



By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

SUMMER NORMALCY STARTS TO RETURN

Summer is here and I hope you are enjoying the sunshine and some fun summer activities. If you are spending time outdoors, be reminded that you need to stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water and you may want to come indoors during the hottest part of the day. Because of the warm summer weather, watch your thermostat setting and be mindful of conserving electricity. This will help you keep your summer electric bills affordable.

I want to send a special thanks to the Iola Old Car Show and Joe Opperman for the great work you are doing in our community. We are excited to hear that the Iola Old Car Show summer event will be back this July and we look forward to seeing the many vintage cars and trucks that pass through our service area. We are very pleased to be able to assist you with the USDA REDLG loan

and we know that it will help you as you prepare for a tremendous show this year. Best of luck at this year's event.

And to the many small businesses within our service area, the cooperative has a revolving loan program that is used to help our business community with expansion and development loans. Our revolving loan program is a self-replenishing pool of money used to help our small businesses grow and expand. If you are a small business in need, contact our office for more information.

During the first four months of 2021, the cooperative has credited \$250,000 on members' electric bills as a result of our investment in the West Riverside Energy Center. West Riverside is a combined cycle natural gas-fired generation facility in Rock County that is partially owned by your cooperative. Our investment strategy was to own generation capacity which would help us control power costs into the future. We are pleased to be able

to pass on these savings to our members to help keep electric bills affordable.

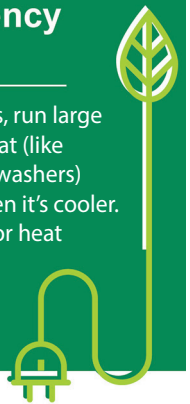
Be safe as you celebrate our nation's independence on the 4th of July. Enjoy the festivities and remember the debt we owe to all of those who came before us to protect our freedom.

Enjoy your summer.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler. This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are higher.

Source: www.energy.gov



BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The April regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held in-person on April 29, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the March 25, 2021 meeting, new and terminated memberships, monthly safety and compliance report, and estate capital credit retirements were approved.

Action Items

- Officer elections were held with Attorney Bruce Meagher assisting. Tom Smith was elected as chairman, Mike Schultz as vice-chairman, and Lee Lehrer as secretary/treasurer.
- New committee assignments were selected for the Finance and Governance Committees as follows: Finance Committee – Elaine Eckendorf, Mike Schultz and Lou Oppor. Governance Committee – Lee Lehrer, Sue Rombalski, and Ron Onesti.
- Monthly Financial Statements and Reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written and the board and CEO expenses.
- The Governance Committee did not meet this month. Their next meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2021.
- The board reviewed Board Policy 104 – Meetings of the

Board of Directors and made no recommendations for changes.

- Mr. Wade presented information from NRECA on rural broadband as a follow-up to discussions held at the recent NRECA Legislative Conference.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Wade reported on the Tigerton Mill upgrade and the completion of the Hwy. 153 project. He applauded the operations department for the job well done on both projects. Crews reconductored 2.6 miles of #6 solid HD overhead conductor.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed. The 10-year financial forecast will be presented at the May board meeting.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke reported on the success of the annual meeting that was held April 27, 2021. There were 247 registered members, with 192 logged in for the meeting. Door prize winners will be emailed and posted on our website, Facebook, and in the magazine. Three Co-Bank Sharing Success applications have been submitted and are in review. Ms. Mazemke asked for director volunteers to hand out scholarships at the Rosholt and Iola graduation ceremonies.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

IOLA OLD CAR SHOW RECEIVES FUNDING WITH HELP FROM CWEC

Iola Old Car Show, Inc. has received a \$250,000 no-interest loan, through the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program.

The loan provided by USDA was obtained through Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC), and will be used by Iola Old Car Show for projects that will create and retain employment. Iola Old Car Show will repay the loan to CWEC, which will then be responsible for repayment to USDA.

Joe Opperman, executive director for Iola Old Car Show, said the loan will help the organization prepare for this year's car show, after lost revenue due to the Iola Old Car Show being cancelled last year. It was the first time the show had ever been cancelled since it first began in 1972.

"We could have maybe tried to penny-pinch and skimp by to prepare for this year's show without it, but we would not have been doing justice to the work that needs to be done, and we would have really been cutting corners," Opperman said. "So, this was imperative to putting together the right show."

The importance of the annual Iola Old Car Show to the surrounding area, and the impact the pandemic had on the Iola Old Car Show organization, was not lost on the CWEC Board of Directors.

"One of the cooperative principles that is especially meaningful to us is Concern for Community," said Mike Wade, president & CEO of CWEC. "In addition to being an energy provider, the co-op strives to be a strong community partner throughout its service area. Our board of directors understood the challenges faced by the community during the pandemic and they were eager to provide assistance through an economic development loan from the USDA."

Opperman said 2020 was "very difficult" because of COVID, and other than obtaining the loan, Iola Old Car Show did several different things to navigate through the year.

"We were very fortunate to get some help from the PPP (Paycheck Protection Program), as well as a state grant," Opperman said. "We did some minor fundraisers ourselves, but it was really an all-of-the-above approach we needed to do. We needed to save money anywhere we could. We needed all of these lifelines in order to make it through and maintain the business."

"We could have shut everything down and done nothing, and tried to restart, but we wouldn't have been very well positioned for executing a show this year."

With all the steps taken by the organization to ensure a show in 2021, Opperman is excited about the upcoming show July 8–10. This year will be the 49th edition of the show.

"We've gotten a tremendous response, as have most events this year because people are anxious to get back to normal



Mike Wade, president & CEO of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (left) presents a check to Joe Opperman, executive director for Iola Old Car Show, Inc., in the amount of \$250,000.

activities, back outside," Opperman said. "They really are not taking for granted the things that they were not able to do last year."

He added that reservations for camping, attendance, and vending have been strong.

"We've always got some excitement at this time of year, but I think it's safe to say we've never had this type of positive (excitement) leading up to the show," Opperman said.

The response from show volunteers has also been positive.

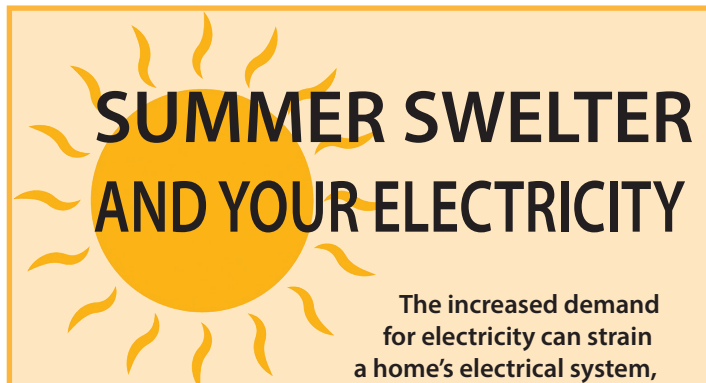
"We were not sure what the volunteer pulse would be leading up to this year's show," Opperman said.

"We've been very happy to see the groundswell of support and assistance and positive help leading up to it. We're thrilled to have that support."

Opperman said he is thankful for CWEC's help in obtaining the USDA loan, to help ensure this year's Iola Old Car Show is the best it can be.

"I really value the partnership we have with the co-op (CWEC)," Opperman said. "This is one of many examples of ways we've been able to work together for the betterment of the community."

Wade added, "Not only does the Iola Car Show have one of the largest auto events in the U.S., it helps local community groups raise needed financial support. The Iola Car Show is an amazing organization and we are proud to help them secure this USDA loan."



The increased demand for electricity can strain a home's electrical system, increasing the likelihood of an electric shock or fire. During times of excessive heat, the high demand is coming from many homes and many businesses, which can add to possibilities of electrical grid overloads and failures.

The Energy Education Council suggests ways that you can help lower the demand while staying cool when the weather gets hot this summer:

WITH HELP OF CWEC MEMBERS, OPERATION ROUND UP KEEPS GIVING

In the second quarter of 2021, Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up Program approved five grant applications for a total of \$3,400 in various types of community support.

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, allowing them the opportunity to give back to our local communities, a

few cents each month. Electric bills are simply "rounded up" to the next whole dollar amount. The monthly "round up" could be as little as a single penny, but never more than 99 cents. The average donation is \$6 annually, which is tax deductible. Operation Round Up is an opt-out program.

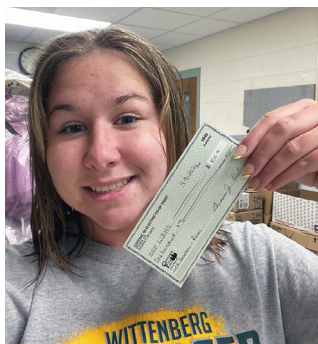
The funds are held separately from any Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative funds and are administered by a member Board of Trustees. Applications are made for grants, and these are reviewed quarterly for disbursement of funds.

Second quarter beneficiaries of Operation Round Up donations include:

- Wittenberg Area Historical Society & Museum – \$1,000
- MAMA's House of Hope – \$500
- Tigerton Main Street, Inc. – \$500
- Tigerton Coop-Tigerton School District – \$300
- W-B High School Prom Committee – \$100

To date Operation Round Up has donated \$562,058 to families in need, charitable organizations, and students in the form of scholarships.

Thank you for your generous support.



Top row, left to right: MAMA's House of Hope, Tigerton Coop-Tigerton School District.
Bottom row, left to right: Wittenberg Area Historical Society & Museum, W-B High School Prom Committee.

- Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping or caulk to keep cold air in and hot air out.
- Open your windows at night to let cool air in, and then close them in the morning to trap it. Avoid unnecessary trips out the door in the heat of the day.
- Use curtains and blinds to keep the sun out on hot days.
- Consider shading your home by installing awnings over windows in direct sunlight.
- Operate ceiling fans in a counter-clockwise direction, which forces air down and creates a cooling effect.
- Ventilation is one of the most efficient ways to keep a building cool. In breezy, dry climates ventilation can eliminate the need for an air conditioner altogether. For the many who need air conditioning to cool their homes, attic vents and fans can help reduce energy costs.
- Set the thermostat as high as you comfortably can.

Programmable thermostats allow you to easily cool your home when you are there and increase the temperature when you are not.

- If you are looking for a new air conditioning unit, be sure to check out an Energy Star rated model. For those living in arid climates, consider evaporative or swamp coolers, which release moisture into the air for a cooling effect. They work at a fraction of the cost of air conditioners.
- If a new AC unit is out of the question, a routine annual inspection and regular maintenance can help. Turn off power to the air conditioner before you work on it. Clean or replace filters. Clear leaves and other debris away from the condensing unit. Hose off any accumulated dirt.
- Make sure your home has the insulation it needs. EnergySavers.gov has information about the best insulation to use in different geographic areas.

For more information on energy safety and efficiency, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).



CWEC, TIGERTON LUMBER COMPANY WORK TOGETHER ON ELECTRICAL UPGRADE

With the Tigerton Lumber Company recently upgrading its motor system for the sawing operations at the mill located in Tigerton, it collaborated with Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) to also upgrade the electrical system at the mill.

The decision to upgrade the electrical system at the mill was mutual between Tigerton Lumber Co. and CWEC.

“When they (Tigerton Mill) doubled their motor size, what we had in place would not have held,” said Kevin Kurtzweil, vice president of operations for CWEC. “We would have had issues there.”

Engineering work for the project began in late November 2020. This work ensured that everything involved with the project would flow properly when working with the project electrician.

The scope of the project included replacing transformers, removing portions

of overhead lines, removing electric poles, and installing new electric poles. Overhead lines were replaced with underground lines, which were previously installed at the Tigerton Mill.

Removal of the overhead lines at the mill worked to CWEC’s benefit, as CWEC’s future plan is to remove that type of overhead line.

“We were able to retire four spans of that (type of overhead line) out of there,” Kurtzweil said.

Work on the project began in late April, and took about a week to complete.

Kurtzweil said the electrical upgrade has made the electrical system at the Tigerton Mill more efficient, reliable, and safer.

“The efficiency of new equipment and the safety of getting rid of the overhead wires, being that it’s a lumber mill and they have log trucks with unloaders and huge forklifts,” Kurtzweil said.



**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.