implement a plan that will result in reduced outages and a quicker response to outages.

We are proud of our accomplishments in 2020 and are optimistic about our future. Despite our present challenge, the opportunity to continue improving and expanding our service shines through brighter than ever before.

Watch the Annual Meeting virtually

Don't want to come in person to the Annual Meeting? Watch it from your home with your computer or electronic device!

1. Go to our website at www.riverlandenergy.com.
2. Click on the orange Annual Meeting button at the upper right of the page.
3. Click on the YouTube Livestream Link.



President's Message

David Paudler



Riverland Energy Cooperative is different from investor-owned utilities. Our business model sets us apart because we follow seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect the core values of honesty, equity, and service to the greater good of the community. As we begin our 84th year of service, I want to share what has kept this cooperative going since 1937.

Our mission.

We exist to provide safe, reliable, innovative, and affordable energy and related services.

We do not have customers.

We have members. Cooperatives are unique businesses because they are owned by the people they serve. This gives members a voice in the way we run the cooperative. Members vote to elect the cooperative's board of directors, and can run for a seat on the board if they wish. Your vote and participation help to shape the direction of our cooperative.

We are not-for-profit.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, which are operated to make the most profits for shareholders, cooperatives do not earn profits. Instead, any margins or revenue remaining (after all expenses have been paid) are reinvested into the system and eventually allocated to members in the form of capital credits.

We are local and community focused.

Because we are owned by the members we serve, Riverland Energy Cooperative has a strong commitment to our local communities. In addition to providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy, cooperatives are involved in local community development programs and projects.

We are guided by a set of principles.

Every cooperative operates according to the same seven cooperative principles: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community. These principles guide every decision made by the cooperative.

We are committed to innovation.

Because we answer to local members rather than shareholders, cooperatives can respond quickly to changing member needs. We are committed to innovating in ways that benefit the local communities and members we serve.

Today is very different from 1937, when a group of community members started Buffalo and Trempealeau Electric Cooperatives (known today as Riverland Energy Cooperative following the merger in 1999). While times have changed, our values remain relevant today. I commit to you that our cooperative roots run deep. We are proud to be part of this community, and look forward to bringing you safe, reliable, affordable energy—now and always.

**Our lines are shaped by
you, the members we
serve.**



RIVERLAND ENERGY COOPERATIVE ADDITION TO NOTICE OF 2021 PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS TO SATISFY REQUIREMENT OF INCLUDING DESCRIPTION OF PURPOSE OF CHANGES

The District Committee and Board of Directors have reviewed the cooperative's Bylaws in continuing effort to meet the members' needs today and into the future. Based on that review, the following changes are recommended. Additions are underlined and in blue. Text in red strike through will be deleted. The amendments fall into three categories. The *first* group will allow more flexibility in conducting member meetings in the future, given recent experience when health and safety considerations have made large in-person meetings difficult. The changes are in Art. II, Sec's. 1, 4 & 5, and in Art. III, Sec's. 5 & 9, all shown below. They include extending when the annual meeting must be held, defining when members may be able to participate online, simplifying procedures in uncontested races for director, and allowing more flexibility in the manner of reporting operating results. The *second* group will limit joint memberships to joint tenant memberships with right of survivorship, eliminating the administratively more complicated option of tenancy in common. Those changes are in Art. I, Sec. 3, in Art. II, Sec. 5, and in Art. III, Sec. 3, as shown below. And the *third* group will bring additional efficiencies to the cooperative's meetings and business or add clarity and consistency to the Bylaws. Those changes are in Art. III, Sec's. 2, 3, 5 & 10, and in Art. XIII, all shown below.

ARTICLE I Membership

SECTION 3. JOINT MEMBERSHIP.

(a) Any application for membership in the Cooperative received after October 6, 1962, from any person who is married shall be deemed and become an application for membership ~~by husband and wife~~ as joint tenant members with right of survivorship unless the person making such application otherwise designates in writing.

(b) With respect to memberships issued prior to October 6, 1962, the membership of any person who on October 6, 1962, was married, or who thereafter while a member became married, shall be deemed to have become, and did become at such time, a membership ~~in husband and wife~~ as joint tenant members with right of survivorship without further action by such member, unless within 30 days after October 6, 1962, or 30 days after date of marriage, whichever date is later, the person to whom such membership was issued otherwise has designated in writing.

(c) The term "member" as used in these Bylaws shall be deemed to include a husband and wife or any persons holding a joint membership and any provisions relating to the rights and liabilities of membership shall apply equally with respect to the holders of a joint membership, including, without limitation the following:

- (1) The presence at a meeting of either or both shall be regarded as the presence of one member and shall constitute a joint waiver of notice of the meeting;
- (2) The vote of either separately or both jointly shall constitute one joint vote;
- (3) A waiver of notice signed by either or both shall constitute a joint waiver;
- (4) Notice to either shall constitute notice to both;
- (5) Expulsion of either shall terminate the joint membership;
- (6) Withdrawal of either shall terminate the joint membership;
- (7) Either but not both may be elected or appointed as an officer or Board member, provided that both meet the qualifications for such office.

(d) The records of the Cooperative shall properly show all joint memberships in the names of the joint members. By writing signed by both joint members and filed with the Cooperative any joint membership may be terminated and changed to a membership ~~in common or~~ vested solely in one of the joint members.

(e) Upon the death of either spouse, or other person, who is the party to a joint membership, such membership shall be held solely by the survivor and the records of the Cooperative shall be changed to show membership solely in the survivor; provided, however, that the estate of the deceased shall not be released from any debts due the Cooperative.

ARTICLE II Meetings of Members

SECTION 1. ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the members shall be held during the first ~~four~~ ~~seven~~ months of each year on such dates and at such time and place within or conveniently adjacent to the general service area of the Cooperative in one of the counties in which the Cooperative serves members in the State of Wisconsin, as shall be selected by the Board of Directors, which date, time and place shall be specified in the notice of the annual meeting. If the election of directors shall not be held at any such annual meeting, or at any adjournment thereof, the Board of Directors shall cause the election to be held at a special meeting of the members as soon thereafter as conveniently may be. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative. When, in the Board's judgment, it is not safe or feasible to hold a meeting of the members in person, to the extent permitted by law the Board may provide for the annual meeting to be conducted through electronic means or to allow member participation in whole or in part through electronic means.

SECTION 4. QUORUM.

The number of members to constitute a quorum at a meeting of members shall be one hundred (100). In case of a joint membership, the presence at the meeting of either joint member or both shall be regarded as the presence of one member. If less than a quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting, provided a new notice is mailed to each member specifying the time and place of such adjourned meeting. To the extent permitted by law, where the Board of Directors has allowed participation through electronic means, members doing so shall be counted toward the quorum. Similarly, to the extent allowed by law and permitted by the Board, absentee ballots and electronic votes cast on any matter shall be counted toward the quorum for purposes of action on the subjects of those ballots.

PROPOSED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAW AMENDMENTS, continued

SECTION 5. VOTING.

Each member shall be entitled to one (1) vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. At all meetings of the members at which a quorum is present, all questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon at such meeting except as otherwise provided by law, the articles of incorporation of the Cooperative or these Bylaws. Two or more persons holding a joint ~~or tenancy in common~~ membership shall jointly be entitled to one (1) vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. Any member which is a cooperative, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, government body, church or voluntary association may, acting through its governing body, designate in writing its representative to act for it at membership meetings. Such written designation shall be filed with the Secretary before such representative votes at any such meeting, except that the chairman of any such cooperative, corporation, church, association, or body politic may cast its vote at such meeting if no such written designation for any other representative is so filed. Such representative or officer may also vote as an individual if he or she is a member.

Except as provided in Article III, Section 5, below, voting by absentee ballot shall be only on such matters and according to such procedures as the Board of Directors shall determine. Where mail ballots are permitted, the Board of Directors may similarly permit electronic voting, provided it has first adopted authentication procedures to govern such voting that in the Board's judgment will reasonably ensure that it is the member who is casting the vote.

When, in the Board's judgment, it is not safe or feasible to hold a meeting of the members in person, the Board may limit voting on election of directors and on any other matter to absentee voting to the extent permitted by law, provided that on any matter where voting is to be limited in that way absentee ballots have been sent to all members entitled to vote on the matter. In that event, the Board may similarly permit electronic voting on the matter, as provided in the preceding paragraph.

ARTICLE III
Directors

SECTION 2. DIRECTOR DISTRICTS.

The territory served by the Cooperative shall be divided into a number of districts equal to the number of directors. ~~Each district to the extent practicable shall contain approximately the same number of members as each other district.~~ The lines of such districts shall initially be established and may from time to time be changed by the Board of Directors but shall be subject to prospective revision by the members at any membership meeting. Except as provided in Section 11 of this Article III, each district shall be represented by one director who must be a resident of such district. Directors shall be nominated and elected for the terms and in the manner provided in Sections 3, 4 and 5 following. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, as agreed upon at the time of the merger of the Cooperative's predecessor organizations the number lines of the districts covering, primarily, shall be maintained so that the number of directors from each of the counties of Buffalo, La Crosse and Trempealeau

Counties, respectively, shall at all times be equal.

SECTION 3. TENURE AND QUALIFICATION.

(1) 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 served four consecutive, full terms shall be ineligible for re election to succeed himself or herself. This provision shall not prevent or be affected by the appointment by the Board of Directors of any member to fill a vacancy on the Board until the next meeting of the members, nor shall it prevent the election of any member to complete the balance of any unexpired term on the Board of Directors.

(2) Qualifications: No member shall be eligible to become or, except as provided in Section 11 of this Article III, to remain a director or hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who:

(a) is not a bona fide resident ~~in the area~~ whose principal residence is served by the Cooperative and in the director district from which he or she is nominated and elected; or

(b) is employed by or in the reasonable judgment of the disinterested directors has more than a de minimis financial interest in (i) a competing enterprise, (ii) a business (other than another cooperative) that is engaged in selling electric energy, or (iii) a business which receives, or is likely to receive, substantial revenues from the sale of goods or services to the Cooperative; or

(c) has been employed by the Cooperative at anytime in the prior five (5) years; or

(d) has been convicted of a felony or of a misdemeanor involving alleged dishonesty unless the sentence for such conviction, including any period of probation or parole, was completed more than ten (10) years prior to nomination, election or appointment to the position with the Cooperative; or

(e) has pursued any claim or litigation against the Cooperative or any of its employees or directors at anytime in the prior five (5) years, or who is delinquent on any obligation owed the Cooperative for more than 60 days.

When a membership is held jointly ~~or by tenants in common~~, one of the joint tenants ~~or one of the tenants in common~~, but not more than one, may be elected a director, provided, however, that such person shall not be eligible to become or remain a director or hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless both joint tenants ~~or all tenants in common~~ shall meet the qualifications herein above set forth. When a membership is held by a partnership, one, but not more than one, of the partners designated in writing by the partnership may be elected a director; provided, however, that none of the partners shall be eligible to become or remain a director or hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless the candidate shall meet the qualifications set forth in (2)(a) – (e) above, and unless all partners shall meet the qualifications set forth in (2)(b) – (e), above. When a membership is held by a corporation or limited liability company, one, but not more than one, of the

PROPOSED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAW AMENDMENTS, continued

officers thereof designated in writing by the corporation or limited liability company may be elected a director, provided, however, that none of the officers shall be eligible to become or remain a director or hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless the candidate shall meet the qualifications set forth in (2)(a) – (e), above, and unless all of the officers shall meet the qualifications set forth in (2)(b) – (e), above.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude any member from serving as a director or from holding any position of trust in the Cooperative because such member is also a member or a director of any other cooperative from which this Cooperative purchases or may purchase electric energy, supplies or services, or which is engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures, or supplies to the members of this Cooperative, nor shall anything in this section be deemed or construed to affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

Should a question arise as to whether any director is eligible to remain a director under any of the above qualifications, the remaining directors, upon notice to such director, shall proceed to hold a hearing on such matter and shall find and determine whether or not such director is ineligible to remain a director under the qualifications for eligibility provided in these Bylaws. If the remaining directors find and determine by a majority vote that said director is not eligible under such qualifications to remain a director, the office of such director shall forthwith become vacant and the remaining directors shall appoint a successor to serve until the next membership meeting.

SECTION 5. ELECTION.

Directors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting, but voting for any position of director shall be confined to members from the district for and from which the director is to be elected who are either in attendance at such meeting or who return absentee ballots as provided in this section. Absentee ballots shall be mailed or otherwise provided to all members of districts from which directors are to be elected. If the Cooperative has proof to its satisfaction that the ballots were mailed to all members of those districts, duplicate absentee ballots may not be issued. The failure of any member to receive a ballot shall not affect the validity of the results of the election. The notice of the meeting shall list the nominees made for director from each district, ~~separately designating those nominated by District Committee Conference and those nominated by petition.~~ The notice shall also advise that any member who cannot be in attendance in person at the Annual Meeting may return an absentee ballot which, if properly signed according to procedures established by the Board of Directors and received at the office of the Cooperative at least one day before the day of the Annual Meeting shall be counted with ballots cast by members in attendance at the meeting. [Where the Board permits electronic voting as well, the notice shall similarly advise the members of how to cast an electronic vote.](#) The candidate receiving the highest number of votes from members within a director district shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be resolved and the result determined by drawing of lots by a member in attendance at the meeting who shall be selected either by legal counsel or by the member reporting the election results. [In the event there is only one nominee who is qualified and](#)

[willing to run for election from a district, election for that position may be conducted at the Annual Meeting by unanimous consent, voice vote or similar means, without the need for the Cooperative to provide, or for the members to cast, in-person, absentee or electronic ballots.](#) Nothing in this Article shall be deemed or construed to affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 9. ACCOUNTING SYSTEM AND REPORTS.

The Board of Directors shall cause to be established and maintained a complete accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, as shall be appropriate for the Cooperative and the nature of its business activities, and as shall at all times accurately reflect the financial status of the Cooperative. The Board of Directors shall also, after the close of each fiscal year, cause to be made a full and complete audit of the accounts, books and financial condition of the Cooperative as of the end of such fiscal year. ~~The results of such audits reports shall be submitted reported~~ [to the members at the next succeeding Annual Meeting on the Cooperative's website, in the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News or in another newsletter, bill insert or other communication with the membership.](#)

SECTION 10. REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS ~~AND OFFICERS:~~

Any member may bring charges against ~~an officer or~~ director by filing them in writing with the Secretary, together with a petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the members requesting the removal of the ~~officer or~~ director in question. The removal shall be voted upon at the next regular or special meeting of the members and any vacancy created by such removal may be filled by the members at such meeting. The director ~~or officer~~ against whom such charges have been brought shall be informed in writing of the charges previous to the meeting and shall have an opportunity at the meeting to be heard in person or by counsel and to present evidence; and the person or persons bringing the charges against him or her shall have the same opportunity. A director who is ineligible to serve as such under Article III, Section 3, may also be removed as therein provided.

**ARTICLE XIII
Amendments**

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed by a majority of the members of the Cooperative voting at any annual or special meeting; provided, however, that these Bylaws shall not be altered, amended or repealed at any meeting of the members unless notice of the purpose of such alterations, amendments, or repeal shall have been contained in the notice of such meeting. Any amendment offered from the floor at any such meeting which is germane to any amendment or resolution specified or referred to in the notice of the meeting may be acted upon with the same force and effect as though set forth in the notice of the meeting, and, in the event such germane amendment is adopted, it shall have the same effect as though adopted by all members voting in person and by [absentee mail and electronic voting](#), and [absentee mail ballots or electronic votes](#) received shall, to the extent allowed by law, be counted as though they were ballots on the original motion or resolution as amended.

2021 District Committee Meeting Minutes

Saturday, February 20, 2021 Arcadia High School, Arcadia WI

The District Committee Conference was held at the Arcadia High School in Arcadia, Wisconsin, on Saturday February 20, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 9:22 a.m. by President David Paudler, who asked if there were objections to him serving as chairperson and Dennis Frame serving as secretary for the meeting, no objections. President Paudler asked for all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. President Paudler introduced the Riverland Energy Cooperative Board of Directors and General Manager Jerry Sorenson. Manager Sorenson introduced Riverland Energy Cooperative staff, reviewed the agenda, and explained the responsibilities of the District Committee members.

General Manager Jerry Sorenson provided a manager's report including: rules of social distancing and the way the meeting will proceed, where the caucuses will meet and why there are four elections instead of three, the per diem and mileage, and the roles and responsibilities of the district committee. He then reviewed the federal issues in 2020 that impact the cooperative (elections and covid); state issues (elections, covid, and broadband easement issues); and Local issues (covid, strategic plan, recycle drive, annual meeting, EV project, solar projects & rates – no increase in 2021).

Kristina Marsolek, Accounting Supervisor, presented the financial report. She shared that the year started with higher than expected expenses but finished with strong financial performance. The cooperative returned \$1,000,000 to members because of lower power costs from Dairyland Power and cost containment from Riverland Energy.

Tim Holtan, Operations Manager, gave the operations report including: 273 new services in 2020, very productive construction year, a lot of progress on maintenance, and a very safe year for employees. He addressed questions on how the new meters talk to REC about outages and how electric cars will affect energy demand.

Aaron Torud, Manager of Member Services, provided a member services report. He shared information on: EV charging program – charging stations rebates, EV sales and vehicle production is rapidly increasing; CHARGE EV – partnership with other cooperatives, SMART chargers, and vehicle to grid chargers. Questions included: Estimated time for charging using 2 versus 3 and where Riverland is in terms of the industry.

The meeting was then opened to general questions. Questions were asked relating to the Texas power outage, Genoa power plant, and Alma coal pile.

Manager Sorenson was called upon to present the bylaw changes to be discussed today. The proposed bylaw changes are as follows:

Article 2, sections 1, 4 & 5:

- Section 1 – Allow the annual meeting to be held in the first seven months of the year in lieu of four months.
- Section 1 – Add “When, in the Board’s judgment, it is not safe or feasible to hold a meeting of the members in person, to the extent permitted by law the Board may provide for the annual meeting to be conducted through electronic means or to allow member participation in whole or in part through electronic means.”
- Section 4 – Add “To the extent permitted by law, where the Board of Directors has allowed participation through electronic means, members doing so shall be counted toward the quorum. Similarly, to the extent allowed by law and permitted by the Board, absentee ballots and electronic votes cast on any matter shall be counted toward the quorum for purposes of action on the subjects of those ballots.”
- Section 5 – Add “When, in the Board’s judgment, it is not safe or feasible to hold a meeting of the members in person, the Board may limit voting on election of directors and on any other matter to absentee voting to the extent permitted by law, provided that on any matter where voting is to be limited in that way absentee ballots have been sent to all members entitled to vote on the matter. In that event,

the Board may similarly permit electronic voting on the matter, as provided in the preceding paragraph.”

Article 3, sections 5 & 9:

- Section 5 – Add “Where the Board permits electronic voting as well, the notice shall similarly advise the members of how to cast an electronic vote.”
- Section 5 – Add “In the event there is only one nominee who is qualified and willing to run for election from a district, election for that position may be conducted at the Annual Meeting by unanimous consent, voice vote or similar means, without the need for the Cooperative to provide, or for the members to cast, in-person, absentee or electronic ballots.”
- Section 9 – Modify “The results of such audit reports shall be submitted to the members at the next succeeding Annual Meeting. Change submitted to “reported.” Delete “at the next succeeding Annual Meeting”. Add: “on the Cooperative’s website, in the Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News or in another newsletter, bill insert or other communication with the membership.”

Articles 1, 2 & 3:

- Article 1 Section 3 (a) and (b) – Delete “by husband and wife.”
- Article 1 Section 3 (d) – Delete “in common or.”
- Article 2 Section 5 – Delete “or” and “in common.”
- Article 3 Section 3 (2) – Delete “or by tenants in common,” “or one of the tenants in common” and “or all tenants in common.”
- Delete any other references to tenant in common or tenancy in common membership wherever those references may appear.

Article 3 & 13:

- Article 3 Section 2 (a) and (b) – Delete “Each district to the extent practicable shall contain approximately the same number of members as each other district.”
- Article 3 Section 2 (a) and (b) – Delete “Each district to the extent practicable shall contain approximately the same number of members as each other district.”
- Article 3 Section 2 – Modify “Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, the number of the districts covering primarily each of the counties of Buffalo, La Crosse and Trempealeau Counties, respectively, shall at all times be equal.” Add “as agreed upon at the time of the merger of the Cooperative’s predecessor organizations” and “shall be maintained so that the number of directors from.” Delete “covering primary;” and “each of the counties”. Add “Counties.”
- Article 3 Section 3 (2) (a) – Modify “in the area whose principal residence.”
- Article 3 Section 5 – Delete “separately designating those nominated by the District Committee Conference and those nominated by petition.”
- Article 3 Section 10 – Delete all references to officer.
- Article 13 – Add “absentee” mail and “electronic voting and “or electronic votes.”

Motion to approve the changes to the bylaws as presented, motion seconded and motion carried. President Paudler reviewed a handout outlining the annual meeting rules and voting procedures. Motion made and seconded to approve the procedures; motion carried. Members broke into the groups for the caucuses at 11:08 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:05 p.m. Manager Sorenson reviewed the results of the four caucuses: District 2 – Bryce Lisowski; District 3 – David Ernst and Cletus Foegen; District 4 – Dennis Frame; and District 8 – David Paudler. Manager Sorenson asked if there were other questions or topics for discussion. Manager Sorenson extended a thank you to the crew for the lunch, and reminded all attendees of the per diem and mileage reports and thanked all for coming. Meeting adjourned at 12: 15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Dennis Frame, Recording Secretary

Director Candidates

As a member of Riverland Energy Cooperative, you have the opportunity to elect a director for your district to represent your interest on the board of directors. Each member in Director Districts 2, 3, 4, and 8 has received a mail ballot for the director(s) up for election in that district. You also have the option to vote online through SmartHub. The following contains the biographies of the candidates nominated at the District Committee meeting or by petition. District 2 director will serve one-year term; Districts 3, 4, and 8 will serve a four-year term.

ONLINE VOTING THROUGH SMARTHUB

Log in to your SmartHub account and click "VOTE NOW" to vote. You must have a SmartHub account. Online votes will be accepted until March 26, 2021, at 4 p.m.

Voting Authorization Necessary for Organizations

Authorization must be given for voting at the Annual Meeting for non-individual members of the cooperative such as a church, school, cooperative, government body, and corporation. All of these members are entitled to representation and one vote, but the proper procedure must be followed to exercise this right. Each member should see that a representative is designated in writing.

An authorization form will be enclosed with the mail-in ballots. If your organization is to be represented at the Annual Meeting, the form must be completed and returned with your ballot or be brought by the representative to the Annual Meeting.

DISTRICT 2



Bryce Lisowski, Incumbent

Alma

Family: Bryce and his wife, Mary, have five children: Sarah, Wendy, Cory, Erinn, and Joseph; and 15 grandchildren.

Occupation: Postmaster, Alma, WI

Community activities: Bryce's current and past activities include: President of the Buffalo County Housing Board, Knights of Columbus, La Crosse Diocesan Program Coordinator, District Deputy, and Grand Knight, and Former State Special Olympics Coordinator. Bryce is on the St. Lawrence Parish Council and Finance Council, and serves as usher, lector, and Eucharistic minister. Bryce is also the New Employee Trainer for USPS in Eau Claire, and Schedule Required Postmaster Presence for Rural Academy.

Special hobbies and interests: Bryce enjoys volunteering, spending time with family, gardening, woodworking, traveling, fishing and hunting in his spare time.

Comments: I am lifelong member of Riverland Energy Cooperative and was on the Buffalo Electric Junior Board 50 years ago. I earned a bachelor's degree from St. Mary's University and my leadership roles include running many post offices including Onalaska, Holmen, La Crescent, Stoddard, Independence, Mondovi, Cochrane, Kellogg, and Winona as a supervisor. I have a lifelong dedication to community, faith, and service. I would like to continue that dedication on the Riverland Energy Board of Directors.

DISTRICT 3

**David G. Ernst, Incumbent**

Fountain City

Family: David and his wife, Donna, have two children: Kyler Rose (senior) and Chance (sophomore) in high school.

Occupation: David is a former dairy farmer who still owns his family farm. The tillable acreage is currently rented to a local farmer. David currently works full-time for Lacrosse Beverage LLC. in Onalaska Wisconsin. David and his wife, Donna, are the owner/operator of Cross Ridge Retreat, a short-term vacation rental offering the peace and tranquility of rural Buffalo County to their guests. When time permits, he still tries to help on his neighbor's dairy farm.

Community activities: David served on the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors representing district 14 (Town of Cross and Town of Milton) for 12 years. During his tenure, he served on the Finance, Human Resources, Law Enforcement and Health and Human Services committees. His peers elected him as county vice chairman for six of those years. David recently completed six years on the St. Michael's Lutheran Church Council where he served as the congregation's treasurer during that time. He currently serves as the president of the Bohris' Valley Cemetery Association.

Special hobbies and interests: David and his family enjoying traveling and exploring new areas. When time allows, David enjoys golfing, downhill skiing, snowmobiling, and hiking.

Comments: Being elected to the Riverland Board eight years ago has been an extremely rewarding experience. Riverland Energy and the electric cooperative industry place a strong emphasis on continuing education to keep up with changing legislation, navigating new energy sources, etc. Dave has achieved his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate. This certificate consists of classes ranging from Financial Decision Making, Board Roles and Relationships to Director Duties & Liabilities, to name a few. Dave has also achieved his Board Leadership Certificate. Those 10 classes ranged from Crucial Conversations in the Boardroom, Understanding the New World of Power Supply, to Ethics and Governance. In 2018, David achieved the Director Gold Credential from the National Rural Electrical Cooperative Association. During his tenure on the Riverland Board of Directors he has been a member of the Audit and Budget Committee, Power Supply Committee, Labor Committee, Marketing and Communications Committee, and the General Manager and Board of Directors Evaluation Committee.

David's fellow Riverland board members have elected him to be the alternate representative on the Dairyland Power Board of Directors. David represents Riverland Energy on the Wisconsin Electrical Cooperative Association Legislative and Regulatory Committee. In September of 2019, David was a part of an eight-member team from this committee traveling to Washington, D.C., to gain support from Congress on specific legislation especially important to rural electric cooperatives. That group was successful in gaining support of the State of Wisconsin's entire Congressional Delegation in supporting the Secure Act. This bill then passed Congress and helps cooperatives save substantial dollars in pension contributions. David is very eager to utilize the relationships he has built in Madison and Washington, D.C. for future lobbying efforts to benefit the future of Riverland Energy.

With all your support, David looks forward to continuing to serve as your representative on the Riverland Energy Cooperative Board of Directors. The education and training Riverland Energy has invested in its directors will go a long way in assuring the cooperative's future. For our rural communities to be successful, reliable energy at an affordable rate is essential. David is committed to being a voice for all member owners in making important decisions affecting your cooperative. David also knows the importance of assuring all Riverland employees have the resources they need to provide all of you the electric services you as member owners deserve.

**Cletus Foegen**

Fountain City

Family: Spouse, Liane

Occupation: Farmer

Community activities: Cletus is the Town of Glencoe Chairman and the Arcadia Ambulance Service Board President.

Special hobbies and interests: Cletus is active in the Waumandee Lions Club and enjoys snowmobiling.

Comments: As a director, I would like to maintain strong grassroots input for the co-op.

DISTRICT 4

**Dennis Frame, Incumbent**

Osseo

Family: Spouse, Susan, and two children, John and Carl.**Occupation:** Self-Employed Environmental Consultant; Retired from UW–Extension

Community activities and leadership roles: Dennis has served for three years on the Riverland Energy Cooperative Board of Directors, the past two as secretary/treasurer. He also served nine years on the Trempealeau County Agricultural Society (fair board), three years as president and three years as secretary. He served as president (moderator) at the Osseo United Church of Christ for six years. Dennis served two terms as advisor to the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, serves as advisor to Yahara Pride Farms and Peninsula Pride Farms Environmental boards of directors, and was a co-founding director of the UW–Discovery Farms Program.

Special hobbies and interests: Dennis enjoys fishing in Canada with family and friends, woodworking, cutting firewood, and keeping things running on his small farm.

Comments: We have lived on our farm for over 32 years and I greatly appreciate the dependability of the power provided by Riverland Energy. Electricity allows us to stay connected to others and makes living in this beautiful area much more comfortable. I believe that the rapidly expanding improvements in renewable energy production and storage will greatly impact all electricity providers. Maintaining power lines, substations and evaluating new sources of energy is important. However, we need to do this in a manner that is fiscally responsible to our members. Members of the board of directors serve to provide a voice for all the members of the cooperative.

DISTRICT 8

**David Paudler, Incumbent**

Onalaska

Family: David and his wife, Eileen, have two children.**Occupation:** President of GCS Software, Inc.

Community activities: David has been a trustee on the Holmen Area Foundation for the past 13 years and president-elect in summer of 2012. He has been trustee for 10 years on Holmen Partnership for Youth (HAPY); served 18 years on the Town of Onalaska Town Board and four years as town chairman. He has served eight years director on Riverland Energy Cooperative, earning Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). David attends Bethany Church.

Special hobbies and interests: Scuba diving, ATV trail riding, kayaking, boating, and vegetable gardening.

Comments: I am very interested in the energy situation of our country and would like to continue to be involved with changing our country's policies and laws to make energy affordable to our cooperative owners and our country. I have worked with many of our state and federal representatives and many departments of the government on projects while on the Town Board of Onalaska. I feel I can use these connections while working on projects and legislation by being re-elected to the Board of Directors of Riverland Energy Cooperative.

16,089
Members

Riverland Energy Cooperative

\$3,000

Donated to Members from
Community Cares

(Rounding up your bill)

63%

Purchased Power
Portion of
Budgeted Expenses

\$13,810

Donated to Members Through
Riverland Programs

18,658

Services

2,041

Miles of
Overhead Line

20,799 Meters

1,399

Miles of
Underground Line

Average Residential
kWh Use

1,111

Average Residential
Bill

\$157.02

Services per Mile
of Line

5.42

3.8%

Line Loss

\$34,250

Given in
Scholarships

kWh Purchased

293,102,182

kWh Sold

281,597,939

41

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

Percent of Assets
owned by Members

42.8%

\$1,255,328

Retired in Capital Credits

Financial Data & Growth Comparison

	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Total Utility Plant	\$ 610,038	\$ 1,451,727	\$ 282,102	\$ 3,581,341	\$ 8,384,981	\$ 17,355,278	\$ 48,321,152	\$ 80,880,171	\$ 126,477,498
Equity Ratio (Equity/Total Assets)	5.14%	9.8%	38.2%	69.7%	50.9%	43.0%	37.9%	43.7%	43.4%
Total Revenue	\$ 72,791	\$ 297,580	\$ 372,268	\$ 1,177,042	\$ 5,152,561	\$ 8,368,310	\$ 16,797,928	\$ 32,333,273	\$ 35,510,012
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 17,635	\$ 137,047	\$ 197,122	\$ 693,701	\$ 3,576,117	\$ 4,943,154	\$ 9,036,939	\$ 20,096,046	\$ 20,873,676
Cost of Power as % of Revenue	24.2%	46.1%	53.0%	58.9%	69.4%	59.1%	53.8%	62.2%	69.2%
Net Margins	\$ 6,531	\$ 22,653	\$ 51,835	\$ 208,856	\$ 283,665	\$ 719,645	\$ 1,107,325	\$ 2,822,648	\$ 2,208,855
Full-Time Employees	8	23	18	27	32	33	47	43	41
Number of Services	1,495	2,974	3,424	4,437	6,733	7,903	14,770	16,917	18,658
Total Miles of Line	722	1,103	1,194	1,279	1,534	1,709	2,973	3,238	3,440
kWH Sold	1,057,800	788,654	32,014,438	65,686,156	104,779,619	113,403,819	221,828,807	269,158,253	281,598,447
Line Loss	36.6%	8.7%	5.9%	5.0%	6.0%	5.6%	6.1%	4.6%	4.0%
Average Residential Bill	\$ 4.22	\$ 6.63	\$ 16.21	\$ 20.88	\$ 61.90	\$ 87.56	\$ 90.87	\$ 148.21	\$ 157.02

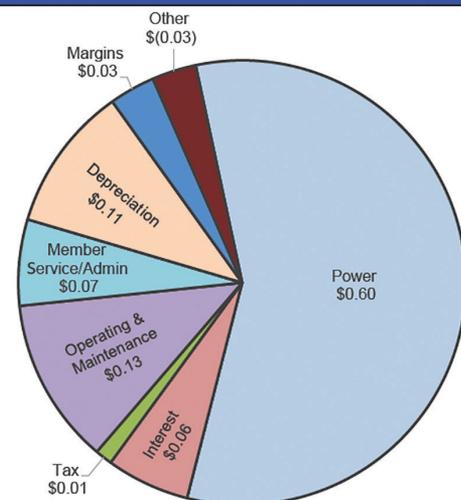
* On June 1, 1999, Buffalo Electric and Trempealeau Electric merged to create Riverland Energy Cooperative. The substantial growth in the statistics above reflect the merger.

Operating Trends

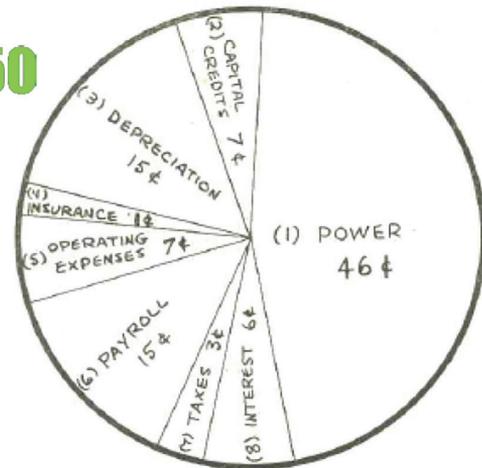
(In Millions)



How the Dollar is Spent



1950



BALANCE SHEET

Year ending December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
ASSETS:		
UTILITY PLANT, at cost		
Electric Plant in Service	\$126,595,228	\$121,379,340
Construction Work in Progress	26,760	491,671
Total Utility Plant	\$126,621,988	\$121,871,011
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(41,685,125)	(39,939,435)
NET UTILITY PLANT	\$84,936,863	\$81,931,576
INVESTMENTS, at cost		
Investments in Associated Org.	\$19,630,361	\$19,497,563
Investments in Economic Dev.	1,876,314	1,538,253
Other Investments	4,247	3,740
Total	\$21,510,922	\$21,039,556
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,361,630	\$3,649,227
Notes Receivable - net	5,377	3,815
Accounts Receivable - net	3,681,209	4,374,230
Materials and Supplies	994,590	774,605
Other Current Assets	24,258	54,755
Total	\$6,067,064	\$8,856,631
DEFERRED DEBITS	\$1,185,175	\$1,319,342
TOTAL ASSETS	\$113,700,024	\$113,147,106
EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES:		
EQUITIES		
Patronage Capital	\$39,325,205	\$38,797,234
Operating Margins - Current year	1,321,727	605,263
Non-Operating Margins	1,315,585	1,748,187
Other Margins and Equities	7,482,715	6,873,486
Total	\$49,445,232	\$48,024,170
LONG-TERM DEBT	\$59,733,108	\$57,987,321
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Notes Payable	\$800,000.00	\$2,000,000.00
Accounts Payable	2,092,909	3,416,684
Consumer Deposits	242,706	261,218
Other Accrued Liabilities	1,385,558	1,351,274
Total	\$4,521,173	\$7,029,176
DEFERRED CREDITS	\$510	\$106,439
TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES	\$113,700,024	\$113,147,106

Income Statement
Year ending December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
OPERATING REVENUES:	\$38,611,434	\$38,080,531
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Cost of Providing Services	\$22,818,615	\$23,526,933
Distribution - Operations	1,823,029	1,604,144
Distribution - Maintenance	2,990,511	3,005,938
Consumer Accounts	320,896	284,025
Consumer Services & Information	617,532	686,675
Administrative & General	1,556,893	1,560,426
Depreciation	4,208,214	4,076,245
Taxes	499,387	461,059
Other Deductions	1,856	10,815
Total	\$34,836,933	\$35,216,261
OPERATING MARGINS BEFORE FIXED CHARGES:	\$3,774,501	\$2,864,270
FIXED CHARGES:		
Interest on Long-term Liabilities	\$2,403,074	\$2,178,568
Other Interest	\$49,700	\$81,774
Total	\$2,452,774	\$2,260,342
OPERATING MARGINS AFTER FIXED CHARGES:	\$1,321,727	\$603,928
G&T AND OTHER CAPITAL CREDITS:	\$1,145,387	\$1,108,075
NET OPERATING MARGINS	\$2,467,115	\$1,712,002
NON OPERATING MARGINS		
Interest Income	\$43,756	\$70,269
Other Non Operating Margins	\$126,441	\$571,179
Total	\$170,197	\$641,448
Margins before income taxes	\$2,637,312	\$2,353,450
Income taxes	0	0
NET MARGINS FOR PERIOD	\$2,637,312	\$2,353,450



Dairyland Power Cooperative Report

David Anderson, Dairyland Director

Dairyland: Safe and Sustainable

In 2020, Dairyland adapted swiftly to tackle the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19. While focused on providing critical electricity for Dairyland's 24 member cooperatives, they closely monitored the pandemic and

took measures to keep employees, members, and communities safe. Dairyland employees—whether working onsite, in the field or remotely—are committed to safety, 24/7 reliability, and affordability for Riverland Energy members. In the midst of the pandemic, Dairyland had a smooth leadership transition in July 2020 when Brent Ridge became president and CEO.

The world changed in many ways during 2020.

Dairyland's six Strategic Priorities support their overarching goal of SUSTAINABILITY. Dairyland's leadership team and the Board of Directors continue to address ongoing changes in the energy industry known as the "Four Ds": Decarbonization, Deregulation, Digitalization, and Decentralization. To be sustainable, Dairyland must address these challenges and create long-term value for Dairyland's members.

Without a Culture of Safety, nothing is sustainable, and safety remains the highest priority at Dairyland. Dairyland is implementing human performance tools to strengthen and maintain a culture of safety as they strive for an operational goal of "zero incidents."

One thing that hasn't changed is the value of our Cooperative Principles and relationships. Dairyland has demonstrated commitment to transparent governance and strong relationships with members. Dairyland staff members are focused on improving communities and the quality of life in Dairyland's four-state region. As a cooperative, Dairyland makes positive impacts in its local communities and by supporting organizations that assist those facing economic challenges.

Aligned with the updated Mission, Vision and Core Values, Dairyland's People 1st culture is member-focused, clarifies employee roles and goals, and is enhancing communication throughout the organization.

Asset Reliability & Diversification are a priority as Dairyland transitions its energy resources to a lower carbon future. In 2020, Dairyland's Board of Directors approved a goal of 50 percent reduction in carbon dioxide intensity rate by 2030. The Sustainable Generation Plan provides a framework for energy diversification, considering the economic impact on members, technological feasibility, social implications and

environmental responsibility.

In January 2021, the Tatanka Ridge Wind Farm (Deuel County, S.D.) began operation. Dairyland has a power purchase agreement (PPA) to receive renewable wind energy from a 52-megawatt (MW) portion of the wind farm. Dairyland also has a PPA with Ranger Solar for a future addition of 149 MW from the Badger State Solar Facility.

The retirement of Dairyland's coal-fired Genoa Station #3 (G-3) is scheduled for June 1, 2021. Dairyland has owned and operated the coal-fired power plant, located on the banks of the Mississippi River in Genoa, Wis., since 1969. Employees remain focused on safe and reliable operation of the unit. Throughout this past year, Dairyland's power plant availability has been in the top quartile for performance.

Natural gas will serve as the bridge to a low-carbon future, supporting renewable energy investments while giving new technologies time to advance.

Dairyland has a long history of recycling coal-combustion byproducts (CCB). In 2020, they achieved a significant sustainability milestone by recycling 100 percent of the fly ash captured by precipitators at G-3 and the John P. Madgett Station (Alma, Wis.). Another beneficial reuse effort underway is participation in a pilot agricultural project with UW-Extension to test the effectiveness of CCB as fertilizer.

Financial and Competitive Strength is critical to sustainability. Dairyland balances building financial strength with ensuring competitive rates and sound operations.

The board approved Dairyland's 2021 budget which will result in an estimated 2.6 percent decrease in the average wholesale rate for Dairyland's member cooperatives on May 1. The 2021 budget supports the priorities outlined in Dairyland's strategic business plan to serve Riverland Energy. A new wholesale rate design will also provide additional flexibility for member cooperatives beginning in May 2021.

Financially, Dairyland had strong margins in 2020 due to a favorable regional energy market, a reduction in budgeted operational/divisional costs, and other factors. As a result, Dairyland provided \$6 million of rate credits to members in 2020, reduced future expenses, and is evaluating business development opportunities. In addition, Dairyland increased its cash retirement of Capital Credits to 5 percent (versus 2 percent) resulting in 2020 cash retirements of \$11.5 million and had three power cost adjustments (PCA) credits totaling \$2.8 million.

Dairyland has credit ratings of "A3" with a stable outlook from Moody's and "A+" also with a stable outlook from Standard and Poor's. Dairyland's board and leadership team balance building financial strength with competitive rates and sound operations. Management of costs and risks, and

modernizing processes to enhance efficiency will remain key areas of focus.

Dairyland is also investing in regional transmission opportunities that improve reliability and add value for members. By working with other utilities, regional transmission infrastructure has been strengthened to absorb changing generation sources while maintaining reliability.

Transmission construction crews work to safely rebuild, construct, and upgrade approximately 50 miles of 69 kV transmission line each year. Each mile takes approximately two weeks to complete with roughly 17 poles per mile.

In 2020, Dairyland began a programmatic approach for adding middle-mile fiber optic communications to its existing transmission infrastructure, primarily for communication purposes. As the program progresses, excess fiber optic communication capacity may be available to enable rural broadband service providers access to the communities Riverland Energy and Dairyland's other member cooperatives serve.

Growth and Innovation will foster sustainable business and long-term competitive rates for members. Dairyland established a Business Development Fund in 2021 to seek opportunities for new revenue opportunities, while managing environmental and social risks. Dairyland and its members are

also implementing strategies to support electric vehicle growth through the creation of CHARGE EV, LLC. CHARGE EV will help to lead the installation of more electric vehicle chargers in the rural areas served by Dairyland members in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Additionally, CHARGE EV will work with local businesses to help them learn more about adding EVs to their fleets.

Dairyland staff work with members to support economic development opportunities that will help communities grow by adding businesses and jobs. Securing economic development projects are important for the entire Dairyland system.

By seeking innovative solutions and implementing effective project management to achieve its strategic priorities, Dairyland will remain sustainable, adaptable and competitive as the energy industry transforms.

Dairyland has demonstrated its agility and commitment to safety, while reliably providing critical power throughout this unexpected pandemic journey. As your representative on the Dairyland Board of Directors, I am confident that Dairyland will continue to provide our cooperative with reliable, affordable and sustainable power today and for future generations.

2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Thirty-two high school seniors whose families are served by Riverland Energy Cooperative were awarded scholarships of \$1,000 each in a random drawing via Facebook Live on March 27, 2020. If there were no applications represented from a school, all names were put in a bucket and new names were drawn. The funds for these scholarships are made available by unclaimed capital credits from former members.

- Alma High School: Emma Brecka
- Alma High School: Caitlyn Grotjahn
- Arcadia High School: Ellie Hoesley
- Arcadia High School: Isabelle Mooney
- Blair-Taylor High School: Julia Beam
- Blair-Taylor High School: Carly Nelson
- C-FC High School: Emma Pronschinske
- C-FC High School: Caitlyn Speltz
- Durand High School: Alea Matthews
- Eleva-Strum High School: Jacob Palkowski
- Eleva-Strum High School: Mark Tonn
- G-E-T High School: Ethan Burton
- G-E-T High School: Mara Quarne
- Gilmanton High School: Grace Branger
- Gilmanton High School: Elizabeth Meier
- Holmen High School: Izabelle Beyer
- Holmen High School: Avery Senn
- Independence High School: Janessa Kamrowski
- Independence High School: Grace Pyka
- Mondovi High School: Jackson Falkner
- Mondovi High School: Raith Bauer
- Mondovi High School: Kortlyn Berg
- Onalaska High School: Paige Christenson
- Onalaska High School: Joshua Peyer
- Whitehall High School: Brandon Dick
- Whitehall High School: Harold Smith III
- At Large, Onalaska Luther: Peter Garofalo
- At Large, Onalaska Luther: Lily Neumeister
- Line Worker Scholarship: Mondovi: CorDel Olson
- Line Worker Scholarship: Holmen: Ian Bauer

Riverland Energy Cooperative 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

The Riverland Energy Cooperative 2020 Annual Meeting was held on September 23, 2020, after several months' delay caused by the pandemic. The virtual meeting was called to order by President Dave Paudler at 6 p.m.

President Paudler introduced Dennis Frame, secretary/treasurer of the board. Secretary Frame read the notice of the meeting and the proof of mailing to the membership. Secretary Frame provided a report on the registration for the meeting as well as announcing that a quorum was in attendance. There were 438 members in attendance. Secretary Frame then turned the meeting back to president Paudler.

President Paudler asked for corrections to the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting and for approval of the minutes as sent to the members. Hearing no objections, the minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting were approved.

President Paudler announced that there was no unfinished business from the 2019 Annual Meeting. Paudler then stated that there were no elections or proposed changes to the bylaws, and asked for new business to be addressed. Hearing no suggestions, Paudler explained to the membership that questions and comments that were received via the chat feature of the meeting would be addressed by the general manager in future editions of the Outlet.

President Paudler asked if there were objections to adjourn the annual meeting. The 2020 Annual Meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.

Riverland Energy Cooperative Employees

Abramczak, Josh, Assistant Line Superintendent

Alesch, Beth, Communications Manager

Anibas, Todd, Lineman

Back, Brody, Apprentice Lineman

Boos, Pete, Lineman

Coenen, Reed, Lineman

Curran, Jenny, Load Management Tech.

Christ, Sue, Member Services

Dunn, Niki, Executive Assistant/HR

Foss, Brandon, Lineman

Glass, Brian, Lineman

Goldbeck, Carrie, Consumer Accounts

Harm, Stella, Engineer Rep./Mapping

Hayes, Scott, Lead Load Management Tech.

Helgeson, Kevin, Line Foreman

Hilmanowski, Tammy, Admin/Payroll

Holtan, Tim, Manager of Operations

Hong, Todd, Lineman

Huffman, Jim, IT Coordinator

Kircher, Dale, Lineman

Kosik, Royce, Lineman

Madden, Tammy, Consumer Accounts

Marc Mades, Lineman

Marsolek, Kristina, Accounting Supervisor

Marten, Dillon, Lineman

Mathson, Barb, Accountant/Bookkeeper

Mason, Bill, Assistant Line Superintendent

Nicksic, Willy, Lineman

Ott, Sarah, Member Services

Palmer, Brett, Lineman

Pronschinske, Adam, Lineman

Ravnum, Ted, Mechanic

Schamaun, Mark, Line Foreman

Siebenaler, Adam, Lineman

Sluga, Sharon, Operations Coordinator

Sonsalla, Dean, Inventory & Facilities Coordinator

Sosalla, Rob, Line Superintendent

Torud, Aaron, Manager of Member Services

Vitse, Tyler, Lineman

2020 Retirees:

Steve Paulson, Lineman

Tom Tidquist, Line Foreman

Laurie Stuhr, Member Services



INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH

Investing in our future means investing in our youth. Today's children will be future leaders in our communities. As a cooperative, it is important to instill in our youth an understanding of what it means to be a cooperative owner and to show them the cooperative difference. That is why we proudly offer the youth ambassador program to high school juniors.

The youth ambassador program was cut short in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The students were able to meet a few times prior to the pandemic to learn about cooperatives, the cooperative business model, tour the JPM power plant, and learn about electric vehicles and renewable energy.

The youth ambassador program is available for juniors in high school and runs from September – July.



2020 Youth Ambassadors

Alma

Zoe LaDuke
Max Benish
Briana Smolek

Arcadia

Alex Madden
Carson Pehler
John Severson
Joseph Rivera
Megan Steinlicht
Lindsey Berg
Amy Losinski

C-FC

Amara Livingston
Damian Jilk

Eleva-Strum

Gabe Monson
Malachi Loewenhagen

Gilmanton

Cali Flick
Jarin Rud
Morgan Guenther
Payton Fedie
Zachary Turner
Wyatt Clouse
Ryan Clouse
Jaden Newman

Onalaska

Sarah Hitchler

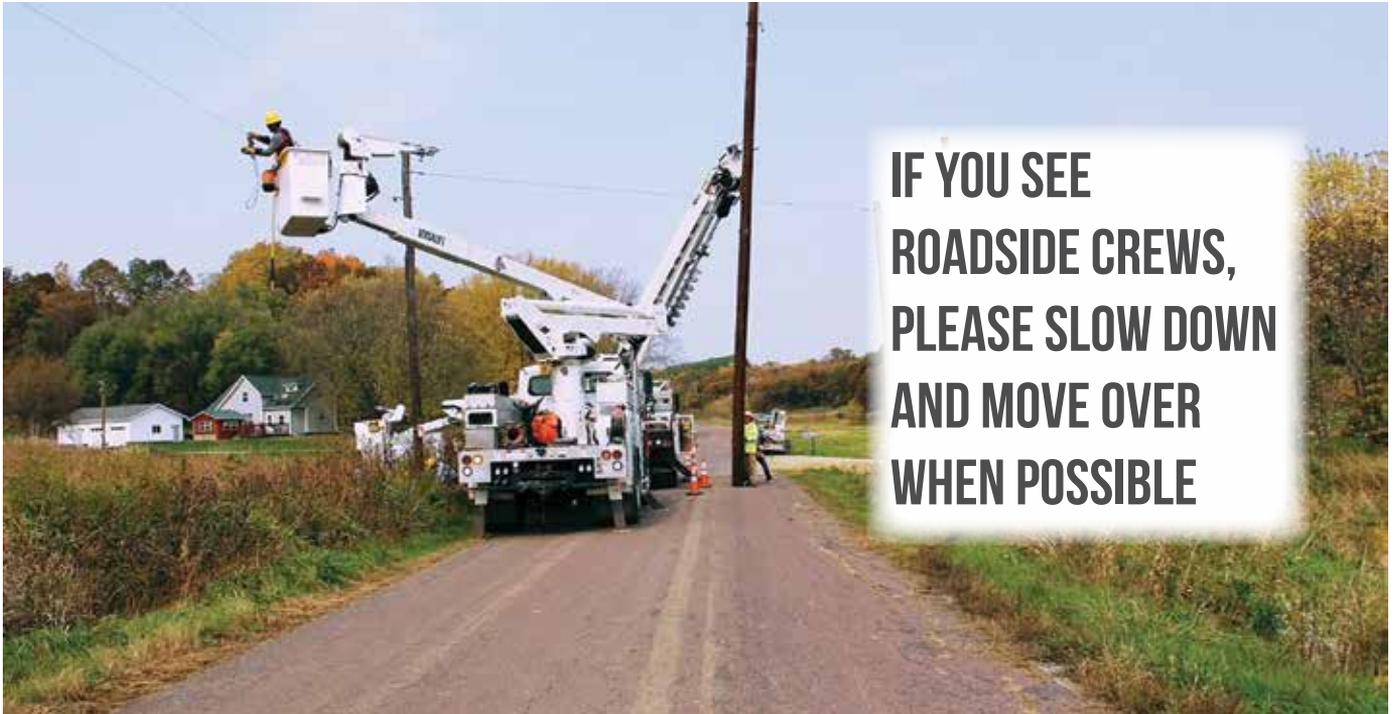
Osseo-Fairchild

Sarah Laskowski

Whitehall

Emily Marsolek





Spring is just around the corner, and there's never been a better time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Perhaps you're making plans for a new garden or a lawn makeover. However you're planning to revamp your backyard oasis, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects—especially those that require digging near underground utility lines.

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water, and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one of these lines while digging is not the reminder you'll want—trust us! Riverland Energy reminds all members who are planning a digging project to call 811 at least three business days before you start. Or you can submit a request online by visiting www.call811.com/811-In-Your-State.

Here's how the process works: After you call 811 or submit your request online, all affected utilities will be notified of your intent to dig. It may take the utilities a few days to get to your request, so please be patient. The affected utilities will send someone out to mark the buried lines with paint or flags. Before you break ground, confirm that all the utilities have responded to your request. If you placed your request by phone, use the process explained by your 811 call center representative. If you submitted your request online, refer to your 811 center ticket to confirm everything.

By taking this important step before you break ground on your project, you can help protect not only yourself but our community. Disrupting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries, and cost money to repair, so remember to call 811 first and know what's below.

Seven Cooperative Principles

1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefitting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.



Jerry Sorenson, General Manager

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