

# COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



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# COOPERATIVE UPDATE

As of June 2, 2021



**Melissa Maher**  
Manager

Your board decided to stick with the Wednesday format again this year, thus selected Oct. 6 as the annual meeting date for 2021. This year's meeting will be held in Isabel at the Community Center. Members interested in running for a board position will have until July 20 to file a nominating petition for the election which will be held at the annual meeting.

Three director positions (each for a 3-year term) are up for election: District 1 – Clint Clark from Morristown; District 3 – Larry Hieb from Timber Lake; and District 4 – Robert Keckler from Eagle Butte. Members from each district will receive a letter mailed from our office on June 18 announcing the vacancy.

## Mark your calendars for Oct. 6 – and come celebrate our 75th anniversary.

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June is the month for Moreau-Grand to pay

the generation tax (based on kilowatt hour sales) to our counties where it is then dispersed to the area schools. The total amount to be paid by Moreau-Grand in June is \$198,573.66 which represents kilowatt hours sales in 2020. The following is a breakdown by county:

<b>Corson County</b>	<b>\$55,935.16</b>
<b>Dewey County</b>	<b>\$113,437.32</b>
<b>Meade County</b>	<b>\$33.79</b>
<b>Perkins County</b>	<b>\$1,777.90</b>
<b>Ziebach County</b>	<b>\$27,389.49</b>

Josh Biegler from Timber Lake purchased the metal warehouse #1 which was advertised for bids in May. In fact, Josh was the only bid received with the bid opening held on May 25 at the monthly board meeting. The warehouse will be moved off our property within the month of June so dirt work can begin on the future headquarters facility.

The Good Lord heard our prayers and sent much needed rain to our service area during the later part of May. With hotter temperatures forthcoming – continued prayers for timely rains to come. Just this week, I am hearing reports of weevils in the alfalfa. It is certainly not for the weak at heart – one must keep the faith!

Until next month...Stay encouraged and work safely.

<b>Comparative Report</b>	<b>Current (April 2021)</b>	<b>1 year ago (April 2020)</b>	<b>10 Years Ago (April 2011)</b>	<b>% Change in 10 years</b>
<b>Number of Meters</b>	7,037	6,932	6,411	10%
<b>Kilowatt Hours Sold</b>	7,501,161	8,082,271	7,229,224	4%
<b>Cost of Purchased Power</b>	\$445,301	\$513,037	\$327,548	36%
<b>Overall Ave. Rate / kWh Per Member</b>	0.1172	0.1149	0.1003	17%

## COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

### MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 018-951)

**Manager:** Melissa Maher

**Editor:** Roger Lawien,  
Member Services & IT Director

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Kerry McLellan, Vice President  
Kelly Landis, Secretary-Treasurer  
Lois Bartlett  
Clint Clark  
Bob Keckler  
Paul Lawrence  
Ryan Maher  
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Troy Wall

**Attorney:** John Burke

#### Management Staff:

Kent Larson,  
Operations Superintendent  
Linda Dahlgren, Finance Officer  
Kyrie Lemburg, Accountant

MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS is published monthly by Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, PO Box 8, 405 Ninth 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](mailto:mge@mge.coop); Web site [www.mge.coop](http://www.mge.coop). This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

Design assistance by SDREA

## DIRECTOR PETITIONS DUE JULY 20

Individuals who are interested in running for the Moreau-Grand Electric board of directors will have from June 18, 2021, through July 20, 2021, to file a nominating petition for the election to be held at the annual meeting. All candidates from a district must have the qualifying petition with 10 or more signatures in a Moreau-Grand office by 4 p.m. July 20, 2021, to be on the ballot for that district.

The three director positions up for election this year are: District 1 – Clint Clark, District 3 – Larry Hieb and District 4 – Bob Keckler.

It is important for the members to start thinking about candidates early. Petitions may be picked up at the Moreau-Grand headquarters in Timber Lake. A member can sign only one nominating petition and must reside in the district of the member running for the board position. All signatures will be validated upon receipt of the nominating petition.



Clint Clark



Larry Hieb



Bob Keckler

### SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a Director who:

- (a) is not a member and bona fide resident of the district from which he is elected.
- (b) is in any way employed or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures, or supplies to the Cooperative.

(c) is not receiving electrical service from the Cooperative at their principal place of residence.

(d) is an employee of the cooperative, or spouse or child, parent, brother or sister, by blood or marriage of such an employee. Should a disqualification occur subsequent to election, the director, not withstanding any other provisions of these bylaws, shall be permitted to complete the term of office. This provision shall be in effect for elections occurring after 1997.

(e) Has failed to attend at least 2/3 of all regular board meetings during any twelve (12) month period.

(i) No absence from a board of directors meeting occasioned by jury duty or active military service shall be considered when applying this provision.

(f) Has pled guilty or has been convicted of a:

- (i) felony,
- (ii) any crime involving dishonesty, or
- (iii) any crime involving moral turpitude.

(g) Is a spouse or child, parent, brother or sister, by blood or marriage, of a then current Director.



## Handling food safely when grilling outdoors

One of America's favorite summer pastimes is grilling, and safe grilling starts with proper food handling. Here are a few simple guidelines for grilling food safely:

- Wash away harmful bacteria. Avoid providing a hotbed for bacteria. Unwashed hands are a prime cause of foodborne illness, also known as food poisoning, as are unwashed perishable foods such as meat, seafood, and peeled or cut fruits and vegetables.

- Keep perishable foods cold. If you'll be meeting up with friends away from your backyard grill, it's best to transport all perishables in an insulated cooler kept cold with ice or frozen gel packs.

- Throw away any perishable leftovers that have been out of a refrigerator or cooler for more than two hours—one hour if the temperature is above 90 degrees.

- Keep coolers out of direct sunlight and avoid opening them frequently, to keep the cold air inside.

- Marinate safely. Marinated meats should be stored immediately in a refrigerator or cooler, not on the kitchen counter or outside next to the grill. As long as a marinade is stored in a cool environment, it can remain there safely for several hours or days.

- Do not use marinade from a raw meat/marinade mixture as a sauce on cooked meat, unless you first cook the

sauce to a boil for at least three minutes to kill harmful bacteria.

- Use grilling shortcuts.

Pre-cooking food partially indoors before putting it on a preheated grill will give you quick results when your friends are hungry or your grill is slow or small. Conversely, flame-grill meat for a smoky, charbroiled flavor, then bake in an oven until it's cooked properly.

- Cook thoroughly and use a meat thermometer. It's best to cook food to the safe minimum internal temperature to destroy harmful bacteria. On the grill, meat and poultry will brown quickly, but the inside might only be cooked partially. To be sure the food has reached a safe internal temperature, use a meat thermometer.

Here are some safe minimum internal temperatures:

- Chicken: 165 degrees
- Beef hamburgers: 160 degrees

- Beef, veal and lamb (steaks, roasts and chops): medium-rare 145 degrees, medium

- 160 degrees
- Pork: 165 degrees

With proper refrigeration and thorough cooking, your backyard barbecue will be a tasty success.



### AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

Scammers will threaten you with everything from shutting off power to your home to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

- Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access

to the details they need to service your account.

- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.



## Don't fly kites near trees and power lines

Annette Tschetter, 7 years old

Annette is the daughter of Elaine and Ryan Tschetter of Revillo. They are members of Whetstone Valley Electric based in Milbank.

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.





# SUMMERTIME DESSERTS

**WHOOPIE PIES****Ingredients:**

1 box spice cake mix  
1 1/2 cups apple butter  
1/2 cup canola oil  
2 eggs  
8 ounces cream cheese  
4 tablespoons butter  
3 cups powdered sugar  
2 tablespoons milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla

**METHOD**

Heat oven to 350 F. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. In large bowl, whisk spice cake mix, apple butter, oil and eggs. With ice cream scoop or large tablespoon, spoon batter into rounded heaps, about 2-3 inches in diameter, onto parchment paper. Space spooned batter 2 inches apart. Bake 14 minutes. Let cool. In large bowl, beat cream cheese, butter and powdered sugar until smooth. Add milk and vanilla; beat until blended. Frost flat sides of pie halves and place halves together. Refrigerate and store in sealed container.

Culinary.net

**ROCKY ROAD ICE CREAM****Ingredients:**

1/2 cup cocoa powder  
1 -14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk  
2 cup heavy cream  
1 cup half & half  
1 TBS vanilla  
1/2 cup chopped pecans  
1 cup miniature marshmallows

**METHOD**

In a small saucepan put in cocoa and whisk in sweetened condensed milk until smooth. Cook over low heat, whisking constantly until slightly thickened, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Transfer to a bowl and stir in both creams and vanilla. Pour mixture into ice cream maker and freeze. Stir in pecans and marshmallows halfway through freezing process. Transfer to airtight container and put in freezer to harden, about an hour. Makes 2 quarts.

Joan Antonen, Arlington, SD

**PRALINE PECAN CRUNCH****Ingredients:**

1 21 oz. box Quaker Oat Squares cereal (about 8 cups)  
2 cups pecans  
1/2 cup packed brown sugar  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1/2 cup light corn syrup  
1/4 cup margarine  
1/2 tps baking soda

**METHOD**

Heat oven to 250 degrees. Mix cereal and pecans in 9"x13" pan. Set aside. Mix corn syrup, brown sugar and margarine in glass bowl. Microwave on high 1-1/2 minutes. Stir, microwave 1 to 1-1/2 minutes more or until boiling. Stir in vanilla and baking soda and pour over cereal mixture. Stir to coat evenly. Bake 1 hour, stirring every 20 minutes. Spread on baking sheet to cool. Break into pieces and store in air tight container.

NANCY STENSON, FORT PIERRE

**MAMA'S CARAMEL PUDDING****Ingredients:**

1 cup sugar - melt in skillet until golden brown  
2 cups milk - stir until sugar is dissolved  
4 tps. corn starch stirred into a little milk

**METHOD**

Cook until thickened. Serve with whipped cream.

Elaine Rowett, Sturgis, SD

Please send your favorite dairy 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 2021. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

### Dear Pat and Brad: We just purchased a home and noticed the previous owner installed an electric wall heater in the outdoor shed. How much will our electric bill go up if we use this heater next winter? Should we consider insulating the shed? – Lloyd



**Pat Keegan**  
Collaborative  
Efficiency

Good questions! An uninsulated outbuilding can be quite expensive to heat (or cool) depending on where you live. Even though we're currently experiencing July's warmer temperatures, I'll focus on heating since your shed includes the wall heater.

Years ago, I worked on a home energy contest that selected homes with the highest energy bills and helped the owners make efficiency improvements. One year, the home with the highest energy use had an uninsulated shed that was heated in order to keep several cans of leftover paint from freezing. The cost of heating the shed each winter was more than it would have cost to replace the paint.

#### **The cost of heating and cooling an outbuilding can be much lower if the thermostat is carefully controlled.**

The cost to heat or cool your outdoor shed depends on your climate, the size of the outbuilding and the price you pay for electricity. I conducted a quick calculation that showed heating an uninsulated 6 ft. by 8 ft. shed could cost twice as much as heating an insulated 900 sq. ft. home. Wow!

Some outbuildings are heated with wood, which is a sound choice if you have a free source of firewood. Another strategy often seen in workshops is a radiant heater directed at the work area, perhaps in front of a workbench. But if you're paying for your fuel and decide to keep an outbuilding heated, you should definitely insulate it.

An important consideration, unless you live in a desert-dry climate, is the effect moisture can have in an outbuilding. Moisture enables rot, insects and mold to wreak havoc on your structure, and rust to degrade tools and other metals. Heating and insulating an outbuilding, if done right, can reduce or eliminate a moisture problem. But insulation installed incorrectly can trap moisture and foster mold growth.

Moisture in an outbuilding is usually caused by three things: leaks where water can get through (typically through the roof, windows and doorway); seepage through floors and walls; or condensation when nighttime temperatures drop. To prevent moisture buildup, you need to eliminate moisture sources and prevent condensation.

As air cools, it cannot carry as much moisture, and condensation occurs, usually on the coolest object at hand. Insulating walls and ceilings can keep the interior wall or ceiling surface from getting cold enough for condensation to occur. Insulated wall or ceiling cavities need to be carefully air sealed so that condensation does not occur inside the cavity.

I should also note that the cost of heating and cooling an outbuilding can be much lower if the thermostat is carefully controlled.

Only you can decide if the value of heating and cooling your outbuilding is worth the cost and effort to properly insulate and seal. Even if your shed is not heated or insulated, it's worth keeping an eye out for mold and mildew.

We hope you enjoy your new home and your outdoor shed!

Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency write on energy efficiency topics for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. For additional energy tips and information on Collaborative Efficiency visit: [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips).



**Brad Thiessen**  
Collaborative  
Efficiency



Logan Storley of Roslyn, SD, lands a kick against opponent Yaroslav Amosov at Bellator MMA 252 last November. It was Storley's first Bellator loss against 11 wins. *Photo courtesy of BELLATOR MMA/Lucas Noonan*

# LOGAN STORLEY

## Former state champion wrestler seeks to make his mark in mixed martial arts

Billy Gibson

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

There are many who know what it's like to experience difficult emotional blows in life: broken relationships, medical afflictions, financial hardships and other misfortune. There are fewer who know what it's like to get physically punched in the face, choked, kicked in the jaw and thrown to the ground with violent force.

And still fewer who have experienced both. That's Logan Storley.

Folks around Webster know Storley as a six-time state high school wrestling champion and four-time all-American at the University of Minnesota. The 28-year-old is currently carving out a

career in mixed martial arts, fashioning a record of 11-1 as a competitor in the Bellator MMA program.

And while he's used to punching and being punched, Storley said he recruits the same mental and emotional fortitude to deal with any test of adversity whether it comes in the cage of combat or in the cage of life.

Storley suffered his first loss last November when he dropped a split decision to Yaroslav Amosov, a defeat that was difficult for him to bear. The post-fight video segment shows Storley ripping his hand away from the referee after the verdict was announced.

But the blows to the forehead and kicks to the ribs that rocked his body that evening paled in comparison to

the pain of watching his beloved uncle battle ALS for 10 years before finally succumbing to the dreaded disease in 2019.

"It really hurts to see someone you've love and cared about all your life being sick like that and withering away," Storley said. "But he did a great job keeping his spirits up. He never groaned about how unlucky he was or how unfair it was. He lived a great life, he had a lot of good people around him and I was fortunate to know him. Now he's in a much better place."

Storley said that while hardships in life and contrived combat in the confines of a cage may be different types of challenges, they require the same determined mindset to overcome and move beyond.

"When there's a death in the family, or a heartbreak or financial problems, you have to keep showing up no matter what life throws at you. You have to take the time to deal with it, control what you can control and then continue to go on with life."

As far as what it's like to get physically punched in the head and body during the heat of competition, Storley said it's important to first understand, as in real life, there is going to be some adversity and pain.

"You go into the cage expecting that you're going to get cracked. You know you're going to be in a fight," he said. "It's a shock to your system when you feel that thud, but you know you have to respond and keep on fighting. You realize you can get past it and fight on."

Storley's loss in November hasn't deterred him in the least. He stays focused on completing a task left undone when he failed to win a national title in college. His goal is to become the "best fighter in the world."

"It's important to me. My whole life has been wrestling and competing," he said. "I want to win a title, defend it a couple of times and then move on."





# Summer fun awaits off the beaten path

Off-road enthusiasts from far and wide come to ride the Black Hills. *Photos by Billy Gibson*

## From the Black Hills to Avon, off-road ATV trails attract outdoor enthusiasts

**Billy Gibson**

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

Generations ago, folks flocked to the tiny hamlet of Nemo to search for gold buried deep in the nooks and crannies of the Black Hills region.

Today they come in search of family outdoor fun and adventure along the hundreds of miles of nature trails that course throughout the craggy terrain.

During most months of the year, Nemo is a quiet outpost with a

smattering of permanent residents who spend their days in unhurried leisure. But the warm summer months bring thousands of visitors seeking to explore the undulating wooded landscape on foot or on horseback, but most of all nestled in the seat of a side-by-side.

The Black Hills area is widely regarded as the state's top draw for all-terrain adventurers, and Nemo stands smack dab at the center of the action.

One of the town's busiest denizens during the summer crush is Dane Hilger, who runs D&K ATV

Rentals in Nemo. Hilger does a brisk business pairing up riders with fully licensed and permitted machines that allow visitors to free-range along the trails and take in the breathtaking vistas. His fleet of more than a dozen two-seaters and four-seaters gets snapped up quickly as the town is completely transformed during the summer season, which typically kicks off with the annual Black Hills ATV/UTV Rally held in mid-June.

"There are so many people in town it seems like it's hard to get around sometimes, but it's very family-oriented and everybody gets along and has a good time getting out and enjoying the great outdoors."



Vacationers and even day-trippers have access to everything they need during a visit to Nemo with the Brandin' Iron restaurant, camping sites, a general store and lodging.

Adam Rice, a native of Rapid City, owns and operates the Brandin' Iron in addition to another restaurant in Arizona. Soon after high school, he headed to Arizona for culinary school and later opened his business there. But two years ago, Rice was lured back to South Dakota and decided to resettle in Nemo.

"The town just has an aura about it. It's pristine and gorgeous. There's no better way to see the Black Hills. You can get to a lot of cool places through the trail system that goes literally thousands of miles and you never have to get on the road. You can get to Deadwood, you can get to Mount Rushmore, you can go to Sturgis. I go out into the woods just about every day. There's always something interesting to see."

Larry Kaiser owns the Nemo Merchantile store where visitors will find fuel, snacks, beverages, clothing and an assortment of dry goods.

He laments that during the summer he is often too busy to ride the trails, but he enjoys supplying the provisions visitors need.

"It's just a lot of fun. You meet the most interesting people and everybody's having a good time."



## TOP ATV TRAILS IN SD

1. **Centennial Trail**  
West of Rapid City
2. **Northern Black Hills**  
West of Rapid City
3. **Southern Black Hills**  
Southwest of Rapid City
4. **Buffalo Gap National Grassland**  
Southeast of Farmingdale
5. **Bear Lodge Mountains**  
North of Sundance
6. **Oahe Downstream OHV Area**  
North of Pierre
7. **Talsmas ATV Trail Park**  
South of Avon
8. **Reveheim Bay OHV Area**  
Southeast of Mobridge

They bring their kids, the grand parents and the dog and they just relax, unwind and have fun."

While Nemo may be considered the mecca of ATV riders, there are several other prime spots in South Dakota open to the public.

In the southeastern region of the state near Avon, Jerry and Tina Talsma welcome ATV riders to their Trails End Ranch situated alongside the Missouri River.

The third-generation land owners opened Talsma's Trail Park in 2005 with several hundred acres open to the public and trails that range from novice to extreme.

There are climbing hills, creek crossings, deep brush, open prairie land, river bottom terrain and expansive scenic bluffs overlooking the Missouri. There are also several play areas for riders to kick up some mud.

There are different fees to enter the park depending on the mode of transportation and special discounts for groups of 10 or more machines

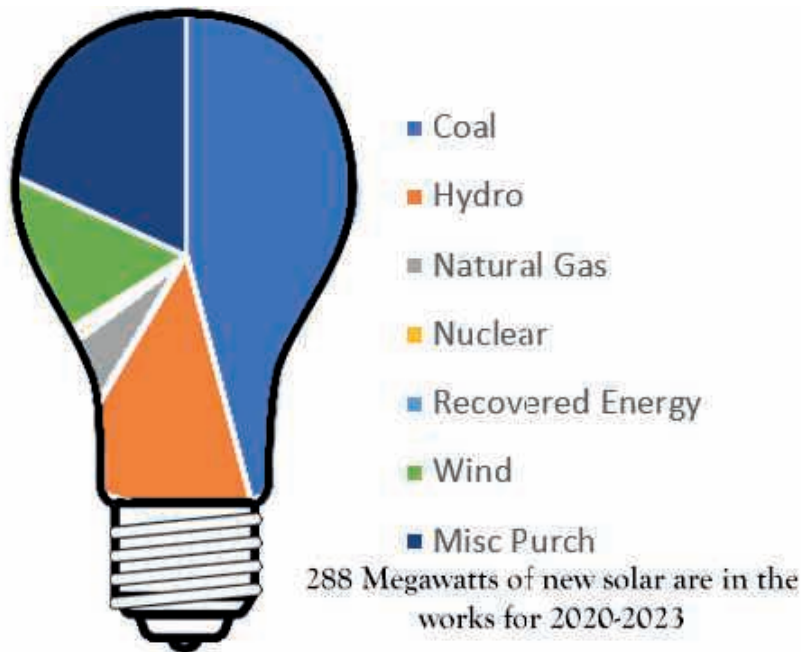


Many ATV trails across the state have access to fishing, scenic vistas and places to pull over for refreshments such as the Merchantile store in Nemo shown above.

as well as multi-day and seasonal passes. Camp sites are available at a rate of \$20 per night with electricity and \$10 without.

The Talsmas have big plans for the summer with a Customer Appreciation Day on Aug. 14, a fundraising event for Horse Haven on Sept. 11 and a Halloween Scare Ride on Oct. 9.

For more information on the private park, visit [talsmastrailpark.com](http://talsmastrailpark.com). For more information about riding in the Black Hills, visit [blackhillsatvally.com](http://blackhillsatvally.com) and [custersd.com](http://custersd.com) where you'll find details about ATV activities in the Custer area.



Where your electricity comes from.

## OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE SINCE 1946 - PART 3

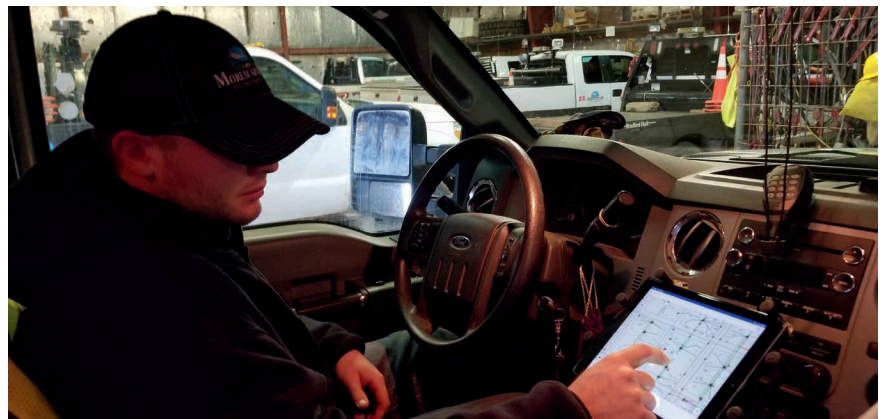
**Roger Lawien**

rlawien@mge.coop

The 1960s, 1970s and 1980s brought unprecedented growth in member consumption of electricity. Seeing the need to save costs and prepare for the future, Moreau-Grand joined the Rushmore Electric power cooperative in April of 1983. The growth also necessitated the need for the cooperative to manage peak electric usage. The members were alerted by radio ads designed to curb their electrical consumption during



these peak times. This continues today with the automated Demand Response Program. The DRU program automatically shifts load away from peak power periods.



Lineman Troy Long using digital mapping as he deploys for a service call.

Today, over 500 of your fellow members belong to the program saving your cooperative more than \$118,000 in 2020!

Today, Moreau-Grand Electric is truly a modern electric cooperative. We strive to be your source of power and information. A lot has changed over the 75 years we have served you. Your cooperative receives the electricity we distribute to our members from several sources—hydro electricity from the Missouri River, coal fired power plants located in North Dakota and Wyoming and one of the largest cooperative run wind farms in the nation. Basin Electric Power Cooperative provides its members like Moreau-Grand Electric with over 1,776 megawatts of wind energy from 949 wind turbines. Seventy-five years of progress would not have been possible without the cooperatives most valuable asset, its member owners. From the members who formed and continue to believe in the cooperative spirit, to the board members who make the tough decisions and employees who keep the lights on. Working together, we shine as one. In next month's *Cooperative Connections* magazine, learn how technology plays a key role at your cooperative.



## May 2021 Board Minutes and March 2021 Financial Information

The May 25, 2021, board of directors' meeting was held at the Timber Lake office with the following directors present: Bartlett, Clark, Hieb, Keckler, Landis, Lawrence, Maher, McLellan, Walker and Wall, and others present: Manager Maher, Finance Officer Dahlgren (Delegated Recorder of Minutes) and Attorney Burke.

The Large Power Users monthly report was given by Sue Sherwood, which included topics on large power usage and payments.

The Member Services report was given by Roger Lawien, which included SmartHub continues to grow, Load Management program, Rushmore Member Services report, CRHA Home Ownership class, installing additional switch, network connectivity, barcode integration, annual Rushmore photo shoot and ice cream socials.

The Operations report was given by Kent Larson, which included trencher maintenance, rental backhoe, parade line update, discussed angle blade for skid steer, extended delivery dates on material, RAM Utilities LLC has started pole testing, storm outages, and Line Superintendent Conference.

Manager Maher gave the Managers report that included distributed new facts and figures cards, East River News Lines, Basin update, Sheldon Peterson retirement, thank you note, new SDREA Manager Trevor Jones, new headquarter loan documents, CRST new service requests and easements.

Director McLellan gave the SDREA Board meeting report that included manager interviews and selection. Manager Maher gave the Rushmore Managers meeting report that included member cooperative issues, First Net update, discussed cyber security, RUS Work Plans and amendments, Basin FERC settlement and red flag wind warnings.

The Board discussed a request for information for a grant being submitted for electric vehicle charging station at Grand River Casino.

The Board discussed McKenzie Electric and Basin Electric case.

Board approved the following: the agenda, the minutes from the April meeting, the minutes from the April Building Committee meeting, new members, refunds, line extensions, financial statistics, disbursements, safety report, selected Oct. 6 in Isabel for the annual meeting, vacancy letters and petitions for Districts 1, 3, and 4, not present any Bylaw changes to the membership, bid from Josh Biegler for the warehouse on Main Street, CFC Integrity Fund donation, and changes to Policy 10-10.

The next board meeting was scheduled for June 22, 2021, at 8:30 a.m., in the Timber Lake office.

### March 2021 Financial Information

	March 2021	March 2020	YTD 2021
<b>Operating Revenues</b>	\$1,211,156	\$1,140,905	\$3,626,577
<b>Cost of Power</b>	\$501,569	\$526,420	\$1,689,817
<b>Cost of Electric Service</b>	\$975,404	\$1,009,225	\$3,198,112
<b>Margins</b>	\$254,941	\$158,198	\$449,754
<b>kWh Purchased</b>	9,067,984	9,953,867	31,945,205
<b>kWh Sold</b>	8,932,248	9,544,907	29,436,363

## PROTECTING YOUR INVESTMENT



RAM Utilities pole testing company out of Moorhead, Minn., has been on site in our service area for the past several weeks testing distribution poles. This is a necessary maintenance item which was budgeted for each year. The plan is to test 14,000 poles. As of this writing, some 1,400 poles have been inspected.

They have started testing in the eastern part of our service area.

Plans will then be underway for our crews to begin replacing damaged poles and addressing other issues. Expect some scheduled outages when changing these poles out. The pole inspection process dates back to the early 1960s. Note the pole tag in the picture to the left.



# SENSIBLE SOLAR

## South Dakota's electric cooperatives promote fair, sensible solar policies

**Billy Gibson**

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

With summer in full swing, the sun is bearing down on South Dakotans. But that wasn't the case just five months ago when an unexpected polar vortex covered much of the country in a blanket of snow and ice.

As co-op members now reach for the sunscreen and a cold beverage, it's easy to forget that back in February the same solar panels that are streaming torrents of ions today were reduced to a trickle when a convergence of circumstances caused a series of rolling blackouts.

That historic event alerted policymakers from Texas to the Canadian border to hit the pause button and take another look at how renewable power fits into the national grid-based energy picture.

Across the country, the solar market is facing what can be described as growing pains. Those pains stem from the fact that the nascent stages of solar energy were heavily subsidized through taxpayer dollars, as early adopters benefited from an array of state, federal and municipal government tax credits, exemptions, incentives, rebates and subsidies designed to get the industry off the ground. Tapping into these programs, owners of solar installations have been able to deduct up to half of their costs.

But as more homeowners and businesses opt for solar and as the cost of solar has dropped 80 percent since 2010, those subsidies are shrinking and the industry is in the process of having to eventually stand on its own feet. At the federal level, for instance, the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) established in 2005

has allowed new residential and commercial solar owners to deduct 26 percent of their installation costs from their federal taxes. The ITC is set to be reduced to 23 percent in 2023 and eliminated for homeowners by 2024. The Biden Administration has proposed extending the program for another two years.

According to the Energy Information Administration, direct federal government subsidies for solar alone totaled \$34.4 billion between 2010 and 2019.

As solar subsidies decline, the true costs for ratepayers to have 24-hour access to both intermittent renewable power and more reliable traditional power at the same time are coming to bear.

In Nevada, for example, incentives for homeowners were phased out in 2016 after the state's largest energy company argued that its costs of creating and delivering power weren't being fully covered and the expenses of serving every home and business in the system were being shifted to those exercising their right not to have rooftop panels placed on their homes.

Predictably, once the incentives



*Sensible Solutions for Our Energy Future*



South Dakota's electric cooperatives support reasonable strategies for our energy future that make sense for our members:

- Renewable energy solutions that are both productive and practical
- Rate structures that take affordability into account
- Balanced strategies centered on the best interests of co-op consumers
- Technology-based policies that promote economic development

**"WE RELY ON INTERMITTENT RENEWABLE SOURCES TO CURB EMISSIONS AND MORE RELIABLE FOSSIL FUELS TO DELIVER THE BASELOAD POWER OUR MEMBERS NEED."**

ROBERT RAKER

West River Electric, characterized the state's electric cooperatives as being neither pro-renewable energy nor anti-renewable energy.

"We're pro-reliability and pro-affordability for our members," he explained. "We rely on intermittent renewable sources to curb emissions and more reliable fossil fuels to deliver the baseload power our members

to communicate with one another as each cooperative in the state has its own set of interconnection requirements and policies determined by their management.

"If one of our members wants to get involved in renewable energy, we need to know about it so we can work with the member to make sure the process goes as smoothly as possible," Raker said.

Chris Studer, chief member and public relations officer at East River Electric, echoed Raker's comments and emphasized another important factor in open member-to-cooperative communication: safety.

"Just make sure to call your co-op. It's a safety issue. Improperly installed equipment could put the homeowner's property and co-op employees who work on the infrastructure at risk and that's what we want to prevent."

Studer said the state's cooperatives will continue to play an active role as the renewable market evolves.

"At this stage in the emergence of the distributed generation market, the fixed costs that electric utilities have invested in their infrastructure needs to be taken under consideration as more members bring localized solar installations into the system," he said.

"Other states have addressed this issue by establishing fixed charges for distributed generation owners in a way that was fair for everyone, while also setting up a system to streamline the resolution of any disputes that may arise. We'll continue to serve as an advocate for all co-op consumers."

were sun-setted and solar owners had to pay for maintaining the same grid that they depend on when their panels aren't producing power, demand decreased.

In South Dakota, where there are no state government subsidies, investor-owned Black Hills Energy has followed Nevada's lead by proposing that the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission institute tariffs on homeowners to compensate the power company for those fixed costs required to keep the system functioning for all ratepayers who use it.

Opponents argue that the tariffs could potentially obliterate the state's growing solar market, which saw 462 MW installed through the first quarter of 2021.

As for South Dakota's electric cooperatives, the system's leaders paid close attention to the polar vortex event and the lessons learned in the aftermath. Robert Raker, public relations manager at

need. It's like a parent trying to determine which is their favorite kid. We favor both of them because we need to help protect the planet but we also need to fulfill our obligation to serve our members whether it's day or night, hot or cold, sunny or cloudy, windy or calm."

Raker noted that co-ops have embraced the integration of renewable power into the state's fuel mix. Electric co-ops were leaders in introducing wind power, which now makes up roughly 25 percent of the supply while 17 percent comes from hydroelectric dams along the Missouri River. Co-ops are also involved in the construction of Wild Springs solar farm, which is expected to go on-line next year as the largest solar array in the western part of the state.

Without a clear and complete set of rules in place for distributed generation, Raker said it's paramount that members and their cooperatives work together

LET THE GAMES BEGIN



# LET THE GAMES BEGIN

## SDHSAA plans to resume normal activities with the fall semester begins

**Billy Gibson**

[billy.gibson@sdrea.coop](mailto:billy.gibson@sdrea.coop)

Success on the field of play often hinges on putting together a solid playbook to prepare for the rigors of competition. Like many organizations, the South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) didn't have a playbook designed to deal with the coronavirus pandemic that interrupted the slate of sporting events mid-stream in the spring of 2020.

But just as it teaches student athletes the merits of teamwork and perseverance, the association

executed a quick response by pulling together a premier task force with a variety of participants to determine an effective plan of attack against the global menace.

The A-team included officials from the state Department of Health, Department of Education, local school administrators, private medical practitioners, teachers, coaches and parents. After using the balance of the spring season to reset and regroup, members of the task force spent last summer pursuing their work without any preconceived notions of where their efforts would lead or how the future would look. All were in agreement, however,

that the primary goal would be to protect the health of the students, parents, coaches, referees and others involved in youth activities under the association's purview.

It was the responsibility of Executive Director Dan Swartos to serve as head coach of the campaign to draft and execute a game plan before the fall 2020 season commenced even as many restrictions were still in force. He credited all involved in the effort for recognizing the importance of "keeping kids active" while staying focused on the goal of returning to sports and extracurricular activities in a safe manner.

"There was never any pressure placed on anyone to decide to play sports or not to play sports. Our goal was to keep everyone safe as we dealt with the pandemic and determined the best way to respond and return to normal activities





Officials at the SDHSAA say they plan to resume a normal slate of events this fall. Photos by South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

as the pandemic ran its course,” he said. “We listened to those in the health profession for their recommendations based on what they were experiencing and balanced that with recommendations and observations that were coming from other quarters. The governor’s office trusted us and gave us the space we needed to make the best decisions.”

Swartos also gave high praise to leaders of the local school systems for being flexible as the chain of events unfolded. As an example, he referred to Lance Christianson, the 2019 state golf champion. Christianson was a student at Little Wound on the Pine Ridge Reservation when the school was forced to shut down due to the pandemic. Christianson was faced with the prospect of not being able to compete for another golf title in 2020.

Swartos explained that meetings were held and an agreement was hammered out to issue a waiver and allow Christianson to participate in the state tournament competition.

That kind of flexibility and adaptability was paramount, Swartos said, as the pandemic was impacting local schools in different ways in various parts of the state.

“The situation was different from east to west, rural and urban,

## “SOMETIMES YOU DON’T FULLY APPRECIATE WHAT YOU HAVE UNTIL IT’S TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU.”

DR. DAN SWARTOS

school population sizes and other variables,” Swartos said. “Things were happening differently in Sioux Falls compared to Lemmon. It was breaking out in some parts of the state, but in Harding County they didn’t have any coronavirus cases until the fall. We had to look at things like some small schools having 500-seat arenas and others having 5,000-seat arenas. We decided not to place restrictions on attendance and leave it up to the systems to make those kinds of decisions. The way our members responded, it was extraordinary.”

Swartos said he looks forward

to a fall 2021 semester that will seem close to normal for students, parents, teachers and administrators.

“Our plan right now is to go full speed ahead as normal, but we’re continuing to meet and take assessments of how things are going and receive the recommendations of the task force,” Swartos said.

“One of the things we learned is how important our sports and activities are to the development of our students. Sometimes you don’t fully appreciate what you have until it’s taken away from you. It’s important physically, mentally and socially.”



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**July 4**  
Independence Day



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.

**JUNE 19-20**  
**Aberdeen Arts in the Park**  
Melgaard Park, Aberdeen,  
SD, 605-226-1557

**JUNE 25-27**  
**Pioneer Days**  
Various Locations, Dupree, SD

**JUNE 30-JULY 4**  
**Annual Black Hills Roundup**  
300 Roundup Street, Belle  
Fourche, SD, 605-723-2010

**JULY 2-4**  
**Gold Camp Jubilee Days**  
Various Locations, Lead,  
SD, 605-584-1100

**JULY 2-4**  
**Sitting Bull Stampede Rodeo**  
Rodeo Grounds, Mobridge,  
SD, 605-845-2387

**JULY 4**  
**Timber Lake Fire  
Department Family Fun Day**  
Timber Lake, SD

**JULY 4**  
**Fourth of July Celebration**  
703 Main Street, Deadwood,  
SD, 800-344-8826

**JULY 9-11, 16-18, 23-25**  
**Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant**  
43379 Rose Lane, De Smet,  
SD, 605-983-5251

**JULY 9-11**  
**Annual Hot Harley Nights**  
J&L Harley-Davidson, Sioux  
Falls, SD, 605-334-2721

**JULY 10-11**  
**50th Annual Brookings Summer  
Arts Festival**  
W Highway 14 and 1st Avenue,  
Brookings, SD, 605-692-2787

**JULY 16**  
**Eighth Annual Art in The Park**  
Shupick City Park, Eagle Butte,  
SD, 605-964-8783 or  
605-964-3687

**JULY 16-18**  
**Gold Discovery Days**  
Various Locations, Custer,  
SD, 605-673-2244

**JULY 17-18**  
**Ziebach County 4-H Rodeo**  
Dupree, SD, 605-200-2456

**JULY 17-19**  
**McIntosh Tigers Round-Up**  
McIntosh, SD

**JULY 22-25**  
**Days of 1910 Rodeo &  
Celebration**  
Various Locations, Timber  
Lake, SD, 605-865-3546

**JULY 29**  
**Dewey County 4-H & Open  
Class Achievement Days**  
Dewey County, SD

**AUGUST 5-14**  
**Sioux Empire Fair**  
W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds, Sioux  
Falls, SD, 605-367-7178

**AUGUST 6-8**  
**Isabel Rodeo & Celebration**  
Various Locations, Isabel, SD,  
605-865-3546

**AUGUST 13-15**  
**Corson County Fair**  
McIntosh, SD, 605-273-4368

**AUGUST 17-19**  
**Dakotafest**  
2300 E Spruce Street, Mitchell,  
SD, 877-611-8161

**AUGUST 20-22**  
**State 4-H Finals Rodeo**  
Fort Pierre, SD, 605-280-4217

**AUGUST 21**  
**SD State Small Bore Silhouette  
Shoot**  
Timber Lake, SD

**AUGUST 22**  
**SD State High Power Silhouette  
Shoot**  
Trail City, SD

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