



Tommy Houdek (left), current Director of Member Services & Communications at Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, has been named the cooperative's next President & CEO. Houdek will succeed Mike Wade and officially assume the role on July 15.

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative Announces Leadership Transition

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative (WREC) is preparing for a leadership transition as President and CEO Mike Wade announces his retirement effective July 14, 2026.

Wade joined Wild Rice Electric Cooperative in 2023 and will retire with more than 34 years of experience in the cooperative industry. Throughout his career, he has served in a variety of leadership roles and has dedicated his work to serving cooperative members and rural communities.

During his time at WREC, Wade helped guide the cooperative through important initiatives focused on reli-

ability, member service, and organizational growth. He expressed pride in the accomplishments achieved during his tenure and gratitude for the opportunity to serve the members of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative.

"It has been an honor to work alongside the employees, board members, and communities served by Wild Rice Electric," Wade said. "I am very proud of what we have accomplished together and confident the cooperative is in a strong position moving forward."

See inside: **Leadership Transition**



Wild Rice Electric Cooperative will be closed on Friday, July 3 in honor of Independence Day.

From the cover: Leadership Transition



Tommy Houdek (left) will become Wild Rice Electric Cooperative's next President & CEO on July 15. He has served as the cooperative's Director of Member Services & Communications for more than 10 years.

After more than 34 years of dedicated service and leadership in the electric cooperative industry, Mike Wade will retire as President & CEO of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative on July 14 (below).



The WREC Board of Directors began the search process following Wade's retirement announcement. After a thorough review of candidates, the board selected Tommy Houdek to lead the cooperative into its next chapter.

Wild Rice Electric thanks Mike Wade for his leadership, commitment, and positive impact on the cooperative. We are grateful for his service and wish Mike and his family all the best in retirement.

A local resident with strong ties to the region, Houdek has been employed at Wild Rice Electric for more than 10 years, serving as Director

of Member Services and Communications. During his time with the cooperative, he has worked closely with members, employees, and community partners throughout the service territory.

Houdek said he is honored to step into the new leadership role and looks forward to continuing the cooperative's commitment to its members and communities.

"I am excited for this opportunity and thankful to the Board of Directors for their confidence in me," Houdek said. "What makes Wild Rice Electric special

is the great team we have and the teamwork demonstrated by our employees every day. I look forward to continuing to work together to serve our members."

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative remains committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity while continuing its strong tradition of member-focused service.

Highlights from the Board Room:

The Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on April 28, 2026. During the meeting, the Board recapped the 86th Annual Meeting held April 7, 2026.

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

- **Approved** the board minutes and financial reports and statements for March 2026
- **Approved** the board reorganization meeting minutes
- **Accepted** the first quarter 2026 Financial Review Committee Report
- **Appointed** board members to the 2026-2027 Board Committees
- **Appointed** the voting delegate for the upcoming CFC and NCSC annual meetings
- **Accepted** the management department reports
- **Accepted** the Minnkota Power report
- **Accepted** the MREA report

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

SAFETY TIP

Celebrate Safely this Fourth

- Overloaded circuits can occur with increased use of fans, grills, speakers, and outdoor lighting, creating a potential fire risk.
- Water and electricity are a dangerous combination, especially around pools, sprinklers, and outdoor gatherings.
- Fireworks can cause serious injuries or fires if used near power lines or electrical equipment.
- Improper use of extension cords and outdoor lighting may lead to electrical shocks, overheating, or short circuits.



Happenings Around Wild Rice Electric Cooperative

Jill Kettner (left), Operations and Safety Coordinator, sharing the 2026 Leroy Vanderpool Excellence in Safety Award. This recognition reflects our ongoing commitment to a safety culture where everyone shares responsibility and caring for people remains at the heart of all we do.



Recently Wild Rice Electric Cooperative held a Retiree Rally thanks to all who were able to attend.
Back row left to right: Steve Haaven, Fred Houdek, Al Brunner, Kathy Rogers, Heather Pederson, Bob Spaeth, and Ken Ahmann.
Front row left to right: Duane Gunderson, George Miller, Tom Ryan, John Simon, Jolene Brevik and Ray Klinkhammer.



Our annual Power Plant Tour was filled with great conversations, plenty of smiles, and valuable learning experiences. Although we were disappointed that we couldn't visit the coal mines as planned, members still enjoyed a memorable trip and gained a greater appreciation for how electricity is generated and delivered to the homes, farms, and businesses we serve.

Ways to Pay



You can make a payment and set up autopay. All you need is your account number.



WREC will automatically draft your checking account or credit card for the amount of your monthly electric bill. You'll still receive monthly statements, but you won't have to write a check!



Do not want to create an online? You can simply click "pay now" on top right of the screen at wildriceelectric.com for a one-time online payment. Enter your account number and last name to pay your bill.



Call (855) 949-5868 to make a payment 24 hours a day with a debit or credit card or by entering your checking or savings account information. Please have your account number available.



Hand a payment to us in person or use our drop box located to the left of our main door available 24 hours a day. 502 North Main, Mahanomen



Mail checks or money orders using the return envelope and remittance included with your monthly bill statement, PO Box 438, Mahanomen MN 56557

Ads

For Sale

AKC registered golden retriever pups (all female). Whelped May 16. Both parents are avid hunters with wonderful dispositions. \$1000. References available. (701) 412-7660.

Hustler Raptor SD mower 48-inch deck less than 9 hours run time like new \$4,500 (218) 686-6592.

Set of 4 rims & tires for 2016 Polaris Ranger, \$300 or best offer. 600+ clean used brick 4"x8"x2" best offer. Give away 44-205-65-16 tires, (218) 439-6505.

Evinrude 4 HP in light twin outboard motor, \$400. Like new 19.5 tires, \$75. Free sq totes 125 gal or 250 gal, (218) 935-5110.

1980 Sylvan 16' Rod master fishing boat w/ 55HP 2 stroke & EZ load trailer, \$2,990. (218) 850-4027.

Allis Chalmers (AC) WD-45 tractor, wide front, with mounted AC sickle mower. Tractor rear tires like new, \$4,800 (218) 849-9317.

Murray rider mover 13 HP, 40 in cut, extra blades (1 issue). Round hay bales 4x4 put up dry last year, (218) 584-4603.

Skid steer attachments new & used assorted grapples, buckets, stump & tree removers, and more (701) 261-3574.

Firewood by the cord, (218) 850-1712.

Yamaha GP760 Wave runner Jet Ski with Shore lander trailer, coverage and aluminum pier pleasure Jet ski lift \$2,995, (218) 849-7495.

Haying equipment: John Deere 327 square baler \$2,975. New Holland 488 haybine, good rollers, \$2,450 New Holland 144 windrow inverter, \$2,275. All three items have been stored inside & are in good condition. Can send pictures. (218) 849-1973.

1990 Alumni craft 16ft boat w/ trailer, 30 hp Johnson motor, 45lb power drive Minnkota trolling motor, live well, carpeted floors, 3 seats, boat cover, storage area for rods & life jackets, full maintenance done April 2026, stored in shop garage, very good condition, (218) 473-3114.

Livestock guardian puppies, 3/4 Pyrenees. 4 girls, 4 boys. Good around chickens, cats, lambs. Potty & crate trained, good on leash, started obedience. Born 1/24. Txt for pics: (218) 275-9739.

EZ Roll Lift for pontoon. Holds up to 20ft. pontoon. Steel frame w/ removable wheels for easy moving, \$495. Strawberry Lake. (701) 318-2042.

2003-4 stroke, 15 horse Yamaha boat motor, stored in garage, have original owner's manual, \$1,500, (218) 849-9829.

Heavy Duty Leon hyd loader. 50 John Deere narrow front, excellent condition (218) 204-0283.

Slightly used 3/4 horse KASCO Aqua Thruster. Includes extra long cord & stand. Used Yellow Water Slide - 8' - have all the pieces needs a little clean-up but ready to go. 2019 Hyundai Sonata SE, Black 133,000 miles - new tires, keyless entry, great mileage. Selling "As Is" - damage to front grill. Call (218) 779-7858 or email: mooremichael785@gmail.com.

Pontoon barge w/ trailer needs work on deck, \$3,800, (218) 841-9584.

Mercury Grand Marquis LS 30th Anniversary Edition. This is a one owner AZ vehicle that has never been driven on Minnesota winter roads. No rust. 193K miles 4.6 V8 22 mpg Automatic Trans. Top model in Marquis line. Equipped w/ AC, CD player, power leather seats, cruise control, steering wheel controls, individual side temp controls, remote, auto trunk opener. New tires, green color, tan interior. Reduced to \$3,900, call (701) 361-1302.

87" Patio Heater 48,000 BTU, built-in wheel for mobility. Uses 20 lb. propane tank (not included). Only been used a few times. \$50, (218) -850-4027

Wanted

Good used SUV w/ lower miles & no rust, 2014 or under, (218) 593-1686.

6 HP Johnson 2-stroke outboard motor in good condition, lv message (218) 849-3424.

2 year old black Angus (open) heifer (218) 584-4603.

Our Ad Policy

- No real estate or commercial ads will be accepted.
 - Ads must be typed or in clear readable print. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad.
 - Ads will be abbreviated at the co-op's discretion.
 - Ads are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication.
- 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
 - Mail ads to: Wild Rice Electric Cooperative PO Box 438 Mahanomen, MN 56557

Gopher State One Call

KNOW WHAT'S BELOW



BEFORE YOU

DIG.

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

HOW CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

at a glance



Become a Wild Rice Electric Co-op Member



Wild Rice Electric Co-op tracks how much energy a member purchases from the co-op each year



In April of each year capital credits are allocated. Your portion of the margins are based on the amount of energy you purchased.



Yearly, the Wild Rice Electric Co-op Board of Directors evaluates the cooperatives finances to determine how much capital credits can be returned.

\$730,753
Will be returned to members this year for the remaining part of 2000, 2001 and part of 2002.

Approximately 25 years later, members receive their capital credit check.

Capital credits will appear as a credit on active members' August 2026 bills. Former members will receive a check mailed to the last address on file. If you know someone who needs to update their mailing address, please have them contact us at (800) 244-5709. A list of uncashed capital credits is available at wildriceelectric.com

Why do Capital Credits Matter?

with Crystal Askelson, Director of Finance

What are capital credits?

Capital credits are one of the unique benefits of being a cooperative member. They represent your ownership in Wild Rice Electric Cooperative and your share of the cooperative's financial success.

Why are capital credits important?

As a member-owner, any margins remaining after expenses are allocated to you the member as capital credits based on the amount of electricity you use. These funds help the cooperative maintain and improve the electric system while keeping rates as affordable as possible.

Why doesn't the co-op return the money immediately?

The cooperative uses capital credits to help pay for infrastructure such as poles, power lines, transformers, and other system improvements. This reduces the need to borrow money and helps keep costs down. As the cooperative remains financially strong, capital credits are returned to you the member.

How long does it take to receive capital credits?

Capital credits are typically retired on a rotating basis, with the oldest allocated capital credits paid first. Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is currently retiring capital credits that were allocated approximately 25 years ago.



What happens if I move or pass away?

If you move, it is important to keep your mailing address current with the cooperative. Capital credit checks for former members are mailed to the last address on file.

In the event of a member's death, the member's estate may apply for a retirement of capital credits, by submitting the required documentation.



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District 3: Randy Bjornson
President & CEO Mike Wade/ Tommy Houdek

This Institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Wild Rice Electric Cooperative is teaming up with Waukon Dairy, Bongards Cheese and Minnkota Power Cooperative for a

MEET & GREET

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, August 13 at Waukon Dairy

More to details to come in August's Rural Delight

