

# MWEC

Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**WILLISTON**

577-3765

**STANLEY**

628-2242

**NEW TOWN**

627-3550

## SAFETY above all else

BY ANNE PRINCE



“Safety” is a universal word that is mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small as well as companies across all industries are committed to safety. Sports leagues, at every level, take safety seriously. Unfortunately, when it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. For Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC), it's the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, MWEC has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else. At its essence, our mission is to provide safe and reliable electricity to our member-owners. At the end of the day, we strive to deliver reliable electricity to our member-owners, but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. At MWEC, our focus is keeping employees and the community safe around electricity. We established and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. Our lineworkers follow specific protocols when dealing with electricity. Our safety team has regular meetings where they discuss upcoming projects from a safety perspective. They monitor and track near-misses of accidents to understand them, share “lessons learned” and improve in the future.

As importantly, we encourage all of our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving with regard to safety, rather than defaulting to a blame game. We examine the information and data gleaned from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns

## In this issue:

- **The power behind your power**
- **Maintain safe zone**
- **You get the credit**
- **Meeting minutes ... and more!**

and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short. As appropriate, we brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations for their engagement.

## Keeping the community safe

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors. MVEC conducts electrical safety demonstrations in schools and for community events.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in

their own homes each year. Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don't attempt electrical do-it-yourself projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or padmount transformers that look amiss. Be mindful when it comes to electrical safety. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety. ■

---

*Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

---

# The power behind your power

BY ANNE PRINCE

As spring arrives, it brings showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst – co-op lineworkers.

## One of the most dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high-voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cellphones to map outages, take photos of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, lineworkers

are responsible for keeping our lines across our service area working, to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high-voltage lines in the worst of conditions, at any times of the day or night. During storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power.

So, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions. ■





## Maintain safe zone around pad-mounted transformers

BY DERRILL HOLLY

Jordan Overbee was driving to work when he saw them. The elementary school-aged youngsters were just waiting for the school bus, but they were sitting on a big green metal box. Inside was vital electrical equipment, distributing electricity to several homes on the street.

"It was a bad place for a school bus stop," Overbee recalled. "There were five kids gathered there to wait for a bus, sitting, talking and playing for a few minutes because it was between driveways."

As manager of operations for Wake Electric Membership Corp., Overbee knows a lot about pad-mounted transformers. They make up about half of the transformers used across the Youngsville, N.C.-based co-op's system.

"Transformers change voltage from higher levels to voltages people use in their homes for their electronics, appliances and lighting," Overbee said. "Each of our transformers can be vital to providing electricity to several homes."

After seeing the kids waiting at that same transformer several days in a row, Overbee pulled over and talked to some of the parents. He explained that high-voltage electricity flowed through the transformer inside the casing, and encouraged them to move a safer distance away.

"The parents hadn't thought much about it, so once I explained the risks, they were happy to move to another driveway," Overbee said.

While overhead power lines are mounted on utility poles and substations are protected by security fences, pad-mounted transformers, switch boxes and pedestals are at ground level.

In many newer subdivisions and residential developments, overhead lines are no longer an option. Burying power lines also reduces potential system damage from high winds and severe storms. While consumers seldom see technicians working on the transformers unless there are power outages, they are regularly inspected by co-op crews riding through neighborhoods.

Crews need safe access when repairs must be made. That's why landscaping and other barriers should be kept clear of co-op equipment.

Co-op technicians need at least 10-foot clearance at the opening side of a pad-mounted transformer. Approximately 4 feet of open space is preferable at the rear and on the sides of the metal housing.

That distance allows for tool use, including hot sticks 8 feet in length, used to work with energized equipment. It also ensures that one or two technicians working on a transformer have space to maneuver should they have to

back away if problems occur.

Pad-mounted transformers are connected to primary high-voltage lines, and secondary lines can extend in several directions to distribute power to homes and businesses. That's why it's important to check with Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC) before planting shrubs or trees, setting fence posts, installing sprinkler systems and digging where it might damage underground lines.

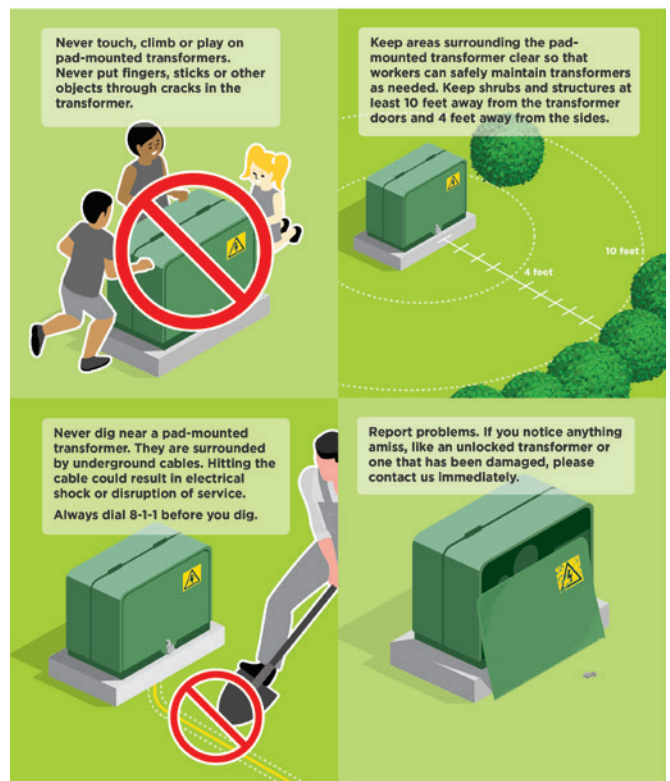
MWEC recommends that you contact 811 before you dig for a site assessment and marking before proceeding with projects that might disrupt utility service.

While pad-mounted transformers are regularly inspected for damage from vehicles, many utilities use marking sticks or pennants to alert tractor, snow plow or heavy equipment operators of their locations. ■

*Derrill Holly writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

### Avoid the Big Green Box

Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.



# Look out for scams

BY MEGHAAN EVANS

Unfortunately, in today's world, scams are inevitable. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these types of scams. Understand the threats posed and your best course of action:

- If someone calls your home or cellphone demanding you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from that individual, hang up the phone and contact Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC). Scammers often use threats and urgency to pressure you into giving them your bank account number or loading a pre-paid credit or debit card (such as an iTunes card). MWEC will never ask you to offer personal finance information over the phone. If you have any doubts about your utility bill, contact our member payment center either in person, or over the phone at 1-800-279-2667.
- If someone comes to your home claiming to be an employee of MWEC that needs to collect money or inspect parts of your property, call us to verify they are, in fact, an employee. If they are not, call local authorities for assistance and do not let the

individual into your home.

There are other types of scams consumers should watch out for:

- Government agencies like the IRS will never call to inform you that you have unpaid taxes or other liens against you. You will always receive this type of information in the mail. If someone calls claiming to be the IRS, hang up immediately.
- If you receive an email from an unknown sender; an email riddled with spelling errors and typos; or an email threatening action unless a sum of money is paid, do not click any links provided within the email, and do not respond to the email. Simply delete the email, or send it to your spam folder.
- If someone calls your home claiming to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang up. This caller's intent is to access personal information you may be keeping on your computer.

MWEC wants to make sure you avoid any and all types of scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy. If you have any questions or would like more information about how you can protect yourself from scammers, call us, or visit our website.

---

*Meghaan Evans writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

## ATTENTION RED FLAG POLICY

### Protecting you from identity theft

Regulations from the Federal Trade Commission require that Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC) implement a "Red Flag Policy" that expands your cooperative's internal policies by putting procedures in place to protect member-owners from potential identity theft.

The Federal Trade Commission regulation is intended to identify, mitigate and prevent identity theft. The focus is primarily on "red flags," which are defined as a pattern, practice or specific activity that indicates the possible existence of identity theft.

Possible "red flags" include fraud alerts; credit freezes; address discrepancies; inconsistent patterns of activity on a member-owner's or applicant's account; document applications or photo ID's that appear to have been altered or forged; and personal identifying information that is inconsistent when compared to other personal identifying information.

**Due to identity theft, MWEC is taking the following steps to protect its consumers:**

- New consumers will need to provide a picture ID
- A minimum of a four-character password must be setup, last four of the SSN/tax ID will be used as a default password
- Businesses will need to provide a copy of their tax ID
- A "hint" question must be setup in case you forget your password

**WE SINCERELY WANT TO PROTECT THE IDENTITY OF OUR CONSUMERS  
AND THANK YOU WHILE WE MAKE THE TRANSITION TO THIS NEW POLICY.**

# YOU get the credit

It's time for you to get the credit – capital credits, that is – for helping build, sustain and grow your local electric cooperative. Each year, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MVEC) retires – or pays by cash or credit – to members like you across their service area.

When you signed up to receive electric service from MVEC, you became a member of an electric utility. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their shareholders, electric co-ops operate on an at-cost basis. So instead of returning leftover funds, known as margins, to folks who might not live in the same region or even the same state as you do, MVEC allocates and

periodically retires capital credits (also called patronage dividends, patronage refunds, patronage capital or equity capital) based on how much electricity you purchased during a year.

This year, members may receive capital credit retirements through a check in the mail, reflecting their contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative during certain years. These funds helped us keep the lid on rates, reduced the amount of money we needed to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain, and expand a reliable electric distribution system, and covered emergency expenses.

## Common capital credits questions:

### WHAT ARE CAPITAL CREDITS?

An electric cooperative operates on an at-cost basis by annually “allocating” to each member, based upon the member’s purchase of electricity, operating revenue remaining at the end of the year; later, as financial condition permits, these allocated amounts – capital credits – are retired. Capital credits represent the most significant source of equity for MVEC. Since a cooperative’s members are also the people the co-op serves, capital credits reflect each member’s ownership in, and contribution of capital to, the cooperative. This differs from dividends investor-owned utilities pay shareholders, who may or may not be customers of the utility.

### WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

Member-owned, not-for-profit electric co-ops set rates to generate enough money to pay operating costs, make payments on any loans, and provide an emergency reserve. At the end of each year, we subtract operating expenses from the operating revenue collected during the year. The balance is called an operating “margin.”

### HOW ARE MARGINS ALLOCATED?

Margins are allocated to members as capital credits based on their purchases from the cooperative – how much power the member used. Member purchases may also be called patronage.

### DOES MDU RETIRE CAPITAL CREDITS?

No. Within the electric industry, capital credits only exist at not-for-profit electric cooperatives owned by their members.

### ARE CAPITAL CREDITS RETIRED EVERY YEAR?

Each year, the MVEC board of directors makes a decision on whether to retire capital credits based on the financial health of the cooperative. During some years, the co-op may experience high growth in the number of new accounts, or severe storms may result in the need to spend additional funds to repair lines. These and other events might increase costs and decrease member equity, causing the board not to retire capital credits. For this reason, MVEC’s ability to retire capital credits reflects the cooperative’s strength and financial stability. The board alone decides whether to retire capital credits.

### DO I LOSE MY CAPITAL CREDITS IN THE YEARS THE CO-OP DECIDES NOT TO MAKE RETIREMENTS?

No. All capital credits allocated for every year members have been served by MVEC are maintained until such time as the board retires them.

### HOW OFTEN DO MEMBERS RECEIVE CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENTS?

The MVEC board of directors makes a decision each year whether or not to retire capital credits. When the cooperative is strong enough financially and member equity levels high enough, the board directs staff to retire some portion of past years’ capital credits.

### WHAT IF I HAVE MOVED?

If you move or no longer have electric service with MVEC, it is important that you inform the cooperative of your current address, so that future retirements can be properly mailed to you. If you purchased electricity during the years being retired, then you are entitled to a capital credit retirement, even if you move out of the service area. We will send your retirement check by mail to the last known address MVEC had for you. ■



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST

Electrical safety should be everyone's priority.

Check everything off this list monthly to make your home as safe as possible for you and your family.

### 1 | BATHROOM

- ☐ All electrical appliances are used away from the sink, tub, toilet and/or shower.
- ☐ All appliance cords are unplugged when not in use.
- ☐ All appliances are plugged into GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) -protected outlets, and GFCIs have been tested monthly.
- ☐ All unused outlets have safety caps installed, especially when children are in the home.
- ☐ All lighting in your shower area is vapor-tight.

### 2 | KITCHEN

- ☐ Back of refrigerator has room for air circulation and its coils are free of dirt and buildup.
- ☐ All electrical appliances are placed and used away from the sink.
- ☐ All appliances are plugged into GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) -protected outlets, and GFCIs have been tested monthly.
- ☐ All electrical cords are not cracked, frayed or damaged in any way.
- ☐ Appliance cords are not hanging from tables or counters and are unplugged when not in use.

### 3 | BASEMENT

- ☐ Circuit breaker box is labeled with the last electrical inspection, correct amperage and which rooms, outlets and circuits they service.
- ☐ Standard circuit breakers have been inspected, and you've considered talking with your licensed electrician about replacing with Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs).
- ☐ Washer and dryer do not wobble excessively while running, have room for air circulation, and dryer lint is removed after each use.
- ☐ Furnace has been inspected, cleaned and has proper ventilation outside the house.
- ☐ Temperature on the water heater is set to 120° or less.

### 4 | FAMILY ROOM

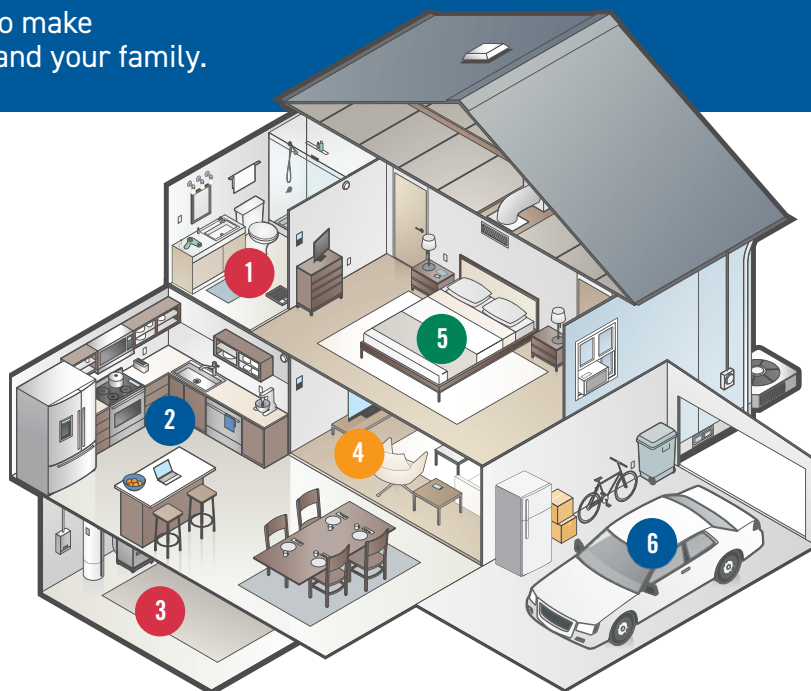
- ☐ All unused outlets have safety caps installed, especially when children are in the home.
- ☐ All light switch and outlet covers are not cracked or broken.
- ☐ All electrical equipment (lamps, electronics, etc.) are being used without the use of extension cords.
- ☐ All power outlets, power strips and surge protectors are not overloaded.
- ☐ All electronics have room for air circulation.

### 5 | BEDROOM

- ☐ All smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order, and are placed outside all sleeping areas and on every level of the house.
- ☐ All light fixtures throughout the home are using bulbs not exceeding the fixture's maximum wattage.
- ☐ No electrical cords are resting under rugs or furniture.
- ☐ Electronic devices such as phone chargers are unplugged when not in use.
- ☐ Window unit air conditioners are plugged in on their own dedicated circuit.

### 6 | GARAGE

- ☐ All electrical cords are not cracked, frayed or damaged in any way – and are never used on a permanent basis.
- ☐ Appliance cords are unplugged when not in use.
- ☐ All appliances are plugged into GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) -protected outlets, and GFCIs have been tested monthly.
- ☐ Any garage-stored appliances, like refrigerators and freezers, have dedicated 20 amp appliance circuits.
- ☐ All storage boxes are placed away from wiring and plugs.







## Don't sweat summer energy bills

### Summer is here, but not everyone is keeping cool by the pool.

Summertime usually means air-conditioning systems are working overtime. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that 6 percent of an average household's energy use is dedicated to cooling.

But you have ways to keep energy costs down, even when the temperature rises.

Here are some summertime energy-saving tips for homeowners and small-business owners:

#### Switch the thermostat

When the basement is cooler than the rest of the building, switch the thermostat from "auto" to "fan" mode, which will circulate the cool air without using the air conditioning. It's cheaper to operate a fan than it is to run the compressor on your AC unit.

Ken Hellevang, a North Dakota State University Extension Service agricultural engineer, shares, "Running the fan on the furnace or the ventilation system will allow you to not only try to equalize the temperature within the house, but it also will eliminate the stagnating air in the lower level."

A programmable thermostat also will save energy in the summer. A homeowner or business owner may save up to 25 percent in air conditioning energy costs by turning the thermostat 6 degrees warmer for the eight hours or more the building is not in use.

"You must turn the thermostat up for a period of time," Hellevang says. "If the house sits empty all day, then you may as well allow the temperature to be a little warmer during the day when you're gone."

A programmable thermostat enables the system to cool the house prior to your return.

#### Clean the condenser coils

To help the air conditioner operate as efficiently as possible, keep its condenser coils free of grass clippings, dirt and debris throughout the summer. Simply rinse the coils with water from a hose rather than using an air compressor, which could bend the fins.

#### Ventilate the attic

"If it is 80 degrees outside and we've got 130 degrees in the attic, we know that's going to create a significant heat load back into the house," Hellevang says. "That's an indication we need to put in more ventilation."

Homes and businesses should include 1 square foot of attic ventilation for every 300 square feet of attic floor, according to Hellevang.

"Air needs a path in as well as out, so half of the ventilation should be at the eaves and half near the peak of the roof," he says.

#### Watch the humidity

When outside temperatures drop in the evening, that's the time to open the windows to let the summer breeze cool the home or use a window fan if the wind is not blowing – unless the evening is humid. Place a fan in

a window or door with the fan facing to the outdoors. Seal the rest of the opening with cardboard, plywood or blankets so the fan can create a vacuum that draws in cool outside air through other open windows in rooms you want to cool, such as bedrooms.

"If it's very humid outside, then we're probably better off just running the AC," Hellevang says.

Damp outside air that's brought into the home will settle into the cooler basement, creating a damp basement during the summer.

"We're adding moisture to that basement," Hellevang says. "In the summertime, it is important to watch when we're bringing in outside air and doing that when there's dry air rather than very humid air outside."

#### Close the shades

Closing shades or curtains during the day is probably the simplest energy-saving idea.

"If you have windows where the sun comes shining in, there can be a significant heat load from the solar energy coming into the house, so closing the blinds or shades to minimize that solar energy is a real plus," Hellevang says. ☀️

# Unofficial minutes of regular board meeting March 28, 2018

**Directors present:** Sorenson, Grant, Hartsoch, Johnson, Lynne, Jorgenson, Lalim, Ludwig and Lahtinen.

**Directors absent:** None.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Minutes of the Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 board meetings were approved as presented.

**2017 AUDIT:** Derek Flanagan with Eide Bailly presented the 2017 Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC) financial statement audit. The cooperative received a clean, unmodified opinion.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Board members met in executive session to discuss the financial statements audit.

**OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REPORT:** Jay Lux presented the operating report for the year to date and for the months of January and February. The total margins and capital credits for the year to date was \$5,581,000. OTIER is 3.00; 3; MDSC is 2.68; cooperative equity is 24 percent; and SPP equity is 35.47 percent.

He also presented the 2017 tax statement summary. In 2017, MWEC paid \$1,922,106.77 in distribution tax and \$58,357.78 in transmission line tax.

**CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENTS:** The board approved the retirement of the following capital credit accounts:

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Harriet Jensen estate .....   |  |
| Lawrence Urban estate .....   |  |
| Joyce Thunshelle estate ..... |  |
| Betty Shobe estate .....      |  |
| Almeda Baker estate .....     |  |
| Deanna Wells estate .....     |  |

**BAD DEBTS:** The board approved the transfer of \$11,115.15 from accounts receivable to bad debts. Efforts will continue to collect these sums including the retention of capital credits.

**SPECIAL EQUIPMENT/WORK ORDER CLOSEOUTS:** The board approved the closeout of the following special equipment/work order:

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Closeout 696 ..... | \$1,084,467.29 |
| Closeout 697 ..... | \$207,154.69   |
| Closeout 698 ..... | \$139,070.62   |
| Closeout 699 ..... | \$25,780.10    |
| TOTAL .....        | \$1,456,472.70 |

**EIDE BAILLY ENGAGEMENT LETTER:** The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) requires an audit on employee benefits every five years. An engagement letter for Eide Bailly to perform the audit and report their findings regarding the results of the procedures performed as compared to the NRECA adoption agreements and summary plan descriptions was reviewed. The board approved the engagement letter and Eide Bailly will perform the audit on MWEC employee benefit plans.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**SAFETY** – As part of Manager Haugen's safety report, the January and March Safety

and Loss Control Committee regular meeting minutes were provided. There were no lost-time accidents reported and one vehicle accident reported.

**RELIABILITY AND OUTAGE REPORT** – Jerry Rehak presented the reliability and outage report for January and February. There were 74 outages reported in January and 39 outages reported in February.

**EMPLOYEE UPDATE** – Four MWEC employees were recognized for completing their apprenticeships and becoming certified journeymen lineworkers.

**2018 LOAD REQUESTS** – Manager Haugen discussed the oil and gas related load requests the cooperative has received and the upcoming 2018 projects. He also reported what has been ordered for these upcoming projects.

**WIND PROJECTS** – Manager Haugen discussed transmission options for upcoming wind projects in MWEC service area. The transmission plan for the wind projects has not been finalized.

**METERING POLICY** – MWEC is investigating metering issues and taking steps to correct the issues. Manager Haugen gave the board an overview of the metering issues that have been encountered.

**EASEMENT COMPENSATION** – Chris Brostuen discussed with the board landowners' desire for a price per acre compensation versus a price per pole compensation. Prior to the March 2018 board meeting, MWEC had offered a price per pole as compensation to landowners for easements. After discussion, a motion was made to pay per acre and was approved. The board also discussed payment will be made within 60 days from the date of easement execution.

**ANNUAL MEETING** – In accordance with cooperative bylaws, the board reviewed director districts. The board discussed both geographical representation and member numbers. After review, a motion to keep the districts was approved.

Jessica George gave an update on the annual meeting preparations and setup plans and also discussed the positive feedback MWEC has received about the guest speakers for this year's meeting – Clint Hill and Lisa McCubbin.

**Southwest Power Pool (SPP) ANNUAL MEETING** – SPP annual meeting of interested parties will be held July 11-July 24.

**UMZAG/MWEC UPDATE** – The March 19 draft of the Upper Missouri Zone Coordination Group proposed Strawman Charter; the Upper Missouri Coordination Group Membership List as of March 19, 2018, and the UMZAG Members Reliability Criteria Manual were made available.

**OPEN HOUSE** – The MWEC headquarters open house will be held Oct. 4. The ribbon cutting will be at 11 a.m. and followed by the open house until 7 p.m.

**MWEC BUILDING UPDATES** – The FCI Constructors Inc. minutes from the March 20 meeting were made available. Manager Haugen reported everything for the building has been ordered.

**NRECA LEGISLATIVE** – Manager Haugen reminded the board the NRECA legislative

meeting will be held in Washington, D.C., in April.

**MWEC'S BLUE SKY PLANNING** – Manager Haugen discussed technology and changes in the energy industry and how they could affect MWEC's future.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - Board members met in executive session to discuss the employee issues.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Member correspondence regarding the MWEC no firearms policy was made available and discussed with the board. The policy to post a sign that no firearms are allowed in MWEC buildings has been reviewed and discussed by the board in previous meetings. No action was taken concerning the policy.

In-house counsel Leah Johnson Ellis offered proposed language changes to the following policies:

POLICY 102

POLICY 207

POLICY 205

**MEETING REPORTS:**

**UPPER MISSOURI POWER**

**COOPERATIVE (UMPC):** Director Jorgenson gave a report on UMPC meetings attended. By vote of the directors, Director Jorgenson was elected as trustee on the board of UMPC and Director Johnson was elected as alternate. Director Grant was appointed as chairman of the delegates for the UMPC annual meeting on April 5 and Director Hartsoch was appointed as alternate.

Due to a conflict with the upcoming board meeting in June, the meeting was moved to 9:30 a.m. Thursday, June 29.

**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 .....     | Vice-Chairperson |
| Cheryl Hartsoch .....  | Treasurer        |
| Blaine Jorgenson ..... | Secretary        |
| Larry Johnson .....    | Director         |
| Aaron Lynne .....      | Director         |
| Garrett Lalim .....    | Director         |
| Luke Lahtinen .....    | Director         |
| Dick Ludwig .....      | 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 