



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

September 2024

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 33, Number 9

## SUBDIVISION I DIRECTOR SWORN IN

James K. Geyer, pictured to the right with General Manager, Mark Johnson took the oath of office on Tuesday, August 13, at the regular board meeting.

James was appointed to the open Subdivision I seat which was vacated due to Mark Miller's retirement at the end of June.

James is a life long resident of Madison County and a life long farmer. He currently farms with his son Nathan, by Newman Grove, NE.

He believes his experience with growing and managing his farm as well as service on other boards will help him with his duties as a board member and the decisions he will be making.

He served two terms (1997-2004) for Farm Credit Services of America as a director. He is currently active on the Lutheran High Northeast school board and the Meadow Grove Rural Fire District board.

James' interest in serving on the ERPPD board of directors is to preserve the district's reliability and cost-effectiveness to its customers as well as prepare ERPPD for the future.

He said, "I am excited to be able to be a part of maintaining the excellent service and reliability to the customers of ERPPD."



Mark Johnson, GM, left, administers the Oath of Office to new Subdivision I director James K. Geyer, pictured right.

## HOW DO WE COMPARE?



From the GM, Mark Johnson  
Writer, Peter Drucker, is credited with the well-known quote: "If you can't measure it, you can't improve it."

Tracking and understanding how ERPPD is performing in critical areas is key to providing our customers with the exceptional service you've come to expect.

One way that we measure and benchmark our performance is through Key Ratio Trend Analysis (KRTA). Each year Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) publishes the KRTA. CFC provides a variety of financial services for ERPPD as well as many different public

power districts and electric cooperatives across the country. The 2023 KRTA report includes 145 different ratios allowing us to track our performance against our peers in the state and across the nation. These 145 ratios cover all different aspects of our industry including financial performance, expenses, rates, reliability, system growth, utility plant size, and more. There are 29 Nebraska distribution utilities and over 800 distribution utilities total that participate in this report.

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Elkhorn Rural Public Power District

will be closed in observance of  
Labor Day  
Monday, Sept. 2, 2024

# HOW DO WE COMPARE ? CONTINUED

Rather than provide information from all 145 ratios, I selected a handful that directly tie into the ERPPD mission of providing cost-effective and reliable electricity.

Starting with our electric rates, in 2023, our electric revenue per kWh sold was \$0.09573 compared to the national median of \$0.12293 (**Figure 1**). Our rates are among the lowest 15% in the nation. As a not-for-profit organization, our rates are designed to cover our costs plus a slight margin. Our largest expense is our wholesale power costs (what we pay for power). In 2023, this made up 66% of our total expenses. Having competitively priced wholesale power decreases our overall costs, resulting in lower rates. In 2023, our power costs were \$0.05939 per kWh compared to the national median of \$0.07283. All other expenses to provide service (everything outside of power costs) were \$0.02733 per kWh compared to the national median of \$0.04682 (**Figure 2**). This performance is even more impressive when you look at the average consumers per mile of line (density of the system). In 2023, we had 3.5 meters per mile of line compared to the national median of 6.36. This means we have less meters per mile to spread out the expenses of building and maintaining our distribution system. There are many variables that play into our ability to provide cost-effective electricity. This includes our great employees, dedicated directors, our partnership with our power suppliers, and our customers. We have not had a rate increase in the last 10 years and even had rate decreases in 2022 and 2023.

Shifting over to reliability, there are a couple of ratios that we use to track our performance. System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) is a ratio that measures the average duration of power outages for customers of an electric utility over a year. It's calculated by dividing the total number of minutes of customer interruptions by the number of customers served during the year. Lower SAIDI values indicate better electric reliability. In 2023, our total SAIDI was 96.27 minutes compared to the national median of 229.10. (**Figure 3**) Reliability performance can vary greatly from year-to-year largely depending on severe storms. In years we experience severe weather, viewing SAIDI by outage type helps paint a more accurate picture.

As you can see from the different key ratios, Elkhorn is in a very good position from both a financial and reliability perspective. Safety is also going well but that is a topic for another article. We will continue to strive for exceptional service to our customers through our mission and keep an eye on the indicators that help us get there.

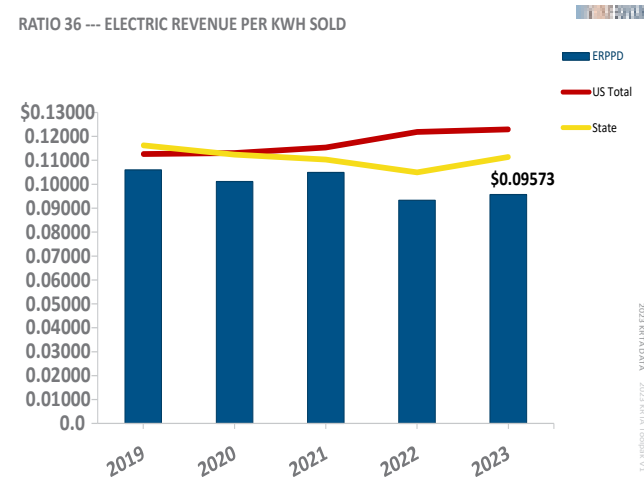


Figure 1

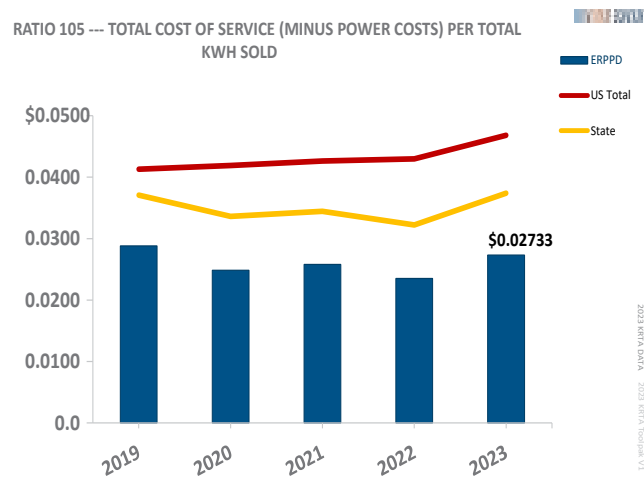


Figure 2

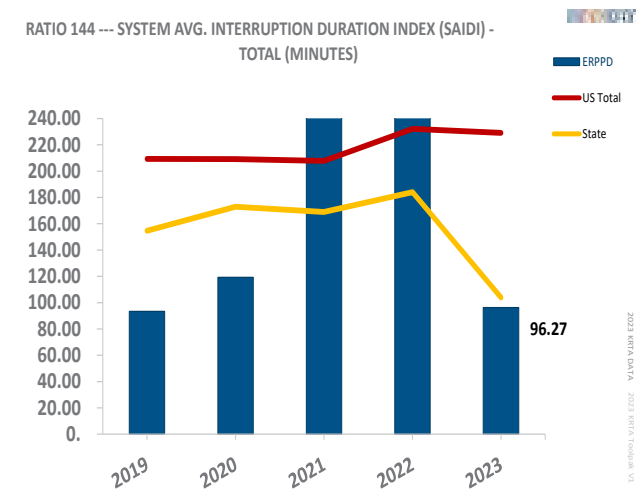


Figure 3

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District  
September 2024

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND



Your generosity in rounding up your bill each month continues to bless the communities in the ERPPD territory each quarter.

Third quarter fund awards are listed below.

As of the August Trustee meeting \$210,134.46 has been given back to the communities and organizations all because you are working together to make big things happen from "small change".



Pictured above: St. John's Parish Education Board and Vacation Bible School director - Stephanie Kollbaum; Katey Huntley, Rachel Zohner, Cherie Werner, Christy Schmidt and Kelsey Schnoor; right Summerland Softball - new softball rack; and left; Tilden Now for Tomorrow, Mary Dittrich and Tilden Mayor Tom Nelson.



Community Development Fund Requests and Awards August 2024			
Organization	Project	Location	Amount Awarded
Battle Creek First LEGO League Robotics Team	Startup Funds	Battle Creek	\$1,000.00
Battle Creek Girl Scout Troop 50013	Silver Award Project - Dog Waste Stations	Battle Creek	\$1,000.00
Briggs & Barrett	BBKids Volunteer Projects	Norfolk	\$500.00
Big Bang Boom, Inc.	Boom Fest 2024	Norfolk	\$500.00
Camp Willow	Camp Willow Summer Events 2024	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
Elgin Community Club	Tractor Pull	Elgin	\$250.00
Elgin High/Pope John	Post Prom	Elgin	\$100.00
Meadow Grove VFD	Purchase New Nozzles	Meadow Grove	\$1,000.00
City of Neligh - Parks	Neligh Parks Upgrades - Picnic Table	Neligh	\$1,000.00
Neligh Community Center	Heavy-duty Sign	Neligh	\$380.00
Neligh Public Library	Lights for the Library	Neligh	\$500.00
Norfolk Area Concert Association	Promotional Advertising Expansion Project	Norfolk	\$500.00
Project Homeless Connect	2024 Day of Services	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
Tilden Now for Tomorrow Inc.	Splash Pad	Tilden	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$9,730.00</b>

Fourth Quarter

Application Deadline  
October 21, 2024

Board Meeting Date:  
November 4, 2024

**THE AUGUST CONTEST WINNER**

How do you spend time with your family?

Meghan Beckman says "One thing is certain: no matter what we all do as a family, we always laugh and have fun, and I truly think that's the main thing."

**Beckman Family Pro Tip:** With five small children, keeping it simple is the best way to spend time together- get ice cream and sit in the park or make s'mores while listening to music in the back yard.

People are the Power!

**Congratulations to Meghan Beckman and family!**

Thank you to all that commented on our Facebook page! All that provided remarks have been entered into our drawing for a \$50 dollar bill credit that will be drawn in December.

There will be one more chance to win by commenting in November on our Facebook page or if you don't have a Facebook page you can mail or email your response to [erppd@erppd.com](mailto:erppd@erppd.com).

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# HARVEST SAFETY

As you head out to the fields for harvest this year, please remember to look up and out for power lines. Below is an infographic with five reminders for a safe harvest around power lines. At Elkhorn, safety around power lines for our employees and customers comes first - we want everyone home safe each day.

To help you remember to look up and out, we have decals and stickers for agricultural equipment. Please stop by or call the office at 402-675-2185 to get yours today!

## 5 Tips for a Safe Harvest

Electrical safety during harvest season requires vigilance and proactive measures. Follow these tips to reduce the risk of electrical accidents.

1. Maintain a safe distance from power lines when operating equipment like grain augers, elevators and other tall machinery.
2. Use a spotter to navigate safely around power lines and other electrical equipment.
3. Ensure all farm workers are trained on electrical safety procedures.
4. Regularly inspect all electrical equipment and machinery for signs of wear and damage.
5. Keep first aid kits and emergency contact numbers in an easily accessible location.



206 N 4TH ST  
PO Box 310  
Battle Creek, NE  
68715

Office Hours: M - F  
8:00AM - 4:30 PM



**General Manager:**  
Mark Johnson  
**CFO/Office Manager:**  
Carmen Christensen  
**Operations Manager:**  
Todd Knutson

Connect with us Online:



www.erpdp.com



SCAN ME

### Board of Directors

#### Subdivision I

- Dennis Kuchar, Treasurer
- Hunter Frisch, Director
- James Geyer, Director

#### Subdivision II

- Tim Means, Secretary
- Jerrell Dolesh, Director
- Rod Zohner, Director

#### Subdivision III

- Joe Thiele, President
- David Hoefler, Director
- Raymond Payne, Vice President

**Customer Service: 402-675-2185**  
**For Outages: 1-800-675-2185**