

JANUARY 2017

# MWEC

Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**WILLISTON**  
577-3765

**STANLEY**  
628-2242

**NEW TOWN**  
627-3550



## MWEC in the community

### In this issue:

- In the community
- Youth Tour essay contest
- Meeting minutes, and more!





# MWEC in the community

Cooperative members and local communities are the foundation of Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC). This holiday season, MWEC continued its annual traditions.

## Parade of Lights

The season began with all three locations participating in their area's Parade of Lights. The annual Light Up Harmon Park Parade of Lights celebrated its 22nd showcase this year in Williston. The theme for this year's event was "Animation." This year's event was a bit warmer than previous years, with temperatures in the mid-20s. The Williston office chose Monster Inc. as its animation theme and created the slogan, "MWEC keeps the lights on without the scares." Even Willie Wiredhand was present as a Monster Inc. employee. The children

in the crowd were thrilled to see their favorite animated characters on floats and walking down Main Street.

MWEC employees in Stanley and New Town each showcased their decorating skills by covering a bucket truck with Christmas lights and different characters. The New Town office was even lucky enough to have Santa ride on its float!

## Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign

On Dec. 2 and Dec. 9, Williston employees once again volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army. This year, employees welcomed shoppers at Tractor Supply Company and some even showed off dance moves to Christmas tunes.

## Tioga Christmas

MWEC employees were proud

sponsors of the free children's movie at the Tioga Theater on Dec. 2. After the parade on Main Street in Tioga, children and adults were welcome to come to the Tioga Theater to watch "Saving Santa" at no charge. Moviegoers were surprised to also learn that concessions were also free. Alex V., Beth M., Shelby S. and Jessica G. all volunteered to run the concessions on behalf of MWEC. There were many "thank yous" from those who attended and seeing the smiles on the children's faces was the best thanks one can receive. Some of the children even begged their parents to stay after the movie so they could help with cleanup.

Thank you to all MWEC staff who volunteered their time to continue our commitment to community and also to our members and local communities for sharing our passion with us. ■





## MWEC accepting applications for scholarship program

Each year, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC) gives one, \$1,000 scholarship to a dependent of a member. Basin Electric Power Cooperative, our power generation cooperative, provides the funds to all of its member co-ops.

Applicants must be high school seniors enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/

technical school.

Scholarship recipients will be chosen based on a combination of SAT/ACT scores and overall grade point average, work experience, participation in school and community activities, a personal statement of career goals, a written recommendation by a third party and an essay on the topic, "Describe how a strong and united cooperative community supports and serves your hometown."

Applications are available at [www.mwec.com](http://www.mwec.com), at any of our three locations, or by emailing [jessicam@mwec.com](mailto:jessicam@mwec.com)

All applications must be submitted no later than **Feb. 22, 2017**, to:

**Mountrail-Williams  
Electric Cooperative  
Attn: Jessica George  
P.O. Box 1346  
Williston, ND 58802**

-or-  
**[jessicam@mwec.com](mailto:jessicam@mwec.com)** ■



JUNE 10 to 16, 2017

North Dakota Electric Cooperative

# YOUTH TOUR

HIGH SCHOOL  
SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!  
An all-expense-paid trip to WASHINGTON, D.C.

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative.
- If you have a question, contact Jessica George, Mountrail-Williams Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-577-3765 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 31. Email entries to [jessicam@mwec.com](mailto:jessicam@mwec.com) or mail to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative, 218 58th St. W., P.O. Box 1346, Williston, ND 58802-1346.



## ESSAY QUESTION:

*Democracy is the foundation of our American way of life and of cooperative enterprise. The fundamentals of democracy include voter participation, political party affiliation, and public debate of issues. Describe what you think makes our current democracy strong, and provide suggestions for ways our democracy can be made stronger and more effective.*

## TOP 3 REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT

[www.ndyouthtour.com](http://www.ndyouthtour.com) and [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop)





# BE PREPARED FOR WINTER'S WRATH

*Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative strives to provide you with reliable, uninterrupted service every day of the year, but sometimes Mother Nature creates unavoidable power outages. Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative wants you to remain safe during severe winter weather, so consider preparing now for the possibility of power outages this winter.*

## STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED POWER LINES

Mother Nature isn't always kind to power lines. Winter winds, snow and ice often prove to be too much for utility poles and power lines. If you see a downed power line or utility pole, contact your local electric cooperative immediately.

Do not go near the line or the pole. Just because it's on the ground doesn't mean it's safe to approach.

## TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

Because power outages can't be totally eliminated, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative offers these steps to follow if an outage occurs:

- Confirm the outage. Check your own fuses and circuit breakers first.
- Check with a neighbor to confirm if he or she is also experiencing an outage before you call the cooperative. This will help your cooperative determine the extent of the outage.
- Call the cooperative. If the outage is widespread, the phone lines may be busy, but keep trying. Your cooperative will send a line crew to find the problem and restore power as quickly as possible.

If you have additional questions about outages, please call Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative.

## OPERATE GENERATOR SAFELY

If your standby electric generator has been in storage since last winter, make sure it is still operating properly – before an outage occurs.

And always follow the manufacturer's recommendations on how to use your generator. Most important is the transfer switch that disconnects the farm or home from the power line and connects it to the generator. It must be a double-throw transfer switch which prevents the generator from feeding electricity back onto the power line. This protects the lineworkers who may be working to restore your service.

If you have additional questions, please call your electric cooperative. We will be glad to work with you to make sure your generator is used properly.

## DURING AN OUTAGE

To prevent an overload on the system while power is being restored, take these steps:

- Turn off every inside light except one.
- Turn down your thermostat.
- If the outage lasts more than 60 minutes, turn off your electric water heater.
- Make sure your kitchen range is off, both the surface and the oven.
- Turn off all unnecessary appliances and unplug sensitive electronic equipment.
- When power comes back on, slowly switch your appliances and lights back on and gradually return your thermostat to its normal setting. ■





# Your account at your fingertips

Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative is putting the power of data into members' hands. With SmartHub, members have convenient account management and detailed usage information at their fingertips, to:

- Check your usage
- Pay your bill
- Report service issues

SmartHub, a mobile and Web app, delivers accurate, timely account information and allows you to make payments in a secure environment with the touch of a button, right from your mobile device or on your PC. The two-way communication available with SmartHub

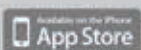
allows you to notify us of account and service issues while providing us a way to let you know about special offers, programs, events and more.

Creating a SmartHub account takes less than three minutes. Then, manage your account right from your computer or smartphone.

Download the FREE app today in the Apple app store or Android marketplace for secure account management right at your fingertips.

**[www.smarthubapp.com](http://www.smarthubapp.com)**

**iOS Users**



Scan this QR code to access SmartHub in the Apple iTunes App Store.

**Android Users**



Scan this QR code to access SmartHub in the Android Market.





# Regular board meeting Nov. 30, 2016

**Directors present:** Johnson, Lalim, Haugen and Jorgenson.

**Directors not present but participating by phone conference:** Hartsoch, Grant, Sorenson, Bratvold and Lynne

**Directors absent:** None.

**Others present:** Manager Haugen, attorney Eiken, in-house counsel Ellis and staff members.

Because of winter weather issues, the start of the meeting was delayed and some board members participated by conference call. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. Minutes of the Oct. 26 board meeting were approved as presented. The agenda for the meeting was approved as presented.

**Attorneys' report:** Attorneys Eiken and Ellis reviewed the status of substation land purchase files. Many are waiting approval from the planning and zoning boards in both counties.

**2017 load forecast:** Manager Haugen presented a summary of the 2017 load forecast. He discussed changes from past forecasts because of the changes in several areas, including oil production in view of falling prices and the possible losses in some loads. The forecast still projects growth, but at a much smaller rate. Manager Haugen noted there is still ongoing drilling in the area with one company projecting the drilling of 200 wells in the next year.

After discussion, a motion was made and approved to adopt the following resolution:

## 2016-2035 load forecast resolution:

WHEREAS, Basin Electric Power Cooperative has completed a detailed forecast of total demand and energy requirements for the period of 2016 through 2035; and

WHEREAS, the forecast was prepared in accordance with current Rural Utilities Service regulations using reasonable methodologies and assumptions; and

WHEREAS, the board of directors of Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative has reviewed the study and its conclusions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the board of directors of Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative does hereby adopt and approve the 2017 load forecast prepared by Basin Electric Power Cooperative as a reasonable forecast of the future demand and energy requirements for Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative through the year 2035.

And that the action taken and/or resolutions adopted as above set out have never been rescinded, altered, amended, modified or repealed, and are of the date hereof in full force and effect.

**Financial reports:** Jay Lux presented the financial and operating report for the year to date through Oct. 31. Operating revenues are \$192,919,395, the total cost of electric service is \$168,754,429, the operating margins are \$24,164,966, and the total margins are \$27,406,207. TIER is 3.18, the equity level is 29.8 percent and OTIER is 2.93.

**Special equipment/work orders:** The board approved the closeout of the following special equipment/work orders:

Closeout 643 .....	\$4,078,484.20
Closeout 645 .....	\$494,229.46
Closeout 646 .....	\$1,179,803.68
Closeout 647 .....	\$115,337.62
TOTAL.....	\$5,867,854.96

**Capital credit retirements:** The board approved the retirement of the following capital credit accounts:

Mary Sweet estate  
John Bartelson Sr. estate  
Julia Barstad estate

**Bad debts:** The board approved the transfer of \$206.28 from accounts receivable to bad debts. Capital credits will be retained and other methods may be used to continue to collect these sums.

**Deferred revenue:** Manager Haugen and Jay Lux discussed alternatives available for the possible deferral of revenue. Rate stabilization, financial ratios, cooperative principles and other factors were discussed as to whether there should be a deferral and, if so, whether that deferral should only be those amounts to maintain financial policies by the board policies or more aggressive than that. After discussion, a motion was moved and carried to keep the financial ratios within the target range which had earlier been established by the Board.

## Upper Missouri Power Co-op:

Representatives from Upper Missouri met with the board to discuss its past operations and plans for the future. They expressed appreciation for the cooperation which exists between these companies in areas such as compliance and load monitoring.

**Financial forecast:** Terilyn Wallis of the Cooperative Finance Corporation presented an update of the financial forecast. She discussed impacts of the Basin Electric power cost increase and implementation of the SPP on this forecast. With these impacts, the forecasted equity expectations will be lowered, but still within the policy board of 30-35 percent within five years. The cash on hand may be lower than expected, but the financial ratios should remain satisfactory. Revenue deferral plans were discussed, including how it can be used to not only maintain the requisite financial ratios but also to possibly lower rates for the consumer members. In summary, the forecast shows the targets set for equity, cash, financial ratios, capital credits, and other areas remain on track and CFC will likely provide updates to the board approximately twice each year.

## 2017 RDFC community grant requests:

Chris Brostuen presented a list of applicants requesting grants from this fund from each county. The following donations were approved:

Stanley Parks and Recreation .....	\$500
Parshall 2000/School for Tots Daycare.....	\$500
Williams County 4-H .....	\$500
Eight-mile School District students	
Close Up travel expenses.....	\$500

**Manager's report:** The manager presented the interconnection agreement between this cooperative and Otter Tail Power Company for the emergency tie.

He provided building updates on the Williston office building, including some earth which needed replacement because of petroleum contamination.

He described vandalism at various substations and the cost of repairs. This has been reported to law enforcement. He also discussed new security measures being planned at substations and other sites.

He presented a resolution which was passed for a safe deposit box at American State Bank in Williston.

He presented a new and amended proposed rate class of 54 and 65 which were approved for

service to certain industrial and commercial services of more than 5 MVA.

He also discussed developing a rate for wind farms which require power when there is no wind and various other times. After discussion, the board approved a rate.

He discussed his meetings with the manager and representatives from Cimarron Electric Cooperative from Kingfisher, Okla.

He showed some worksheets on SPP projects for determining what share of the facilities are related to transmission, this breakdown is necessary to show the credits payable to the cooperative for the facilities being committed to SPP projects.

Plans for the 2017 annual meeting of members were discussed.

**Meeting reports:** Director Grant gave a report on the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperative and Rural Development Finance Corporation. He will also be attending a board training.

Chairperson Sorenson gave a report on the November RESCO meeting.

Director Jorgenson gave a report on Upper Missouri Power Cooperative.

Directors Jorgenson, Grant, and Hartsoch will attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting. Director Jorgenson will serve as the delegate and Director Hartsoch will serve as alternate. Director Hartsoch will serve as the delegate and Director Jorgenson will serve as the alternate for CFC.

Director Jorgenson will be attending the Basin Electric Power Cooperative board meeting in December.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. ■

## MOUNTRAIL-WILLIAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 1346

Williston, N.D. 58802-1346

P.O. Box 129

Stanley, N.D. 58784-0129

## DIRECTORS

Roger Sorenson.....	Chairperson
Robert Grant .....	Co-chairperson
Blaine Jorgenson .....	Secretary
Cheryl Hartsoch .....	Treasurer
Nick Haugen.....	Director
Larry Johnson.....	Director
Warren Bratvold.....	Director
Aaron Lynne .....	Director
Garrett Lalim .....	Director
Neff, Eiken	
& Neff, PC.....	Project Attorney
Dale Haugen .....	General Manager

## OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS:

Williston .....	(701) 577-3765
Stanley.....	(701) 628-2242
New Town.....	(701) 627-3550
WATS.....	(800) 279-2667

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

