



ANNUAL 86th MEETING

Shooting Star Event Center
777 S Casino Rd, Mahnomen

Music entertainment by Tim Eggebraaten, 5 pm to 6 pm



APRIL 7, 2026 @ 4:30 PM



Registration

Begins at 4:30 pm Shooting Star Event Center
777 S Casino Rd, Mahnomen

Members will receive an annual report, election ballot, gift and will be entered to win prizes.



Dinner

Plated meal served in event center starting at 5:00 pm



Meeting

Annual Meeting
Convenes 6:00 pm

Election of Board of Directors

2025 Year in Review



Entertainment

Music by
Tim Eggebraaten,
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Win Me!

Bring this issue of Rural De-light to the Annual Meeting and present it at registration with your mailing label and barcode attached.

All qualifying entries will be entered into a special drawing for a Bluetooth speaker.

You must be present to win.

STAFF COMMENTS

Director of Member Services
and Communications
by Tommy Houdek

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative (WREC) continues to stay engaged with members and the communities we serve. As we head into spring, we want to share a few important updates.

Annual Meeting

We encourage co-op members to attend the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 7 at the Shooting Star Event Center in Mahanomen. The annual meeting is your opportunity as a member-owner to hear updates on the cooperative's operations and finances, connect with fellow members, vote on business matters, and visit with directors and staff. Member participation is an important part of the cooperative difference, and we hope you'll plan to join us.

Full Court Engagement

WREC has also been out in the community this winter attending area high school basketball games. These events provide a

great opportunity to connect with members, answer questions, and share information about cooperative programs and services while supporting local schools and students. Thanks to all that visited our booth!

Legislative Advocacy

WREC representatives recently traveled to St. Paul and met with area legislators to discuss issues important to electric cooperatives and rural communities. Conversations focused on maintaining reliable and affordable power, regulatory matters, and policies that impact our members. Staying involved in the legislative process helps ensure the interests of cooperative members are represented.



Board Approves Rate Adjustment - Effective April 1, 2026

We want to remind members that new electric rates will take effect April 1. We understand that increases are never welcome. Main components leading to the adjustment include higher wholesale power costs from our power supplier, rising costs for materials, and equipment, as well as labor needed to maintain and improve the system. Like many utilities, we're seeing higher overall costs to deliver reliable electricity. These decisions are not made lightly, but they are necessary to keep your cooperative financially strong and positioned to provide safe, dependable service. A comparative chart showing the change in rate adjustments is located within this newsletter.

We appreciate all of our members and look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting on April 7.

Highlights from the Board Room:

The Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on January 27, 2026. During the meeting, the Board heard a presentation on a potential REDLG loan, and a representative from STAR Energy presented on the updated Class Cost of Service Study.

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

- **Approved** the board minutes and financial reports and statements for December 2025
- **Accepted** the fourth quarter 2025 Financial Review Committee Report
- **Accepted** the Policy Review Committee Report
- **Appointed** two Wild Rice Electric Trust Board members to their second term
- **Accepted** the management department reports
- **Accepted** the Minnkota Power report
- **Accepted** the MREA report

The April regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2026.

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month



SAFETY
TIP

Anything that takes your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel, or your mind off driving is a distraction. Whatever it is, it can wait until you are safely parked. Help create safer roads for everyone: Put your phone away. Set your phone to "Do Not Disturb" while driving. Hands-free is not risk free. Just drive.

Candidates Running for Director: Bios

Bios are provided to help our members learn more about the candidates running for the Wild Rice Electric Cooperative Board of Directors ahead of the annual meeting on Tuesday, April 7, at the Shooting Star Event Center in Mahanomen.

District 1



David Hamre

Occupations / Position held (past or present): Retired from Garden Valley Telephone Cooperative after 33 years. Worked in residential construction for several years and had a cow/calf and hog operation.

Board or Council Experience(s) Volunteer Services: Currently serving as Wild Rice Electric Cooperative (WREC) Director since 2018 and currently Board Treasurer. Previously served on Wild Rice Advisory Committee, Knute Township Supervisor and

a Trustee/Director for First Care Medical/Essentia Health, Fosston from 2003-2017.

Strengths you would bring to the Cooperative's board of directors: My experience working for a co-op has given me good understanding of the purpose, value, and service a co-op provides. Serving on the WREC board for 7 years has given me a good understanding of the challenges the electrical industry must navigate in the years ahead. I am an active board member and recently com-

pleted the Credentialed Cooperative Director courses through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Why do you want to serve as a Wild Rice Electric director? As a member for over 45 years, I realize the importance of safe, reliable and affordable electric service and the importance of a skilled workforce. I have enjoyed serving on the board and would like to continue to help Wild Rice Electric navigate the challenges and opportunities in the future.

District 2



Norman
"Butch" Myers

Occupations / Position held (past or present): Now retired; previously farmer, herdsman, manager.

Board or Council Experience(s) Volunteer Services: 4H-Jaycees Director, Lions Club- all positions, Flom Township Board, Church Board and Trustee.

Strengths you would bring to the Cooperative's board of directors: Listening and helping where needed.

Why do you want to serve as a Wild Rice Electric director? I feel it is a well-run organization.



Roger Winter

Occupations / Position held (past or present): Farm near Calaway along with my wife. Our son John has taken over the Winter Masonry business.

Board or Council Experience(s) Volunteer Services: Serving on the WREC Board and WREC Building Committee. Served several years on legislative Grassroot

Committee, Resolution Committee for the Minnesota Rural Electric Association.

Strengths you would bring to the Cooperative's board of directors: I am concerned about the future of our energy industry. The legislature, both federal and state, can work for and against the electrical industry. The Co-op

boards must be involved in the politics of electricity.

Why do you want to serve as a Wild Rice Electric director? As a member of WREC for many years, and a director of WREC, we have to keep our employees safe in the work place and have affordable electrical service for our members.

District 3



Jimmy Kaiser

Occupations / Position held (past or present): I have been in the real estate industry for the past 31 years. I was in the residential construction industry with my father and brother for 25 years.

Board or Council Experience(s) Volunteer Services: I have served nine years on the Wild Rice Electric Board and would consider it an honor to be elected to serve another term. I served 15 years on

the Lakes Country Association of Realtors Board of Directors and six years on the Minnesota Association of Realtors State Board. I have been a member of the Cormorant Lions for the last 37 years.

Strengths you would bring to the Cooperative's board of directors: With the nine years of experience and knowledge being on the board, serving two years being the treasurer, and the

last four years as the Chair of the Board, I am able to make well educated decisions for the future of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative.

Why do you want to serve as a Wild Rice Electric director? With the knowledge I have learned over the last nine years, I can make wiser decisions on the ever-changing challenges of the electric industry.



**JOIN US FOR OUR
86th ANNUAL MEETING**

Shooting Star Event Center
777 S Casino Rd, Mahnomen



APRIL 7, 2026
4:30 PM Registration • 6 PM Meeting

VOTING BALLOT
ANNUAL MEETING – April 7, 2026



BALLOT FOR DIRECTORS

As a member of the Cooperative, I cast my vote for the following three (3) candidates: one in District 1 for a three-year term, one in District 2 for three-year term, and one in District 3 for three-year term:

VOTE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE
District 1: (vote for 1 in District 1)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3-Year Term David Hamre (Incumbent) (Nominated by Committee)
District 2: (vote for 1 in District 2)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3-Year Term Norman "Butch" Myers (Nominated by Committee)
<input type="checkbox"/>	3-Year Term Roger Winter (Incumbent) (Nominated by Committee)
District 3: (vote for 1 in District 3)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	3-Year Term Jimmy Kaiser (Incumbent) (Nominated by Committee)

Statement of Secretary with Respect to Election of Directors

At the Annual Meeting of the Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc. to be held at Mahnomen, Minnesota, on April 7, 2026, three directors are to be elected to fill the directorships now held by David Hamre (three-year term), Erskine, MN; Roger Winter (three-year term), Callaway, MN; Jimmy Kaiser (three-year term), Lake Park, MN. The following nominations have been received from the committee on nominations, viz:

District 1 (3-Year Term)

David Hamre

District 2 (3-Year Term)

Norman "Butch" Myers
Roger Winter

District 3 (3-Year Term)

Jimmy Kaiser

In accordance with Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Bylaws, any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the Committee is posted.

Any member who may be absent from said annual meeting may vote by mail for directors by requesting a ballot for directors from the Secretary of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 438, Mahnomen, MN, 56557, and by marking on the ballot, an "X" opposite the names of the number of candidates equal to the number of directors to be elected and enclosing the ballot in a sealed envelope bearing their name, addressed to the Secretary of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 438, Mahnomen, MN, 56557, and mailing the same in time so that it will reach the Secretary on or before, the date of the annual meeting and before the ballots for directors are collected and canvassed by the ballot inspectors.

Any provisions relating to the rights of a membership apply equally to all holders of a joint membership, specifically and without limitation: The presence at a meeting of any member constitutes the presence of all members and is a waiver of notice of the meeting, and the vote of any of those holding joint membership, separately or all, jointly constitutes one joint vote.

Dated at Mahnomen, Minnesota,
February 12, 2026.

Mark Habadank, Secretary
Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Mahnomen, Minnesota 56557

KNOW WHAT'S
BELOW
CALL



BEFORE YOU DIG.
One FREE easy call gets
your utility lines marked
AND helps protect you
from injury and expense.

Ads

For Sale
White French door refrigerator w/
water & icemaker dispenser, bot-
tom drawer freezer. Oak dining
room set w/ 6 chairs & large leaf.
Lg oak w/ lighted curios on each
end of entertainment center.
32" color TV. Little children's
Golden Books. Small entertain-
ment center w/ bottom drawer.
Pantry cupboard, lots of jewelry in
boxes – big assortment, all items
in good condition will sell items
cheap, (701) 866-7551.

2014 BMW 320i xdrive, high miles
in excellent condition, all black,
(701) 660-9468.

Wood -splitter on wheels- mo-
tor won't run, \$300. 14.5 tires &
wheels, \$30 ea. Firewood, \$200
cord. Pair of tires like new, \$100.
Jim Vaughn -band meat saw
(commercial), \$500. "Lopi" wood
stove w/ class A -stainless piping,
\$550, call days (218) 935-5110.

Silver Reed Knitting Machine
SK-840 w/ the Silver Link 4 for
patterning. Like new condition.
\$1,200. Lessons available. (218)
238-5882.

Jenkins brand Skid Steer at-
tachments new & used, various
grapples, brush mowers, bale
& pallet forks, wood splitters,
stump buckets, various dirt & rock
buckets, (701) 261-3574.

1980 Sylvan 16 ft Rodmaster
fishing boat w/ 55 HP 2 Stroke
Johnson motor & EZ load trailer.
Boat in very good condition &
stored indoors, Big Elbow Lake,
\$3,250, (218) 850-4027.

2012 Polaris 570cc Razor. 1984
Honda Magna Motorcycle, (218)
261-0971.

About 250 cookbooks, fridge,
\$75, sofa \$20, hide a bed, \$10 and
old metal sleds, best offer, (218)
847-0476.

Snowblower walk behind, new
tires, as is. Chaparral snowmobile,
excellent, (218) 584-4603.

4x5 round net wrapped hay bales
also small square bales stored
inside, (218) 261-0971.

Wanted
Small Dark house w/wheels for
Spearing, (218) 849-1700.

Seeking bottle calf (Beef) for 4H
program. Prefer bull calf. No dairy
cross. Call or text (701) 318-7884.

Builder for new guest house
dwelling, installation & siding for
present house & garages. (701)
371-1902

Buying guns, estates, taxidermy
& other hunting related items.
Paying cash. Call or text (701)
866-7246

Two-year-old black angus heifer.
7 in x 1/2 pipe threaded at 1 end,
capped at 1 end for radiator drain,
(218) 584-4603.

Our Ad Policy

- Ads are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication.
- Email ads: info@wildriceelectric.com
- Mail ads:
Wild Rice Electric
PO Box 438
Mahnomen, MN
56557

Power Plant Tour



Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is planning a power plant tour to Center, North Dakota on Wednesday and Thursday, June 17–18, 2026.

Call (800) 244-5709 today to reserve your spot. The cost is \$100 per person or \$180 for double occupancy. Space is limited.

Rate Adjustment Following Cost-of-Service Study

Over the past few issues of Rural DeLight, we've shared information about Wild Rice Electric Cooperative's upcoming rate adjustment and the reasons behind it. As a reminder, our updated cost of service study reviewed rising fixed costs, the impacts of inflation, and a 4.1% increase in wholesale power costs. The study also evaluated a new surcharge passed through to the cooperative from Minnkota Power from unexpected market power purchases made in 2025. The study considered the real costs of running and maintaining our electric system, costs that exist regardless of how much electricity is used.

As part of the adjustment, the board simplified the rate structure by incorporating the Minnkota surcharge, originally considered to appear as a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA), directly into the base energy rate rather than listing it as a separate line item on your bill. The study also ensured these costs are shared fairly across all member classes. The updated rates listed below reflect this careful review and help keep the cooperative financially strong while continuing to provide safe, reliable electric service for our members.

Rate increase details

Effective April 1, 2026 (May's bill)

	Current Rate	New Rate
General Service Energy Charge		
per kWh	11.60¢	12.65¢
General Service Off Peak Rates		
Short-Term (Spot Heat)	7.71¢	8.16¢
Intermittent Storage Heat (Cycled)	6.31¢	6.76¢
Intermittent Storage Heat (Non-Cycled)	7.01¢	7.52¢
Long-Term (Dual Heat)	6.31¢	6.76¢
Electric Vehicle (Cycled)	6.31¢	6.76¢
Irrigation/ Grain Dryer Service Energy Charge		
per kWh April 1 - December 31	9.60¢	10.65¢
per kWh January 1 - March 31	11.60¢	12.65¢
Base charge per transformer size		
Up to 7½ KVA	\$55.00	\$57.50
10 KVA	\$57.50	\$60.00
15 KVA	\$60.00	\$62.50
25 KVA	\$62.50	\$65.00
37½ KVA	\$65.00	\$67.50
50 KVA	\$67.50	\$70.00

	Current Rate	New Rate
Large Power Service Energy Charge		
per kWh	8.26¢	9.31¢
Large Power Service Off Peak Rates		
Short-Term (Spot Heat)	6.81¢	7.26¢
Intermittent Storage Heat (Cycled)	6.01¢	6.46¢
Intermittent Storage Heat (Non-Cycled)	6.11¢	6.56¢
Long-Term (Dual Heat)	6.01¢	6.46¢
Large Power Demand		
per kW	\$10.00	\$10.00
Large Power Base charge per transformer size		
Members will see a base charge increase that varies by transformer size, ensuring costs align with service capacity. Below are a few examples:		
75 KVA	\$101.25	\$105.00
100 KVA	\$135.00	\$140.00
125 KVA	\$169.00	\$175.00
150 KVA	\$202.50	\$210.00
Rental Lights		
Yard light (individual)	\$12.00	\$12.50
Street lights (association group)	\$11.00	\$11.50

Residential Bill Comparison

excludes tax

Current	New
Energy/kWh: 1,000 x \$0.116 = \$116.00	Energy/kWh: 1,000 x \$0.1265 = \$126.50
Off- Peak kWh (Dual Heat): 2,000 x \$0.0631 = \$126.20	Off- Peak kWh (Dual Heat): 2,000 x \$0.0676 = \$135.20
Base Charge: \$62.50	Base Charge: \$65.00
Yard Light: \$12.00	Yard Light: \$12.50
Total \$316.70	Total \$339.20



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Wild Rice Electric
 Cooperative, Inc.

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
 Monday- Friday

Telephone: (800) 244-5709 or to
 make a payment (855) 949-5868

Website: wildriceelectric.com

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.*

WREC President and CEO Mike Wade to Retire in 2026

After 37 years in the electric cooperative industry, Mike Wade, President and CEO of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative (WREC), has announced plans to retire in 2026. "I am excited to have reached this milestone, but I will deeply miss the employees, directors, and members of the cooperative," Wade said. "I look forward to seeing the great work Wild Rice will continue to do in the future."

During his time as CEO, Wade worked with the Board of Directors and operations staff to prioritize system improvements and develop a new approach to vegetation management. This work focused on improving reliability and reducing outages for members. "Improving



reliability was something our Board and line crews felt strongly about," Wade said. "By taking a more proactive approach to vegetation management, we've been able to make significant progress in removing tree and brush growth around our overhead lines. This helps everyone."

Wade also emphasized the importance of investing in employees through engage-

ment, training, and a strong commitment to safety. "I am proud of the focus we've placed on our employees and our safety program," Wade said. "Wild Rice will face many challenges in the future, and our employees are our greatest asset. It's important that we continue preparing them for the opportunities and challenges ahead."

The WREC Board of Directors has begun the search for the cooperative's next President and CEO and is committed to ensuring a smooth leadership transition. Congratulations to Mike on his upcoming retirement and thank you for your dedicated service to the cooperative and its members.