



This Issue

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Mark Your Calendar

Sept 4 Labor Day,
Office Closed

Sept 15. Electric Bills Due

Sept 26. 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 Sept. 1st and you will get a **\$10 bill credit**.



Power in Your Hands

MANAGER'S COLUMN

JEREMY HUHNSTOCK

General Manager

One of the most frequently asked questions a cooperative employee is asked is, what makes electric co-ops different than other types of utilities? This month, I thought I'd tell you a few of the differences.

Because we're a co-op, we operate a little differently than other utilities, for example, municipalities or investor-owned utilities. Traverse Electric's decisions are made locally, by directors who also live right here in our community. Everyone who pays to receive electricity from the co-op is a member. When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here to pay for the electricity used, or to make improvements to our local system to strengthen service reliability. The money you pay the co-op doesn't line the pockets of shareholders five states away. Any margins TEC doesn't utilize is given back in patronage capital or capital credits. We're a co-op, and we exist to provide a service to you, our local members.

You may notice that throughout the year, we schedule opportunities for you to attend co-op events, like our annual meeting, district meetings, etc. so we can hear from you. My door is always open to meet and listen to your feedback or just to chat. I'm new to the coop and area, and am learning on the go! Electric cooperatives are very similar, but very different at the same time.

Our success lies in your satisfaction,

which is why we offer these opportunities to engage and listen to what you have to say. Because you're part of an electric cooperative, you can count on our team to maintain local jobs, at-cost electricity and first-class service, no matter what the economy and supply chain issues (this is still a huge struggle) throw at us.

TEC is striving to keep our costs as low as possible so we can keep more money in your pocket. We want to help you maximize the value you can get from our services and offerings. For example, we can help you save on energy bills through our load control program and energy efficiency rebates. If you want to receive important information from TEC, such as power restoration updates and tree trimming crew alerts, please follow our Facebook page.

Please know that you, the members of Traverse Electric; are at the heart of everything we do. Co-ops adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service.

We exist to serve you and provide the quality, reliable, friendly service you expect and deserve. While we've grown over the years, we're still driven by the same guiding principles to serve our community. We hope to see or hear from you soon. This co-op was created for you, the members. The power is in your hands. ▀

Traverse Electric Co-op's **NEW FACILITY OPEN HOUSE**



Thursday, October 5 1PM – 6 PM

Serving Hotdogs/Hamburgers/Pulled Pork starting at 1 PM

Guided tours will be available during this time.

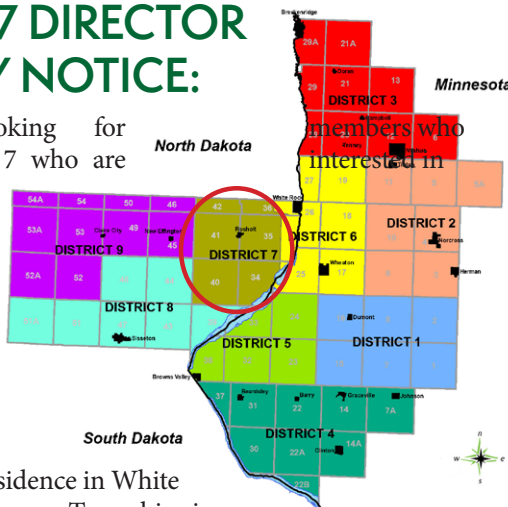
All Traverse Electric members are invited!

6590 State Hwy 27, Wheaton, MN 56296

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES WANTED

DISTRICT 7 DIRECTOR VACANCY NOTICE:

We are looking for members who reside in District 7 who are interested in serving on our board of directors to complete a three year term. To qualify you need to be a current member (electric account is in your name), and have your permanent residence in White Rock, Victor, or Harmon Townships in Roberts County, SD or live in Richland County, ND adjacent to and due north of White Rock Township.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.

Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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.

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, 2024.

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. 

#2214



FREE SPOOLS

Traverse Electric Cooperative has an abundance of extra spools at our shop that members can take for free.

Call our office at (320) 563-8616 to set up a time to pick up.

July 2023 Traverse Electric Board Meeting Highlights

The July regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 8 AM. Absent: None.

Staff members present were General Manager, Jeremy Huhnstock, 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.

Discussed the East River and Basin video reports.

Diekmann gave an East River Board Report.

Marks & Gaulrapp reported on the MREA District 3 meeting.

Huhnstock presented the General 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, 2023 accounts receivable balances were reviewed.
- A list of new members was reviewed.
- Update on Electrical Dept. and Generator Program.
- Employee leave policies will be reviewed to comply with upcoming MN law changes.

- East River power bill and Basin's financial reports reviewed.

Reviewed and approved the June 2023 Financial Report.

Schwagel presented the Operations Report per written report. Items discussed included:

- Provided a crew update.
- Reviewed upcoming and completed projects.
- Electronic reclosures were installed in the Graceville Sub.
- There will be a new circuit out of the Veblen Sub.
- Pole inspections are complete with 152 poles rejected out of 1,900 tested.
- Carr's Tree Service started tree trimming in SD.
- Reviewed our Safety Program.
- Outages were reviewed.

Received an update on the new facility.

Discussed the District 7 vacancy on the board. Will advertise in newsletter/Facebook.

Discussed Basin Electric's proposed bylaw change.

Selected voting delegates for the Basin Annual Meeting.

Moved the December board meeting to December 22.

Approved listing the old facility property parcels for sale with Eyster Realty.

Reviewed the 2022 990.

Reviewed upcoming meetings and attendees.

Meeting adjourned. ■

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

OFFICE PERSONNEL

Jeremy Huhnstock – General Manager
Karen Lupkes – Office Manager
Dale Schwagel – Operations Manager
Melissa Przyms – Accountant
Stacie Johannsen – Billing Clerk

OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

Richard Davis – Foreman
Lonnie Tekrony – Journeyman Lineworker
Joe Gahlon – Journeyman Lineworker
Austin Reinke – Journeyman Lineworker
Justin Lundblad – Apprentice Lineworker
Isaac Callens – Apprentice Lineworker
Tayden George – Apprentice Lineworker
Chris Falk – Facility/Staking Technician

GENERAL MANAGER'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Jeremy Huhnstock
Cell: 320-349-9901 | Direct: 320-563-1055
jhuhnstock@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

6590 State Highway 27
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 2022	July 2023	YTD 2023
Total Revenue	\$1,021,953.11 . . .	\$1,025,525.40 . . .	\$7,149,026.64
Cost of Power	\$601,349.39 . . .	\$659,505.60 . . .	\$4,190,175.70
Total Cost of Service	\$921,319.01 . . .	\$1,006,329.03 . . .	\$6,631,890.09
Operating Margins	\$100,634.10 . . .	\$19,196.37 . . .	\$517,136.55
Total Margins	\$106,766.48 . . .	\$73,007.47 . . .	\$714,668.64
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Purchased	10,488,166 . . .	10,030,660 . . .	75,489,497
Kilowatt-Hours (kWh) Sales	9,999,726 . . .	9,516,905 . . .	71,836,602
Line Loss	5%	5%4%