



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

## PLENTY OF ACTIVITY TAKING PLACE AS SUMMER ARRIVES

Welcome to summer! A time to enjoy the sunshine and for getting outdoors for some fun summer activities. As a safety reminder, stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water and come indoors during the hottest part of the day. To help save on your electric bill, watch your thermostat setting and be mindful of conserving electricity around the house. This will help you keep your summer electric bills affordable.

I am very happy to report that the West Riverside Energy Center in Rock County, Wisconsin, is now operational. We are joint owners of the new combined-cycle, natural gas generation facility along with our partners Rock Energy Cooperative, Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative, and Alliant Energy. Our ownership share will allow us to pass on savings to our members, which will start later this year. We have been working on this project for some time and we are glad the plant is now in commercial operation.

The board of directors continues to evaluate the best alternatives for holding our annual meeting this year. We are continuing to examine the pros and cons of holding a face-to-face meeting that can be performed safely, but we are also evaluating the possibility of holding a virtual meeting. Although a virtual, or online, meeting is not ideal, it may be the best option given the need to hold an annual meeting that meets legal requirements and keeps our members safe and healthy. We will have more to share with you in regards to this in the near future.

Congratulations to Tyler Tautges, a member of the WECA Youth Board for 2019–20, for being named the 2021 NRECA Wisconsin representative. Tyler is an excellent example of the young leaders we have in our community and we are very proud of his accomplishments. I look forward to seeing him at the 2021 NRECA annual meeting representing Wisconsin.

We are very excited to be able to begin the early retirement of capital credits for

estates. This is a program that the board of directors has been discussing for some time and working with our legal counsel to create a procedure for their retirement. Please contact our office if you are the personal representative of a deceased member and would like to discuss the early retirement of their capital credits.

Be safe as you celebrate our nation's independence on the Fourth of July. Although celebrations may be limited this year, enjoy the activities and remember the debt we owe to all of those who came before us to protect our freedom. Enjoy your summer.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.



MY CO-OP

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held via teleconference call at 8 a.m. on April 30, 2020. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the February 27, 2020 meeting, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety and compliance report were approved.

### Action Items

- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
- The Governance Committee will present Policy 101 regarding the proposed language on the eligibility of relatives to serve on the board of directors at the May board meeting.
- The board approved ATC's second capital call for 2020.
- The board discussed rescheduling the April annual meeting, which was cancelled. Options were presented to think about and discuss at the May board meeting.
- The board approved the discount rate for the early retirement of capital credits for estates.
- Discussion was held regarding the retirement of capital credits for 2020.

- The board approved donating \$200 to each of the food pantries in our service area, with the funds coming from the Federated Youth Foundation unclaimed capital credits fund.
- By a vote of 6 to 1, the board approved allocating \$24,000 from the Revolving Loan Fund to provide economic relief loans to small businesses in our service area during this COVID-19 crisis.
- Discussion was held regarding the electric billing aging report and the effects COVID-19 is having on the membership and the communities we serve.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported on the monthly Safety Meeting for April. Materials have been ordered to repair the Rosholt radio tower and will be here mid-May, with repair work to be done at that time.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed. Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported the Operation Round Up meeting was held via email April 16. Donations were approved and mailed. The CoBank Sharing Success checks have been received.

President and CEO – Mike Wade, CEO, reported on his submitted report.

Meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.



## OPERATION ROUND UP DONATIONS AWARDED

Operation Round Up provides funds for worthwhile causes, including member hardship cases, educational purposes including scholarships, and charitable organizations. It is funded by volunteer donations from CWEC co-op members.

Recent beneficiaries of Operation Round Up donations include: \$1,000 to Tigerton Fire Department to purchase new water backpacks with pumps; \$1,000 to Bowler Area Fire District to purchase turnout gear for new firefighters; \$1,000 hardship award to an individual member; \$750 to Northwest First Responder, Inc. to help purchase an AED or digital radio; \$750 to Tigerton Area Ambulance Service to help purchase CPR mannequins for CPR training; \$250 to Resch Lanes Youth Bowling to help sponsor “Youth Day” for area teens;

Amanda Messer, Stockbridge Munsee EMS coordinator, accepts the Operation Round Up funds on behalf of the Stockbridge Munsee First Responders.



Above left: Tom Smith, CWEC director and volunteer firefighter, presents Operation Round Up funds to Dan Lehman, fire chief, and Gary Koenig, assistant fire chief, of the Bowler Fire Department. Above right: Chris Richter of the Tigerton Area Ambulance Service accepts Operation Round Up funds on behalf of the Tigerton Area Ambulance Service. Left: Darcy Oligney, Northwest First Responders treasurer, and Debbie Barton, Northwest First Responders Service director, accept Operation Round Up funds on behalf of the Northwest First Responders.

\$200 to Wittenberg-Biramwood High School Choral Fund to be a sponsor for their choral music program; \$200 to Mission of Hope House of Wisconsin, Inc. to help with their needs at the facility; \$125 to each of Wittenberg Ambulance Service, Birnamwood Area Emergency Service, and Stockbridge First Responders to help purchase a Kendrick traction splint for each entity.

Operation Round Up funds were

also used to award \$350 scholarships to 29 high school seniors at area high schools, for a total of \$10,150. A total of 23 college students each received a \$100 scholarship as an Operation Round Up repeat applicant, for a total of \$2,300.

To date Operation Round Up has donated \$531,508 to families in need, charitable organizations, and students with scholarships. Thank you for your generous support.

## WEST RIVERSIDE ENERGY CENTER GOES INTO SERVICE

Construction of West Riverside Energy Center, which Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) has an ownership stake in, has been completed and the new natural gas generating station is now providing power to Wisconsin customers.

West Riverside Energy Center is owned by Alliant Energy, but CWEC partnered with Rock Energy Cooperative and Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative to purchase a portion of the new facility. The three electric cooperatives own a total of 60-megawatt (MW), or about 8.2% of the facility. CWEC's ownership level is at 5-MW, or 0.7%.

Construction on the \$660 million generating station started in spring 2017. The completed \$660 million facility can produce enough power for more than 550,000 homes.

The 730-MW, highly efficient, combined-cycle natural gas generating station is located near Beloit. The generating station serves as a 24/7 resource, and because it leverages combined-cycle technology, its power output can adjust up and down quickly to fit with the intermittent nature of renewable resources.

“Through a great team effort, the project came in under budget and online in time for increased summer demand,” said Bob Newell, Alliant Energy West Riverside Energy Center



project manager. “Customers will benefit from the reduced costs as a result of the budget savings and very low natural gas prices.”

By owning a small share of the West Riverside Energy Center, CWEC is able to own some of its needed generating capacity. Because we own generating capacity, we are able to reduce our monthly peak demand by the amount of ownership. Although CWEC will have other costs related to ownership of the plant, this reduction in peak demand costs will have a positive impact on all members' electric bills.

## CWEC DONATES \$1,800 TO AREA FOOD PANTRIES

With local food pantries seeing an increase in walk-ins due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) has donated \$200 to nine different local food pantries.

The \$1,800 donation will help area food pantries restock their shelves in an effort to help families who are experiencing financial hardships during this time.

Food pantries receiving a \$200 donation included: Iola Food Pantry, Scandinavia Lutheran Church, Tigerton Food Pantry, Rosholt Food Pantry, Wittenberg Food Pantry, TULP/St. Paul Food Pantry, TRACK-Tomorrow River Area Communities Kitchen, Marion Food Pantry, and Manawa Food Pantry.

“In this time of financial hardship, our Board of Directors was eager to make this donation to our local food pantries using dollars from our unclaimed capital credits fund,” said CWEC President and CEO Mike Wade. “As a locally owned cooperative, we support our community food pantries because we know the assistance they provide to our neighbors in need.”

CWEC Director Elaine Eckendorf (left) and CWEC President and CEO Mike Wade (right) display a check to recognize the recent donations of \$200 to nine different food pantries in the CWEC service area.



## CWEC NOW OFFERING EARLY RETIREMENT OF CAPITAL CREDITS TO ESTATES

In the event that a Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) member dies, the capital credits in the member's account become a part of the estate. Up until now, the member's heirs received the retired capital credits on the deceased's account on the same schedule established by CWEC for its members.

The CWEC Board of Directors recently changed this policy, and is allowing for the early retirement of capital credits for the outstanding balance of a deceased member's capital credit account. If early retirement of capital credits is approved, the book value of the capital credits allocated to the deceased member would be discounted to net present value using a discount rate based on the co-op's weighted average cost of capital. The capital credits are discounted in order to balance the fairness between the estates and the other members of the cooperative, recognizing the time

value of money (funds received today are worth more than funds received some time in the future).

The change was made to assist the member's heirs in closing an estate, as well as to provide a fair and equitable method for early retirement of capital credits for estates, heirs, and surviving spouses of deceased members.

The early retirement and disbursement of capital credits to the appropriate estate representatives, heirs, or surviving spouses will be determined on a case-by-case basis by CWEC.

For surviving spouses or other joint members with rights of survivorship, upon the death of one joint member, the surviving joint member will automatically become the sole owner of all capital credits allocated to the joint membership. In this case, the surviving joint member can elect the early retirement of one-half of the capital credits allocated

## 2020 ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

The Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Board of Directors continues to discuss when to hold the 2020 CWEC annual meeting.

The annual meeting was originally scheduled for April 21, but was postponed after the state of Wisconsin implemented a Safer at Home order. The order limited our ability to hold large meetings of our membership. The order also required residents to stay at home as much as possible, while also calling for non-essential business and operations to cease.

With the Safer at Home order no longer in place, we are looking at all options as to how to hold the annual meeting in a safe manner for both CWEC members and employees. At this time, a date for the meeting has not been chosen. A format for the meeting has also not been chosen, but a virtual meeting is being considered.

Once a date is finalized, the director election ballots will be mailed to members at least 20 days prior to the annual meeting date. The current directors who are up for election will continue as directors until the election is held.

When a decision is made about when and how to hold our annual meeting the information will be shared in these pages, as well as on CWEC's Facebook page and website: [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com).



## TYLER TAUTGES NAMED 2021 NRECA STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Tyler Tautges, a resident of Birnamwood whose family is a member of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative, has been named the 2021 NRECA State Representative.



Tautges' journey to become state representative began when he was named to the WECA Youth Board a year ago at the WECA Youth Leadership Congress.

"I saw it as a great opportunity to expand my leadership skills and I just thought it was very cool to be involved with working with leaders of co-ops," Tautges said on why he wanted to be a member of the WECA Youth Board.

To become a member of the WECA Youth Board, Tautges was involved in an election process at the Youth Leadership Conference. Each candidate gave a speech to the conference attendees, who then voted on who they wanted to serve on the board.

"At first there was a tie between myself and another person for votes to see who would get on the board, so we had to do a tiebreaker," he said. "For me to win that, I thought that was pretty exciting."

Unfortunately, the 2020 WECA Youth Leadership Congress has been cancelled because of COVID-19. Tautges said he would have been part of leading the conference. That duty has been pushed back to the 2021 conference.

Tautges said he was originally just happy to be part of the WECA Youth Board.

"Then I saw this opportunity (NRECA State Representative) and I thought it would be very good if I could add it to my resume and expand my skills with everybody," he said.

The process in being named the 2021 NRECA State Representative included Tautges completing a questionnaire about academics, as well as awards and other items he has achieved. He also had to record a video of himself explaining why he thought he would be great as the state representative.

"I think I have great leadership skills and that I'm good working with other people," Tautges said. "And I have great ideas to bring to the plate for everybody to work on."

Part of the duties of being the state representative include traveling to Washington, D.C., in November, where he will meet NRECA representatives from other states. They will expand their knowledge about leadership and motivational skills.

"I'm really looking forward to this trip since we weren't able to go this summer with the WECA Board as a group," Tautges said.

In February, Tautges is scheduled to travel to San Diego for the 2021 NRECA Annual Meeting.

"I'm looking forward to meeting everybody from the other states," he said. "I think I'm going to enjoy the traveling for sure."

Tautges will be a senior at Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School during the upcoming school year. After high school, he plans to attend NWTC to earn a degree in utility engineering.

## ALEXANDER LUTZ RECEIVES CWEC UTILITY WORKER SCHOLARSHIP

Alexander Lutz, a 2020 graduate of Amherst High School, has been named the recipient of the 2020 Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's (CWEC) \$1,000 Electric Utility Worker Scholarship.

CWEC established the scholarship to help address a forecasted shortage of electric utility employees and to encourage students to consider a career in an electric utility.

"I chose this career because I have always been fascinated by electricity and how important it is to our everyday lives," Lutz said. "I also enjoy helping my community and serving those in need and that is exactly what this career offers. Being an electrical utility worker can be a very rewarding career. It provides many benefits and is an essential trade to our way of living."

The scholarship has been established to assist a student pursuing a post-secondary education in an electric utility program.

"I will be attending Moraine Park Technical College in Beaver Dam for their nine-month electrical power distribution program," Lutz said.

He added that his career goal is to become a journeyman line worker and help the community whenever the need arises.

We wish him all the best as he prepares to enter this rewarding career field.



Central Wisconsin  
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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### Our Mission

We are your trusted energy partner and provider of valued community support.