

Open HOUSE

at Wild Rice Electric Cooperative
502 North Main • Mahanomen

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

11 am to 1 pm

Enjoy

Hotdogs & chips
Safety board demonstrations
Meet "Sylvie," Minnkota Power's
new All-Electric Silverado Truck
Visit with fellow members
and our Wild Rice Electric team

7 Cooperative Principles

What makes us different?

Our 7 Cooperative
Principles guide how
we serve our members
and communities.

Voluntary & Open Membership: Open to all.

Democratic Member Control: One member, one vote.

Member Economic Participation: Members share in the success.

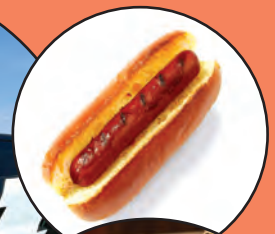
Autonomy & Independence: Member controlled.

Education, Training & Information: Learn, grow and share.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Cooperatives work together.

Concern for Community: Supporting our communities.

October 2026 • Volume 86 • Issue 10
News from Wild Rice Electric Co-op, Inc.
PO Box 438 Mahanomen, MN 56557
www.wildriceelectric.com



October is National Cooperative Month, a time to celebrate the cooperative spirit and the people who make cooperatives strong.

Cooperatives are unique because they are owned and guided by the people they serve. As a member of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, you are also a member-owner. That means our role goes beyond providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. It means being a good neighbor, investing in the communities we serve and giving back to the places we are grateful to call home.

Cooperatives are generally rooted in seven distinct principles, one of which is Concern for Community. For us, this principle includes finding ways to make a lasting impact in our service territory. Recently, Wild Rice Electric employees put this principle into action



Debbie Hagy of Wild Rice Electric Cooperative presents a check to Heather Baer of Sunnyside Care Center.

by assisting with events at two local nursing homes. Employees came together to lend a helping hand, supporting activities that make a positive difference for residents.

Whether it's assisting with a local event, supporting a community organization or simply spending time with our neighbors, every effort can create a meaningful change. Giving back is a natural extension of who we are as a cooperative. Together, we're making a difference where we live, work, and serve.

We can't wait to celebrate National Cooperative Month with you on October 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Stop by, enjoy some food, visit with our staff and fellow members, and celebrate what makes being part of a cooperative so special.

The strength of a cooperative is measured not only by the electricity we deliver, but also by the relationships we build and the communities we help strengthen.

We are proud to be part of these communities and even prouder to give back.

Highlights from the Board Room:

The Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on July 28, 2026. During the meeting, the Board heard a presentation on Director Fiduciary Responsibilities by the Cooperative Attorney and received departmental updates on the three-year strategic plan action items.

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

- **Approved** the board minutes and financial reports and statements for June 2026
- **Accepted** the second quarter 2026 Financial Review Committee Report
- **Adopted** a resolution and approved the execution of financial institution authorizations to reflect the leadership change
- **Appointed** a delegate and alternate for the upcoming NRECA/ RESCO Regional Meeting
- **Adopted** a Wildfire Mitigation Plan
- **Rescheduled** the regular December board meeting to December 22, 2026
- **Accepted** the Policy Review Committee Report
- **Accepted** the management department reports
- **Accepted** the Minnkota Power report
- **Accepted** the MREA report

The October regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2026.

SAFETY TIP

Tricks, Treats and Safety Make Halloween a Scream!

Keep Halloween fun and safe for everyone! Never run electrical cords across sidewalks or walkways, where trick-or-treaters could trip or become injured. Indoors, keep cords safely out of walking areas and away from places where children or pets could trip or become tangled.

Planning today for the power needs of tomorrow

Minnkota Power Cooperative is preparing for one of the most important power supply planning periods in its history – and our members are at the heart of our decision-making process. As the wholesale power provider for Wild Rice Electric Cooperative and 10 other member cooperatives across eastern North Dakota and north-western Minnesota, Minnkota is responsible for making sure reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity is available not only today, but decades into the future. That responsibility is becoming more complex.

Our approach

Electricity demand is growing. Power markets are changing. Environmental requirements continue to evolve. New technologies are creating opportunities, but also new challenges. At the same time, members continue to expect dependable electric service they can afford.

Minnkota takes the job of managing these issues seriously. The path ahead is being shaped by extensive planning, detailed analysis and a long-term commitment to the members and communities we serve.

Our approach is an all-of-the-above energy strategy. That means we're working to strengthen the coal, wind and hydro resources we already have in place, while adding new resources that make our system more diverse, flexible and reliable.

Our future

One important step already in progress is the development of the Flickertail Wind Farm near New Rockford, North Dakota. Minnkota has entered into a purchase power agreement to receive energy from the 370-megawatt wind project, which is expected to be completed in 2028. When complete, Flickertail will more than double Minnkota's current wind energy portfolio.



Mac McLennan,
President & CEO
Minnkota Power
Cooperative

Because wind energy output changes with weather conditions, Minnkota also needs resources that can respond when electricity demand is high or when other resources are producing less. That's why we're closely evaluating the addition of natural gas generation in North Dakota.

This effort is connected to the development of the Bakken East natural gas pipeline, which is planned to move natural gas from the oilfields of western North Dakota to the eastern side of the state. Natural gas generation can start up, ramp down and adjust output to help match electricity supply with demand across the region. Minnkota is still determining the right technology, location and size for this potential facility, but current planning is focused on having it available in the early 2030s.

Our investments

At the same time, Minnkota's existing coal-based resources at the Milton R. Young Station in western North Dakota continue to provide tremendous value. This facility produces dependable, around-the-clock electricity and supports the reliability our members expect. That's why Minnkota continues to pursue Project Tundra, an effort to add carbon capture technology at the Young Station. If implemented, Project Tundra would capture CO2 emissions from the power plant and help position it to meet potential future environmental regulations.

Project Tundra is being advanced by a

technology developer with the significant help of state and federal funding. Importantly, the project is being structured with limited required capital investment from Minnkota, minimizing financial risk to the membership. If a decision is made to move forward, the facility could be online prior to the end of the decade.

Our commitment

These power supply decisions are being made for Minnkota's legacy members, including the homes, farms, schools and businesses served by Wild Rice Electric. You are the foundation of our system, and your needs remain at the center of our planning.

Our plan

That same member-first approach also guides how Minnkota evaluates electric growth. New large electricity consumers can bring opportunity to our region, but only if they are served in a way that protects existing members and strengthens the overall system. That's the standard Minnkota is applying to the data center being developed near Harwood, North Dakota.

The data center will cover the costs for its dedicated infrastructure up front and pay its own way for all its energy needs. The agreement is designed to ensure this new load does not shift costs to existing members. In fact, the revenues from this data center project can help cover a portion of the costs tied to future power supply investments Minnkota is already pursuing.

With each of these projects now in motion, the work is moving from planning to action. The decisions ahead are significant, but necessary to keep power reliable. As a not-for-profit cooperative, Minnkota's focus remains on the people and communities we serve. That focus will continue to guide the decisions being made today for the power needs of tomorrow.

DATA CENTERS & ELECTRIC RATES

While WREC doesn't currently serve a large-scale data center, we want to dispel some myths about their impact on local electric bills.

MYTH

"DATA CENTERS WILL DRIVE UP MY ELECTRICITY COSTS."

REALITY

DATA CENTERS CAN ACTUALLY HELP KEEP ELECTRIC RATES STABLE.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING:

Most of your electric bill is made up of "fixed costs"

Your electric bill helps cover the power plants, poles, wires, substations and other infrastructure that deliver electricity to your home. These long-term investments, called "fixed costs," are paid for over decades, much like a mortgage.

Large electricity consumers help cover these fixed costs

When a large customer, like a data center, connects to our system, they pay 100% of their new equipment and contribute toward existing system costs. These contributions can help keep rates stable and reduce future increases.



Rates may still go up for other reasons

Does this mean rates never go up again? No. Inflation, supply chain, and rising labor and material costs are increasing expenses. Data center contributions may help limit these impacts and reduce future increases for everyone else.

Takeaway

With the right partnerships, data centers can help stabilize electric rates by paying their fair share.



Ads

For Sale

Erskine 3 pt snow blower, make offer, (218) 938-4318.

Old Windsor wood cook stove, complete w/ warming ovens & water reservoir, gray & white color, good condition, \$250, (218) 435-6820.

2 Fender Tele cater guitars, 2 jeep gas cans, (218) 567-8511, lv number.

Savage Axis 243 w/ 3x9x40 scope great condition, \$300 & a 25.06 blued barrel for a Thompson center pro hunter excellent cond, \$250, obo, (218) 849-8187.

#60 John Deere, wide front all hydraulic, \$3,000, (218) 847-0476.

98 Buick LeSabre, high miles, runs good but needs work on brakes, (218) 850-0586.

New and used skid steer attachments. Various types of grapples, pallet and hay forks, brush mowers, Stump buckets and grinders, post hole augers, plus lots more good selection on hand Mahnomen, (701) 261-3574.

Yellow swim raft 7.5'x9' \$600. Lake Slide \$400. Call or text (701) 739-6363.

Yorkshire Terrier 43"x43" original oil painting. \$50, text (218) 280-2166.

Two new gas generators. New 110 & 1 volt refrigerator. Wood fire ring. Back heater & neck heater. Tools & electric wood tools. 2 new ceiling fans. New sleeping bag. New kitchen utensils, (218) 841-0992.

Scott Atwater 22, \$40. Round fenders for MMZ, \$20 pair. 2 rims were JD duals, 11-38 no fluid, \$20. 9x24 rear tire, \$20. Turf tire 1600x16, \$20. JD suspension seat, nice, \$20. Large wood furnace, \$100, (218) 261-1283.

6.5 Grendel Gen 2 Ruger American, \$575. 350 Legend in anar w/ 3x9 scope, \$750, both new, (218) 847-7824.

1959 Core craft 14 ft boat, 6 hp Johnson outboard motor, (218) 844-6372.

Mixed hardwood firewood for sale \$175 a cord, will load, hauling extra, (218) 204 0496.

3, Acer Chromebooks paid, \$350 like new used 6 months, \$100 ea. 2003 Pontiac Montana transmission 23,000 miles, \$800, (218) 401-1168.

Onan alternator, PTO driven. 8 ft blade w/ 3 pt hitch. Hiawatha 5hp outboard motor, (218) 938-4318.

2- Polaris Ranger snow plows 6 ft, one new \$900 & one used \$500. 12ft Carstens duck boat, \$700, (218) 280-3699.

2005 F-150 4x4 161,000 mi, 8 ft box, very good condition, \$6,000. 2007 Ford Fusion 199,000 mi, runs good, \$2,000, call or text (218) 289-0612.

16' stock trailer. 20' flat bed trailer. 5" saddle. M&M collection. 59-60 Trackster Cushman. 2 - G Allis Chalmers tractors, (701) 866-7907 or (218) 422-5091.

2021 CF Moto Z Force 800 Trail Sport Utility Side-By-Side. One owner, 596 miles. Call to test drive, cash only, (701)-361-0597.

Western Trail Saddle, leather & synthetic material. Padded suede seat w/ fleece lining, \$275, (701) 371-8048.

Paulson loader off M Farmall complete with 2 spool hyd. Control valve and trip bucket converted to hydraulic function. \$500. New tractor tire chains size fitment 13.6-28/14.9-24/420-70-24. Still in bags purchased \$475. Push blade for 400 series JD Lawntactors 400/420/430 hyd. Lift \$300, call or text (218) 415-0723.

9 x 7 steel garage door. Computer hutch/desk comb. (can text picture). Selling both items due to remodeling, (218) 483-4203.

Deer hunting tree stand, game hauling cart, both \$65. Wooden tobaggan, \$35, new April Air 501 furnace filters box 4, \$200 (612) 597-8112.

Our Ad Policy

- Ads must be typed or in clear readable print. We reserve the right to edit or reject any ad.

- Ads are due by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

- Email ads to: info@wildriceelectric.com

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

Wanted

To buy old guns and ammo, (218) 686-8385.

Wheel horse or Panzer lawnmowers any condition, Call or text (218) 849-3069.

Free

1994 Arctic Cat Prowler snowmobile 440 LC w/ reverse EFI, needs CDI box, engine has no spark, very good condition, come & get it, (218) 261-3415.

NOTICE BUDGET BILL ACCOUNTS

Member Name
Account #

JIMMY KILOWATT
123456

Billing Date: 09/01/2026
Current Bill Due Date: 09/24/2026

Previous Balance	\$210.00
Payment Received	-\$210.00
Balance Forward	\$0.00
Budget Amount Due	\$210.00
Current Account Balance	-\$1,203.09

Budget
Amount Due

\$210.00

Check your statement

Your **Current Account Balance** is listed on your monthly statement. Keeping an eye on your account helps ensure your budget payment stays on track. Use the example as a guide to locate your balance.

Please be advised that your monthly budget amount may change with your November statement based on your previous 12 months of average usage, with adjustments for anticipated changes in usage or rates.

How's Your Balance Looking?

If you're enrolled in Budget Billing, now is a great time to check your **Current Account Balance** before the heating season begins.

A **credit on your current account balance is usually good news**. It means you've built up a cushion that can help offset the higher energy use that often comes with colder winter months. If your credit balance is especially high, you may be able to reduce your monthly budget payment.

An **outstanding balance on your current account balance needs attention**. If your balance is growing, your monthly budget payment may not be keeping up with your energy use.

Not sure if your account is where it should be? Reach out to Billing Department (800) 244-5709 or email billinginfo@wildriceelectric.com

Minnesota Rural Electric Association (representing rural electric cooperatives), other utilities including Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power, Xcel Energy, and the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association (representing municipal power utilities) joined with the Minnesota Farm Bureau, Minnesota Farmers



Union, the Cooperative Network and the Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association in develop-

ing an important tool for dealing with stray voltage challenges. Also joining in the effort and research were the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry and Department of Agriculture. As a result, the Minnesota Stray Voltage Guide is available for livestock organizations across the state and is being used to address any concerns that may arise.

The presence of stray voltage is a normal result of electricity traveling through utility distribution systems, which must be grounded to earth to ensure safe and reliable operation. However, if problems occur, the level of voltage present on a farm can reach levels that could impact livestock. Dairy farmers are our member-owners. The Guide provides another tool to ensure any challenges they may be experiencing in this area are being addressed.

Other states have adopted standard practices to address stray voltage concern, and there has been a lot of research done. This research was used in developing this guide, and has served as the foundation for the development of standards in other states. The entire guidebook can be downloaded at <https://www.minnesotastrayvoltage-guide.com>. There is no cost to download the guidebook. As always we encourage anyone with questions to contact us.

COLD WEATHER RULE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule (216B.096), electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50% of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by Wild Rice Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from Wild Rice Electric Cooperative.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects.

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between Oct. 1 and April 30, Wild Rice Electric Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below the state median income (\$73,969 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2027.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/energy/consumer-assistance/energyassistance-program>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.

Mahube Community Council

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

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

Energy Assistance Program

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 County Community 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.



PERIODICAL

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Monday- Friday

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

Website: willdriceelectric.com

Email: info@willdriceelectric.com

App: SmartHub



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Secretary Paula Okeson, District 3
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& Roger Winter

District 3: Randy Bjornson

President & CEO Tommy Houdek

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

Do you Know



Wild Rice Electric Cooperative
is now on both Facebook and Instagram.
Give us a follow and stay connected
with your cooperative.

USPS Statement of Ownership

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16. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Manager (Not printer)
Wild Rice Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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