



By Mike Wade,
President & CEO

AS THE END OF SUMMER NEARS, WE GEAR UP FOR START OF FALL

Summer is slowly coming to an end and I am missing it already. My wife and I enjoyed traveling around Wisconsin this year after being isolated for most of the pandemic. Summer vacation is over for the children and we will begin seeing school buses traveling on our rural roads to take them to their first day of school.

If you are a parent or guardian, educate your children on staying away from traffic while waiting for the bus. If you are a driver, be on the lookout for children and do not pass buses that have stopped. It is illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load and unload children. Let's work together to ensure our children stay safe this school year.


Energy sales have been strong during the first half of the year. Early summer was hotter and dryer than normal, which caused a sharp increase in sales as air conditioners and irrigation systems came on. Our wholesale energy costs have

increased as well, but our investment in the West Riverside Energy Center is helping us control those increases. Although we love strong sales as it helps our rates remain stable, we understand our members need to keep their electric bills affordable and we embrace the conservation efforts of our members. If you have not done so, go to our website and select the Member Services tab to find rebates available for many of the energy efficient products you buy.

The storms that moved through our system in July caused significant tree damage and as a result, we had several days of outages. The storms came in from the north and we were unsure precisely where they would hit. Unlike the storm two years ago, these storms caused damage in isolated portions of our system. But the tree damage was substantial due to the high winds, and we had several areas with overhead lines down. I want to thank the membership for their patience and understanding, and I also want to thank the crews of Eau



**Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Claire Energy, Clark Electric Cooperative, Taylor Electric Cooperative, Zielies Tree Service, and PUSH, Inc. for helping us restore power to our members.

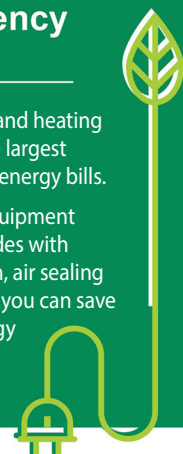
Looking ahead to October, please plan to join us for our annual Member Appreciation Breakfast at our office outside of Rosholt on Saturday, Oct. 30, 2021. I look forward to seeing you then.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills.

By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment.

Source: www.energy.gov



MY CO-OP

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The June regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held in-person on June 24, 2021 at 7:59 a.m. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the May 27, 2021 meeting, new and terminated memberships, monthly safety and compliance report, and estate capital credit retirements 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 the proposed changes to Board Policy 109-Nominations Committee and Board Policy 105-Director Attendance at Board Meetings.
- The board reviewed Board Policy 106-Director Education and recommended the Governance Committee review for changes.
- The board approved David Stoiber to fill the vacancy on the Member Advisory Group.
- The board approved all directors to attend the Badger Power Cooperative Annual Meeting on August 23, 2021 in Wisconsin Dells, with Directors Rombalski and Smith as the Badger Board representatives and Director Schultz as the alternate.
- The board approved Directors Oppor and Onesti as the attendees

for the WECA District 4 Webinar Meeting on July 22, 2021, with Director Oppor as the voting delegate.

- Ms. Shower gave a presentation to the Board explaining how CRC outage texting works for our members.
- The board discussed the next step in filling the director vacancy.
- The board approved the Resolution for PPP Loan Forgiveness to Regulatory Liability.
- The board discussed the CEO annual evaluation process to be used this year.
- The board approved re-opening the use of the Community Room to the public.
- A letter of engagement with the legal firm of Wheeler, Van Sickle & Anderson was approved.

Operations and Engineering – Mr. Kurtzweil reported the Guenther Road project is complete. Crews are currently working on Fairway Drive replacing the unjacketed cable. Karcz is working in the Iola area on the underground enclosures and installing wands.

Accounting and Finance – Financial reports were reviewed. Ms. Shower reported the 10-year financial forecast will be presented at the July board meeting. The June disconnects have been completed with numbers about the same as in May.

Member Services – Ms. Mazemke's report was reviewed. President and CEO – Mike Wade, CEO, reported on his submitted report.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.





RESTORING POWER AFTER TWO MAJOR STORMS

Almost two years to the date after devastating storms rolled through the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative (CWEC) service area in 2019, two more devastating storms rolled through the same area July 26 and July 28.

While the 2021 versions of the storms didn't knock out as much power for members as the 2019 storms did, the damage caused by downed trees and broken power poles due to the high winds was extensive.

During the July 26 storm, American Transmission Company (ATC) encountered a problem with its transmission line to the CWEC substation in Tigerton. Because of this, all the circuits in the Tigerton substation went down, rendering CWEC members serviced by that substation to be without power. The number of members without power was around 1,553. Smaller outages were also encountered by members serviced by three other northern CWEC substations. All power outages due to the July 26 storm were restored throughout the night and the next day.

Only a couple of days later another evening of storms caused damage to the electrical grid in the CWEC service area. This damage was more extensive than the first round of storms. The damage was caused by high winds, which knocked trees over powerlines and broke power poles.

Roughly 2,000 CWEC members lost power during this storm.

Because of the more extensive damage, CWEC sent out a request for assistance through the ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency) program. Clark Electric Cooperative, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative, and Taylor Electric Cooperative each sent a crew to help restore power. In addition, Zielies Tree Service, a contractor CWEC hires to do vegetation management, sent two crews to help remove fallen trees. PUSH, Inc. also sent one crew to help CWEC crews.

CWEC areas hit the hardest in

the second round of storms included members serviced by the Iola, Rosholt, Groenier, and Sannes substations.

"As we watched the storm move through northern Wisconsin, we knew our service area would be impacted. Exactly where and to what extent, we were not sure," said Mike Wade, president and CEO of CWEC. "The storm caused significant destruction, but given its intensity, it could have been much worse."

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.

Some roads were completely covered with downed trees. Before the linemen could work on the lines, they had to clear the downed trees and branches that blocked the road in an effort to make the area safe.

Even underground powerlines weren't immune from damage. There was an instance where an uprooted tree pulled an underground powerline out of the ground, damaging the powerline.

All power was restored by 5:30 p.m. on Friday, July 30. CWEC Vice President of Operations Kevin Kurtzweil said it would have taken longer to restore power if not for the help of the crews requested via the ROPE program.

"Basically, it was four extra additional crews," Kurtzweil said. "Without them we probably would have worked all night until Friday at 9 o'clock, when everyone would have gone home, and we probably would have been out there Saturday still restoring power."

Despite the fact that it is easy to get fatigued when working long hours to restore power, all

linemen practiced safety during the long hours of work. There were no injuries reported.

"I'm so proud of our ROPE crews and our own crews, as well as our engineering techs for working safely," Kurtzweil said. "Nobody got hurt. We had 2,000 members out of power, and we worked a day and a half with no injuries. Everything was restored safely."

We would also like to thank our members for their patience, understanding, and kindness. Being out of power for long stretches of time is frustrating. Your kind words and actions were appreciated, and did not go unnoticed.





MARGARET NAPIWOCKI JOINS CWEC

In late June, Margaret Napiwocki was hired as Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative's (CWEC) new billing assistant. She previously worked at CWEC five years ago as an accounting intern.

Since starting at CWEC, Margaret has been learning as much as she can about the co-op, and fielding calls from members. Margaret and her husband, Sam, live in

Plover. They have two cats.

In her spare time, Margaret enjoys running, working out at the gym, going to live country music concerts, playing volleyball, and kayaking.

Congratulations to Margaret. We are excited to have you on our team!



**Central Wisconsin
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

10401 Lystul Rd., P.O. Box 100,
Rosholt, WI 54473
715-677-2211 • 800-377-2932

www.cwecoop.com

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook



Mike Wade, President & CEO
Bert Lehman, Editor

Board of Directors

District 1

Ron Onesti
715-551-9257

Tom Smith
Chairman
715-701-2051

District 2

Lee Lehrer
Secretary-Treasurer
920-851-4545
715-677-3850

Lou Oppor
608-575-8653

Michael Schultz
Vice Chairman
715-370-1378

District 3

Sue Rombalski
715-701-2053

Our Mission

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



CWEC RECEIVES SAFETY AWARD

Dennis Magee (center) and Kevin Kurtzweil (right) of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative accept a No Lost Time Accident award from Chad Knutson (left), Senior Safety and Loss Prevention consultant for Federated Insurance. CWEC received the award for its employees working 442,042 employee-hours without losing any time due to an accident.

CWEC UPDATES ENERGY CONSERVATION REWARDS

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative has made several changes to its Energy Conservation Rewards program that it offers to its members. Most of the changes revolve around lighting, as well as power strips and water flow restrictors. Changes have also been made to the agriculture, commercial, and industrial portion of the program.

To view the updated Energy Conservation Rewards program, visit: www.cwecoop.com/sites/default/files/images/Energy_Conervation_Rewards_7_2021.pdf



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative MEMBER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Saturday, October 30
8-11 a.m.

**Watch for more information
in the October issue and on
our website**

