



Celebrating Membership

MANAGER'S COLUMN

Joel Janorschke
General Manager

This Issue

Unclaimed Capital
Credits Donated p2

MN Cold Weather Rule p3

Board Report p4



Mark Your Calendar

- September 5 Closed Labor Day
- Sept. 15 Electric Bills Due
- Sept 27 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 October 1st and you will get a **\$10 bill credit**.

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

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say Traverse Electric celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions--because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

Traverse Electric works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that's comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together towards a common goal--mutually benefitting one another and the larger

community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the community in which live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you take a moment and download our app, Traverse Electric Coop. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. And we're of course here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

Traverse Electric is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve. ▶

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall/Winter Energy Tip: When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10 percent a year on your heating and cooling bills. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature - set it and forget it!

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy





Traverse Electric Donates MN Unclaimed Capital Credits to Area MN Historical Societies

The board of directors approved the donation of \$6,068.82 MN unclaimed capital credits this year to our area Historical Societies of Big Stone, Grant, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin counties to support the county museums. Each year the board chooses a non-profit organization to donate them to. In the past, donation recipients included volunteer ambulance and fire departments, food shelves, and 4-H Federations that serve our MN counties. ▶



Stevens County Historical Society, Karen De Vita & Cam Erickson – *Thank you again so much for the generous donation!*



Wilkin County Historical Society, Sylvia Peterson – *We want to thank you for the donation to the Wilkin County Museum.*



Grant County Historical Society, Patty Benson – *Thank you so much for your donation. Your recognition of the importance of local historical societies with this donation is much appreciated.*



Traverse County Historical Society, Orville Vollmers, Chuck Fell, Don Montonye, & Beverly Erickson – *Thank you for the donation. It was greatly appreciated*



Play it safe near grain bins.

When moving equipment, be aware of power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety. Follow all guidelines set by the National Electrical Safety Code.



MN COLD WEATHER RULE & ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOTICE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, 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 Traverse Electric Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonable 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 Traverse 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, Traverse 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.


#3186

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 50% of the state median income to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2023.

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/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.
- For Wilkin, Traverse, Grant, Stevens Counties: West Central MN Communities Actions, Elbow Lake, MN. Email: eap@wcmca.org, 800-492-4805, <https://wcmca.org/program-area/energy-assistance/>
- For Big Stone County: Prairie Five Community Action, Montevideo, MN. Email: eap@prairiefive.org, 800-292-5437 or 320-839-211 (Ortonville Office), <https://prairiefive.org/programs/energy-assistance/>

Traverse Electric Cooperative is 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 Traverse Electric Cooperative at 800-927-5443 to set up a payment plan. Please visit www.traverseelectric.com for more info on the MN Cold Weather Rule. 



A Traverse Electric linecrew assisted with putting up a new flag at the Traverse County Fairgrounds in preparation for the Traverse County Fair in Wheaton held August 25-28.

July 2022 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The July regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at 8 AM. Absent: None. 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 June regular board meeting were approved.

The June check register was approved.

Marks and Gaulrapp reported on the MREA District meeting.

Discussed the East River & Basin video reports.

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:

- ▶ June 30, 2022 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
- ▶ A list of new members was reviewed.
- ▶ Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- ▶ May 12th storm was declared a federal disaster and a FEMA event.
- ▶ Postage increased on July 18.
- ▶ East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.
- ▶ Reviewed the 2nd Quarter 2022 Revenue, Sales, and Operations Budget Analyses.

Reviewed and approved the June 2022 Financial Report.

Schwagel gave the Operations Report. Items discussed included:

- ▶ Increase in new tile pump service requests.
- ▶ Pole inspection started last week with 1500-1800 poles to test.
- ▶ Three phase was installed for the new facility along with temporary services needed for the construction site and trailers.
- ▶ We will install a pole for a 24/7 camera for the new facility construction monitoring.
- ▶ Reviewed projects completed and in progress.
- ▶ OTP will bury two spans of lines for the new facility.
- ▶ One collector at the Graceville sub was replaced and meter firmware updates are being sent to the meters.
- ▶ Reviewed our Safety Program.
- ▶ Outages were reviewed.

Received an update on the new facility and construction progress. An appraisal of our current facility and property will be completed in August to get the value of the property.

Discussed long-term financing options and interest rates.

Review and approve revisions to Policies 109, 201, 202, 517, & 519.

Discussed attendance for the East River Annual Meeting Sept. 7

Approved donating unclaimed MN capital credits to our area MN county historical societies.

Discussed creating a deferred revenue plan.

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

Joel Janorschke – 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
 Golden Helberg – Journeyman Lineworker
 Tony Bruns – Apprentice Lineworker
 Justin Lundblad – Apprentice Lineworker
 Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician

GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

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 jjanorschke@traverseelectric.com

MEMBER SERVICE REP/ MASTER ELECTRICIAN

Steve Powers 320-808-9104
 Connor Bartz
 – Apprentice 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, 7 a.m.–3:30 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 July Financials

	July 2021	July 2022	YTD 2022
Total Revenue	\$987,983.56	\$1,021,953.11	\$7,290,009.42
Cost of Power	\$647,574.96	\$601,349.39	\$4,268,683.46
Total Cost of Service	\$958,036.81	\$921,319.01	\$6,550,643.00
Operating Margins	\$29,946.75	\$100,634.10	\$739,366.42
Total Margins	\$29,175.81	\$106,766.48	\$780,335.46
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	10,333,127	10,488,166	79,661,575
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	9,808,248	9,999,726	76,039,187
Line Loss	5%	5%	4%