

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Hooked on Fishing

**South Dakota Fish
Hatcheries**

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**Methods of
Moving Structures**

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*Photo Credit:
Markus Erk*

West River Electric's 2022 Achievements



Dick Johnson
General Manager

The winter is starting to wind down, spring is around the corner, and we are well into another year. I give an update each year on what your cooperative achieved during the prior year. You can be very proud of your employee group who worked so hard to accomplish so much. It was a year of unprecedented changes and events, but they persevered through it all! We are blessed!

1. The first goal is always safety.

- a. We worked over 127,000 hours
- b. One major accident but the rest of the hours were mostly injury free.
- c. Will continue to preach, teach and train safety each and every day.

2. Member Satisfaction

- a. American Consumer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) score increased to an 88 vs. 87 in 2021

3. Financial

- a. Met all targets internally and for our lenders
- b. 6th year in a row with no rate increase – Last increase was in 2016
- c. Margins for 2022 = \$3.589 million compared to \$3.685 million in 2021
 - i. Operating margins were \$653,000 vs. \$2.53 million in 2021
 - ii. Higher total margins included larger allocation of \$2.5 million from Basin/Rushmore
 - iii. We had a Revenue Deferral of \$1.5 million plus additional \$1.0 million of Basin bill credit in December
- d. Retired capital credits of \$2.1 million – same as 2021
- e. Payroll of \$5.9 million compared to \$5.3 million in 2021. (Dollars back into our communities we serve)

4. Sales

- a. Added 562 new billed services down from record in 2021 of 670 – Many new apartments being built currently that will be connected in 2023
- b. Sales = 329 million kWh vs. 307 million in 2021

– 7% increase over 2021

- c. New peak demand December 2022 = 80 MW
 - Peak demand in July of 78 MW broken
- d. New KWH purchase record December 2022 = 37 million kWh
- e. Rural members used an average of 1,375 kWh per month vs. 1,261 in 2021.
 - i. Average bill \$167.66 vs. \$148.47 in 2021 (see above on increased sales overall!).
- f. Urban members used average of 1,014 kWh vs. 982 kWh in 2021.
 - i. Average bill \$133.20 from \$123.50 in 2021
- g. Power costs increased 3% – mostly due to large peak demands that increase power costs

5. Infrastructure

- a. Staked 981 services vs. record in 2021 of over 1000
- b. Added 26 miles underground, retired four miles of underground, added 21 miles overhead, and retired 16 miles overhead for a total of 27 miles added
- c. Equity at year end = 31.8% - decrease from 2021 of 34.2%.
- d. Plant increased \$14.293 million or 9.3% vs. \$8.8 million or 6.1% growth.
- e. Many projects completed or working on – Eglin Street substation, Box Elder to Haines transmission line, along with several large feeders and line replacements.

6. Reliability

- a. Average member had electricity 99.99% of the time.
- b. Average member off 46.9 minutes in 2022 vs. 56.6 in 2021.
 - 5-year average of 48.4 minutes.

Wow what a year! Again, proud of our team of employees. With spring ramping up, it's easy to let safety slip to the back of our minds when gearing up to start outdoor projects. Please try and remember to keep it at the front. Stay safe.

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

WEST RIVER ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 675-840)

Our Mission:

We are safety conscious, community oriented, and the trusted energy expert for our member owners.

Our Vision:

We will achieve an ACSI score of 90 by 2024.

Our Values:

1. Safety
2. Accountability
3. Integrity
4. Innovation
5. Commitment to Community

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Board President: Andy Moon

Board of Directors

Stan Anders – Vice President
 Jamie Lewis – Secretary
 Larry Eisenbraun – Treasurer
 Jerry Hammerquist
 Howard Knuppe
 Marcia Arneson
 Chuck Sloan
 Sue Peters

CEO and General Manager:

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WEST RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is the monthly publication for the members of West River Electric Association. Members subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership for \$6 a year. West River Electric Cooperative Connections purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better living. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 per year. Periodicals Postage paid at Wall, S.D., and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to West River Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 412, Wall, SD 57790-0412.

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Cooperative Principle 3: Members Economic Participation



Amanda Haugen
 Communications
 Specialist

The third cooperative principle is “Member Economic Participation,” which is particularly relevant for electric cooperatives. The following article will discuss the principles covering the cooperative’s financial aspects.

This principle emphasizes the importance of member participation in the economic well-being of the cooperative. Members are not simply customers but owners of the cooperative, and they have a say in the management and direction of the organization. This principle recognizes that the financial success of the cooperative depends on the active participation of its members. This includes how the electrical rates are set. The cooperative must generate enough revenue to pay its bills and keep the doors open. This is the board’s responsibility.

In the context of electric cooperatives, Member Economic Participation takes on several forms. One of the most important ways members participate is through their investment in the co-op. Members typically purchase a share of the cooperative, which gives them voting rights and a say in the governance of the organization. This share comes from paying the electric bill. This investment is important because it provides the co-op with capital that can be used to build and maintain the electric distribution system. 845401

Another way members participate in the economic well-being of the co-op is through their energy usage. Members pay for the electricity they use, and this revenue is used to cover the costs of generating, transmitting, and distributing electricity. In some cases, members may also participate in load management programs that help reduce overall energy costs for the cooperative.

The third cooperative principle emphasizes the importance of the fifth cooperative principle; Education, Training, and Information (stay tuned for an article on this principle). Electric cooperatives have a responsibility to educate their members about the cooperative business model, the cooperative’s financial health, and energy conservation. This education helps members make informed decisions about their energy usage and helps them lower their electric bill. We are only one of the only businesses that encourage you to use less of what we sell. That is because you are the owner.

Finally, Member Economic Participation emphasizes the importance of member involvement in the governance of the cooperative. Members have the right to elect representatives to the board of directors, who are responsible for setting policies, rates, and guiding the direction of the cooperative. Members can attend annual meetings and vote on important issues affecting the coop including the board member elections.

In conclusion, the third cooperative principle, Member Economic Participation, is critical to the success of electric cooperatives as it recognizes that with ownership comes a financial obligation. Your ownership comes from your initial investment, energy usage, and involvement in the governance of the organization. Your ownership helps create a sustainable and equitable organization that serves the needs of its members and the broader community. Moreover, your ownership and investment helps keep the money local, another benefit of the cooperative business model.

Practicing Electrical Safety Inside and Outside the Home

Electricity is a vital resource South Dakotans depend on daily, but when used unsafely, the consequences can be costly and sometimes even deadly.

Many tragedies involve common items such as power outlets, appliances, power cords, power equipment and extension cords. Sadly, most of these deaths and injuries are preventable.

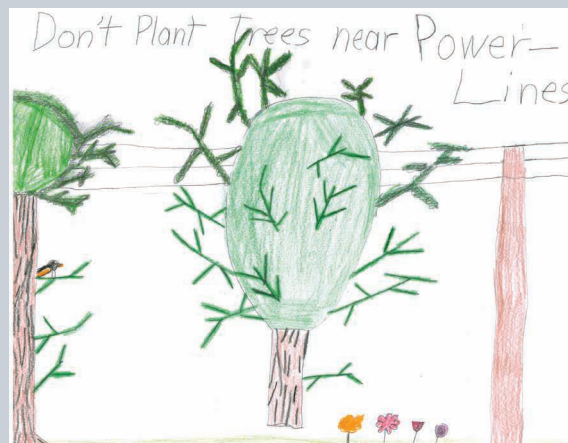
To help reduce electric safety casualties and injuries, South Dakota's electric cooperatives are dedicated to raising awareness of electric safety information to educate people of all ages on the dangers of electricity.

Inside the Home:

- Inspect electrical cords often for broken connectors or fraying. Throw away any worn cords to eliminate the possibility of shock, short circuit or fire.
- Don't overload power outlets.
- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- When trying to unplug something from an outlet, pull on the plug, not the cord.
- Keep in mind that turned off appliances are still connected to electricity until they are unplugged. Always unplug appliances before cleaning or repairing.
- Use extension cords only for short-term purposes, and make sure the cord is adequately suited for the amount of electricity it will be transferring.
- Turn off and unplug all portable electrical appliances, like hairdryers, irons and shavers, when you're finished using them.
- Be familiar with the location of your breaker box and make sure the switches are clearly labeled so you can shut off electricity quickly in the event of an emergency.
- Teach children never to put their fingers in electrical outlets and appliances.
- Keep appliances and cords away from children and use plug covers in outlets.

Outside the Home:

- If there is a downed power line nearby, leave the area immediately and notify your cooperative or call 911. If others are around, let them know that they need to stay away.
- Teach children to stay away from power lines and substations and make sure they can recognize "Danger-High Voltage" signs.
- Never use electrical equipment near any wet areas, such as pools or ponds.
- Remember, electricity looks for the shortest, most direct path to ground. A ladder, pole or even a wet kite string touching a power line will give electricity a new, shorter path and if you are holding one of these items, you could become a part of that path.
- "Call Before You Dig." Dial 811 before starting a digging project, and workers will be sent to your home to mark utility lines in your yard. This service is free, and it has the potential to save your life.



Power Line Safety

Annette Tschetter, age 9

Annette Tschetter, age 9, offers a great safety tip for power lines. Planting trees near power lines can be dangerous and problematic. Annette is the daughter of Ryan and Elaine Tschetter, members of Whetstone Valley Electric based in Milbank, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

SMOOTHIE SENSATION



WAKE UP COFFEE SMOOTHIE

Ingredients:

- 1 cup milk
- 1/8-1/4 cup instant coffee granules
- 1 envelope chocolate or vanilla instant breakfast drink mix
- 3 cups ice cubes

METHOD

In a blender, combine all the ingredients except the ice. Blend until well mixed. Add the ice and blend until well mixed and slushy.

Catherine Peterson
Viborg, S.D.

STRAWBERRY SMOOTHIE

Ingredients:

- 2 cups fresh strawberries, stemmed and halved
- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 1/2 cup ice cubes or chips
- 1/2 tsp. ground cardamom
- 1/4 tsp. ginger

METHOD

In a blender, combine all of the ingredients. Blend on high speed until it has a smoothie texture. Makes two 12 ounce glasses.

Dar Duncan
Milbank, S.D.

MINT CHOCOLATE BREAKFAST SMOOTHIE

Ingredients:

- 1 cup ice
- 1/2 medium avocado, peeled, pitted and chopped
- 1/2 cup frozen sliced banana
- 1/2 cup packed baby spinach leaves
- 1/2 cup reduced fat milk
- 1 tablespoon agave nectar
- 1/2 teaspoon Pure Vanilla Extract
- 1/4 teaspoon Pure Peppermint Extract
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped chocolate

METHOD

Place all ingredients except chocolate in blender container; cover. Blend on high speed until smooth. Stir in chocolate. Serve immediately.

mccormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.


Vehicle/Equipment Bids

West River Electric has the following items for sale by sealed bid. **Bids will be accepted until 5 p.m., Friday, April 14, 2023.** Sealed bids can be sent to any WREA office. All items are sold "as is" and WREA reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Bids will

be opened at the April 17, 2023, board meeting.


The following vehicles/equipment can be seen at our Rapid City office at 3250 E. Hwy 44. Ask for Mo or Brendan. 896900

Item #217




2011 Chevy ½ ton ext. Cap 4X4 5.3L 133,000mi.
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Address: _____
Bid: \$ _____

Item #208




2011 Ram 3500 4X4 Diesel w/utility box 131,000mi.
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Address: _____
Bid: \$ _____

Item #249




2007 GMC Yukon 4X4 5.3L 110,000mi.
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Address: _____
Bid: \$ _____

Item #212




2013 Chevy ½ ton ext. Cab 4X4 5.3L 103,000mi
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Address: _____
Bid: \$ _____

Item #224




2014 Ram 1500 4dr. 4x4 5.6L 150,000mi.
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Address: _____
Bid: \$ _____

Item #277




1994 Sport Clipper Trailer
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Address: _____
Bid: \$ _____

Item #221

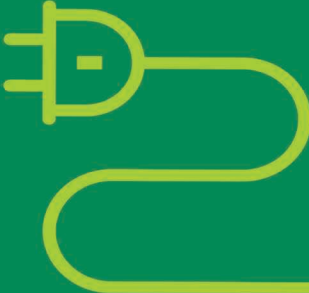


2014 F350 44 Diesel w/utility box 186,000mi.
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Address: _____
Bid: \$ _____

Item #258




1976 Bombi Alpine Snow Cat 185 hrs.
 Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Address: _____
Bid: \$ _____



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as six degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: energy.gov



CONSIDERING SOLAR BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?



JARED STALLEY
MARKETING REPRESENTATIVE
605-393-1500

West River Electric is committed to helping our members find affordable, reliable and safe energy options. We make solar simple and help you to evaluate the pros and cons of rooftop solar and find a solution that is right for you and your home.

COMMON SOLAR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1

HOW DO I KNOW IF SOLAR IS A GOOD OPTION FOR ME?

There are many variables to answer this question. Solar may be a good option for some and not so much for others. Some of the variables to consider are; how much you pay for electricity, how much electricity you use, what incentives for solar development, and how much sun exposure your roof has.

Scan to
learn more
about solar!



2

HOW DOES THE COOPERATIVE HANDLE EXCESS SOLAR ENERGY PRODUCED BY THE PANELS?

After the interconnection agreement is signed and a bi-directional meter is installed, all excess production will be bought back by the coop at avoided costs.

3

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY HOUSE IS SUITABLE FOR ROOFTOP SOLAR?

Again, here there are many different variables to consider. For example; the direction of home (south-facing), roof size, and age. In a lot of instances you will get a better return on investment if you take the time to make your existing home energy efficient prior to installing solar. Otherwise, you end up generating electricity from solar, only to waste it because your home is not efficient.

4

WILL SOLAR PANELS PROVIDE ELECTRICITY IN THE EVENT OF AN OUTAGE?

Solar panels are meant to work in conjunction with the electric grid. So without a generator and transfer switch or a battery and a smart inverter, solar will not produce electricity during an outage.

5

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW BEFORE I SIGN A CONTRACT?

Members should be aware of the upfront costs, financing options, and the potential return on investment. Understanding the warranty offered by the solar company is important, as well as any maintenance and repair requirements. It is also important to ask for references of previous installations and to verify the reputation of the solar company before signing a contract. We advise our members to call their trusted energy advisors with any questions before agreeing to any installation.

6

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONNECTING SOLAR TO THE ELECTRIC GRID?

WREA requires an Interconnection agreement to be signed to connect solar into the electric grid.



HOOKED ON FISHING

A Game, Fish and Parks employee consolidates fish in a raceway at McNenny State Fish Hatchery for loading and stocking.

South Dakota Fish Hatcheries Meet Growing Demand

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Fishing guide Dave Spaid, of Pierre, has a passion for helping anglers pull fish out of South Dakota waters. When a customer catches a memorable monster along the banks of the Missouri River, Spaid knows he has had a successful day.

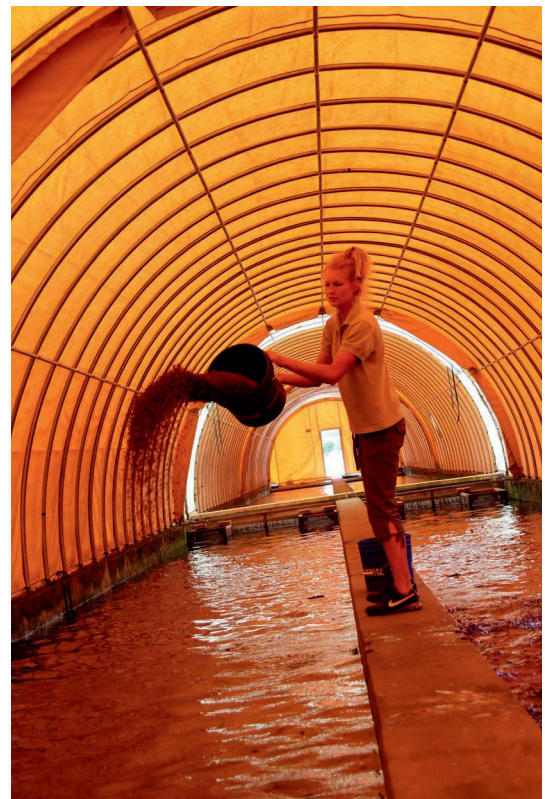
“I basically enjoy watching other people catch fish,” said Spaid, who has been a guide for fishermen from across the Midwest for more than 37 years.

Over the course of his long-standing career, Spaid says he observed more anglers on the water and improved fishing technologies and capabilities, yet fewer sizable fish. “There’s a growing amount of people out there that are fishing every day and having success,” said Spaid. “It puts a detrimental dent in our fishery and sometimes the fish just don’t have a

chance to grow to those bigger sizes.”

According to data from Game, Fish and Parks (GFP), fishing continues to be an important part of South Dakota’s outdoor heritage, confirming Spaid’s suspicions. And while fishing guides, like Spaid, have earned a living by taking fish out of the water, managers of fish hatcheries have taken on the responsibility of putting new fish back in.

Fish Hatcheries administrator Mike Barnes said GFP is being proactive in the development of its three hatchery locations to meet the needs of South Dakota’s anglers. Recent improvements to South Dakota’s three hatcheries located in



Regular feedings help bolster fish before their introduction to South Dakota lakes and rivers.

Spearfish, Rapid City and Waubay have significantly improved the state's abilities to produce and rear mass quantities of fish – everything from walleye to rainbow trout to largemouth bass – for stocking across the state.

The fish produced at these state hatcheries can even bolster South Dakota's larger fisheries, and without them, there would be significantly fewer fish to catch. In 2022, GFP and other entities stocked a total of 66 million fish, including 19 different species, in 138 lakes and streams in South Dakota. Over 60% of the walleye fisheries in South Dakota depend on stocking, and walleye stocking is increasing in Lake Oahe, South Dakota's largest reservoir. Other fisheries, like those for Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, and paddlefish, only exist because of hatcheries.

So how does the state manage to raise millions of fish? When raising walleye, hatcheries collect and fertilize fish eggs collected during the spawning season in the spring. The eggs incubate in upwelling jars, which circulate fresh water and gently roll the eggs. When the eggs hatch,

the small fry are either stocked directly into lakes or kept for further growth in ponds or newly installed re-circulating aquaculture system (RAS) tanks.

Due to the recent addition of RAS technology in 2019, Barnes said it is now possible to grow more fish and different species of fish to sizes never before possible. "Anglers are going to feel a huge impact from what we have done with these new systems, even as soon as this summer," said Barnes. "We are increasing small walleye production, and will be stocking bass at 10 inches or bigger, bluegills at eight inches, and muskies at 16 inches or longer – we've never had the opportunity to grow and stock these species of fish at these sizes before. This is all happening at the same time as increased numbers of walleyes returning from traditional rearing ponds and trout production at record levels. I'm extremely proud of the people I am privileged to supervise."

Rearing fish in RAS is complex, and Barnes compares the process to a factory. The scale of production is massive and energy intensive. Barnes is also the

manager of McNenny Hatchery in rural Lawrence County. As a co-op member of Butte Electric, Barnes said the McNenny hatchery in Spearfish has had consistent support from its local co-op to keep the operation rolling.

"There is no way we could do what we do without reliable electricity," said Barnes. "It's just a tremendous blessing for us to have Butte Electric as our provider. They are just so good to work with and so responsive and helpful."

The state is keen on keeping the momentum rolling. In fact, GFP has plans for a new hatchery facility on SDSU's campus. Increasing production, increasing rearing efficiencies, saving money, developing student interns, and enhancing fisheries education, are all reasons for the new facility. Barnes estimates that the project could be completed within the next three years.

"Keep an eye out for new projects because they are happening and underway," he said. "And at the end of the day, it's all about maximizing the satisfaction of our customers, South Dakota's anglers."



Game, Fish and Parks uses trucks equipped with livewells to stock fish directly into South Dakota fisheries across the state.

Efficiency Upgrades to Help You Save This Summer

Abby Berry

Spring and summer are opportune times for home upgrades and DIY projects. If you're planning to make improvements to your home, consider upgrades that promote better efficiency.

Here are a few projects that can help you save energy and money – and increase the comfort of your home.

Installing a smart thermostat is one of the simplest ways to manage home energy use and keep summer bills in check. Smart thermostats are easy to install and allow you to control your heating and cooling system from your phone. You can purchase an ENERGY STAR®-certified smart thermostat for as low as \$100, which can

save you 8% on annual heating and cooling costs, about \$50 per year. This upgrade will quickly pay for itself, and you'll gain insight into better ways to heat and cool your home.

Speaking of smart, additional devices like smart LED bulbs also offer convenient control and help boost energy savings at home. With smart lighting, you can set a schedule for when and how your lights should be turned on or off. And the next time you head out to run errands and realize you left the lights on, all you have to do is turn them off through your phone. Smart lights come in a variety of shapes, colors and brightness levels – and you can purchase bulbs for indoor or outdoor use. Schedule outdoor smart lights to illuminate your home at night and when you're out of town for better security.

While it's not as trendy as incorporating smart technologies, sealing air leaks around your home is a simple, effective way to save energy and lower your bills. Applying new (or replacing old) weather stripping around

doors and windows can instantly make your home more comfortable and reduce energy waste. Applying caulk to fill gaps can also improve the seal of your home. Caulk can be applied to a variety of areas, including windows, doors, bathtubs and sinks.

If your home feels too warm during summer (and too chilly during winter) even after you've sealed with weather stripping and caulk, your home may need additional insulation. Insulation is considered a more expensive efficiency upgrade; however, if your home is under-insulated, additional insulation can make a big impact on reducing energy use and costs. The cost of new insulation depends on a variety of factors like materials, size of the home and whether you use a contractor. Typically, the project costs can be recouped in a few years and your home will immediately feel more comfortable.

Of course, there are additional efficiency upgrades that can make a big impact on energy use, like replacing old appliances with ENERGY-STAR® models or replacing old, leaky windows with new, energy efficient windows. But these upgrades can be a bit pricey. 11534000

If you're wanting to make your home more energy efficient but you're not sure where to start, your best bet is to enlist the help of an expert to conduct an energy audit of your home. An energy audit can easily identify areas to boost efficiency, and then you can determine the projects you want to tackle first based on your budget and needs.



Sealing air leaks around your home is a simple, effective way to save energy and lower your bills.



If your home feels too warm during summer and too chilly during winter, you may need additional insulation. and vents that can allow CO to enter the home.

Construction Report



Matt Schmahl
Construction
Manager

West River Electric plans to construct nearly eighteen miles of an overhead three-phase line along Highway 34. The easternmost portion of the project will begin a couple of miles south of Enning and will commence west through Union Center, finishing one mile west of the New Underwood Road and Highway 34 intersection. A portion of the build that extends through Union Center will be installed using underground cables. The use of the underground in this portion of the project is required due to some challenges regarding clearances along this portion of the route. The infrastructure upgrade is to



replace some aging facilities in the area and increase the capacity of the lines to allow for more switching options in the future. The new routing along Highway 34 will also aid in quicker response times when outage situations should arise.

As mentioned in previous columns, West River has an aggressive work plan to upgrade facilities around our service territory. This rebuild was chosen due to the condition of the line and the increase in size will allow for more switching options in the future on our main feeder lines in the area. The construction of the Union Center Line along Highway 34 is one of the most significant projects in our work plan regarding the overall length of the project. 205900



When considering design options for the line design, we elected to increase the pole classes, or sizes, to increase the strength of the powerline. We have also shortened our span length, or distance, between the poles as that dramatically increases the durability of the powerline in multiple ways. First and foremost, the overall strength will be significantly increased. Shorter spans will aid in mitigating the galloping lines and the lines slapping together. Another design option that we have been using for some time with great success is the use of a T2 conductor. This type of wire uses two conductors twisted together, essentially doubling the strength of the wire. One main benefit is the twisted wire helps mitigate the buildup of ice loading during winter storms, keeping the overhead lines from developing extensive ice buildup and line galloping.

West River Electric's linemen, along with Kainz Construction, will begin construction on this project in the coming weeks, with an anticipated completion date of the end of August 2023. This project is a testament to West River Electric's commitment to providing our members with reliable power and improving the resiliency of our infrastructure. 1041500

During the construction of this project, you will notice linemen and equipment along the construction route. If you should come across this project, please slow down and give the line crews some additional space to complete their work safely.



MOVING STRUCTURES

A home is moved in Fargo, N.D., due to flooding.

Reasons to Move and Methods to Get it Done

Jocelyn Johnson

jocelyn.johnson@sdrea.coop

You found your dreamhouse. It's affordable and everything you ever wanted. The catch? You must move it across town.

It's not an easy thing to do, but moving a complete structure from the past to its future home can be done and is done for the right reasons.

Milbank House Movers, Inc., located in Milbank, S.D., has been in business since 1965 and serves all of South Dakota, North Dakota, and the Mid-Western parts of Minnesota.

Josh Wendland from Milbank House Movers said, "The demand for moving structures remains high across all of our service area...we have multiple crews, that, at times, move multiple houses every week."

A house, sentimental barn or historical

church are all structures that people have moved in South Dakota. Sentiment, safety, time, cost, convenience, and restructuring could all be reasons why this occurs.

Throughout the United States,

intimidating structures are moved regularly – lighthouses, hotels, movie theatres, airport terminals, barges, ships, bridges, grain elevators, houses, libraries, transformers, draglines, and viaducts are a few examples.

"Relocating structures is the world's oldest and largest recycling industry," Wendland stated. "Why people move structures varies greatly, but a few of the most common reasons occur in a



Two buildings are moved from Augustana University campus due to expansion of the college athletics complexes.

vast state like South Dakota. People that would like a home built may have difficulty finding builders that will work in their parts of the state, or the local builders are simply booked out and cannot help in the timeframe that works for them.”

In these circumstances, ready-built companies offer pre-built homes that could be moved to the customer’s site and set it on their basement as if it were built there all along.

A homeowner wanting to upgrade homes in their current location while also wanting to make a profit over the home they currently live in, is another example to move a home. Out with the old and in with the new! This philosophy can be true with barns, buildings, garages, and other types of structures that are in the way of new opportunities, but still hold value.

Flooding is an additional reason why some in the Midwest may want to move their homes to higher ground. Wendland observed that structural movers have seen an increase in the number of requests to elevate houses permanently, so owners

would not have to pay for expensive flood insurance. This move would elevate the long-term value on their home.

“We also work with numerous historical societies to help preserve historic structures, trains, churches, hotels, and schoolhouses by moving them to historical society grounds where they can be saved for future generations to learn from and enjoy,” Wendland stated. “We like to say, Moving the Past to the Present for the Future!”

Things to Consider When Moving a House

Despite professionals making it look somewhat easy, getting from Point A to Point B may not be that simple. It requires constructive planning and forethought. The following are just a few considerations to take before any structure is moved.

1. Size – the bigger the house, the more expensive it is to move.
2. Obstacles – trees, overhead utility lines, bridge weight limitations, traffic signals, and railroad crossings should be considered

with every route taken.

3. Price of moving the house
4. Distance of the move
5. Cost of the new lot
6. Cost to purchase the house or building
7. Fees associated with moving overhead utilities, tree trimming, and any permits or inspections required to move and place the house
8. Fees associated with disconnecting all of the current utilities, HVAC, and electrical and plumbing systems
9. Remodeling costs
10. Financing costs

Moving a structure can be an exciting process if done correctly. It’s saving a piece of history from destruction or putting in something new without the headache of waiting. Whatever the reason behind the move, the ability to do it is astounding. Homes can be saved, history can be preserved, and future options are made more available.



A home is moved due to flooding near Waubay, S.D.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

SHINING THE LIGHT ON WEST RIVER ELECTRICS DEDICATED EMPLOYEES



ALICIA FORTUNE
BILLING SUPERVISOR

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING WITH WEST RIVER ELECTRIC?

"I started at WREA May 1, 2008, as the Accounting Clerk. In 2013, an opportunity opened to move into the Billing Clerk position which led me to my current position five years later, April 2018, Billing Supervisor. I am going on my 15th year of being employed at WREA."

WHAT DOES YOUR JOB ENTAIL?

I have a variety of tasks that range from processing billing, delinquents and EFT. I oversee making sure the bill calc for each rate is calculating correctly and I also take care of any adjustments that are needed. I supervise two others on the billing team, Aimee Paulsen and Cristine Nesseth, and we make a great team.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT WEST RIVER ELECTRIC?

What I love most about WREA are the challenges that come my way each day and figuring out the best way to handle them.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY SINCE STARTING WORK AT WEST RIVER ELECTRIC?

My favorite memories would be when I worked with Jeannie Botz, Tammie Crown, Cindy Hauk, Debbie Shepard, Jeannie Smith, Betty Haerer and Cheryl Walker. They had the best stories that would make tears roll down your face.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE WEST RIVER ELECTRIC IN THREE WORDS?

Reliable, Trustworthy, and Committed to the Members

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GET UP AND GO TO WORK EVERY DAY?

I love my position as the Billing Supervisor and enjoy working with our members.



LILY STONE
HR GENERALIST

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING WITH WEST RIVER ELECTRIC?

I have been with WREA for 10 months.

WHAT DOES YOUR JOB ENTAIL?

My position supports and carries out responsibilities of HR, including but not limited to, benefit administration, employee relations, training and education, employee hiring, policy application and adherence, recruitment, affirmative action, and employment law compliance in accordance with established policies and procedures.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT WEST RIVER ELECTRIC?

I enjoy the people I work with and the culture of the company.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY SINCE STARTING WORK AT WEST RIVER ELECTRIC?

The best memory I have so far is a ride along with the line crew. I got to spend all day with the crew in the field, and I also got a chance to get in a bucket and work on a line, not to the full extent. This day will always be the best day I had at work.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE WEST RIVER ELECTRIC IN THREE WORDS?

Family friendly environment

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GET UP AND GO TO WORK EVERY DAY?

I love my job; I love the people I work with, and I couldn't ask for a better leader to work for.

LOCATE YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER

If you locate your account number anywhere in this issue of West River Electric's *Cooperative Connections*, you will be a winner. There will be five account numbers placed randomly throughout the publication. If you spot your account number and notify our office before the 10th of the next month, you will receive a \$10 credit on your next bill.

WEST RIVER ELECTRIC OFFICE HOURS

RAPID CITY OFFICE

3250 E Hwy 44, Rapid City, SD
Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
605-393-1500

WALL OFFICE

1200 W 4th Ave, Wall, SD
Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
605-279-2135

A night depository is available at both offices for your convenience.

SERVICE AND BILLING QUESTIONS?

Contact 605-279-2135 or 605-393-1500 during office hours. E-mail us at info@westriver.coop for questions on your account.

OUTAGE OR EMERGENCY?

Contact 605-279-2135 or 605-393-1500 in the event of an outage or other emergency. Our calls are answered 24/7.

Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit call811.com to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



April is National Safe Digging Month.

Murphy





April 22, 2023
RiverRat Run
 Gavins Point Recreation Area
 Yankton, SD
 605-660-9483

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

MARCH 31-APRIL 2
**70th Annual Hayes Play:
 Trouble in Tumbleweed**
 Hayes Community Hall
 Hayes, SD
 605-280-6556

APRIL 1
Hill City Easter Egg Hunt
 9:45 a.m.
 Visitor Information Center
 Hill City, SD
 605-574-2368

APRIL 1
Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt
 10 a.m.
 City Park
 Groton, SD
 605-397-8422

APRIL 1
**East Dakota Chapter
 NWTF 30th Banquet**
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-940-0702

APRIL 2-4
**Rapid Valley UMC Ham
 Dinner**
 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
 Rapid City, SD
www.rapidvalleyumc.com

APRIL 8
**East Dakota Chapter
 NWTF 30th Banquet**
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-940-0702

APRIL 8
**Easter Egg Hunt for Helping
 with Horsepower**
 2 p.m.
 Reclamation Ranch
 Mitchell, SD

APRIL 21
Museum After Dark
 7 p.m.
 Children's Museum of
 South Dakota
 Brookings, SD

APRIL 21-22
**Junkin' Market Days,
 Spring Market**
 W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds
 Expo Building
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-941-4958

APRIL 22
RiverRat Run
 8 a.m.
 Gavins Point Recreation Area
 Yankton, SD
 (605) 660-9483

MAY 6
Cinco de Mayo Fiesta
 Lake Farley Park
 Milbank, SD
 605-432-6656

MAY 17
**Norwegian Independence
 Day**
 6 p.m.
 Vivian, SD
 605-222-3296

MAY 20
Buggy Museum Open House
 10 a.m.
 Stockholm, SD
 605-938-4192

MAY 25
Wine Walk
 5 p.m.
 Downtown Businesses
 Aberdeen, SD
 605-226-3441

MAY 27
**Back When They Bucked
 All-Day Rodeo**
 9 a.m.
 Days of '76 Event Complex
 Deadwood, SD
 605-717-7642

**Note: Please make sure
 to call ahead to verify the
 event is still being held.**