

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Rural Electrification

**West Central - The Last
Co-op to Incorporate**
Pages 8-9

Generational Farmers
Pages 12-13

Rural Electrification served even
the most rural communities.

August 2025 Board Minutes and June 2025 Financial Information

The August 19, 2025, board of directors' meeting was held at the Timber Lake office with the following directors present: Bartlett, Clark, Keckler, Lawrence, Maher, McLellan, Schweitzer, Walker and Wall, and Hahne via Webex, and others present: Manager Larson and Finance Officer Lemburg (Delegated Recorder of Minutes).

The Large Power Users monthly report was given by Stephanie Bartlett, which included large power usage and payments.

The Member Services report was given by JJ Martin, which included ice cream socials are done, showed photos from a recent planned outage, delivered volunteer fire department donations, the 2025 annual meeting theme, and compiling prizes to be given away at the annual meeting.

The Operations report was given by Josh Lemburg, which included new services, pole changeouts, planned outage in Eagle Butte, planned outage notifications are available to SmartHub members, Jefferson Street lighting project in Eagle Butte is complete, Highway 63 road move update, installed a motor operator at the Dupree substation, locator training, and planned WAPA substation outage.

Manager Larson gave the Manager's report, which included an update on the demolition of the old headquarters building, Prelude, LLC update, collections update, conducted interviews and hired Bobbie Traversie for the Cashier/Receptionist position in the Eagle Butte office, new RUS General Field Representative, CFC capital credits, Federated Insurance election, Basin Electric correspondence

to SPP, CFC Representative plans to attend the October board meeting to review the KRTA report and complete a financial forecast with Manager Larson and Finance Officer Lemburg prior to the board meeting, update on a court order to disconnect a meter, will interview the 2025 Good Neighbor Award recipients, and Ridgeview transmission line update.

Manager Larson gave the Basin Electric Managers' meeting report, which included a load forecast, energy allocations, GRIP Grant updates, high loads moving through the area, Basin Electric and WAPA rate increases, and fire mitigation plan update.

The Basin Electric annual meeting report was given, which included Director Schweitzer enjoyed touring the Basin Electric facilities and power plants, 2026 rate increase, a large amount of reserves are needed to subsidize solar and wind energy, SPP Advisory Committee members, proposed transmission line, and an increasing number of data centers.

Manager Larson presented two donation requests for consideration. It was the consensus of the board to deny these donation requests.

Board approved the following: the agenda, the minutes from the July meeting, new members, refunds, line extensions, financial statistics, disbursements, annual meeting giveaway item, safety report, 2026 NRECA insurance and RS plan rates, Director Hahne as voting delegate and Director McLellan as alternate delegate for the CFC director and nominating committee elections, vote for Ryan Maher for the CFC District 6 director position, and Basin Electric 2026 Load Forecast.

The next board meeting was scheduled for September 16, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in the Timber Lake office.

JUNE 2025 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	JUNE '25	JUNE '24	YTD 2025
Operating Revenues	\$1,061,439	\$957,573	\$7,501,215
Cost Of Power	\$516,059	\$481,730	\$3,660,915
Cost Of Electric Service	\$1,057,811	\$1,021,309	\$7,098,204
Margins	\$40,819	\$(53,833)	\$470,073
Kwh Purchased	7,039,383	7,008,803	57,284,189
Kwh Sold	6,865,365	6,031,227	53,086,879

**COOPERATIVE
CONNECTIONS****MOREAU-GRAND
ELECTRIC**

(USPS No. 018-951)

Manager: Kent Larson**Editor:** JJ Martin, Member Services
and IT Director**Directors**Ryan Maher, President
Kerry McLellan, Vice President
Geraldyn Hahne, Secretary-Treasurer
Lois Bartlett
Clint Clark
Bob Keckler
Paul Lawrence
Brent Schweitzer
Royce Walker
Troy Wall**Attorney:** John Burke**Management Staff:**Josh Lemburg,
Operations Superintendent
Kyrie Lemburg, Finance Officer
Jamie Jones, Accountant

MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, PO Box 8, 823 Main St, Timber Lake, SD 57656-0008, for the members of electric cooperatives across South Dakota. Families subscribe to Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections' purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 50 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodicals Postage Paid at Timber Lake, S.D., and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 8, Timber Lake, SD 57656; Phone (605) 865-3511; Fax (605) -865-3340; e-mail mge@mge.coop; Web site www.mge.coop. This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Design assistance by SDREA

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for the membership of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held at the MGE Headquarters Building in Timber Lake, S.D., on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 with a plated pulled pork dinner beginning at 5:00 p.m. (MT), with the meeting to follow the meal. Note: Membership registration will be open at 5:00 p.m. and will close 15 minutes after the start of the meeting. The meeting will be for the following purposes:

1. Reports on business for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting.
2. For the purpose of electing directors in Districts 1, 2, 4, and 5. If you are disabled and require a special accommodation to have full and equal participation in this Annual Meeting, call 1-800-952-3158.

Geraldyn Hahne, Secretary-Treasurer, Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc.
PO Box 8, Timber Lake, SD 57656-0008

**MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
CERTIFICATE OF DELEGATION**

In order to vote on behalf of an organization, this form must be completed and submitted prior to or at the Annual Meeting.

I. MULTIPLE PERSON ORGANIZATION (E.G., CORPORATION, LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, CHURCH, AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION).

[NAME OF ORGANIZATION]

I hereby certify that _____ has been duly appointed by the foregoing organization to be the sole delegate to attend the Annual Meeting of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc. and is authorized to vote on behalf of the organization on all matters presented during such Annual Meeting.

By:

[PRINTED FULL NAME]

[TITLE / POSITION / ROLE]

[SIGNATURE]

[DATE]

Attested By:

[PRINTED FULL NAME OF ADDITIONAL
OFFICER, DIRECTOR, OWNER, OR EXECUTIVE
OF ORGANIZATION]

[SIGNATURE]

II. ONE PERSON ORGANIZATION (E.G., SINGLE MEMBER LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY).

[NAME OF ORGANIZATION]

I hereby certify that _____ has been duly appointed by the foregoing organization to be the sole delegate to attend the Annual Meeting of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc. and is authorized to vote on behalf of the organization on all matters presented during such Annual Meeting.

By:

[PRINTED FULL NAME]

[TITLE / POSITION / ROLE]

[SIGNATURE]

[DATE]

Go Above and Beyond for a Safe Harvest

Anne Prince
NRECA

Modern farming often relies on data and equipment with GPS and auto-guidance systems. However, even with these modern conveniences, farm workers must remain vigilant. That's because farming is considered one of the most dangerous jobs.

Massive machinery is indispensable to farming, but the same impressive size, height and extensions make them particularly vulnerable to contacting power lines. That's why staying alert, focused and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial.

During a busy harvest season, the familiar sights around the farm can easily fade into the background, and farm workers can overlook the power lines overhead. However, failing to notice them can lead to deadly accidents.

360 Awareness

Awareness of your surroundings, around, above and below, and planning safe equipment routes can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. Even with GPS and auto-steering, it's imperative that farm workers keep a close eye on the equipment's location and are ready to take action if necessary.

Exposed underground powerlines, defective wiring in farm buildings and extension cords are also hazards. Grain bins can pose a potential danger as well. The National Electrical Safety Code requires power lines to be at least 18 feet above the highest point on any grain bin with which portable augers or other portable filling equipment are used.

Smart Harvest Safety Tips

To ensure a safer harvest season, SafeElectricity.org recommends the following tips to avoid electrical accidents on the farm:

- Exercise caution near power lines. Be careful when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Use spotters when operating large machinery near power lines. Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it is moving near power lines.

- Lower equipment extensions, portable augers or elevators before moving or transporting equipment. Do not raise equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember that non-metallic materials like lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay can conduct electricity, especially when damp, dusty or dirty.
- Never attempt to raise or move power lines to clear a path. Doing so could result in electric shock or death.
- Avoid using metal poles inside bins. Don't use metal poles to break up bridged grain inside or around bins.
- Hire qualified electricians. Ensure that qualified electricians handle work on drying equipment and other farm electrical systems.

While rare, the only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire. However, if it happens, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the machinery and the ground at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.



"Don't play with outlets!"

Kinzlee Klomp, Age 12

Kinzlee warns readers not to play with power outlets. Great advice, Kinzlee! Kinzlee's parents are Kaitlin and Austin Klomp from Box Elder, 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.

Fresh BREADS

ZUCCHINI BREAD

Ingredients:

3 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 cup oil
2 tsps. vanilla
3 cups flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. cinnamon
3 cups zucchini (shredded)

Method

Cream together eggs, sugar and oil. Then add the vanilla. Mix together the flour, baking soda, baking powder, salt, cinnamon and add to the egg mixture. Stir in zucchini. Pour into two loaf pans. Bake at 325°F for approximately one hour.

Kimberly Grimm
Southeastern Electric

GLUTEN FREE OATMEAL PANCAKES

Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups oats
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. salt
2 eggs
1/2 cup milk
3/4 cup applesauce
3 tsps. maple syrup
2 tsps. apple cider vinegar
2 tsps. vanilla

Method

Grind 2 1/2 cups oats in blender until turned into flour. In large bowl, whisk together oats, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Form a bowl in center, add eggs and whisk them. Then, add milk, applesauce, maple syrup, apple cider vinegar and vanilla. Stir to combine. Wait five minutes to thicken batter. Cook in oiled pan.

Jean Beauchamp
Southeastern Electric

KUNSI' FRY BREAD

Ingredients:

1 tbsp. yeast (quick rise)
2 tsps. sugar
1 qt. warm water
1 tbsp. oil/melted butter
1/2 tsp. salt
6 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsps. powdered dry milk
4 cups oil for frying

Method

Mix yeast, sugar, salt, warm water, oil/melted butter and let proof for 15 minutes. Mix flour and powdered dry milk. Make a well in the flour mixture and add yeast mixture. Gradually add warm water until dough comes together and is no longer sticky. Cover and let rise until doubled in size. Heat oil to fry dough. Separate dough into 10 to 12 baseball-size dough balls (or smaller if you want smaller pieces). Stretch dough balls and shape into oval discs or round discs approximately 1/4 inch thick. Test the oil to see if it's hot enough by dropping a small pea size piece of the dough in the oil. If it floats it's ready. Flatten the disc between your hands and stretch it again. Fry the bread until both sides are golden brown. Transfer to paper towel lined plate to drain. Continue until all the dough is fried. Enjoy with soup or a Spam and egg sandwich or taco toppings.

Sheila Ironheart
Whetstone Valley Electric

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 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT FOR SALE BY SEALED BIDS

Moreau-Grand Electric has eight lots of surplus equipment

You can view this information and pictures on our website at www.mge.coop/surplus-equipment

- **Lot 1** – 1998 Ford F700 w/ Star Digger
- **Lot 2** – 1995 Ford F700 w/ Pitman Boom
- **Lot 3** – 1991 5th Wheel Pole Trailer
- **Lot 4** – 1970 Miller Tilt Top Trailer

- **Lot 5** – 1964 Pickup Bed Trailer
- **Lot 6** – 2017 Bradford Built Dually bed
- **Lot 7** – 2017 Knapheide 8ft Box
- **Lot 8** – Pickup Bed Tool Box

Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be accepting sealed bids on these eight lots of surplus equipment. For your bid to be considered you must fill out a bid form. Bid forms are available at our offices in Timber Lake or Eagle Butte,

or by contacting us at 605-865-3511 or 800-952-3158. **Deadline for bid submission is 4 p.m., MT, Oct 15, 2025.** Bids will be opened that afternoon. Winning bidders will have until Oct. 29, 2025 to produce payment and pick up equipment, excluding the weekend.

Bids can be:

- Turned in in-person to Jody Pateneau in the Timber Lake Office
- Mailed to Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc. PO Box 8, Timber Lake, SD 57656
- Emailed to MGE at mge@mge.coop

If you have questions, Jody Pateneau can be reached at 605-865-3511.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc. reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Surplus Equipment For Sale By Sealed Bids

1998 Ford F700 with Star Digger



1995 Ford F700 with Pitman Boom



1991 5th Wheel Pole Trailer



1970 Miller Tilt Top Trailer



1964 Pickup Bed Trailer



2017 Bradford Built Dually Bed



2017 Knapheide 8ft Box



Pickup Bed Toolbox





PETE'S TAXIDERMISTRY

Preserving More Than Just a Trade

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

When does the passion for a lifetime of work begin? For Pete Liewer, owner of Pete's Taxidermy, it started at age 12 with a middle school science project in Burke, S.D.

His teacher challenged the class to bring in a bird and try their hand at taxidermy.

"My first bird was a red-winged blackbird," Liewer recalled. "I'm sure it didn't look too good, but I was hooked – I thought it was the coolest thing I had ever seen."

Inspired by his teacher, Liewer and a friend spotted an advertisement in *Field & Stream* magazine for a correspondence course through the Northwestern School of Taxidermy. With his grandmother covering the \$14.95 fee, he set up a makeshift shop in his parents' basement, where he followed the step-by-step instructions that arrived by mail.

"My mom put up with me in the basement, making a mess every day," Liewer said.

At the time, Liewer's mother was a waitress at the Hillcrest Motel, and she would take Liewer's pheasant mounts and set them on the end of the Hillcrest salad bar. Hunters would come in to eat after the hunt and see his work, marked "Pete's Taxidermy."

"I thought I was pretty big stuff, you know," Liewer laughed.

Today, that hobby has grown into a 45-year career in taxidermy with a full-fledged taxidermy shop and showroom, served by Rosebud Electric Cooperative, just north of his hometown of Burke.

His show room boasts a wide range of prairie flora and fauna, including life-sized elk and buffalo, deer and much more.

Each year, Liewer estimates he completes more than 1,500 mounted pheasants, along with ducks, geese and turkeys – a workload he once managed

Liewer has been perfecting his taxidermy skills for over 45 years through his business, Pete's Taxidermy, in Burke, S.D.

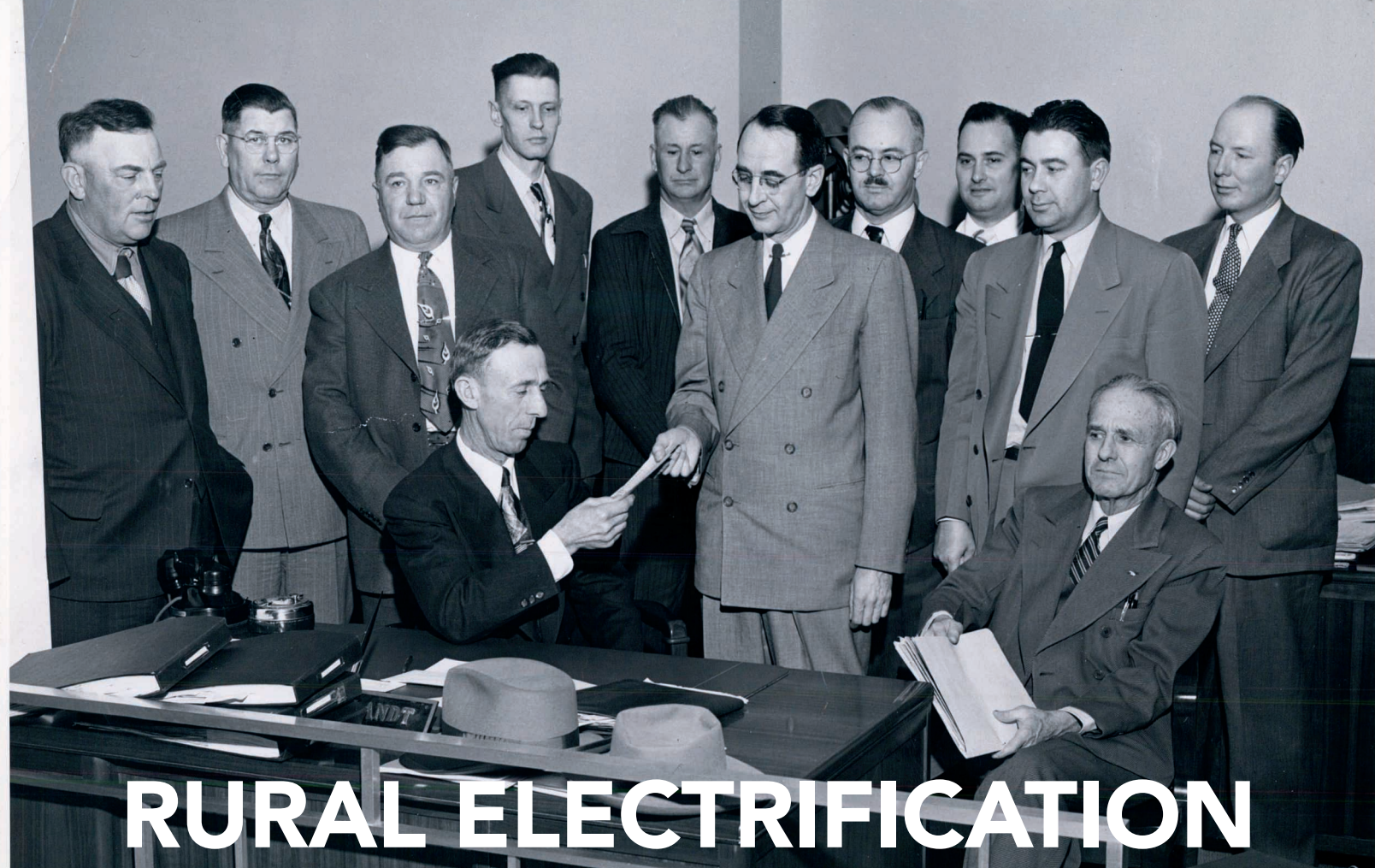
Photo by Frank Turner.

on his own. In recent years, he has brought on four taxidermy apprentices under his license to help lighten the load, along with several others in the shop who assist with set-ups, finish work, and carpentry.

"I also work with a few people who work out of their homes who we supply with feathers for wreaths, custom knives, furs, earrings and picture frames – just all kinds of cool stuff," he said.

Although Liewer has never entered his mounts in contests, his craftsmanship has caught the attention of high-profile customers, including Bass Pro Shops and country artist Zac Brown. Still, he doesn't measure success by awards or celebrity clients. For Liewer, the real test is whether his work can impress the veteran hunter or a visitor walking into his showroom. He says the response from his customers far outweighs anything an award could ever give him.

"The people who come through really tout us – they say, 'this is the coolest places that we have ever seen in our life' – and that just says it all," said Liewer.



RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

WEST CENTRAL

Last to Incorporate, Lasting in Impact

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Before rural electrification, South Dakota's farmsteads ended the day in silence. There was no music from the radio playing in the living room or hum of an electric refrigerator in the kitchen. Over decades of work, power lines would stretch across the prairie through President Franklin Roosevelt's vision of rural electrification, carrying not only electricity but also a new way of life.

In 1935, President Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) as part of his New Deal policies to revive a nation struggling through the Great Depression and bring electricity to

America's rural communities, something that private and investor-owned utilities refused to do.

Clay-Union Electric was the first rural community in South Dakota to adopt the cooperative model in 1937, and West Central was the last in 1949. But as former West Central Electric CEO Steve Reed can attest, being the last to adopt the cooperative way didn't hinder their success. Once the path to forming a cooperative was established, the members of West Central benefitted from electricity's transformation from a luxury into a necessity with the rest of rural South Dakota.

"We couldn't rely on the power

West Central Electric board directors present a check to a representative of Central Electric and Gas in 1951, finalizing the cooperative's purchase of the private utility system. *Photo submitted by West Central Electric.*

companies to come out to serve rural South Dakota," said Reed, a 42-year cooperative veteran who joined West Central Electric as a lineman and worked his way up to CEO. "They were never going to do it at price that was affordable, so rural electric has been great for not only the members of West Central but the entire country."

So why was West Central the last to form a cooperative? According to Reed, the rural communities that organized West Central Electric in 1949 had several hurdles to clear. The first was overcoming the sheer remoteness of the territory, which then had a system that averaged 1.5 members per mile of line constructed, even including towns and

cities. Because members were few and far between, the REA needed the towns in the proposed West Central territory to become members: from Philip to Hayes and Murdo to Kennebec, where West Central Electric was incorporated.

That led to the next problem: the towns and cities in the proposed West Central Electric's service territory were already being served by Central Electric and Gas, a private company based out of Philadelphia. This obstacle didn't stop the people who had a vision of what rural electrification could accomplish. Following lengthy discussion in 1951, West Central Electric purchased systems from Central Electric and Gas for \$850,000 using low-interest REA federal funds.

Former West Central Electric Attorney John Larson outlined the discussions in his 50th Annual Meeting Speech: "There was no choice but to buy out the private supplier, Central Electric and Gas, and that was accomplished... (Former South Dakota Governor M. Q. Sharpe, who served as West Central Electric's attorney), showed up for the meeting that morning unshaven and unkempt, with a threadbare shirt and suit. For the entire morning, he listened with his head down and eyes shut to the Philadelphia lawyer types who represented the power company. After the dinner break, however, he showed up in a new suit, shaved, and took over the meeting by dictating exactly what West Central would do and what we would pay. During an afternoon break, one of the Philadelphia types was heard to mutter, 'You want to watch that old guy. When he's got his head down and eyes shut, he's not sleeping!'"

West Central Electric's 1951 purchase included all the electrical infrastructure within the town boundaries, as well as the diesel generation system extending west from Chamberlain. Shortly after, the evolution of West Central Electric progressed with the construction of distribution systems to farms and reconstructing the systems of various

towns, including the installation of street lights.

Since that iconic moment, West Central has continued to grow with its membership, meeting more demand for electrical energy than had been previously thought possible, a reflection of just how integral electricity has

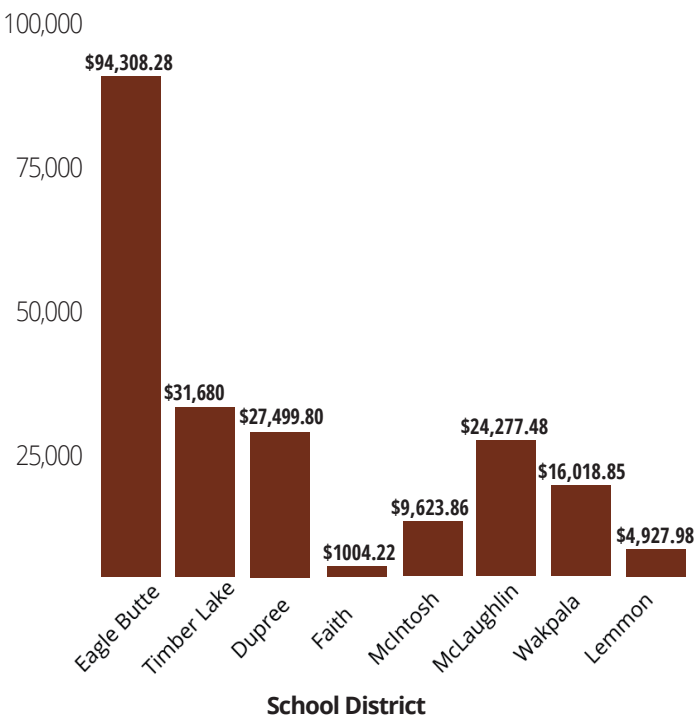
become in day-to-day living for business owners, ag producers, and rural folk alike.

"That moment modernized us," said Reed. "It just did so much for everything – and without it, where would we be?"



(Top) A West Central Electric Annual Meeting.
(Bottom) A West Central Electric Board Meeting with the REA.
Photos submitted by West Central Electric

Cooperative Taxes Benefit Schools



Your electric cooperative pays a generation tax in lieu of real and personal property taxes.

The tax is .016 percent of the kilowatt sales in each school district of Moreau-Grand’s service area.

All of this tax amount is allocated directly to the school districts and is used for school purposes.

Total 2024 taxes paid in 2025 were \$209,340.47.

2024 Year End Statistics

Members.....	3,912	Average Residential	
Meters.....	7,206	Usage.....	795 kWh
Service Area.....	6,950 sq mi	Average Residential	
Cost of one mile		Statement.....	\$116.86
single-phase line:		Average Residential	
Underground.....	\$66,100	kWh.....	\$0.15
Overhead.....	\$53,300	Average Commercial	
Cost of one mile		Usage.....	3,622 kWh
three-phase line:		Average Commercial	
Underground.....	\$98,400	Statement.....	\$384.02
Overhead.....	\$88,500	Average Commercial	
Transmission line.....	210 mi	kWh.....	\$0.11
Underground line.....	457 mi	Average Revenue/	
Overhead line.....	3,180 mi	kWh.....	\$0.13

Taxes Paid by Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative in 2024

S.D. Generation Taxes	\$209,340.72
Real and Personal Taxes	\$41,106.94
Sales, Use and Excise Taxes U.S.	\$468,011.72
Unemployment Taxes	\$1,622.12
Employers Share FICA	\$158,469.22
TOTAL TAXES PAID	\$818,550.72

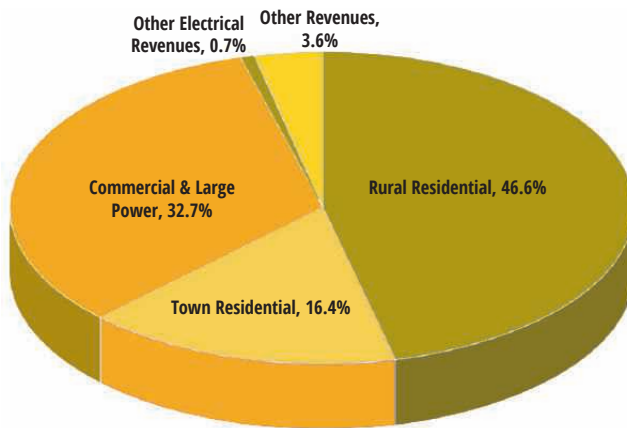
Balance Sheet

What we own as of Dec. 31, 2023 and Dec. 31, 2024

What We Own	2023	2024
We have an electrical system that costs:	\$61,783,686	\$71,126,779
Plus construction in progress:	6,636,320	3,641,626
Less Depreciation to date:	(24,694,960)	(25,807,452)
Our net plant is:	\$43,725,046	\$48,960,953
IN ADDITION		
Non utility plant:	-	-
We have cash on hand & checking deposits:	584,250	259,711
We have time and savings deposits:	3,045,544	407,357
We have owed to us for electricity & other supplies:	1,294,161	1,474,191
We have material on hand:	1,454,542	1,232,637
We have investments in associated organizations:	6,910,965	7,093,575
We have other investments:	284,531	283,983
We have deferred debits:	136,626	132,406
FOR TOTAL ASSETS OF:	\$57,435,665	\$59,844,813
Liabilities	2023	2024
We owe RUS, CFC and CoBank:	\$33,957,404	\$35,311,130
We owe power bill, short-term notes, accrued taxes & supplies	2,984,161	3,570,934
We owe consumers & others for deposits:	523,242	532,802
We owe other deferred credits:	288,905	154,900
FOR TOTAL LIABILITIES OF:	\$37,753,712	\$39,569,766
Net Worth	2023	2024
We have patronage capital credits:	\$16,091,959	\$16,724,148
We have other equities & donated capital:	3,589,994	3,550,899
FOR A TOTAL NET WORTH OF:	\$19,681,953	\$20,275,047
WE HAVE A TOTAL OF LIABILITIES & NET WORTH OF	\$57,435,665	\$59,844,813
PERCENT EQUITY:	34.27%	33.88%

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

Operating Revenues	2023	2024
Farms	\$6,030,700	\$6,366,426
Residential	2,121,207	2,249,403
Commercial	4,326,117	4,479,254
Street Lights	92,323	93,117
Penalties	65,884	84,143
Miscellaneous Revenues	395,436	401,770
Total Operating Revenue	\$13,031,667	\$13,674,113



Your Cooperative

Incorporated: May 6, 1946

Counties Served: Dewey, Corson and Ziebach

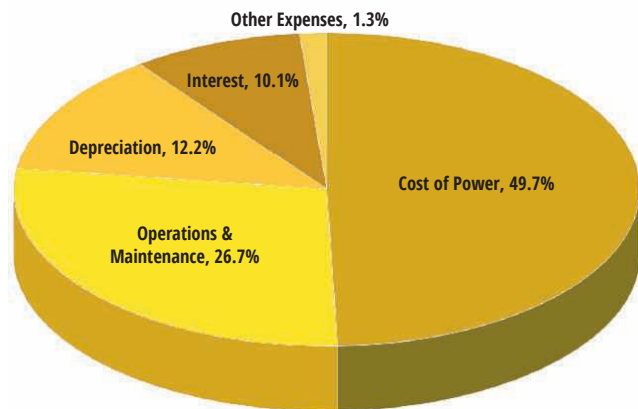
Power Supply: Basin Electric – 85% WAPA – Hydro 15%

Source of Loan Funds: USDA/Rural Utilities Service, CFC and CoBank

Operating Expenses	2023	2024
Purchased Power	\$6,276,002	\$6,643,871
Transmission Expenses	43,950	41,644
Distribution-Operations	1,103,996	1,192,075
Distribution-Maintenance	779,193	714,709
Consumer Accounting	482,558	570,726
Customer Service and Information	152,086	125,802
Sales Expense	13,274	13,006
General and Administrative	934,280	914,314
Depreciation	1,607,841	1,625,909
Taxes	164,102	162,745
Interest	1,118,726	1,346,618
Other Deductions	13,123	15,027
Total Operating Expenses	\$12,689,131	\$13,366,445

What we have left as of Dec. 31, 2023 and Dec. 31, 2024

Operating Margin	\$342,536	\$307,668
Non-operating Margin	209,296	106,661
G & T Capital Credits	589,650	419,495
Other Capital Credits	92,063	76,581
Net Margins	\$1,233,545	\$910,405



WHOLESALE POWER COSTS

2012	\$5,210,090
2013	\$5,943,216
2014	\$6,094,754
2015	\$5,565,165
2016	\$6,197,421
2017	\$6,510,770
2018	\$6,492,208
2019	\$6,366,728
2020	\$6,250,325
2021	\$6,162,000
2022	\$6,658,238
2023	\$6,276,002
2024	\$6,643,870.58

TOTAL KWH USED

2012	90,244,095
2013	99,826,108
2014	102,067,527
2015	96,557,188
2016	95,406,619
2017	97,047,679
2018	103,396,323
2019	103,360,213
2020	100,374,906
2021	99,296,260
2022	105,338,954
2023	102,564,085
2024	101,697,841



Photo submitted by JT and Luann Weber.

GENERATIONAL FARMERS

Four Generations of Lyon-Lincoln Electric Members Ranch on Lake Benton-Area Land

Jacob Boyko

jacob.boyko@sdrea.coop

Nestled amongst the rolling green pastures of western Minnesota, there's a generations-old farm worked by one family for over three quarters of a century.

From their Lincoln County property, the Weber family watched rural electrification improve the prairie, connect neighbors and bring reliability to farmsteads. Now they watch precision agriculture guide planting, bovine genetics strengthen herds, and social media and the internet connect their business to the wider world.

It all started in 1947, when John and Marie Weber moved into the old three-bedroom farmhouse from nearby

Elkton, S.D. Luckily, the move came six years after Lyon-Lincoln Electric Cooperative energized lines in the area, so the Weber home enjoyed many of the modern amenities brought on by rural electrification, including electric lights, kitchen appliances and a washing machine.

"I know I had the best mom and dad in the world," said JT, one of John and Marie's eight children, who today helps run the ranch with his wife, Luann, their three sons and their families. "Dad was very community-oriented. He was on the school board, the elevator board and the rural water board. In fact, he was instrumental in starting rural water. He went from place to place, talking people

into getting rural water."

JT was born on the farm in 1957 during a blizzard that left his parents unable to reach the hospital in town. As a boy, he remembers collecting rainwater in a cistern and using it for cooking, cleaning and baths. Even as rural electrification began to transform the countryside, life on the farm remained far different – and often harder – than life in town.

"When I grew up, back in the 60s and 70s, if you milked 40 cows that was quite a few," JT said. "We were milking about 100 cows – we were kind of ahead of our time. But we had a big family, and us boys, we got right in there."

He continued, "We were hauling silage, hauling manure, milking cows and doing chores. But Dad never told us to do anything. He always asked us if we wanted to, and there's a difference. You wanted to work for him. He made you want to work for him, and it was never a burden."

That was a quality JT kept in mind with his own seven children on that same

ranch where he grew up. Today, JT and Luann's sons Jake, Garret, and Matt all stay involved in the ranch, now Weber Bros. Cattle.

"Growing up, I kind of always had that bug to get in the tractor, chase cows, put up fence, and do what needs to be done," explained Jake, the oldest son.

Today, they specialize in raising purebred Angus bulls and Simmental-Angus crosses, while also producing corn silage and alfalfa to help sustain the operation. While the operation may be old, it's not at all low-tech.

"Our main thing is our bull program," Jake said. "We sell about 50 registered Angus and Simmental bulls by private treaty every spring, and we also develop 50 replacement and bred heifers, and market a portion of them. We do a lot of artificial insemination and embryo transfer. Some of the more elite donor cows we can get our hands on by buying females and buying embryos. We're just trying to make good cows."

Jake, like his dad, graduated from South Dakota State University with an animal science degree, and was excited to return to the ranch to incorporate some of his new skills into the operation.

"When I got back from school, we really amped up our embryo transfer program with different ideas and stuff I learned about genetics from contacts and producers we've met over the years," Jake continued. "We went from selling 10 bulls per year to selling close to 50 bulls."

Jake's younger brother and fellow SDSU animal science graduate, Garret, keeps involved on the family's ranch as well. Though he works full time as swine genetic company Hypor's US Sales Manager, he helps out with the operation and finds the time to run Weber Bros. Cattle's social media pages, which he says has successfully expanded their presence in the market.

"Whether it's Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat or our company website, we're able to hit such a broad spectrum of people, and it's a great way to tell the story of our operation, what we're doing year-in and year-out and advertise the



genetics of the cattle that we're showing and selling," Garret explained. "We're able to have a much greater touch point of individuals that we can reach out to and market our livestock."

JT, Jake and Garret all credit their spouses and families for supporting them as they work to grow the operation.

"It took a long time and a lot of support for us to get established and get to where we are today," JT said.

Looking toward the future – and the next generation, their goals are to make an already successful operation even better.

"We'll keep working with the cow herd, continue to make improvements and make better genetics every year," Jake said. "I want this opportunity to be available to my kids, so that if they want to be able to do this, they'll have the same chance we did."

Garret added, "It's something that I hope my sons can do someday if we're able to continue to grow the operation. I hope it's something they're going to be able to share and cherish with their own kids, because those are the memories that stick with you forever."

JT and Luann Weber with their adult children, Jake, Garret, Matt and Sara Weber, Liz Mergen, and Maria Opheim, and families.

Back, from left: Garret Weber, Levi Weber, Kailey Weber, Jake Weber, Amanda Weber, Sara Weber, Cade Opheim, Maria Opheim, Tawnee Opheim, JT Weber, Luann Weber, Brent Mergen, Liz Mergen, Davie Fiedler, Matt Weber, Racheal Krog.
Front, from left: Adam Weber, Chisum Weber, Abeline Weber, Vidalia Fiedler.
Not pictured: Talon Weber



Photo submitted by JT and Luanne Weber.



A purebred Angus Heifer.
Photo by Garret Weber

2025 DIRECTOR CANDIDATE PROFILES

Royce Walker, District 1



Royce Walker, McLaughlin, is a farmer/rancher and a school bus driver who is returning to the board unopposed. He has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD), Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), and a Director Gold Credential. He has been married to his wife Cari for 43 years and has two children, Brittini and Rason, and seven grandchildren.

A graduate of McLaughlin High School, Royce has served as vice president of the Moreau-Grand Electric board and is a former Sunday school teacher and superintendent.

In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and participating in their activities.

Royce wants to be on the Moreau-Grand Board of Directors, “to do whatever he can to keep rates down in our area.”

Cody Jewett, District 2



Cody Jewett, Isabel, is a rancher with experience as a Tri County/Mni Waste Water Operator and IHS Maintenance Department Supervisor. He and his wife, Katie, have a daughter, Alyssa, and a son, Matthew.

The Gettysburg High School Graduate assists with the Timber Lake Youth Wrestling Program and co-hosts the Annual Isabel Fly-in.

Cody wants to be on the Moreau-Grand Electric Board because, “Moreau Grand Electric Cooperative is a cornerstone of community success. We all rely on power to operate our daily lives seamlessly. My previous experience in the utility industry gives me a unique understanding of the importance in providing reliable and affordable service to the members it serves for years to come.”

DeeAnn Lawrence, District 4



DeeAnn Lawrence, Eagle Butte, is an Adjunct Instructor at Oglala Lakota College and an Education Services Specialist, both in Eagle Butte. She has also performed several jobs within the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe across many departments ranging from health, construction, bookkeeping, education, and administration. Through her jobs, she has been very active in her community.

She continually furthers her education, earning degrees since 1988.

She and her husband, Wade, have five daughters (Jessica, Jenilee, Lindee, Morgan and Kaydee), six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

DeeAnn wants to be on the Moreau-Grand Electric Board of Directors because, “In South Dakota, being on the board of directors of MGEC provides the chance to influence the future of energy services, give back to the community, be an advocate for underprivileged service members, and hone leadership abilities. It’s an opportunity to help your neighbors have access to dependable, reasonably priced, and community-focused energy solutions and to take part in the democratic management of a cooperative owned by its members.”

Troy Wall, District 5



Troy Wall, Dupree, ranches with his wife, Michelle. Together, they have a daughter, Kelsey, and a son, Cooper. They also have four grandchildren.

The Dupree High School graduate has been on the Moreau-Grand Electric Board of Directors since 2016 and has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate and Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). He has also spent time on the Dupree Rodeo Committee and Farmer’s Union of Dupree Board.

Troy wants to be on the Moreau-Grand Board of Directors, “so we can keep our electricity reliable and affordable.”

Committed to Serving Your Cooperative

Employee	Years of Service
Kent Larson , General Manager	33
Wendy Shupick , Eagle Butte MS Rep.	32
Chad Mettler , Journeyman Lineman	26
Justin Thorstenson , Eagle Butte Line Foreman	25
Jody Pateneau , Mechanic/Groundsman	24
Josh Lemburg , Line Superintendent	20
Hunter Smith , Staking Foreman	13
Jace Vrooman , Journeyman Lineman	13
Garret Simon , Journeyman Lineman	11
Troy Long , Timber Lake Line Foreman	11
Brock Fischer , Journeyman Lineman	7
Deb Thill , Custodian	7

Jess Keller , Material Work Order Clerk	6
Ethan Aberle , Journeyman Lineman	5
Kyrie Lemburg , Financial Officer	5
Tammi Ducheneaux , Operations Clerk	4
Stephanie Bartlett , Billing Supervisor	3
Jamie Jones , Accountant	3
JJ Martin , Member Services & IT Director	2
Brent Spafford , Apprentice Lineman	2
Collin Grage , Apprentice Lineman	2
Trenton Hansen , Apprentice Lineman	New Hire
Trevor Bad Warrior , Apprentice Lineman	New Hire
Bobbie Traversie , Cashier/Receptionist	New Hire

You are invited! Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative's 2025 Annual Meeting October 8, 2025

- Meeting registration and meal start at 5pm
- Business Meeting follows meal
- At MGE Headquarters Building
- Timber Lake, SD
- Business Meeting
- Pulled Pork Supper
- Kids' and Member Prizes



Building For The Future

LOCATE YOUR ACCOUNT ADDRESS

If you locate your address on any of the inside pages of the Moreau-Grand Electric's *Cooperative Connections*, notify us and you will receive a \$25 bill credit. "Eligible addresses will not be on the front or back cover."

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

As winter approaches, now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Leaks reduce indoor comfort and lead to higher heating costs.

If you can see daylight around the edges of a window frame or if a window rattles slightly when touched, air is likely leaking. Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows. Choose the right product and apply it properly to reduce heat loss, improve comfort and lower energy bills.



OCT. 10-12
Black Hills Powwow
 Rapid City, SD
 605-341-0925

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.

UNTIL OCT. 31
Wallace Dow, Prairie Architect
Traveling Exhibit
 Lake County Museum
 Madison, SD
 605-256-5308

OCT. 3
DSU Architecture Walking Tour
 3-4 p.m.
 Lake County Museum
 Madison, SD

OCT. 3-5
Black Hills Film Festival
 Journey Museum
 Rapid City, SD
 605-574-9454

OCT. 4
Pumpkin Train, Vendor
Showcase
 Prairie Village
 Madison, SD

OCT. 4-5
Sioux Falls Quilt Guild
 Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Sun. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Sioux Falls Convention Center
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-951-2034

OCT. 10-11
Holman Acres Pumpkin Fest
& Vendor Show
 Fri. 12 p.m.-6 p.m.
 Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.,
 Philip, SD
 605-441-1060

OCT. 11
A Celebration of Classic Hits
 7 p.m.
 Gayville Music Hall
 Gayville, SD
 605-760-5799

OCT. 11
Howard Fall Festival
 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Miner County 4-H Grounds
 Howard, SD

OCT. 18
Arts & Crafts Festival
 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Faulkton, SD

OCT. 18
Northern Prairie Arts
Barn Quilt Class
 Highland Conference Center
 Register by Oct. 6
 Watertown, SD
 605-882-1780

OCT. 18-19
Heartland Quilting Stars Show
 Highland Conference Center
 Mitchell, SD
 605-770-1551

OCT. 19
Helping With Horsepower
Year-End Horse Show
 10 a.m.
 Reclamation Ranch
 Mitchell, SD

OCT. 24
Humor for Heroes
Comedy Night Fundraiser
 Comedians, Silent Auction
 Tickets \$15, two for \$25
 1600 W. Russell St.
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-336-3470

OCT. 25
The Greats of Country
 7 p.m.
 Gayville Music Hall
 Gayville, SD
 605-760-5799

OCT. 31-NOV. 2
Haunted Trail at
Reclamation Ranch
 7-10 p.m.
 Reclamation Ranch
 Mitchell, SD

NOV. 1
Reliance Christmas Carousel
 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Reliance, SD
 605-730-1462

NOV. 1
Fall Fling Craft/Vendor Show
 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Dakota Christian School
 Corsica, SD
 605-366-7940

NOV. 1
Black Hills Meat Fest
 2-4 p.m.
 Nerdy Nuts Expo Hall
 Rapid City, SD

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.