



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

## MANY JOINED TOGETHER IN RESPONSE TO DAMAGE CAUSED BY MAMMOTH STORMS

July will go down in the record books as one of our most challenging months. On Friday, July 19, and Saturday, July 20, Wisconsin was hit by a series of storms that impacted not only our service area, but other parts of Wisconsin. Torrential rains, straight-line winds, and tornadoes wreaked havoc across central Wisconsin, and we suffered damage in all parts of our service area. Trees were blown down and as the trees came down, so did our power lines and poles. At the height of the storm we had approximately 6,100 meters out of power, which represents about 78 percent of our total system.

Once it was clear the extent of the damage we were facing, we issued a request for assistance through the Wisconsin electric cooperative mutual aid program called ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency). Six electric cooperatives responded to our request for aid, sending 16 linemen equipped with bucket and digger trucks to help with restoration. Our vegetation management

contractor, Zielies Tree Service, responded with five crews and our overhead line contractor, PUSH, Inc., responded with one crew. Armed with 40 crew members in the field, we spread across our system to begin the task of removing trees and branches, replacing broken poles, and splicing snapped conductors.

Our first priority after the storms had passed was to make areas safe for our members and the general public. Crews were dispatched to remove overhead wires that had fallen across roadways and to untangle them from fallen trees. Once this was complete, we were able to begin restoration efforts. Every day of the restoration we made significant strides and by Thursday, the lights were back on for most of the 6,100 that had lost power, except for a handful that needed additional repairs due to significant property damage.

We thank Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative, Jump River Electric Cooperative, Oakdale Electric Cooperative, Richland Electric Cooperative, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, Jo-Carroll Energy, Zielies Tree Service, and PUSH



Central Wisconsin  
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for sending us line and tree-trimming crews. We thank RESCO, Bell Pole, and Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative for supplying us with poles and material. We thank all of our local businesses for housing and feeding our crews. We thank our employees for working safely, efficiently, and responsibly to restore power. And we thank you, our member-consumers, for your patience and confidence. Your acts of kindness and generosity towards our line crews and your appreciation as the lights came back on will always be remembered by our employees.

To show our appreciation to our members, don't forget about our Member Appreciation Breakfast on Saturday, October 26, at our office outside of Rosholt. I look forward to seeing you there.

### ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

#### Sharing the Road with School Buses

If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop.

MY CO-OP

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at the headquarters in Rosholt at 8 a.m. on June 27, 2019. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the May 30, 2019 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 board approved all directors to attend the Badger Power Cooperative Annual Meeting on August 26, 2019, in Wisconsin Dells. The board also approved Directors Rombalski and Smith to serve on the Badger board, with Director Eckendorf as the alternate.
- The board approved all directors to attend the WECA Energy Issues Summit August 1, 2019, at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point.
- Mark Forseth presented a revolving loan for the Rosholt Area Threshermen, which was approved by the board.
- The board discussed the format and timing for the annual CEO performance evaluation.
- Mike Wade presented ideas from the management team regarding our mission statement and strategic objectives as part of the strategic planning session that was held in May. The strategic goals were approved as presented. Action items for the goals will be presented at future meetings.

- The board agreed to continue investing in ATC as part of the third capital call of 2019.
- Director Eckendorf reported on the NRECA Member Advisory Group (MAG) telephone conference call she participated in on June 6, 2019.

Operations and Engineering – Kevin Kurtzweil reported on the AMI readings. He showed the board video of the drone work Karcz Utility Services LLC has done for us pointing out things that were found that will need to be addressed.

Accounting and Finance – Reviewed the reports submitted. Lila Shower reported we hit peak in May. Due to controlling the last two days, we will hit peak again in June.

Member Services – Brenda Mazemke reported interviews will begin tomorrow for the member relations specialist position. The EV charger is ordered and should be installed around mid-July. Operation Round Up selected a winner for the Electric Utility Worker Scholarship. Brenda will be chaperoning eight students at the Youth Leadership Congress in July. The group will be catching the bus at Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative.

President and CEO – Mr. Wade reported Power System Engineering is working on an update of our last cost-of-service study. RMM Solutions out of Wausau is assisting us with technology needs. Discussions are continuing on our AMI success rate and how to best measure it. Mr. Wade recently attended the WECA Board Meeting as a guest. Meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.



# TURNING THE LIGHTS BACK ON

**T**wo large storms ripped through Wisconsin July 19 and 20, leaving extensive damage and power outages. Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's (CWEC) service area was hit particularly hard, causing 6,151, about 78 percent, of our meters to lose power by Saturday morning. On Saturday morning CWEC sent out a request for assistance through the ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency) program. Eight co-operatives and contractors sent 40 crew members to help throughout the week.

The process of restoring power was long and strenuous. When an outage comes in, it is impossible to know exactly what the crews will be dealing with until they get to the site. Nothing could

have prepared them for the destruction they encountered in a number of our service areas. Linemen dealt with many downed lines, poles, and extensive damage to our substations. Some roads were completely covered with trees. Before the linemen could work on the lines, they had to clear the downed trees and branches that blocked the roads in an effort to make the area safe. "The hardest part of restoration was clearing up the roads to get to the place that needed to be repaired," explained CWEC's Line Manager Dennis Magee.

When working long hours, it is easy to get fatigued and set safety to the wayside. All of the linemen working during the storm restoration practiced

safety even when the hours got long. There were no injuries reported. "Safety was our number one thing," explained CWEC Vice President of Operations Kevin Kurtzweil. "We were lucky that even though the visiting linemen were coming into a system they didn't know, it went smoothly and no one got hurt."

**"It is always great to see how we can all come together and accomplish a lot in a relatively short amount of time."**

**—Mack Yarbrough, CWEC Operations Crew Leader**

CWEC couldn't have done this alone. We were lucky to have our community, co-ops, and contractors rally around us during our time of need. Co-ops and contractors from around the state and Illinois traveled to help us restore power to our members. CWEC would like to thank Oakdale Electric Cooperative, Richland Electric Cooperative, Jo-Carroll Energy, Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative, Jump River Electric Cooperative, Scenic Rivers Electric Cooperative, Zielies Tree Service, Inc., and PUSH, Inc. for sending crews and equipment. Thank you to our local restaurants for helping feed the linemen while they were out in the field. Our vendors also, went above and beyond to make sure that our linemen had the tools and supplies they needed. We couldn't



**CWEC's yard with all of the trucks getting ready to leave for the day.**

have done what we did without your help.

We would also like to thank our members for your patience, understanding, and kindness. Being out of power for long stretches of time is frustrating. We appreciate your kind words and actions. A family in Tigerton generously brought dinner to a crew that was working in their area. Many members also shared encouraging thoughts on our Facebook page. One member commented, "Our neighborhood regained power this afternoon and I just want to thank all the hardworking people that make that happen from our wonderful employees of the community to the wonderful people that have traveled to help! Your hard work and time is greatly appreciated! Definitely more than words can express the gratitude I feel! Please continue to work safely! Again, THANK YOU!!!!!"

Your comments did not go unnoticed.

"This was quite the storm and we suffered a lot of widespread damage to our power lines across our whole system. Everyone in our company and several other co-ops worked around the clock to restore power as quickly as we could. It is always great to see how we can all come together and accomplish a lot in a relatively short amount of time," said CWEC Operations Crew Leader Mack Yarbrough.

After long hours and hard work we were able to restore power on Thursday, July 25.



County Road P



Gurholt Road



Hatch Lake Road



Locker Road



Sabrowsky Road



Woodland Road



## MASON DINGELDEIN RECEIVES CWEC UTILITY WORKER SCHOLARSHIP

To address a forecasted shortage of electric utility employees and to encourage students to consider a career in an electric utility, CWEC has established an electric utility worker scholarship. The scholarship has been established to assist a student pursuing a post-secondary education in an electric utility worker program.

We're pleased to announce Mason Dingeldein from Shawano is the recipient of the 2019 CWEC \$1,000 Utility Worker Scholarship. Mason, a 2019 Shawano High School graduate and the son of Scott and Dawn Dingeldein, is currently attending Northeast Wisconsin Technical College-Electric Power Distribution program in Green Bay pursuing a career as a lineman. Congratulations, Mason, and best of luck in your studies!



## DATES TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER

**Office Closed Monday, September 2, in honor of Labor Day**

**Embarrass River Lions Fall Rummage & Bake Sale, and Luncheon**

**September 6-7**

Lunch served 7 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Morris Town Hall, Hwy J, Tigerton. For more information call Lois Anderson, 715-535-2098.

**53rd Annual Harvest Dinner Sunday, September 8**

Service at 10:30 a.m. with the band Faith, Hope and Harmony. Dinner served after the service until 1:30 p.m. Swiss steak, broasted chicken, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, green beans, coleslaw, cheeses, relishes, rolls, coffee, milk, and a variety of homemade pies. Adults \$13, children ages 5–12 \$6, under 5 free. St. Johns Church, 502 Cedar St., Tigerton. For more information or for carry-outs call 715-535-2282.



**Iola Fire & Ambulance Fall Festival Raffle**

**Saturday, September 28**

3–7 p.m. Food, drinks, bucket raffles. Iola Fire & Ambulance, 350 W Iola St., Iola. For more information call 715-445-2515.



**8th Annual Glacier Ridge Antique Tractor Club Show**

**September 20–21**

8 a.m.–5 p.m. Featuring Massey Harris & Massey Ferguson. Displays of antique equipment, tractors, engines, cars & trucks along with demos. Saturday 50/50 raffle, silent auction. Sunday basket raffles, 50/50 raffle & large raffle of Cub Cadet Zero Turn Riding Mower at 3:30 p.m. Parade both days at 1 p.m. Free admission, parking & camping. Corkey's Bar in Shantytown. For more information visit Glacier Ridge Antique Tractor Club Facebook page or call 715-572-1548.

**Annual Taste of Tigerton Apple Fest Saturday, September 21**

10 a.m.–5 p.m. Apple pies baked and unbaked for sale, demonstrations, vendors, contests, and music. Community Park in Tigerton. For more information call 715-535-2110.

**Rosholt Threshermen Rippin Thru Rosholt**

**Saturday, September 28**

11 a.m. Black top tractor pull on Main Street. Food, music, drink, and tractor raffle drawing, Rosholt. For more information call 715-869-7653.

**Hitterdahl Church Annual Golf Outing Sunday, September 29**

1:30 p.m. For more information call 715-445-4253.



**Walls of Wittenberg Annual Fall Art Show: "Fall into Art"**

**September 21–22: 11 a.m.–3 p.m.**

**September 28–29: 11 a.m.–3 p.m.**

**October 5–6 Miles of Art Weekend: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.**

Free. WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal Street. For more information call 715-253-3525 or go to [www.wallofswittenberg.com](http://www.wallofswittenberg.com).

### Mark Your Calendar

**Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, October 26 8–11 a.m.**





**HAPPY LABOR DAY**

Central Wisconsin Electric will be closed on Monday, September 2 for Labor Day. Have a safe and happy weekend!

To submit your community events email [brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com](mailto:brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com) or call Brenda at 715-677-2211

### Mike Wade, President & CEO


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### Brenda Mazemke, Editor



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