



Jerry Sorenson,
General Manager

2020 ANNUAL MEETING GOES VIRTUAL; NO IN PERSON MEETING

Receive a \$10 electric bill credit just for watching

Due to the rapidly changing conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the board of directors has made the decision to move the in-person annual meeting to an online virtual format. The safety of our members and employees has been our top priority during the pandemic. A virtual annual meeting will allow us to fulfill our bylaw requirements and connect with you while adhering to safety recommendations.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23 at 6 p.m.

The meeting will be brief, approximately 10 minutes, with the agenda to include a report on registration and announcement of a quorum and approval of the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting (if we have a quorum), and any new or old business. There is no election this year.

Printed reports were published in the March *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine and are available at each of our offices. The 2019 Annual Meeting minutes can be found on page 16 and will also be available on our website at www.riverlandenergy.com/annualmeeting.

Each household who registers AND attends the meeting will be given a \$10 credit on their electric bill.

Registration will open on September 1 at www.riverlandenergy.com. Once you register, an invitation link will be

emailed to you to join the online annual meeting September 23. There is no special software required beyond internet connection.

We don't take this lightly, but the health and well-being of our employees and members must come first. Thank you for understanding during these special circumstances, and I encourage you to watch our annual meeting from the comfort of your own home.



Riverland Energy
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



MY CO-OP

OFFICIAL NOTICE

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 • 6 p.m.

ONLINE ONLY

Registration opens September 1, 2020, on
riverlandenergy.com

Once you register, an invitation link will be emailed to you to join the online annual meeting September 23

- Each household who registers and attends the meeting will be given a \$10 credit on their electric bill.
- You will need your account number to register and to receive your \$10 credit.

The 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes can be found on page 16, and online at www.riverlandenergy.com/annualmeeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Report on registration and announcement of quorum
3. Approval of minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting (if a quorum is met)
4. Any old or new business to be brought before the membership
5. Adjourn (if a quorum is met)



MINUTES OF THE RIVERLAND ENERGY COOPERATIVE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019

The 2019 annual membership meeting of the Riverland Energy Cooperative was held on Saturday, March 30, at the Arcadia High School in Arcadia, Wisconsin. Prior to the meeting, a pancake breakfast was served to approximately 700 people by Pogy's Catering.

President David Paudler called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Paudler then welcomed guests and recognized Attorney Niles Berman, past directors, and employees. He then introduced Pastor Mark Stauffacher for the invocation.

Attorney Niles Berman was introduced to preside over the meeting as acting chairman. He proceeded to cover the annual meeting rules and voting procedures adopted by the District Committee Conference, emphasized the use of voting cards, and stated we will follow Roberts Rules, Newly Revised, latest edition (11th) to cover other procedural questions. On a motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the membership adopted the meeting rules and voting procedures as presented.

David Anderson, secretary, was introduced to read the Notice of Meeting and Due Proof of Mailing. He then announced a quorum of 441 registered members in attendance at the start of the meeting.

Mr. Berman announced a correction to the minutes deleting sentence 3 in paragraph 7 on page 16c and asked for any further corrections of the 2018 annual meeting, which were printed in the annual report. A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and to approve them as amended. Motion carried.

Mr. Berman read the proposed amendment to Article III, Section 5 of the Bylaws as recommended by the Board of Directors and District Committee. A motion was made and seconded to approve the amendments to the Bylaws as presented. Motion carried.

Following the explanation of voting procedures, Mr. Berman asked for nominations from the floor in each of the districts up for election. Following three calls for nominations in each district, nominations were declared closed in districts 1, 6 and 7. Mr. Berman then announced that candidates in Director Districts 1 and 6 having one incumbent nominated would not address the membership. Candidates for Director District 7 were called to address the membership. The membership in each of these voting districts was then asked to cast their ballots. Mr. Berman recognized the tellers announcing all ballots to be handed to tellers. Mr. Berman also announced all "Ask Willie" forms to be handed to tellers also. Ballots were gathered, after three calls ballot voting was declared closed, and tellers reported to the ballot counting room.

Manager Jerald Sorenson was introduced and started with a welcome to members and a thank you to employees. It was announced that additional "Ask Willie" forms should be handed to any employee and would be answered in cooper-

ative publications. He presented an operations and financial update, discussed community involvement by the cooperative, addressed political issues and future for Riverland Energy Cooperative. Manager Sorenson then described the Cooperative's commitment to community including SmartHub, scholarships, donation programs, and the youth ambassador program. Manager Sorenson thanked retired employees Joyce Woychik and Mike Burkart for their service. Riverland Community Cares recipients included Boy Scouts of America Camp Decorah Waterfront, La Crosse YMCA Arts & Humanity Dept., Scenic Valley Emergency Medical Service, Fountain City Medical Emergency Team, St. John's United Church of Christ Food Shelf, Trempealeau Youth Sports Club, Hope Academy, Friends of Perrot State Park, Trempealeau County Humane Society, Mondovi Youth Baseball, G-E-T Community Food Pantry, Coulee Region Children's Internet Protection Task Force, Friend of Merrick State Park, and Holmen's Hope.

Manager Sorenson answered an Ask Willie question regarding closing the Onalaska office once the new Holmen office opens and the Cooperative's position on climate change.

Manager Sorenson explained how scholarship dollars are made available through the Federated Youth Foundation for educational purposes. He called upon Aaron Torud and Tim Holtan to help conduct the random drawings for two \$1,000 scholarships in each of 14 area schools, two at-large scholarship and two line worker scholarship. Any high school student in attendance who did not win a scholarship could register for a drawing of an iPad mini, which was won by Kaylee McMahon.

Director Greg Sacia was recognized for his years of service on the Riverland Energy Board of Directors.

Mr. Berman announced the results of the election and thanked the tellers. Incumbents Fran Fedie of District 1 and David Anderson of District 6 remain in their positions. District 7 elected Gary Dvoracek.

President Paudler thanked all who helped with the meeting and then called upon Mr. Berman to close the meeting. Berman asked for any unfinished business and any new business. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the business session at 11:50 a.m.

Kid's door prizes were awarded as follows: Trinity Gunderson won the girl and Diesel Klink won the boy prize of a bike for each of them. Barbara Bradshaw won the flat-screen TV, Lawrence Traun won the \$100 Walmart gift card, and the 3 grill winners were Suchla's Towing, Robert Blencoe, Burt Schaftner. Thirty names were drawn for the \$50 electric bill credits, with members indicating their presence in order to claim their prize.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Frame, Secretary

ENERGY ASSESSMENTS CAN HELP FIND WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

If your electric bill seems higher than normal and you haven't changed any routines in your home, it may be time to look into having an energy assessment, and perhaps an audit by a certified energy auditor. Riverland Energy Cooperative is your liaison for professional home energy audits by a certified energy auditor. The cost of an energy assessment is covered by Riverland Energy.

During a home energy assessment, a complete analysis is done to your home within two to three hours by a certified energy auditor. The auditor will check the home's envelope and structure, water heater, lighting, air handling and heating/cooling system.

Once the energy assessment is complete, the certified energy auditor will prepare a complete report for the homeowner and Riverland Energy. Recommendations are also provided within the report to help homeowners identify any improvements that can be made to help save energy and reduce electric bills. REC provides up to a \$500 rebate towards the cost of energy saving measures implemented from the auditor's recommendations, based on approved invoices.



To qualify for the audit improvement incentive:

- The building undergoing the audit must be on the co-op's lines.
- Improvements must be completed within 24 months of the audit date.
- After improvements are completed, apply for rebate within six months of complete date, or by the year-end deadline, whichever comes first.
- Apply for the rebate in the calendar year the improvements are completed.
- Submit the rebate form and a copy of your receipt or invoice for each implemented measure.
- Rebates cannot exceed 50% of the cost of the implemented measures. Professional labor costs can be included in the cost.

If you're interested in receiving an energy assessment/audit, please contact Riverland Energy at 800-411-9115 and ask for Tammy H. She will help assess your general situation and provide the certified energy auditor with your contact information. The auditor will contact you to schedule an appointment.



"MILK GALLON GIVEAWAY" PROVIDES MORE THAN 14,000 GALLONS OF MILK

Promotion supports Wisconsin farmers, electric co-op members

Riverland Energy Cooperative in partnership with the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association, Kwik Trip, and other participating Wisconsin electric cooperatives delivered 14,016 gallons of milk to members in June's Milk Gallon Giveaway. Riverland Energy members redeemed coupons provided in June's *Wisconsin Electric Cooperative News* for 2,295 gallons of milk at area Kwik Trip Stores.

"The pandemic affects us all, and our farmers have been hit particularly hard," said Riverland Energy General Manager Jerry Sorenson. "Thank you to our members, and our partners, for making this promotion a success, and helping us offer a little relief during this difficult time."

The promotion was offered in connection with June Dairy Month. According to Kwik Trip, coupon promotions typically result in 2-5 percent redemption rate. The Milk Gallon Giveaway had a 12 percent redemption rate, with some co-op areas registering as high as a 18 percent redemption.

Wisconsin's member-owned electric cooperatives serve 57 percent of all dairy farms in the state. The industry continues to be hit hard by the impact of the coronavirus and the public health emergency.





KNOW WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A POWER POLE



STAY PUT

If your equipment contacts a power line, stay inside.

DO NOT EXIT.
Call 911.

JUMP CLEAR

If you must exit due to a fire, jump from the equipment so that no part of your body touches the equipment and ground at the same time. Hop or shuffle with your feet together at least 50 feet away.

STAY AWAY

When you are clear of the area, call for help and keep others away. **DO NOT** approach your vehicle again until utility crews and emergency responders tell you it is safe.

Have a safe harvest

1. Use a spotter when operating machinery near power lines.
2. Use care when raising augers and truck beds near power lines.
3. Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.
4. Inspect height of farm equipment and know clearance.
5. Always lower extensions when moving loads.
6. Never move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
7. If a power line is sagging or low, call us at 800-411-9115.

YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM STILL ON FOR 2020-21

The Riverland Energy Cooperative Youth Ambassador program will still be held for high school juniors this fall, with safety measures in place. It will be different than the normal setting, but we still plan on meeting face-to-face (virtual can be an option as well). We will limit the number of students and will make sure we are following all the safety guidelines provided by the CDC. Outside activities and meetings will be held when possible, and meetings may be held at both our Holmen location and Arcadia location. All of these details are being worked out and will be communicated to the students.

Please be aware that there is a possibility that the program could be cancelled at any time.

High school juniors are encouraged to apply online at www.riverlandenergy.com. Application deadline is October 1, 2020.

learn what makes cooperatives **unique.**

Riverland Energy Cooperative

YOUTH AMBASSADOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

For High School Juniors



- Enhance **leadership skills**
- Learn all about the **cooperative world**
- Attend **youth leadership conferences**
- Apply for **scholarships**
- Be a youth representative for the state of Wisconsin in **Washington, D.C.**
- Looks great on **resumes**



Sign up by Oct. 1
www.riverlandenergy.com



Jerry Sorenson, General Manager

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Beth Alesch, Editor



Riverland Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

District Office

1472 Hwy. 35
Onalaska, WI 54650
1-800-411-9115

Outages & Emergencies

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

Office Hours

Arcadia: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Onalaska: 7:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Officers of the Board of Directors:

David Paudler, Onalaska, President
Dan Filla, Arcadia, Vice-President
Dennis Frame, Osseo, Secretary/Treasurer