



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

## MAINTENANCE PROJECTS BEING COMPLETED THIS SUMMER

Are you having a great summer? I hope so. We recently visited Pattison State Park near Superior to see Big Manitou Falls and Little Manitou Falls. It was a fun day of hiking, sight-seeing, and enjoying the scenic beauty of Wisconsin. Fall will be arriving soon and winter is just around the corner, so I encourage you to get outdoors and enjoy all that our beautiful state has to offer.

Summer is a very active time for our members, but it is also the time when the cooperative gets much of its construction and inspection work completed. Our line crews and contractors are busy extending new electric service to our members and performing needed maintenance work. Our vegetation management contractor is clearing around our overhead facilities so that we can access the lines during storms and bad weather. In many cases, our line crews and contractors are working along town and county roads. If you see our crews working along the roadside, remember their safety and slow

down or move over.

During August, RAM Utilities will be working on our system inspecting and treating many of our wooden poles. RAM is a contractor and they help ensure that our utility poles remain adequate for the job and have not deteriorated or have been damaged.

Congratulations to the many students who received scholarships from our Operation Round Up fund. Without a doubt, these scholarships will help our students achieve their academic and career goals. And thank you to the members who participate in our Operation Round Up program. Your contributions are put to work helping meet the needs of our local communities and families.

I would like to express my gratitude to Elaine Eckendorf for her 17 years of service on the Board of Directors. Elaine has retired from the board, but her dedication and leadership have helped make significant improvements to our organization. In addition to our cooperative, she also served on the WECA and Cooperative Network boards as well as



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numerous committees. We are grateful for her service and wish her the very best as she moves on to the next chapter of her life.

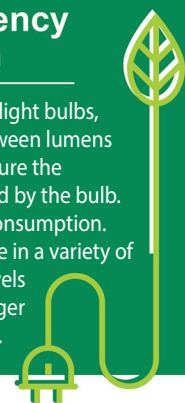
Be safe this summer as you travel around the state and spend time with your friends and family. Be conscious of the heat, drink plenty of water, and be safe with your outdoor fun.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our Member Appreciation Breakfast to be held at our office on Saturday, October 30. Hope to see you there.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts. Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption. Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15–25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



MY CO-OP

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The May regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held on May 27, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the April 29, 2021 meeting, new and terminated memberships, monthly safety and compliance report, and estate capital credit retirements were approved.

### Action Items

- The board discussed options for filling the vacant director position.
- Director Lehrer was nominated to fill the vacancy on the WECA Education and Member Services Committee.
- The board discussed the Finance and Governance Committee assignments and agreed to have Directors Rombalski and Lehrer alternate filling in on the Finance Committee until the April 2022 director election when the committee assignments change.
- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
- Director Lehrer reported the Governance Committee discussed Policy 109-Nominations Committee and the Membership

Agreement and will bring it back to the board once proposed changes are reviewed.

- The board reviewed Board Policy 105-Director Attendance at Board Meetings, with a recommendation to have the Governance Committee review it for proposed changes.
- Jim Halvorsen, CPA, and Mickey Gosh from CliftonLarsonAllen presented the 2020 financial audit report.
- Ms. Shower made a presentation on CWEC's internal controls.
- The board approved Saturday, October 30, 2021 as the date for the in-person Member Appreciation Breakfast.
- The board discussed filling the vacancy on the Member Advisory Group created when Lou Oppor became a director.
- The board approved Director Oppor to attend the NRECA Region 5 & 6 Meeting in Minneapolis, MN on September 16 & 17, 2021.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported the crews continue to work on new connects. Before and after photos were shared of the completed Tigerton Mill upgrade.

Accounting and Finance – Ms. Shower reviewed financial reports.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported on several ongoing employee and member service initiatives.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.



# ENERGY EFFICIENT IRRIGATION STRATEGIES

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and keeping farmland well-irrigated is crucial for almost any agricultural producer. Farm irrigation methods or technologies can make a huge difference when it comes to maximizing productivity while minimizing costs.

Energy efficient irrigation methods help farmers curtail unnecessary water use while growing the same produce, reducing their operating costs, and increasing overall productivity. Above all, when choosing between different irrigation methods and technologies, the most important aspects to consider are the overall cost, return on investment, convenience, and minimization of risks.

One of the easiest ways to maximize energy efficiency, as many farmers have already done, is to use electric motors in place of old, inefficient diesel irrigation motors. Typically, electric motors are about 90% efficient, while diesel motors have efficiencies between 30% and 40%. This means cost savings in the long run. Electric motors also have lower maintenance needs and can make use of a variable frequency drive (VFD) irrigation system, which helps to further lower costs.

VFD systems allows farmers to pump water at different rates, which maximiz-

es irrigation throughout the day. A VFD system can control the speed of the electric motor because it controls the electric power frequency supplied to the motor. Since there are many benefits from using electric irrigation motors, the majority of U.S. farmers have switched their diesel motors to electric ones, although pairing the motor with a VFD system is still a relatively new agricultural trend.

Irrigation efficiency is not a one-time deal. After several years, the efficiency of irrigation pumps tends to decline. After five years, irrigation pumps are typically evaluated for performance efficiency. This can help inform decisions on the most cost-effective solution, whether improving the existing pump or replacing it entirely. Irrigation pump tests usually assess the pump's discharge pressure, lift, water flow, and power input. Regular testing can help to ensure the pumps are working as efficiently as possible.

Upgrading irrigation hardware can also lead to more efficient irrigation system performance. Replacing leaky sprinklers, for example, can help save a significant amount of water. Maintaining the overall efficiency of irrigation systems over time helps to reduce water use and save energy.



There are many new agricultural technologies that are part of the “precision agriculture” industry, including autonomous tractors, crop-monitoring drones, and robotic milking or weeding machines. Beyond existing irrigation technologies, Wi-fi connected crops is one type of precision agriculture irrigation technology. After placing Wi-fi connected sensors throughout a crop field, farmers can monitor the conditions by simply using their smartphones or computers. Data on light, humidity, temperature, and moisture are captured by the sensors. That data is automatically sent to a server to be analyzed, which is then sent to a farmer's smartphone app.

Using Wi-fi connected crops also allows farmers to remotely set automatic timers for their watering systems. Some factors to consider include cost, range, bandwidth, and power. One constraint is that the sensor range can be limited, which makes the technology only feasible for smaller farms. Other network connectivity platforms could be applied to irrigation management, such as cellular connection, satellites, LoRa and Sigfox, but Wi-fi is by far the most common.

As technology continues to improve, there will be new opportunities to support the agricultural sector. Replacing technology that uses on-site fossil fuels, such as propane and gasoline, with technology powered by electricity will help improve energy efficiency and reduce local pollution.

## SIGN UP FOR OUTAGE NOTIFICATION TEXTS

Did you know that you can sign up for a service provided by Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative that will alert you via text when a power outage is affecting your meter?

The service lets you know CWEC is aware of the outage at your location. You will be notified when CWEC's outage management system predicts an outage based on reports from other members on your same line. It also notifies you when the power is back on. You will also receive an estimated time of power restoration and outage cause, whenever possible.

The text message will appear to come from the number 550-50, which is “short code” for CWEC's text messaging service. It may be changed on your phone by saving it in your contacts and renaming it “CWEC Outage Notification” or any other desired name.

If you sign up for the Outage Notification service and you receive a text stating the power is out, but you do have power, the message will ask you to call the number provided to let us know that you do have power.

If you are interested in this service, you can enroll at [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com).





# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

With donations from the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's members through the Operation Round Up program, \$16,000 has been awarded to students pursuing a post-high school education. Of that total, \$14,500 has been approved by the Operation Round Up Trust Board, to be awarded to first-time scholarship applicants who will be attending a technical college or university. The 29



students who will be receiving a \$500 scholarship are listed below.

CWEC also awarded \$100 Operation Round Up scholarships to 15 repeat scholarship applicants.

We thank our members who participated in the Operation Round Up program; more than \$562,000 of Operation Round Up funds have been paid to worthwhile charitable and educational purposes.



Larken Betry



Adrienne Brady



Garrett Casper



Katie Cherek



McKenna Foster



Kerri Giese



Elizabeth Gizzi



Samantha Glad



Aiyana Kempka



Faye Knapstein



Joshua Kolodziej



Nathan Kropidlowski



Alexis Kurszewski



Rachel Laidlaw



Nolan Maes



Kailei Mlodik



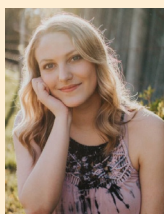
Chad Werner Moegenburg



Nathan Ockwig



Julia Peebles



Megan Pierce



Anna Rustad



Mason Skortz



Tyler Tautges



Bryce Wendlandt

**Larken Betry**, Hatley, son of Al and Jamie Betry, UW-La Crosse, business administration

**Jacey Bowker**, Rosholt, daughter of Tanion and James Bowker, UW-Stevens Point, natural resources (photo unavailable)

**Adrienne Brady**, Tigerton, daughter of Bruce and Michelle Brady, UW-Stevens Point, elementary & special education

**Garrett Casper**, Rosholt, son of Richard and Lori Casper, Mid-State Technical College, construction trades

**Katie Cherek**, Iola, daughter of Neil and Jackie Cherek, UW-Green Bay, education

**Zachary Fehrman**, Bowler, son of Valerie Fehrman, Fox Valley Technical College, natural resource technician (photo unavailable)

**McKenna Foster**, Wittenberg, daughter of Amber and John Kantola, UW-La Crosse, biology

**Kerri Giese**, Bowler, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, early childhood education

**Elizabeth Gizzi**, Wittenberg, daughter of Wayne and Beckie Gizzi, UW-Stevens Point, water conservation/chemistry

**Samantha Glad**, Scandinavia, daughter of Jennifer and Brian Glad, UW-Green Bay, business administration

**Aiyana Kempka**, Iola, daughter of Michael Kempka and Amanda Gray, UW-La Crosse, political science

**Faye Knapstein**, Ogdensburg, daughter of Joseph and Karen Knapstein, UW-River Falls, equine science

**Joshua Kolodziej**, Stevens Point, son of Greg and Lori Kolodziej, UW-Oshkosh, engineering or biotech

**Grant Krogwold**, Scandinavia, UW-Whitewater, banking (photo unavailable)

**Nathan Kropidlowski**, Rosholt, son of Wayne and Cindy Kropidlowski, UW-Eau Claire, chemistry

**Alexis Kurszewski**, Rosholt, Al Kurszewski, Miranda and Ryan Yenter, UW-Stevens Point, political science

**Rachel Laidlaw**, Amherst Junction, William and Hydrie Laidlaw, Northern Michigan University, psychology

**Sophie Lorbiecki**, Rosholt, daughter of Craig and Melanie Lorbiecki, St. Norbert College or UW-Eau Claire (photo unavailable)

**Nolan Maes**, Rosholt, son of Joe and Carol Maes, UW-Stevens Point, mechanical engineering

**Kailei Mlodik**, Wittenberg, daughter of Matt and Tanya Mlodik, North Central Technical College, veterinary science

**Chad Werner Moegenburg**, Wittenberg, son of Craig and Jody Moegenburg, UW-Stevens Point, history & social studies education

**Nathan Ockwig**, Rosholt, son of Nick and Natalie Ockwig, North Central Technical College, culinary

**Julia Peebles**, Marion, daughter of Shawn and Kim Peebles, Bellin College, nursing

**Megan Pierce**, Rosholt, daughter of Kim and Nathan Pierce, UW-Madison, chemical engineering

**Jesse Rombalski**, Mosinee, son of Jaime and Jason Rombalski, UW-Stevens Point or University of Minnesota, undecided (photo unavailable)

**Anna Rustad**, Iola, daughter of Alan and Sharon Rustad, North Dakota State University, veterinary science

**Mason Skortz**, Hatley, son of Brent and Renee Skortz, Fox Valley Technical College, diesel construction equipment service technician

**Tyler Tautges**, Wittenberg, son of Philip and Tanya Tautges, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, utility engineering

**Bryce Wendlandt**, Amherst Junction, son of Jon and Doreen Wendlandt, Cornell College, molecular biology & biochemistry



## ECKENDORF RETIRES FROM CWEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

After serving as a director for Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWECC) since 2004, Elaine Eckendorf has retired from the CWECC Board of Directors.

Even though she was elected to the board in 2004, her association with CWECC dates back to 1977 when she started serving as a district representative.

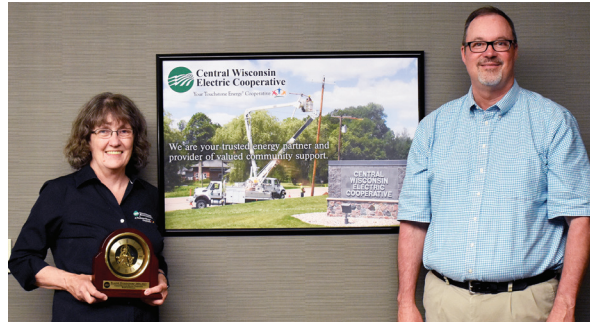
At the time, Eckendorf said she was young, had the time and the energy to fulfill the duties of a district representative, so she agreed to take on the challenge.

After serving as a district representative, Eckendorf became a district chairperson after the person holding that position was elected to the board of directors.

In addition, Eckendorf also served on the Resolutions Committee for 17 years. When Eckendorf became a member of the CWECC Board of Directors, she said it was the second time she had been asked to pursue a director position. She didn't pursue the position the first time she was asked because she felt she didn't have enough time to devote to the position.

"The second time around when they asked me, I had a little bit more time because my kids were grown up," Eckendorf said. "It was the next step, it seemed like to me, and I thought it would be interesting to do. I was the first woman asked to do it. I thought, 'Well, here's one step forward for women.' I just thought it would be a great chance to find even more about what co-ops are all about."

Eckendorf said she has many fond memories of her time as a CWECC director, and



Elaine Eckendorf (left), who served as a director at Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative from 2004–2021, was presented with a clock by Mike Wade (right), CWECC president & CEO, to recognize her service to CWECC.

the projects she was a part of to help keep electricity safe, affordable, and reliable for CWECC members.

"I was on the building committee for the new headquarters and it was just a pleasure to work with employees to put together a building that was something the employees could be proud of coming to work," she said. "It was great to be part of that."

Attending conferences and meeting with directors from cooperatives around the country were also enjoyable for Eckendorf.

"I met a lot of great people and I brought back a lot of great ideas that I thought would be helpful for our cooperative to keep our co-op a strong advocate for our members," Eckendorf said.

She said she also enjoyed her time serving on statewide boards.

"I felt like it gave our co-op a strong voice in the state board to have somebody from our co-op be on that," Eckendorf said. "I got to be part of various statewide things that helped all electric co-ops across our state, including ours."

## POLE INSPECTIONS SET FOR AUGUST

To help ensure the integrity of the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's (CWECC) electric system, pole inspections are scheduled to be conducted in August. Once started, it will take about two to three weeks to complete the inspections.

CWECC has contracted with RAM Utilities to perform the inspections. If a pole to be inspected is in the yard of a CWECC member, a representative from RAM Utilities will knock on the member's residence door, identify themselves, and state the reason for being there.


The inspections will take place in areas serviced by the Tigerton Substation Feeders #2, #4, and #6. This includes the townships of: Fairbanks, Wyoming, Dupont, Germania, Wittenberg, and Franzen.



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**Bert Lehman, Editor**

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Tom Smith  
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715-701-2051

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920-851-4545  
715-677-3850

Lou Oppor  
608-575-8653

Michael Schultz  
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715-370-1378

#### District 3

Sue Rombalski  
715-701-2053

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