



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

March 2024

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 33, Number 3

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

From the GM - Mark Johnson

At our February board meeting, we reviewed the year end financial numbers for 2023. I'd like to share those numbers as I look back on the highlights from 2023. These highlights are only a small glimpse into all the accomplishments that happened this last year.

I'm happy to report Elkhorn continues to be in a strong financial position. Our revenue from electric sales was \$31,534,627 which was down from last year's total of \$32,907,533. This decrease is largely due to a decrease in irrigation usage and the 2% general rate decrease that was taken in the beginning of 2023. We ended the year with a total margin of \$2,452,835. This shows we were able to cover expenses with the revenue and other income generated throughout the year. Remember, our margins are reinvested in the utility and help us continue to serve the needs of our customers for years to come.

Our district experienced some exciting growth this last year. We added 78 new irrigation services by building approximately 20 miles of three-phase line. We also installed service to a new industrial customer, Norfolk Crush, a soybean crushing plant north of Norfolk. In total, we added 100 new services in 2023 taking us from 10,065 services to 10,165. Although we saw a decrease in kWh sales, we did set a new historical peak this summer at approximately 147 MW.

The installation of our new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) has been completed. In 2023, we changed over 8,000 meters



Crews tie in the sub-transmission line for Norfolk Crush - one of 2023 highlights.

to complete the project.

There were four new staff hired including two Apprentice Line Technicians, a Customer Service Representative, and our new Warehouse Coordinator. We also had two-line technicians complete the apprenticeship program to become journeyman line technicians.

2023 also saw the 5-year anniversary of our Community Development Fund. Over those **continued on page 4**

THE FEBRUARY CONTEST WINNER

People are the Power!

What is your favorite thing to do on a snow day?

"Spending time with the kids watching movies, putting together puzzles, and drinking hot chocolate." -Katie Reeves

Reeves family pro tip for the best hot chocolate: top your drink with hot cocoa sprinkles for an extra special treat!

Figured left: The Reeves family.

See page 2 for more!

KNOW WHAT TO DO - ELECTRIC SAFETY

Helping to keep customers safe around high voltage electric lines is a priority for Elkhorn. Each year there are accidents with vehicles that come in contact with electric poles and have wires down.

Some people know what to do in that situation. Stay in the car, call for help and wait until the all clear is given by the electric utility.

To help educate and remind everyone of what to do and what the hazards are with downed electrical lines, we have a new insurance sized card (pictured to the right) to go in your car.

These cards will be distributed with our Look Up and Out stickers and Alert Today Alive Tomorrow window decals for farm equipment at local farm implement dealers, insurance companies and the county courthouses this spring, so be on the look out to pick yours up.

They are also available at the ERPPD office in Battle Creek. Be sure to pick one up when you stop in.

If you would like us to mail you any or all of these great safety reminders, please call the office at 800-675-2185 or email us at erppd@erppd.com and we will get them sent right away.



Congratulations to Katie Reeves and family for winning the first quarter “comment and win” People are the Power contest. They received some free swag from ERPPD and they are entered in the drawing for a \$50 credit on their power bill, to be drawn in December.

Everyone that commented on the Facebook post or sent in a response are included in the drawing.

Be on the lookout for more “comment and win” opportunities each quarter!

The next People are the Power Facebook comment post will be in May.



JULY 22 - 26, 2024
JOIN US AT
YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP
POWERED BY NEBRASKA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION AND YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC UTILITY

The Nebraska Rural Electric Youth Energy Leadership Camp (YELC) is not your usual camp. YELC is a great opportunity for youth in high school to experience what it is like to be involved with their electric power utility, while having a lot of fun, meeting new people and learning leadership skills.

Campers also tour Gerald Gentleman power station, participate in fun activities like games and swimming. There is a talent show and on the last night there is a dance.

Who should attend?
Any 9-12 grade high school student:

- *with leadership potential;
- *with an awesome personality;
- *strong academic record and,
- *an interest in meeting new people;
- *and who is served by ERPPD.

For questions, call the office at 402-675-2185 and ask for Stacie Young.

APPLY TODAY! WIN A FREE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.
Three campers will be selected to serve as Nebraska’s Ambassadors to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Rural Electric Youth Tour in 2025.

2024 ERPPD ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP APPLICATION FORM

Return to : Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, c/o Stacie Young, PO Box 310, Battle Creek, NE 68715
(Entry Deadline April 12, 2024)

Name _____

Address _____

Parents’ or Guardian’s Name _____ Phone Number _____

School _____ Age _____ Grade _____

COMPLETE THE SHORT PARAGRAPH BELOW:
Why I would like to attend the 2024 Youth Energy Leadership Camp at Comeca Camp and Retreat Center, Cozad NE, July 22-26, as a representative of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District.

GARLAND GORACKE RETIRES

Garland Goracke, Warehouse Coordinator, retired on February 29, after 22 years with ERPPD.



When Garland started in 2001, he was just in time to help move the inventory from

the headquarter's building to the new warehouse northeast of the building.

Garland has enjoyed his years working in the warehouse, as he has worked a warehouse clerk until 2020 when he took over as warehouse coordinator. Prior to coming to ERPPD he worked for 16 years at Goodyear in Norfolk.

The last several years have been the most challenging and rewarding.

Keeping inventory stocked and the crews running during the COVID 19 pandemic and the subsequent supply chain shortages gave him a real feeling of accomplishment.

He is looking forward to having more time for his other "full-time" job as Fire Chief of the Meadow Grove Volunteer Fire Department. He has been with the MGVFD for 39 years.

He is also looking forward to more time for riding his motorcycle, riding horses, and taking care of and being with family.



Garland putting together a loop (above) and in a forklift promoting safety for ERPPD (right).

Highlights from 2023

Continued from page 1

5 years, over \$180,000 was distributed to worthy projects across the communities we serve. Those funds are collected through our customers rounding up their monthly electric bills.

In all of these highlights, I see the ERPPD mission statement of providing safe, reliable cost-effective electrical service. I also see the hard work of our great staff. They never shy away from answering the call or getting the job done. Finally, I see our customers – believing in us with your

business and supporting each other through your generosity in the Round Up program.

As we continue into 2024, I look forward to building upon our success as we stay committed to serving our customers and our communities.

 <p>206 N 4TH ST PO Box 310 Battle Creek, NE 68715</p>	 <p>General Manager: Mark Johnson CFO/Office Manager: Carmen Christensen Operations Manager: Todd Knutson</p> <p>Connect with us Online:</p>   <p>www.ERPPD.com SCAN ME</p>	<p>Board of Directors</p> <p>Subdivision I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Miller, President • Dennis Kuchar, Treasurer • Hunter Frisch, Director <p>Subdivision II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Means, Secretary • Jerrell Dolesh, Director • Rod Zohner, Director <p>Subdivision III</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Thiele, Vice President • David Hoefler, Director • Raymond Payne, Director
<p>Office Hours: M - F 8:00AM - 4:30 PM</p> <p>Customer Service: 402-675-2185 For Outages: 1-800-675-2185</p>		