



# Merry Christmas

from all of us at Wild Rice Electric Cooperative!

We wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a happy New Year! Our offices will be closed on the following dates to allow our team to spend time with their families during the holidays: December 24 • December 25 • January 1

In the event of an emergency or outage, please call (800) 244-5709 for assistance.



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

by **Mike Wade**

As the new year approaches, we look back on the progress we made in 2025 to improve reliability for our members and to support our local communities. Looking ahead to 2026, we remain focused on delivering safe, dependable power and finding new ways to help our members and local communities be successful. Progress has been made, but there is still much work ahead.

## Reflecting on 2025

We made many positive strides in 2025. We completed the first year of our new vegetation management program, trimming the right-of-way along approximately 120 miles of overhead lines. This work helps reduce tree-related outages and improves overall reliability for our members. Additionally, we were able to convert 29 miles of overhead power lines to underground. Our joint effort with Arvig to install underground lines will further improve reliability and reduce future vegetation management costs. We also worked through the June 2025 storm, which tested our system and highlighted the dedication of

our crews, who worked long hours to restore power safely and efficiently.

In the area of communications, we're excited to see our Facebook community continue to grow, allowing us to share updates and connect with more members than ever before. We attended local basketball games to promote our services and we added an "Ask-the Expert" column to our newsletter to help educate our members. And we're especially proud to have launched a new STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) program to help local educators provide unique learning experiences for their students.

## Looking Ahead to 2026

As we look ahead to 2026, we want to inform our members of an anticipated increase in wholesale power costs. Minnkota Power Cooperative, our wholesale electricity provider, is planning a rate adjustment as part of their budget for the new year. We will share updates and provide details about this increase as more information becomes available.

In the coming year, we will continue to improve our electric distribution system and support our members. As we enter the second year of our vegetation management cycle, we will focus on clearing rights-of-way in the southern and eastern parts of our service area. Our partnership with Arvig will also continue as we work together to install underground electric lines around area lakes. This partnership has allowed us to save money on installation costs while providing our members with improved reliability.

We also plan to improve our communication tools. This includes developing more informative material for new members, as well as updating material that explains our vegetation management practices. Additionally, we will explore new social media options to better connect with the next generation of co-op members.

From the Board of Directors and all of the employees of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, thank you for your continued trust and support. We wish you and your family a safe, joyful holiday season and a Merry Christmas.

## Highlights from the Board Room:

The Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on September 30, 2025. During the meeting, the Board was joined by Minnesota Senator Steve Green to discuss energy issues and corporate legislation that impacts Wild Rice Electric Cooperative and heard a presentation on MN Paid Family Medical Leave.

A quorum of directors was present and the following actions were taken:

- **Approved** the board minutes and financial reports and statements for August 2025
- **Rescheduled** the regular April 28, 2026 board meeting to April 21, 2026
- **Accepted** the results of the RUS compliance audit as presented
- **Accepted** the 2024 Form 990 as presented
- **Approved** the strategic plan initiatives
- **Authorized** staff to enter into an agreement with Lake Region Electric Cooperative on shared IT services
- **Accepted** the management department reports
- **Accepted** the Minnkota Power report
- **Accepted** the Square Butte report
- **Accepted** the MREA report

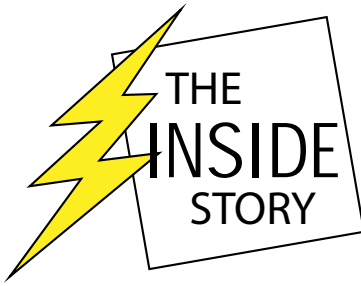
The December regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 30, 2025.

**SAFETY  
TIP**

## Holiday lighting

- Avoid overloading outlets or connecting too many strands.
- For outdoor use only use outdoor-rated lights and cords
  - Inspect for frayed wires or damage before using.
- Unplug lights when sleeping or away from home.
- Plug lights into surge protectors for safety.





Wild Rice Electric Cooperative employees celebrated Halloween with plenty of laughs and creativity around the office!

**Operations** became Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (with Prince Charming, too).

**Member Services** turned nostalgic with Pac-Man and the ghost gang.

**Administration** brought Forrest Gump vibes—"Jenny and me was like peas and carrots."

And **Finance** had fun as "sticks in the mud"!



Wild Rice Electric Cooperative would like to give a special shoutout to Lukas Sannes (left) and Kale Omang (right) for their time with us this summer and fall as Apprentice Linemen. Thank you both for your great work! Pictured in the center is Thomas Guenther, Director of Operations. The WREC team wish them the best of luck in their lineman careers.

# Ads

## For Sale

Blaze King wood stove, 8" flu, asking \$600 obo, (218) 401-0162.

2016 Yamaha YZ 250- extra set of plastics FMF fatty pipe w/ silencer, many extras, \$4,500. Wet tile saw used once, \$50. Mr. Heater 35,000 BTU contractors' series, \$100. Antique potato planter, \$125. 8'x6' flatbed on 6" channel frame, \$300. Headers for 350 Chevy new in box, \$100, (701) 405-4991.

Mixed firewood, delivery available. Call for details: (218) 280-1644.

Jenkins brand skid steer attachments new and used; brush grapples, snow buckets, stump grinders, splitters, and more all heavy duty and American made, (701) 261-3574.

Very good quality mixed hay, in round bales. 4x4 and 4x5, \$20 each, near Cotton Lake. (218) 841-2688.

1985 Versatile 876 rebuilt motor, nice tractor, \$25,000, (218) 686-8385.

7x10 ice fish house on wheels, 8 holes w/ covers, heater & lights, \$1,000, call (651) 247-6845, can be seen at South Twin Lake.

3 brand new Fender guitars in cases, never played. One signed by Gary Allen. One by Clay Walker and one by Rodney Carrington, \$300 ea or all 3 for \$825, (612) 599-3846.

1998 HD Sportster 1200, high way pegs, cover 1 case of HD 20-50 oil, helmets 1 pr. leather chaps near new tires, \$4,000 stainless steel steamer \$100, dresser w/ oval mirror, Duncan Pfyfe coffee table, 1 32' roll of Johns-Manville insulation & a Strike Zone collapsable fish house 4' x 6', (701) 866-4681.

Snowblowers (new tires) walk-behind (as is). Snowmobile Chaparral Firebird, excellent, (218) 584-4603.

Otter XT Pro X Lodge flip over thermal shell ice shelter, 3 seats, molded sled, plastic runners, cover & hitch. Excellent, \$600, (701) 371-1902.

2 1/2 yd Ashland scraper \$1,500 or best offer, (218) 431-0607 or (218) 230-0256.

225-70 R-19 tires like new, \$100 pair. Lopi-wood stove, good, \$500. 14.5 tires & weels, \$30 ea. 5 ton porta power kit, \$100, (218) 935-5110.

## Wanted

Old guns & Ammo, (218) 686-8385.

1 or 2 P265/ 75R16 mud/ snow tires, call (218) 849-5607.

Yearling black angus (open) heifer. Someone to fix snowblowers, (218) 584-4603.

## Our Ad Policy

You can submit your ad by mail, email, or drop off in office. Phone ads will not be accepted.

- Email ads to: [info@wildriceelectric.com](mailto:info@wildriceelectric.com)

- Mail ads to: Wild Rice Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 438  
Mahnomens, MN 56557

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.

### Mahube Community Council

PO Box 76  
Mahnomens, MN 56557  
(218) 935-5022

### Mahube Community Council

PO Box 747  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502  
(218) 847-1385

### Energy AssistanceProgram

3303 US Hwy 59/ PO Box 418  
White Earth, MN 56591  
(218) 473-2711 or  
(888) 458-1385

### West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc.

715 11th St N Suite100  
Moorhead, MN 56560  
(800) 492-4805/ (218) 685-4486

### Inter CountyCommunity Council

PO Box 189  
Oklee, MN 56742  
(218) 796-5144/ 888-778-4008

### Tri-Valley Opportunity Council

102 N Broadway/ PO Box 607  
Crookston, MN 56716  
(218) 281-5832/ (800) 584-7020

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please contact us immediately to work out a mutually agreeable payment plan.



**Wild Rice Electric is active on Facebook**

Follow along: Wild Rice Electric Cooperative.

## OUR DEMAND RESPONSE WEBPAGE

## HAS A NEW LOOK!

We're excited to share a new and improved online resource to help you better understand the current condition of the electrical grid and our demand response (off-peak) programs. Thanks to our partners at Minnkota Power Cooperative, the updated webpage offers an easier way to stay informed and see when demand response events are active.

Visit [MinnkotaDR.com](http://MinnkotaDR.com) or [wildriceelectric.com](http://wildriceelectric.com) and click on the Current Status of Off-Peak tab to learn more!

- Easy-to-understand interface
- Control probability
- Detailed information



Have questions? Give us a call at (800) 244-5709.



# WATCH THE WIRES HOLIDAY TRAVEL SAFETY

In the Upper Midwest, driving during the holiday season can turn treacherous, with icy roads, reduced visibility and unpredictable conditions descending at any moment. When you add the risk of hitting a power pole or a downed power line, knowing what to do can be lifesaving.



## IF YOU HIT A POWER POLE

1

### STAY IN THE VEHICLE

Unless the car is on fire, the safest place is inside your vehicle. The ground around the car may be energized.

2

### CALL 911

Let dispatch know you may be in contact with live electricity. They'll coordinate with the co-op/utility to shut off power before you exit.

3

### WARN OTHERS

Warn others to stay away by signaling or shouting to keep bystanders away from the vehicle or any downed lines.

4

### ONLY EXIT IN AN EMERGENCY

If you must get out due to smoke or fire, jump clear of the vehicle with both feet together, without touching the car and the ground at the same time. Then, shuffle away, keeping both feet on the ground to avoid creating a path for electricity through your body.

## GENERAL WINTER TIPS

Always slow down in winter conditions, especially near power poles, intersections, or bends.

Keep an emergency kit in your car, including a flashlight, blankets, water and a phone charger.

Familiarize yourself with your Wild Rice Electric Cooperative's number (800) 244-5709.

## IF YOU SEE A DOWNED POWER LINE

1

### STAY AT LEAST 35 FEET AWAY

Electricity can arc across distances – even the length of a school bus. This is especially true on ice or slush.

2

### DO NOT DRIVE OVER THE LINE

Even if it looks harmless, a live wire can energize your car and the surrounding ground.

3

### CALL 911 AND YOUR CO-OP/UTILITY

Emergency crews are trained to handle electrical hazards safely.



For more power line safety tips this winter, visit [watchthewires.com](http://watchthewires.com)



PERIODICAL

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**Email:** info@wildriceelectric.com

**App:** SmartHub



### Officers and Directors:

**Chair** ..... Jim Kaiser, District 3  
**Vice Chair** ..... Larry Sollie, District 1  
**Secretary** .. Mark Habedank, District 2  
**Treasurer** ..... Dave Hamre, District 1

**District 1:** Jeff Nornes

**District 2:** Greg LaVoy & Roger Winter

**District 3:** Randy Bjornson &  
Paula Okeson

**President & CEO** ..... Mike Wade

*This Institution is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.*



Purchase LED Christmas plug-in (not battery operated) lights and decorations in 2025.

Complete this rebate form and submit it to Wild Rice Electric by December 31, 2025 with a copy of your sales receipt and the packaging showing the number of lights per string. ENERGY STAR LEDs are recommended.

**Rebate cannot exceed 50% of the cost. Maximum of five strings per member.**

Lights per string	# of strings	Rebate per string	Total rebate
Fewer than 99		\$3	
100-199		\$6	
200-299		\$9	
Greater than 300		\$12	

**NAME** **ACCOUNT**

**INSTALLATION ADDRESS**

**CITY/ ZIP** **PHONE**

**Mail to: Wild Rice Electric PO BOX 438 Mahnomen MN 56557**