



This Issue

Thank You from Joel/
Congratulations p2

Facility Update p3

Board Report p4



Mark Your Calendar

Nov. 11..... Closed for
Veteran's Day

Nov. 15 Electric Bills Due

Nov. 24 & 25 Closed for
Thanksgiving

Nov. 29..... Board Meeting



Find Your Account Number & Win!

TEC has hidden an account number in this newsletter. If you find your account number, notify us by December 1st and you will get a **\$10 bill credit**.

We have not found a winner yet for last month's newsletter.



Search for Next GM of Traverse Electric Co-op

MANAGER'S COLUMN

DALE SCHWAGEL

Interim General Manager

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Dale Schwagel, many of you may already know me, as I have been with Traverse Electric since 1999. I started on the line crew, then moved to line superintendent for 7 years, and the past 4 years as Operations Manager.

With the resignation of General Manager, Joel Janorschke, the Traverse Electric board is moving forward with

their executive search for the next General Manager for Traverse Electric. I will be filling in as Interim General Manager while this process continues.

I would like to take the time to thank Joel for his dedication and leadership throughout his time with Traverse Electric and wish him well as the new CEO at Cooperative Light and Power. ▀

Five Ways to Fight the Winter Chill *and* Save Energy

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. Traverse Electric is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

1. Mind the thermostat.

This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it

between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.

2. Button up your home.

The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

3. Use window coverings wisely.

Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains

Continued on page 2



THANK
YOU

Joel Janorschke

At our Board meeting on September 27, 2022, I submitted my resignation as General Manager of Traverse Electric Cooperative, effective October 21, 2022. I've accepted a position as the next CEO of Cooperative Light & Power in Two Harbors, Minnesota.

For the past four years, it has been a privilege and honor to work with one of the best electric cooperatives. Traverse Electric's 82-year legacy is even stronger today thanks to the hard work and dedication of its employees.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to work with all of the employees, Board members, and members to lead this amazing cooperative.

Congratulations



Tony Bruns, recently obtained his Journeyman Lineworker certification after successfully completing the four year apprentice program that required Tony to complete 7,500 hours of on the job work experience and pass written tests. Congratulations Tony!



Connor Bartz successfully tested and passed the journeyman electrician exams in Minnesota and South Dakota after successfully completing the apprentice program that requires at least four years experience in installing and repairing electrical wiring, apparatus, and equipment in addition to passing the exam. Congratulations Connor!

Continued from page 1

or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.

4. Consider your approach to appliance use.

When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game

consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

5. Think outside the box.

If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up--beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a

call at 1-800-927-5443 and ask for Stephen Powers, or take advantage of our home energy audits. Traverse Electric's energy experts can help identify areas and other factors impacting your home energy use and recommend next steps for savings. #1868

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills. Visit our website at www.traverseelectric.com for additional energy-saving tips. ▀

Facility Update

Progress continues with the new headquarters; the office and warehouse are expected to be erected and dried in by mid-November. The concrete is moving forward, the office area floor is poured and we are expecting curb and gutter, and all outside aprons to be done within this same time frame as well. We will continue to provide updates in the future.



September 2022 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The September regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 8 AM. Absent: Glynn.

Staff members present were General Manager, Joel Janorschke, Dale Schwagel, and Karen Lupkes.

President Diekmann called the meeting to order.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the August regular board meeting were approved.

The August check register was approved.

Diekmann, Marks, Pearson, & Rudolph reported on the East River Annual Meeting. Discussed the Basin video report.

Diekmann gave an East River Board Report. Janorschke presented the Manager's Report, which included:

- Provided a Basin Electric update.
- Provided an East River update.
- REED Fund review.
- NRECA update.
- MREA and MN legislative update.
- SDREA and SD legislative update.

Lupkes gave the Office Manager's Report, which included:

- August 31, 2022 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
- A list of new members was reviewed.
- Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- Office hours returning to 8:00 AM-4:30 PM on October 1.
- East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.

Reviewed and approved the August 2022 Financial Report.

Schwagel gave the Operations Report. Items discussed included:

- We have plowing projects to do this Fall after crops come out.

- Crews are working on pole changes.
- Material has been ordered for Digester services.
- Bois De Sioux Watershed has projects planned that require us to move line in 2023.
- Primary metering will be installed at the Veblen Substation for the Marshall Dairy.
- Big Stone County has projects this Fall that require us to bury line.
- Line Supt.'s conference focused on safety.
- Reviewed projects completed and in progress.
- Reviewed our Safety Program.
- Outages were reviewed.

Received an update on the new facility and construction progress. They will be starting the office steel structure and continue to pour footings. Buried debris was hauled off site.

Discussed long-term financing options and interest rates.

Reviewed and accepted the prepared 2021 990.

Signed commitment letter for new RUS loan.

Reviewed and approved labor contract with I.B.E.W LU 524.

Approved dollars allocated for nonunion employee salaries.

Approved revisions to Policies 503, 505, & 518.

Selected voting delegates for Basin's Annual Meeting.

Accepted the resignation of Joel Janorschke as General Manager

Selected Dale Schwagel to be the interim General Manager until a formal executive search is completed.

Moved the start time of October's board meeting to 8 AM.

Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees. Meeting adjourned. ▀

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Doug Diekmann, Beardsley, MN
 Vice-President: Tom Frisch, Dumont, MN
 Secretary: Mark Pearson, Rosholt, SD
 Treasurer: Michael Marks, Norcross, MN
 Michael Gaulrapp, Breckenridge, MN
 Terry Monson, Veblen, SD
 Matthew Glynn, Sisseton, SD
 Bradley Rudolph, Dumont, MN
 Stacy Ehlers, Wheaton, MN

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Dale Schwagel – Interim General Manager
 Karen Lupkes – Office Manager
 Dale Schwagel – Operations Manager
 Melissa Przymus – Accountant
 Susan Wilts – Billing Clerk

OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Richard Davis – Foreman
 Lonnie Tekrony – Journeyman Lineworker
 Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker
 Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker
 Colden Helberg – Journeyman Lineworker
 Tony Bruns – Journeyman Lineworker
 Justin Lundblad – Apprentice Lineworker
 Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician

INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Dale Schwagel
 Cell: 320-808-6176 | Direct: 320-563-1060
 dschwagel@traverseelectric.com

MEMBER SERVICE REP/ MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Steve Powers 320-808-9104
 Connor Bartz
 – Journeyman Electrician 320-287-0009

ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS MINNESOTA

Brandon Lennox 320-808-5309
 Big Stone County Grant County
 Stevens County Traverse County
 Rodney Schaffer 701-235-2840
 Wilkin County

NORTH DAKOTA

Mark Moderow 701-226-3779

Richland County

SOUTH DAKOTA

Dan Urban 605-222-0143
 Marshall County Roberts County

**In case of a power outage, call
 (800) 927-5443**

1618 Broadway
 P.O. Box 66

Wheaton, MN 56296 USA

Toll-free phone: (800) 927-5443

Local phone: (320) 563-8616

Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Web site: www.traverseelectric.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Our Mission: To provide dependable service at the lowest possible rates, consistent with sound business principles.

TEC September Financials

	Sept. 2021	Sept. 2022	YTD 2022
Total Revenue	\$903,334.44	\$906,092.82	\$9,155,184.65
Cost of Power	\$610,169.08	\$613,532.21	\$5,530,402.19
Total Cost of Service	\$935,957.13	\$969,772.86	\$8,498,607.06
Operating Margins	\$(32,622.69)	\$(63,680.04)	\$656,577.59
Total Margins	\$(36,056.69)	\$(36,125.89)	\$743,919.02
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	9,070,114	9,325,836	99,061,785
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	8,612,646	8,896,421	94,524,895
Line Loss	5%	5%	4%