



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

December 2008

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 17, Number 12

*After 36 years on staff and 16 years as manager—*

## Terry Carson bids farewell to ERPPD Dec. 31

I want to take time to wish everyone—consumers, employee, and directors—a Happy and Safe Holiday season. As I am retiring at the end of this year after 36 years of service to the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, I am especially thankful for all of you and what you have meant to me. It seems like only yesterday that my wife and I walked in the front door of the office in 1972 to meet with LeRoy Hansen (retiring manager) and Milton Smith (new manager) concerning a position as office manager. In 1992, I became general manager, and the last 16 years have gone fast. Like the old adage, time flies when you are having fun!

Over this time, I have had the opportunity to work with many different board members with varying backgrounds. In fact, I've seen each seat on the board change hands at least three times. As consumers of ERPPD, you have been represented extremely well. Over the years, I have been able to observe how they handle the affairs of this district. Each of them has been able to make decisions based on what is good for the district, which is what they have been charged with doing. It has not always been easy, because their decisions affect them as consumers also. I might add that it is not going to get any easier as there will be many important decisions to be made in the future. Power costs, environmental impacts, new regulations, renewable energy resources, and just the day-to-day rising costs of everything are going to impact this industry. All of these come with a cost, and the board's challenge will be to see that we continue to meet the demands of state statute that require us to provide adequate electrical service at as low an overall cost as possible, consistent with sound business practices. We have always taken the approach that adequate is not good enough, and we strive to provide high quality electric service.

Having said that, I must also comment on the great employees that I have been able to work with—the many that are now retired as well as the current work force. Current employee's pictures are on the next two pages, but retired employees have played a major part in the growth of this district as well. I would like to name them all, but space will not allow. Their

dedication to ERPPD has been tremendous. Whenever there is a need for help, whether it be day or night, during rain, ice, snow, or sunshine they have demonstrated this dedication. I am extremely proud of these people and the way in which they provide service to you. Both outside crew members and office personnel have continued to strive to provide you with reliable and quality electric service. From my perspective, they have been and will continue to be responsive and considerate to your requests and needs.

I would be remiss if I did not reflect on you the consumer as well. Whether responding to your needs or trying to restore power to your electric services, you have been great to work with. Your understanding during critical times has been very much appreciated, and the verbal and written thanks we received during these times was encouraging to our people. Many times, you even pitched in to help us get the power restored, pulling our equipment out of snow banks or down the road so that we could put poles back in the ground or wires back up in the air. We've tried to thank you, but I am sure we missed some of you. However, we are always appreciative of your assistance.

Since my background with this business began with accounting, I have to give you some numbers of what has transpired at ERPPD since 1972.

	1972	2008 (projected)
Customers	4,369	8,936
Transmission & Distribution line	2,075 miles	2,899 miles
Total Utility Plant	\$5.5 Million	\$58.2 Million
Employees	24	44
Kwh sold	46,461,262	209,000,000
Cost of power/kwh	0.0973 cents	4.40 cents

As you can see, ERPPD has grown considerably over the last 36 years. I have had only a small role in this. The employees, directors, and consumers are the ones that have made this happen and that is why I am writing this. I want to thank each employee, director, and consumer—both past and present—for everything they have done and will

See 'Carson farewell' on page 4



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US



Rodney Zohner  
President

*At this season, we are reminded why Elkhorn Rural Public Power exists and the gratitude we owe our customers. ❄️ It is—and has always been—ERPPD's pleasure to serve you. ❄️*

*We measure our success by providing quality service for one customer at a time, responsibly completing one task at a time, and safely and effectively making one connection at a time. ❄️*

*This success is our gift to you; and our wish for you is a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*



Tim Means  
Vice President



John Thiele  
Secretary



Terry Carson  
Manager



Mark Ahlers



Galen Beckman



Rich Eymann



Garland Goracke



Mark Gronau



Kerry Harris



Rick Hemphill



Patrick Hintz



Paul Lichty



Jason Lyon



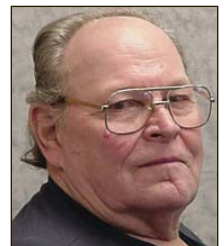
Wayne McCormick



Dave Meyer



John Paul



Dan Peck



Bill Seifert



Dominic Smedra



Brian Suckstorf



Jared Suckstorf



Carmen Thelen



Chris Tillotson

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US



Dennis Kuchar  
Treasurer



Robert Kee  
Director



Larry Lindahl  
Director



Mark Miller  
Director



Joe Thiele  
Director



Greg Weidner  
Director



Dan Belt



Konnie Beutler



Roger Borchers



Ken Capler



Rick Cherington



Bob Coble



Jeremy Holecek



Dave Hrabanek



Bill Hughes



Jeff Kerkman



Ryan Kittelson



Todd Knutson



Steve Petersen



Jim Ridder



Laura Rutjens



Dan Schrage



Teresa Schwarting



Eric Scranton



Joyceln Vogel



Jim Wennkamp



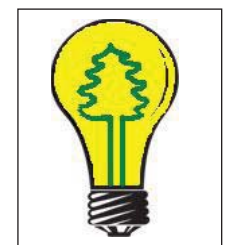
Travis Wiebelhaus



Stacie Young



Kevin Zohner



*From us to you!*

# ELECTION NEWS

## ERPPD has new director

At its first meeting of 2009, the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Board will introduce one new director,

David Hoefler of rural Elgin faced off in the General Election on Nov. 4 against two candidates from rural Clearwater. He had 611 votes to Fred J. Thiele 445 and Chris Moser 345. As of press time, vote tallies are unofficial, but the positions of the candidates were considered final.

Hoefler won the Subdivision 3 seat that is being vacated by John Thiele, of Clearwater, who will retire from the board at the end of 2008 after completing 30 years of service to the customers of ERPPD. Subdivision 3 includes south and west portions of Antelope County, the southeast corner of Holt County, the northeast corner of Wheeler County, and some individual customers in northern Boone County.

### Three incumbents retain seats

In addition, three incumbents were also elected to the ERPPD board on the General Election ballot.

Mark Miller and Tim Means retained their seats for six-year terms to serve Subdivisions 1 and 2, respectively.

Also in Subdivision 1, Greg Weidner retained his seat to complete the remaining two years of an uncompleted term.

## Carson farewell continued from page 1

continue to do. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors—both past and present—for allowing me to be a part of this organization. I have enjoyed working for you, and my goal has been to leave this a better place than the way I found it. I hope I have. It was in good shape when I started, but our goal was to continue to make improvements.

As I leave this business, I leave with the certainty that you will continue to be well served by the employees and directors of this district. They will continue to maintain this system and improve the quality and reliability to which you have become accustomed. TC

### Closed for the year-end holidays!



The ERPPD office will be closed

Christmas Day,  
Thurs., Dec. 25,  
and  
New Year's Day,  
Thurs., Jan. 1,



### When you have an emergency, our people are standing by!

In the case of an outage, first check to see if the fuses below the meter are good. If you have breakers, make sure they are on and have not kicked out. If you have a double-throw switch for standby power, make sure it is in the correct position. Check with your neighbors to see if they have electricity. By doing this before calling us, we can determine if it is a line or an individual outage. This can help cut down on outage duration. Please give the name that on the account plus the consumer number and/or the legal location. This will assist us in sending our crews to the correct place.

### Questions about your bill?

Please call the Battle Creek office, toll-free, 1-800-675-2185, during office hours, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., in regards to billing questions. When calling the office concerning billing problems, it will save time if you would have your meter serial number or customer account number and current meter reading. Remember to call the Battle Creek office if you have billing questions. All account payments should be mailed to:

**Elkhorn Rural  
Public Power  
District  
P.O. Box 310  
Battle Creek, NE  
68715**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS with Board position and subdivision

- Rod Zohner  
President.....II
- Tim Means  
Vice President ..II
- John Thiele  
Secretary .....III
- Dennis Kuchar  
Treasurer .....I
- Robert Kee  
Director .....II
- Larry Lindahl  
Director .....III
- Mark Miller  
Director .....I
- Joe Thiele  
Director .....III
- Greg Weidner  
Director .....I

### MANAGER Terry Carson

### For Emergency Service or Outage Reporting **1-800-675-2185**

#### After Hours Note:

The entire 800-number *must* be dialed, even for a local call.

### Communicate Electronically With ERPPD

Internet: [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com)

E-mail: [erppd@erppd.com](mailto:erppd@erppd.com)



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

**It's the law!  
Call 811 Before  
You Dig!**

Or 1-800-331-5666  
Diggers Hotline  
of Nebraska