

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

February 2013

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 22, Number 2

Kaili Hackerott Chosen to Attend the 2013 Washington, D.C., Youth Tour

Elkhorn RPPD is proud to announce that Kaili Hackerott of rural Madison was chosen to represent Elkhorn Rural Public Power District on the 2013 Youth Tour to Washington, DC, in June.

The Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) coordinates the Youth Tour for approximately 20 students representing public power districts and electric cooperatives from across the state of Nebraska. The Youth Tour has



brought high school juniors and seniors to Washington, D.C., every June since the late 1950s.

Students on the tour learn about rural electric systems, American history and U.S. government, and walk away with a greater understanding of their role as a citizen. They have an opportunity to visit with their senators and representatives, and also explore the sights around the nation's capitol.

To be eligible for the tour, students must have attended the NREA Youth Energy Camp, which is held in July each year at the 4-H Camp in Halsey National Forest. After attending the energy camp, students may apply to ERPPD to attend the Youth Tour.

Congratulations to Kaili for being chosen to represent Elkhorn RPPD on the 2013 Washington, D.C., Youth Tour.

AMR Project-Phase 2

As part of our continuing commitment to our customers to strive for efficiencies to control costs, we have completed phase 2 of our automatic meter reading (AMR) project. Phase 2 of the project involved replacing the 13-year old Hunt Systems automatic meters in Woodland Park, Country Village, Hadar, Clearwater, Elgin, and Ewing. These meters were installed in 2000, when the communities of Clearwater, Elgin, and Ewing were transferred from NPPD to ERPPD.



The AMR system from Hunt Technologies that was installed in 2000 worked very well for meter reading, but did not have the capability of real-time

meter reading. In other words, it took up to 54 hours for the meter readings to reach the office, which was sufficient if all we needed to do was to create a bill, but limited the usefulness of the system.

In 2009, the district opted to install TWACS automatic meters in the rural areas of the district, giving our operations department the capability of checking the status of the meter within a few minutes, which is valuable during and following an outage.

From 2009 to the present, ERPPD tech personnel have had to maintain two AMR systems. The Hunt system was due for a costly upgrade, so it made more sense to replace the Hunt meters with the same TWACS meters that were installed in the rural area.

The TWACS automatic meter reading system has been a great tool for our Customer Service Representatives,

when trying to assist customers with questions on their bills. The system allows the CSRs to produce a graph of the overall electricity usage, which can be shared with the customer. The customer can then figure out which appliances or other equipment might be operating at those times of high usage, thus giving the customer real-time knowledge to make informed decisions about their electrical usage.

The third and final phase of the AMR project, is scheduled for 2014. During this phase, automatic meters will be installed on all pasture pumps, and will allow us to make sure the meters and services are operating properly throughout the year.

If you have any questions regarding the automatic meter reading project, please call the office at 1-800-675-2185.



l to r: Dennis Kuchar, Larry Lindahl, Rod Zohner

Directors Re-elected

Dennis Kuchar-Subdivision I, Rod Zohner-Subdivision II, and Larry Lindahl-Subdivision III were re-elected at the 2012 General Election to represent their respective Elkhorn Rural Public Power District subdivisions for the six-year term from 2013-2019. Congratulations Dennis, Larry, and Rod.

2013 Unicameral in Session

The 103rd Nebraska Legislature convened at 10:00 a.m. January 9 for its 90-day session. The session will run from January 9 to June 5. You can follow the legislative session at www.nebraskalegislature.gov.

Senators representing constituents in the ERPPD service area include: Jim Scheer-District 19, Madison and northwest Stanton counties; Kate Sullivan-District 41, Pierce, Antelope, Wheeler, and Boone counties; Tyson Larson-District 40, Holt county; and Paul Schumacher-District 22, Platte and Stanton counties. *[The map at the right shows the outline of the Elkhorn RPPD service territory (light gray), with the bold outline of the Nebraska legislative districts.]*

The format of the mailing addresses for the senators is:

Senator Name
 District #
 State Capitol
 P.O. Box 94604
 Lincoln, NE 68509

Web pages for the senators can be found at www.nebraskalegislature.gov/senators. The senators' web pages contain office numbers, email addresses, phone numbers, updates on bills, etc.

The general format for email addresses for the senators is: *first initial and last name@leg.ne.gov*

If you are not sure which legislative district you live in, you can find your senator by visiting www.nebraskalegislature.gov and click on "Senators" and "Find your Senator". This will open a map that permits you to enter your address or click on the area in which you live.

If you have any questions about how to contact your senator, please call Elkhorn RPPD at 1-800-675-2185, and ask for Wayne McCormick..

Laura Rutjens retires January 1



Laura Rutjens

Laura Rutjens retired from Elkhorn Rural Public Power District on January 1.

Laura has 12 years of service at ERPPD, serving the district as a Customer Service Representative. Laura came to ERPPD from NPPD in 2000, when NPPD transferred the towns of Clearwater, Elgin, and Ewing to ERPPD.

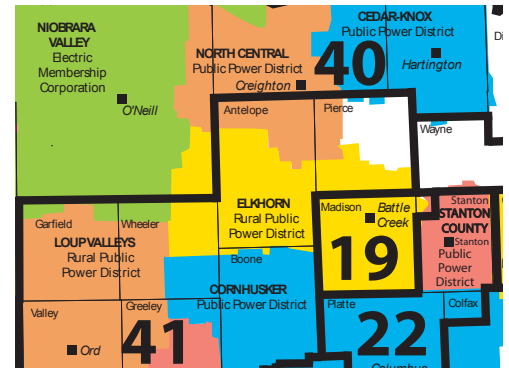
We wish Laura all the best in her retirement.



*Tyson Larson
District 40*



*Jim Scheer
District 19*



*Kate Sullivan
District 41*



*Paul Schumacher
District 22*

*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
February 2013*

2012 Achievements Earned by ERPPD Employees and Directors

- Rod Zohner-NRECA Board Leadership Certificate
- Jim Ridder-NRECA Management Essentials Certificate
- Carmen Thelen-NRECA Management Essentials Certificate
- Rick Cherington-NRECA Supervisory Certificate
- Rich Eymann-NRECA Supervisory Certificate
- Carmen Thelen-NRECA Supervisory Certificate

ERPPD earned the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program award in 2012. This award was based on the safety record and documentation for 2009-2011 and also an on-site evaluation of the current safety practices by an external visitation team of our peers. Members of the ERPPD safety committee for 2012 were Dave Hrabanek, Dan Belt, Chris Tillotson, Andy Starman, Jeremy Holecek, and Wayne McCormick.

Congratulations to all the recipients of the awards and thank you for your dedication to ERPPD and its customers.

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Sleek new flat-panel TVs can consume almost as much electricity as a refrigerator. In general, the bigger the screen, the more power it draws, and HD pulls more, too. Plasma screens use the most energy, while LCD TVs use much less. And remember to change your new TV's default settings to a power saver mode, and turn down the LCD backlight to save energy without sacrificing picture quality.

Source: Cooperative Research Network

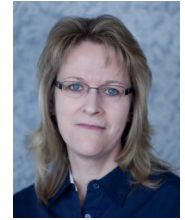
ERPPD Employees and Directors Honored for Years of Service in 2012



*Rick Cherington
Staking Tech
30 years*



*Wayne McCormick
Assistant Manager
20 years*



*Teresa Schwarting
Customer Service
20 years*



*Ryan Kittelson
Lineman
15 years*



*Jeremy Holecek
Lineman
10 years*



*Dominic Smedra
Lineman
10 years*



*Brian Suckstorf
SCADA Tech
10 years*



*Jared Suckstorf
Lineman
10 years*



*Jason Lyon
Lineman
5 years*



*Rod Zohner
President
15 years*



*Dennis Kuchar
Treasurer
15 years*



*Mark Miller
Director
10 years*



*Greg Weidner
Director
5 years*

The nine employees and 4 directors pictured above were honored for their years of service to ERPPD and its customers at an awards banquet on January 18. Rick Cherington was honored for 30 years; Wayne McCormick, 20 years; Teresa Schwarting, 20 years; Ryan Kittelson, 15 years; Jeremy Holecek, 10 years; Dominic Smedra, 10 years; Brian Suckstorf, 10 years; Jared Suckstorf, 10 years; and Jason Lyon, 5 years. Director Dennis Kuchar was honored for 15 years; Director Rod Zohner, 15 years; Director Mark Miller, 10 years; and Director Greg Weidner, 5 years.

Congratulations to these honored individuals and thanks for your years of service.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

2013 Energy Efficiency Incentive Program

Residential

• Cooling System Tune-up	A/C or Heat pump tune-up	\$30
• Dealer Incentive		\$50
• Low Flow Showerheads	Complimentary for electric water heaters	up to \$10/head reimbursed
• Low Interest Loan (NEO)	Loans for residential heat pumps	2.5%
• Attic Insulation	Attic insulation (all-electric homes)	\$0.15/sq. ft. (up to 2,000 sq. ft.)
• Heat Pump (incentive is doubled for Air Source Heat Pumps if the ASHP replaces an air conditioner)		
	14 SEER	\$200
	15 SEER, 12.5EER, 8.5 HSPF	\$400
	16+SEER, 12.5 EER, 8.5 HSPF	\$600
	Ground Source HP-any EER	\$1,200
	Variable Capacity Ground Source HP	\$1,700
	Outdoor HP unit only (14 SEER min)	\$100

Commercial/Industrial

For commercial and industrial incentive information, contact our Energy Services Representative, Mark Gronau, at 1-800-675-2185. The incentives for the following categories depend on the size and the efficiencies of the equipment installed:

- Commercial HVAC
- HVAC System Optimization
- Custom Lighting
- Dusk-to-Dawn (LED) Lighting
- Custom Process-Lighting
- Prescriptive Lighting
- Variable Frequency Drives

Agricultural

- Irrigation Pump Efficiency Program (call Mark Gronau at 1-800-675-2185 for details)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

- Rod Zohner
President.....II
- Tim Means
Vice President ..II
- Larry Lindahl
SecretaryIII
- Dennis Kuchar
Treasurer I
- Jerrell Dolesh
DirectorII
- Mark Miller
Director I
- Joe Thiele
DirectorIII
- Greg Weidner
Director I
- David Hoefler
DirectorIII

MANAGER

Tom Rudloff

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

E-mail: 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

Outage Checklist

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 neighbors to see if they have power. 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, be prepared to give the name 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 ERPPD office at 402-675-2185 or toll-free, 1-800-675-2185, during office hours, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F, 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. 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**