

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

December 2014

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 23, Number 12

**Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year**
from all of us here at
**Elkhorn Rural
Public Power District**



Marc Ahlers

☛ Dan Belt ☛

Galen Beckman

☛ Connie Beutler ☛

Ken Capler ☛ Rick Cherington

Rich Eymann ☛ Garland Goracke

Mark Gronau ☛ Patrick Hintz

Jeremy Holecek ☛ Dave Hrabanek

Bill Hughes ☛ Jeff Kerkman ☛ Kyle Kester

Ryan Kittelson ☛ Todd Knutson ☛ Paul Lichty

Jason Lyon ☛ Wayne McCormick ☛ Dave Meyer

John Paul ☛ Steve Petersen ☛ Jim Ridder

Dan Schrage ☛ Teresa Schwartzing ☛ Eric Scramton

Bill Seifert ☛ Dominic Smedra ☛ Andy Starman

Brian Suckstorf ☛ Jared Suckstorf ☛ Carmen Thelen

Chris Tillotson ☛ Joyceln Vogel ☛ Jim Wennekamp

Travis Wiebelhaus ☛ Stacie Young ☛ Kevin Zohner

☛ Tom ☛

Rudloff

Jerrell Dolesh ☛ Dave Hoefler

Dennis Kuchar ☛ Larry Lindahl

Tim Means ☛ Mark Miller

Joe Thiele ☛ Greg Weidner

Rodney Zohner

Dennis Kuchar Completes Board Leadership Program

Dennis Kuchar, Elkhorn Rural Public Power District director from Subdivision I, earned the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Board Leadership Certificate.

The Board Leadership Program offers more advanced courses for directors. The Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) can be earned after completion of the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD), and then completing a total of 10 credits or courses. The CCD certificate is earned by completing five required courses.

Congratulations Dennis, on completing both the CCD and the advanced BLC programs.

As a matter of record, seven of the nine ERPPD directors have earned the CCD certificate with the rest just a one or two courses away. In addition, five of the nine have earned the advanced BLC certificate. ERPPD customers are fortunate to have such informed and dedicated directors.



Dennis Kuchar receiving the Board Leadership Certificate from Jo Ann Emerson, CEO of NRECA, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

**Elkhorn Rural
Public Power District**
offices will be closed Christmas Day
Thursday, Dec. 25,
and New Year's Day
Thursday, January 1

YOU HAVE A SAY! IT'S YOUR PUBLIC POWER

Local control is one of the greatest benefits of Nebraska's all public power model. In 1935, when rural electric systems began organizing in rural Nebraska, only about seven percent of Nebraska's farms had access to electrical service. Investor Owned Utilities (IOU's) saw no profit in delivering electricity to rural America. By 1958, 95 percent of Nebraska's rural farms were receiving power. This transformation occurred when rural farmers, without access to the power market, came together to develop electric cooperatives and public power districts. The decisions governing these electric utilities were made, and continue to be made today, by member-owners and locally elected board members. There are no majority shareholders making decisions that will ensure the greatest profits, only local individuals that receive the same level of service as their constituents.

With local control also comes access. Unlike profit driven shareholders controlling an IOU, public power districts and electric cooperatives are governed by board members that are publicly elected. In a rural power district, this means you probably know the board member representing you and you know how to reach them. In addition, public power districts are required to comply with the Open Meetings Act which gives us all access to these meetings and the public information they discuss.

Local control means your public power utility knows you and has deep roots in your community. Governing board members have a stake in every decision they make and a sincere interest in the local economy. Every year Nebraska's public power systems pay more than \$100 million in taxes or in-lieu of tax payments in the communities they serve, and employ more than 6,000 Nebraskans across the state, many of these in rural Nebraska.

LOCAL CONTROL STRENGTHENS CUSTOMER SERVICE, PROMOTES A CULTURE OF SAFETY, INCREASES COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE ELECTRIC UTILITY AND ITS CUSTOMERS AND IS JUST ONE MORE WAY NEBRASKA'S RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBER-SYSTEMS, INCLUDING ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT, ARE WORKING FOR NEBRASKA.

For more information on the benefits of public power, including Reliability, Affordability, Local Control, and Eco Friendly, go to our website at www.erppd.com and click on the Working for Nebraska link.

Public Power Fact:

Did You Know?

You have a voice in public power; you elect the board members or directors of the district, who are also residents and customers of the district!

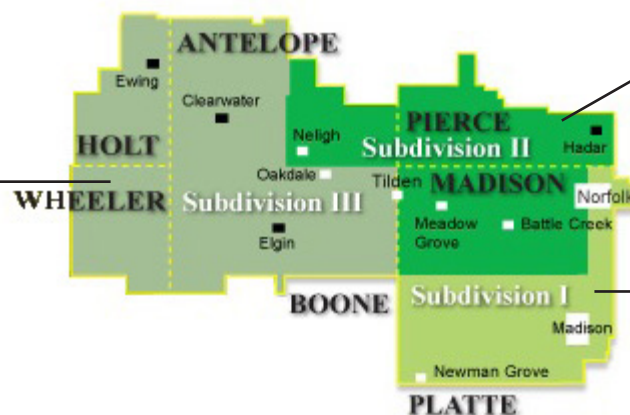
Incumbent Directors Re-elected

All three incumbent directors whose terms of office expire at the end of 2014 were re-elected for another 6-year term. Mark Miller of Subdivision I, Tim Means of Subdivision II, and Dave Hoefler of Subdivision III, will be re-installed as directors at the January 13, 2015, board meeting, where they will take the Oath of Office.

Congratulations Mark, Tim, and Dave!



*Dave Hoefler
Subdivision III*



*Tim Means
Subdivision II*



*Mark Miller
Subdivision I*

Portable Generator Q&A

- **How do I install it?** Follow all local electrical codes and make sure the generator is properly grounded.
- **Can I just plug my generator into one of my home's outlets?** DO NOT connect generators directly to household wiring unless an appropriate transfer switch has been installed.
- **Why install a transfer switch?** Without the transfer switch, power from the generator can "backfeed" to the power lines, creating an electrocution hazard to anyone touching the lines, including the lineworkers making storm repairs.
- **Can I run the generator in the garage to keep it dry?** Never operate a generator inside your home or any other enclosed --or even partially enclosed--area. Generators produce carbon monoxide, which can easily enter your home. Place the generator on a dry surface under an open, canopy-like structure.
- **What about opening the garage door?** Opening windows or doors or even using fans does not provide adequate ventilation to prevent the build-up of carbon monoxide. Generators must be located outside a safe distance from your home's doors, windows, and vents.
- **How far away from the house is a safe distance?** Research indicates that even 15 feet from the home is too close. Remember your neighbors when placing a generator, so you are not too close to their home.
- **How big a problem is carbon monoxide?** Over 50 carbon monoxide deaths per year are associated with the improper use of portable generators. More than 80% of those deaths occurred in the home from generator operation within the living space .
- **What are the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?** Symptoms may include fatigue, shortness of breath, drowsiness, headache, and nausea. Get to fresh air right away if you feel dizzy or weak while running a generator.
- **Is it safe for children to play in the area around the generator?** NO. Keep children away from the generator at all times.
- **How many appliances can I plug into my generator at one time?** It depends on the capacity of the generator and the cumulative nameplate wattages of the appliances.
- **Can I refuel a generator while it is running?** Not Recommended. Unplug all appliances from the generator and shut it down to cool before refueling. Refueling a generator while it is running is a significant fire hazard.



▶ STAY AHEAD OF THE STORM



This winter, before the first snows hit the ground, take precautions. Assemble a power outage supply kit and create an action plan for your family. We want you to be safe and warm while utility crews restore power.

Energy Efficiency

Month *Tip of the*

Be merry and bright, but don't let your holiday lights shine all night. Save money on your electric bill by installing a light timer for your decked out home. It can help lower your electric bill and reduce energy consumption. Use a manual timer plugged into an electrical outlet to automatically turn lights on and off as scheduled.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Help Us Capture Our History

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District will be 75 years old in 2015. We are starting to gather history of the district and would appreciate your input. Do you have old photographs, memorabilia, or stories



The Elkhorn Rural Public Power District was initially formed under the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) as the Madison County Rural Public Power District. It was later renamed the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District when Antelope County joined the district.

from the early days of the district. If you have such information, please share them with us via email to wmccormick@erppd.com, or you can bring items to Wayne McCormick at our office in Battle Creek. We can scan photographs or other documents, so you do not need to give up the originals.

You can check out our history on our web site at www.erppd.com. Look under the 'About Us' tab.

75th Anniversary Recipe Book

Do you have a favorite recipe, a unique recipe, a "handed-down" recipe, a time-saving recipe? We are asking you to submit a recipe or recipes for inclusion in the ERPPD 75th Anniversary Recipe Book, which will be given away at our open house in June of 2015.



Please submit recipes by mail to: **ERPPD, Attn: Wayne McCormick, PO Box 310, Battle Creek, NE 68715**, or you can submit them by email to wmccormick@erppd.com. Please include your name so you can be given the credit, and



your phone number, just in case we have questions about the recipe. (Your phone number will not be included in the book.)

We really want to make this a special keepsake for you and your family, and you can be included in it.

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**

*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
December 2014*