



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

April 2023

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 31, Number 4

GENERAL MANAGER TO RETIRE



Tom Rudloff has announced his plans to retire this year. His last day of full time responsibilities will be Friday,

May 12. The Board of Directors are currently working with National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Executive Search to secure a replacement.

Tom wanted to be an electrician when he started his schooling - obtaining his Diploma in Electrical, Residential, and Commercial Wiring from Northeast Community College. He simultaneously served in the Army National Guard where he obtained the rank of Staff Sergeant. He learned a lot about leadership and serving during this time. He has a deep respect for veterans and those currently serving their nation in the armed forces.

After 10 years of working as an electrician for Creighton Electric, he

was hired on at North Central Public Power District (NCPD) to do load control and there, took advantage of the Merchant's program, and logging hours as a lineman for the Department of Labor Apprentice program to become a journeyman lineman.

He was with NCPD for 20 years holding the positions of Lineman, Line Crew Chief, General Foreman, Supervisor of Engineering Services and Purchasing and Operations Manger.

During this time, he earned his BS in Business Administration and MBA from Wayne State Col-



Tom, left, on a crew visit in 2015. Safety has been a priority for him throughout his career

lege. He also completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Management Internship Program, which helps to train future leaders for the electric utility industry.

January 2, 2009, he started as General Manager of Elkhorn. His philosophy has always been to bring the crews home
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2011 Board of Directors and Staff. Pictured left to right seated: Mark Miller, Rod Zohner, Joe Thiele, and Larry Lindahl. Standing left to right: Wayne McCormick, Dennis Kuchar, Dave Hoefer, Greg Weidner, Jerry Dolesh, Tim Means and Tom Rudloff.

CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE - RETIRE

safely each day and to serve the customers.

Elkhorn's mission to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity to all customers has been his guide.

He is proud to say that there were no fatalities on his watch, but it was the number one thing that would keep him up at night.

He has helped employees develop skills and take more control of their safety, with option analysis and having decisions made at the work site. Several programs Tom committed to like, Speak Up Listen Up, Commitment to Zero, and partnership with a physical therapist, have helped to decrease incidents and injuries. Elkhorn is currently over 900 days with no lost time injuries.

Serving our excellent customers, working with awesome employees and working with the board of directors has been rewarding.

There have been several circumstances when it made sense and the board decided to work "outside of the box" and continued adding services and building infrastructure when other districts were restricting or even halting these activities.

Tom leaves Elkhorn with better reliability and in a good financial position - holding rates steady for 10 years and rate decreases for last year and this year.

He has enjoyed all the challenges that come with being in the electric utility industry. First, as a lineman, helping to get the power back on after a

storm, to figuring out ways to serve the customers better as a general manager.

He has also enjoyed and appreciated building relationships and working with others in the public power network, as well as customers, vendors and legislators.

He is looking forward to spending time with family, traveling, hunting, fishing and just enjoying a very blessed life.



Pictured clockwise starting bottom left: Tom at his desk - 2015; Tom was known for his love of the New York Yankees and is pictured with a Yankees flag given to him in 2010 for Boss's Day; Tom presenting options to customers at an irrigation meeting 2017; Tom with Ken Hansen (far right) - son of LeRoy Hansen, ERPPD General Manager from 1952-1973 - and board members Mark Miller and Rod Zohner at the 10,000 Meter Celebration 2022; Tom presents to customers at the 75th Celebration in 2015.

*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
April 2023*

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Community Development Fund Requests and Awards February 2023

Organization	Project	Location	Amount Awarded
Battle Creek Community Developmnet	Start up costs - insurance & postage	Batle Creek	\$1,000.00
Battle Creek Youth Football Assoc.	Uniforms	Battle Creek	\$1,000.00
Camp Willow	Expenses for camp for children with disabilities	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
Ewing Young Members Club	Ewing Fun Fest 2023	Ewing	\$1,000.00
Lois Johnson Memorial Public Library	Summer Reading Program	Oakdale	\$1,000.00
Madison Public Library	Iris Robot Program	Madison	\$1,000.00
Neligh Rescue	Cardiac Monitor	Neligh	\$1,000.00
Northeast Nebraska High School Rodeo	Judges Fees	Madison	\$1,000.00
St. Boniface Catholic Church	AED	Elgin	\$1,000.00
St. Vincent de Paul	Financial assistance for those in need	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
TOTAL			\$10,000.00

You can see in the chart to the right how your generous giving is impacting organizations in your community.

Each quarter, the board of trustees is able to fulfill the needs of organizations because you round up.

If you know of an organization that has a project that needs some funding, please go to www.erppd.com and under the Community Fund tab, fill out the application.

The deadline for 2nd quarter funding is April 17, 2023.

Second Quarter	Application Deadline April 17, 2023	Board Meeing Date: May 1, 2023
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TRUCK FOR SALE:

Part of keeping our mission of safe, reliable, cost-effective electricity for our customers is having a vehicle maintenance and replacement program. The truck pictured to the right is available for purchase as it is being rotated out of ERPPDs fleet.

Specs: 2014 Dodge Ram 1500; 159,926 miles; 3.6 liter engine; 4x4 crew cab; rubber floor mat; and work truck package.

The truck is available for viewing at BC headquarters 206 N. 4th St. Battle Creek 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A sealed bid on the truck may be made starting **Monday, April 3**, by mail to PO Box 310, Battle Creek NE 68715 or e-mail to tknutson@erppd.com.

The sale will close at **4:00 p.m. Friday, April 14**. The winning bid will be selected and the buyer notified.

The truck will be listed on Facebook Marketplaces as well.

If you have questions about the truck call Chris Sovereign at 402-675-2185.



*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
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WE APPRECIATE OUR LINEMEN



On April 10, Lineman Appreciation Day, ERPPD would like to recognize all our linemen and what they do for the district and for keeping the lights on. Listed to the right, ERPPD linemen have more than 367 years of combined service and experience.
#thankalinenman

ERPPD LINEMEN

Name	Position	YOS
Marc Ahlers	SCADA Field Tech	25
Coltin Bauer	Apprentice Lineman	1
Grady Bellington	Appr. Lineman	3
Dan Belt	General Foreman	33
Chris Bentley	Appr. Lineman	3
Patrick Hintz	Staking Eng. Tech	20
Jeremy Holecek	Journeyman Lineman	21
Kyle Kester	Journeyman Lineman	14
Ryan Kittelson	Safety Dir./Jrny. Lineman	26
Todd Knutson	Operations Manager	28
Carter Lammers	Appr. Lineman	1
Tyler Lamoree	Appr. Lineman	2
Jason Lyon	Foreman	16
Blake Papik	Journeyman Lineman	5
John Paul	Meter Tech	17
Eric Scranton	Foreman	22
Dominic Smedra	Journeyman Lineman	21
Andy Starman	General Foreman	13
Jared Suckstorf	Journeyman Lineman	21
Chris Tillotson	Journeyman Lineman	25
Jim Wennkamp	Staking Meter Assit.	28
Travis Wiebelhaus	Foreman	22



**THANK YOU FOR
POWERING OUR
LIVES.**

**NATIONAL
LINEMAN
APPRECIATION
DAY**

#THANKALINEMAN

APRIL 10, 2023