



Cooperative Connections



**Up, Up & Away:
Balloons Take
to Skies in
August**

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Research
Underway**

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Using Energy Wisely on the Farm and Ranch

There's no avoiding this reality in farming: Direct energy* accounts for about 4 percent of farm expenditures; indirect energy accounts for about 6 percent. Because small farms operate on profit margins well under 10 percent, efficiency measures that reduce energy costs can make a real impact.

**Direct energy consumption includes the use of diesel, electricity, propane, natural gas and renewable fuels for activities on the farm. Indirect energy consumption includes the use of fuel and feedstock (especially natural gas) in the manufacturing of agricultural chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides.*

Efficiency Tips for Irrigators

Questions to ask:

- Do you have a good procedure to determine when to irrigate and how much water to apply?
- Do you use evapotranspiration – (ET) based irrigation scheduling?
- Do you know how to estimate soil moisture by feel and appearance?
- Do the sprinkler nozzles on your center pivot provide a uniform application pattern along the full length?
- Have the sprinkler heads and nozzles been on the pivot more than seven years?
- Have you checked nozzle sizes on the center pivot to make sure they match the nozzle sizes listed in the sprinkler package printout from your dealer?
- Do you annually check for pipeline leaks, missing nozzles and nozzles that are not rotating properly?
- If you have an engine powering the pump, do you change the oil and filter according to manufacturer recommendations?
- Do the pump and motor or engine receive regular annual maintenance?
- Buried pipelines rarely leak, unless they were not pumped out before winter. However, above ground pipelines frequently have worn gaskets and up to 30 percent of the water can be lost before it gets to the discharge point. Replace leaking gaskets and plug any holes in the pipeline.
- The draw-down in a well increases if the screen becomes plugged. Increased draw-down greatly increases pumping costs. Screens become plugged due to mineral incrustation or from iron bacteria. Mineral incrustation occurs over time. By measuring the static and pumping water levels each year, the increase in draw-down can be measured and corrective action taken. Iron in the water usually means iron bacteria are present in the well. Annual chlorination will control the iron bacteria.



- Maintain pumps regularly, including proper greasing and filling oil reservoirs every year. Adjust packing glands and adjusting impellers on deep well turbines regularly for efficient pump operation. Replace diesel engines with electric motors – that can have significant cost savings, depending on the price difference.
- Most electric suppliers offer controlled (off-peak) electric rates for irrigation pumping systems. Using off-peak power rates can reduce pumping costs significantly when compared to regular power rates. However, off-peak rates should not be used with high-value crops like potatoes and onions. Talk with your electric supplier to determine if off-peak power rates would work for your operation. Typically, off-peak use will require a well capacity of 1,400 gpm on a 130-acre center pivot or the capacity to irrigate in 100 hours per week. It works best for deep-rooted crops like corn or soybeans. Do you record the static and pumping water levels in the well every year?
- If you have iron in the irrigation water, do you chlorinate the well each year?
- If you have an electric motor, can you subscribe to controlled electric rates (off-peak) from your electric supplier?

Facts and Actions – Irrigation:

- Use of a consistent method of irrigation scheduling can often reduce energy use by 7 percent to 30 percent. Using an ET-based irrigation scheduling system can ensure you are not under or over-watering the crop.
- The average life expectancy of a sprinkler head is about seven to 10 years. The diameter of the sprinkler head nozzle is very important for uniform water application and the nozzle diameter can grow with use, especially if there is sand or grit in the water. Poor application uniformity increases water pumping time and therefore, energy use. Replace broken sprinkler heads as soon as possible. Do a “can test” to check the uniformity of the application pattern. Repair all leaks on the center pivot as soon as you notice them.

Lacreek Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS No. 018-912)

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 Troy Kuxhaus – Secretary
 Clarence Allen – Treasurer
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 Dean O'Neill – Wade Risse – Marion
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 Member Service Representative

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 Apprentice Linemen:
 Aarin Ainsworth – Jordan Bakley –
 Tyler Brown – Alex Christensen –
 Garrett Metzinger – Brad Hahn
 Glenn Smith – Maintenance Man
 Cody Larson – Warehouse Man

**This institution is an equal opportunity
 provider and employer.**

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Capital Credit Statements to be Mailed

Lacreek Electric is operated on a nonprofit basis because we are owned by those we serve. 631701101

We are not motivated by the potential profit. Electric cooperatives, unlike investor-owned utilities, do not have stockholders that must be paid a return. In short, the price to obtain electricity from your cooperative are cost-based and are kept as low as possible.

Capital credits are unique to cooperatives like Lacreek Electric. They represent the margins (capital remaining after the expenditures) allocated to a cooperative member each year.

Capital credits become the cooperative's

equity. This equity makes it possible to secure loans and maintain facilities and services to deliver electricity to each member.

Lacreek's board of directors decide when the cooperative's equity is sufficient to return the capital credits as cash to its members.

Each member who received electricity in 2017 will receive these statements. This is for information only and is NOT to be deducted from any energy bill that needs to be paid.

If any member needs more information about the notice, please contact the Lacreek Electric office at 685-6581.

Find Your Account Number



A member's account number has been hidden somewhere in this newsletter. If you find your number, call the office before July 30 and you will receive a \$30 credit on your next month's billing. If no one finds their account number, the credit will be \$40 in the next issue. Happy searching!

GRAIN BIN SAFETY

DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!
FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND POWER LINES

Height of grain storage structure	Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.

* Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22KV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.

Stack 'Em Up

But not under power lines

Stacking hay bales is risky for many reasons. A spark could torch your crop. Placing the bales under power lines puts your equipment in the danger zone for a possible contact with the lines.



Home Project Safety

More people are doing their own remodeling, repairs, maintenance, landscaping, and construction projects inside and outside the home. Safe Electricity urges all do-it-yourselfers to take precautions, especially when working around electrical equipment and overhead power lines.



Make sure outdoor outlets have a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them. It's also a good idea to have GFCIs professionally installed in wet areas of the home, such as the kitchen, bath and laundry.

Safety tips to remember include:

- Look up and around you. Always know of the location of power lines, particularly when using long metal tools, like ladders, pool skimmers, and pruning poles, or when installing rooftop antennas and satellite dishes or doing roof repair work.
- Be especially careful when working near power lines attached to your house. Keep equipment and yourself at least 10 feet from lines. Never trim trees near power lines — leave that to the professionals. Never use water or blower extensions to clean gutters near electric lines. Contact a professional maintenance contractor.
- If your projects include digging, like building a deck or planting a tree, call the national underground utility locator at 8-1-1 before you begin. Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. This service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted, and can help you avoid serious injury.
- Always check the condition of cords and power tools before using them. Repair or replace worn or damaged cords and tools.
- Electricity + water = danger. If it's raining or the ground is wet, don't use electric power or yard tools. Never use electrical appliances or touch circuit breakers or fuses when you're wet or standing in water. Keep electric equipment at least 10 feet from wet areas.

Make certain home electrical systems and wiring are adequate to support increased electric demands of new electric appliances, home additions, or remodeling projects. An older home may be inadequately wired for today's electricity consumption, putting your family at risk for fire and electrical shock. Have a professional replace worn and outdated circuitry and add outlets for appliances and electronics – this is not a job for casual do-it-yourselfers!



**It took years to make it a farm...
It takes one call to keep it safe.**

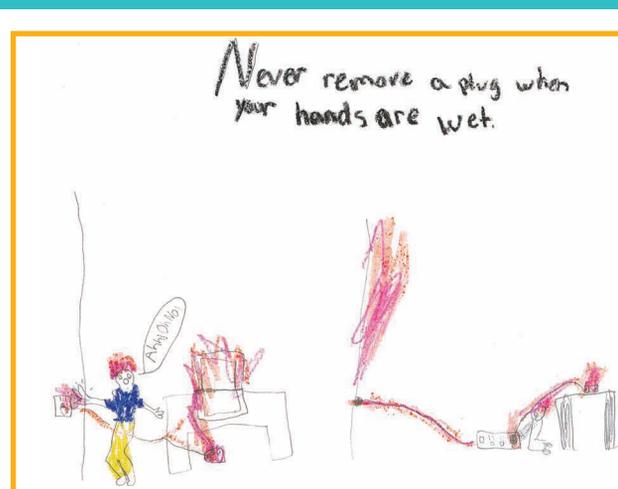
The soil on your farm or ranch is rich with nutrients and minerals... AND underground gas, oil and water pipelines.

Excavations, terracing projects, fence post installation, tiling or subsoiling can create safety hazards due to the depth of the excavations.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG in order to notify utility companies who will be affected by the excavation. This service is FREE.

No one digs more dirt than America's farmers and ranchers. Understanding what is below ground will help you DIG SAFELY above ground. Call before you dig!

KIDS CORNER SAFETY POSTER



"Never remove a plug when your hands are wet."

Aida Mikkonen, 10 years old

Aida is the daughter of Patrick and Carrie Mikkonen, Mt. Vernon, S.D. They are members of Central Electric Cooperative, Mitchell, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Sensational Salads

Tzatziki Potato Salad

2 lbs. unpeeled Yukon Gold potatoes, cut into 1-inch cubes (about 6 cups)	2 tsp. McCormick® Garlic Powder
3/4 cup (6 oz.) plain Greek-style yogurt	1-1/2 tsp. McCormick® Oregano Leaves
1/4 cup reduced fat sour cream	1/2 tsp. McCormick® Black Pepper, Coarse Ground
2 T. milk	1/2 tsp. Sea Salt from McCormick® Sea Salt Grinder
1 T. lemon juice	1 cup diced unpeeled, seeded cucumber
2 tsp. honey	1/4 cup chopped red onion

Place potatoes in water to cover in large saucepan. Bring to boil on high heat. Reduce heat to low; simmer 10 to 12 minutes or until potatoes are fork-tender. Drain well. Cool completely. Mix yogurt, sour cream and milk in small bowl with wire whisk until well blended. Add lemon juice, honey and seasonings; mix until well blended. Place potatoes, cucumber and onion in large bowl. Add yogurt dressing; toss gently to coat well. Garnish with crumbled feta cheese, if desired. Cover. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Makes 10 (2/3 cup) servings.

Nutritional Information Per Serving: Calories 97, Total Fat 1g, Sodium 109mg, Cholesterol 3mg, Carbohydrates 18g, Protein 4g, Dietary Fiber 2g

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Pineapple Pretzel Salad

1 stick butter	1 (12 oz.) container whipped topping
1 cup crushed pretzels	1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained
1 cup sugar, divided	
1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese	

Melt butter. Stir in pretzels and 1/2 cup sugar. Spread on 9x13-inch baking sheet. Bake at 350°F. for 7 minutes. Cool. Break into pieces and set aside. Beat together softened cream cheese and remaining 1/2 cup sugar. Stir in whipped topping and pineapple. Add pretzel mixture just before serving.

Beth Eickman, Salem, S.D.

Chicken Salad

1 chicken, roasted, deboned and diced	2 cups diced celery
2 lbs. red grapes, washed and halved	1 to 1-1/2 cups real mayonnaise
2 cups diced carrots	1 (9 oz.) can Pik-Nik Shoestring Potatoes

Mix together first 5 ingredients. Add shoestring potatoes just before serving. This looks lovely on a large leaf of lettuce.

Judy Mendel, Doland, S.D.

Make Ahead Rhubarb Salad

2 cups diced rhubarb	1 cup chopped celery
1/2 cup sugar	3/4 cup chopped nuts
1 (3 oz.) pkg. strawberry gelatin	1 (8 oz.) container whipped topping
1 (3 oz.) pkg. cream cheese	

In a saucepan, cook rhubarb and sugar for 10 minutes; remove from heat. Stir in gelatin and cream cheese; cool. Add celery and nuts. Fold in whipped topping. Refrigerate overnight.

Elaine Rowett, Sturgis, S.D.

Fruit Salad

1 can peach pie mix	1 pint fresh strawberries, sliced or diced
1 small can chunk pineapple, drained	1 (16 oz.) container whipped topping
2 bananas, sliced or diced	

In a large bowl, fold together all ingredients.

Shirley Thedorff, Centerville, S.D.

Please send your favorite salad, garden produce and pasta recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2018. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Understanding Appliance Energy Use



Pat Keegan

Collaborative Efficiency

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

Footnotes

aSource <https://www.consumerreports.org/refrigerators/best-energy-efficient-refrigerators/>

bSource: https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_save_energy_at_home

cSource: <http://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/appliance-and-equipment-standards-program>

dSource: <http://www.siliconvalleypower.com/for-residents/save-energy/appliance-energy-use-chart>

eSource: <https://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=refrig.calculator>

fSource: https://www.energystar.gov/productfinder/most-efficient/me-certified-refrigerators?me_type_filter=Bottom%20Freezer

gSource: <https://www.energystar.gov/most-efficient/me-certified-clothes-washers/>

hSource: <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/appliances-and-electronics/kitchen-appliances>

iSource: <https://www.c2es.org/content/home-energy-use/>

Dear Pat: Several of my appliances are getting old and will need to be replaced soon. Will the appliance choices I make have much impact on my energy bill? – Chelsea

Dear Chelsea: Your energy use varies month to month, so it can be difficult to see how much difference an appliance purchase makes. It's best to view the purchase over the lifetime of the equipment. Think about the up-front cost and the lifetime energy cost. In a *Consumer Reports* test, the most efficient refrigerator used \$68 per year less electricity than the least efficient model.^a Multiply that difference over a decade or two, and the lifetime energy savings could be greater than the up-front cost. All it takes to get the best appliance for your needs is some initial research.

Appliance energy use is usually less, on average, than home heating and cooling bills, but can be several hundred dollars each year^b. Your appliance use depends on factors like the model, how often you use it, the settings you use for its particular function and even the time of day it is most used.

Over the last few decades, new appliances became more energy efficient, driven partly by minimum government standards. These standards, created by the U.S. Department of Energy, save consumers over \$60 billion each year.^c Appliances are required to include an Energy Guide label that shows estimated energy use and operating cost per year. These labels help you compare different models and calculate the initial cost against the long-term savings.

Some appliances will also have an ENERGY STAR® label. This indicates the appliance is substantially more efficient than the minimum standard. Your greatest energy savings opportunities can come from replacing an old appliance with an ENERGY STAR-rated appliance. Removing a refrigerator that's 20 years old and replacing it with a new ENERGY STAR model can lower the monthly electricity cost by 75 percent, from \$16.50 to less than \$4.^d

In some cases, the configuration of the appliance can also make a substantial difference. For example, a side-by-side refrigerator/freezer uses about 70 percent more energy than other configurations,^e with all the most efficient models having the refrigerator stacked on top of the freezer.^f All 36 of the most efficient clothes washers of 2018 were front-loading models.^g

Consider how much you use the appliance. The more you use the appliance the greater your savings will be from choosing a more efficient model. If you use the appliance less or have a small household, you may get by with a smaller refrigerator or freezer, which will save you money.

How you operate appliances can also make a difference. Here are some easy ways to save^{h,i}:

Refrigerator/Freezer:

- Set your refrigerator at 35 to 38 degrees and your freezer at 0 degrees.
- Make sure there is adequate air flow between the wall and the back of the unit.
- Keep the refrigerator relatively full when possible.
- Replace the seals around the doors if they appear to be leaking air.
- Defrost the refrigerator and freezer regularly.

Stove/Oven

- Use the correct size of burner to fit the pan.
- Use smaller appliances like a microwave or slow cooker instead of the oven when possible.

Dishwasher

- Use the most energy-efficient and shortest setting that gets your dishes clean.
- Air dry rather than using the heated dry function.
- Wait to run a load until the dishwasher is full.

Make the most out of your appliance energy use with a little research before buying a new model and a few easy adjustments to the way you use them.



Reduce
the chance of causing
a damage to less than

1%
when you call 811
before digging.

**There's more than one
football field's length of
buried utilities for every man,
woman and child in the U.S.**

There are more than 100 billion feet of underground utilities in the United States, according to data compiled by CGA from various industry groups.



**Don't be a statistic.
Call 811 before digging.**

45 percent of American homeowners who plan to dig this year said in a recent survey that they would NOT call 811 beforehand, putting themselves and their communities at risk.



Every 6 minutes
an underground utility line is damaged
because someone decided to dig
without first calling 811.





South Dakota teachers sponsored by Basin Electric Power Cooperative this year included, from left, Maureen Beer who lives in Timber Lake, and teaches in Little Eagle; Shannon Bergan who lives and teaches in Aberdeen; Ja Lynn and Jason Burma who both teach and live in Miller; Robert Dunwoody who lives and teaches in Corsica; and Mike Sees who lives and teaches in Irene.

Teachers Head to N.D. For Lignite Energy Seminar

More than 100 elementary and secondary teachers switched roles in mid-June, as they became the students at an educational seminar conducted by the Lignite Energy Council. The seminar, held June 11–14 at the National Energy Center of Excellence on the Bismarck (N.D.) State College campus, included educators from Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota.

The seminar, titled “2018 Lignite Education Seminar: Energy, Economics and Environment,” provided teachers with the information and educational materials they need to teach their students how lignite is mined and used to produce energy for homes, farms and businesses in the Upper Midwest. The seminar covered lignite’s economic impact on the region, as well as important environmental issues affecting the lignite industry.

As part of the seminar, the teachers toured the Center Mine, Milton R. Young Station, Falkirk Mine, Coal Creek Station, the Freedom Mine, Antelope Valley Station, and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant.

Teachers who attend the seminar and complete a lesson plan can choose from three North Dakota universities from which to receive two graduate professional development credits: University of North Dakota, North Dakota State University and Minot State University.

Over the years, the Lignite Energy Council’s Teacher Seminar has received two prestigious awards. It was the 2012 winner of the Interstate Mining Compact Commission’s mineral education award in the public outreach category. In 2007, the Lignite Energy Council’s Teacher Seminar was also recognized by the American Coal Council for “excellence in the advancement of energy education.”

Since 1986, more than 3,600 teachers have attended the Lignite Energy Council’s Teacher Education Seminar.



On a previous visit to the Rushmore State, the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives balloon made a stop near the Crazy Horse Memorial, pictured in the background.

UP, UP AND AWAY

Cooperative Brand takes to Southern Hills Skies

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

Look to the skies above Hot Springs in late August and you'll likely see a familiar sight, albeit in a slightly unfamiliar location.

The Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives brand will be wafting above the Southern Hills when it takes part in the Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival Aug. 25 and 26 in Hot Springs.

The Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives balloon is one of five operated by the Illinois-based Cooperative Balloon Associates. CBA was organized in 1999 to help promote the newly launched brand of America's electric cooperatives. Two decades later, the brand ambassador continues its journey.

The Touchstone Energy Cooperative balloon is just one of about 20 hot air balloons scheduled to appear at the third annual Fall River Balloon Festival.

Weather-permitting, balloons will launch at 6 a.m. both Saturday and Sunday mornings at the Hot Springs Municipal Airport. A night glow – where the balloons inflate their envelopes and illuminate their craft with their burners – is set for 8:30 p.m. Saturday at the airport.

Throughout the day, visitors to Hot Springs can



Between 15 and 20 balloons are expected for the 2018 Fall River Hot Air Balloon Festival in Hot Springs, S.D.

take part in ballooning inspired activities.

A Plein Air arts event is scheduled for downtown and organizers are seeking 15 artists to participate. Those registering prior to Aug. 15 have a chance to win a hot air balloon ride.

On Saturday morning, visitors can walk on the inside of a balloon envelope from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Mammoth site.

A vintage car show and an art walk and chalk are also planned.

For more information about the festival, visit their Facebook page at [facebook.com/FallRiverHotAirBalloonFestival](https://www.facebook.com/FallRiverHotAirBalloonFestival) or go to the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce site at HotSprings-SD.com.

About the Touchstone Energy Balloon

The Touchstone Energy® Hot Air Balloon serves as a goodwill ambassador for Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives and its member cooperatives. The fleet's two newest balloons are 77,000 cubic foot hot air balloons that stand over 77 feet tall and are 60 feet wide when fully inflated. Each are built of hyperlife fabric panels and boast a 14 cubic foot ascot basket. They carry a pilot and two average size passengers. The balloons are fired by dual propane burners and fueled by two 15-gallon propane tanks. The balloons

were built by Lindstrand Balloons of Hanover, Ill., in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2014. The first two balloons have been retired.

The balloons have the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives logo in bold letters on three sides. Everywhere the balloons go,

Everywhere the balloons go, they promote the brand and the values of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

they promote the brand and the values of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives... providing service with integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment to community. These values are demonstrated through the presence of the balloons at national competitions and special events, and the team's interactions with spectators. These values are also conveyed in local philanthropic fundraising activities which the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon program supports whenever and wherever the balloons are flying.



Mount Rushmore was another stop on a previous visit of the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives Balloon. The 2018 Fall River Balloon Festival will make the balloon visible in the southern foot hills.



Great Plains Balloon Race

Look to the skies over Sioux Falls Aug. 10-12 and you will likely see a colorful display.

The Great Plains Balloon Race is set to launch from Kenny Anderson Park near Sioux Falls Washington High School in the city's northeast corner. About 10 or 11 balloons are expected for this year's race.

Among the balloons scheduled for the race is the Call811.com balloon which will be promoting the importance of calling before you dig. The balloon's appearance coincides with national 8-1-1 Day on Aug. 11.

Schedule

All launches at Kenny Anderson Park

Aug. 10 - Founders Cup Challenge Balloon Launches at 7 p.m.

Aug. 11 - Launches at 6:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Balloon Glow at 8:30 p.m.

Aug. 12

Balloon Launches at 6:30 a.m.

All activities are weather-permitting.

Also on the Calendar

Balloons over DTSF on Aug. 3. and Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. - Downtown Sioux Falls

Sept. 1 - Balloons and Beer at A Homestead Brew at Valley Springs.

For more information, contact the Sioux Falls Ballooning Association.

May Board Meeting

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Lacreek Electric Association, Inc. was held in the office of the Cooperative, located in the town of Martin, S.D., May 15, 2018, beginning at 1 p.m.

Also present were General Manager Derek Sorley, Operations Manager Mike Pisha, Finance and Administration Manager Anna Haynes, Member Services and Procurement Manager Josh Fanning, Staff Assistant Sherry Bakley and Administration Assistant Stacey Robinson.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as mailed.

There were no additions to the agenda.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the reorganizational meeting held after the April 26th Annual Meeting whereas all current directors remain in their current positions:

- President - Tom Schlack
- Vice-President – Jerry Sharp
- Secretary - Troy Kuxhaus
- Treasurer - Clarence Allen

In addition, the board agreed going forward the reorganizational meeting shall be held the following month at the regular board meeting after the annual meeting.

The Operating Report for March and the List of Disbursements and Investments for April were presented by Office Manager Anna Haynes and reviewed by the board.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the check audit committee's review of the list of April checks and disbursements. The June Check Audit Committee will be (Connie "chairman," Marion and Wade).

Anna presented the April Analysis of Investments. The investments were reviewed by the board.

A motion was made, seconded and carried

to approve the list of new members, attached hereto.

Anna reported that summer disconnects have begun which has made the office busy; that we passed our PCI Rapid Comply vulnerability scan and the office is beginning the administration and training phase of Document Vault which should be implemented in July.

Mike reported on the work in progress at the Wanblee Tap and Substation along with pictures; about the following projects: Farmers Co-op, Thunder Valley, Wanblee East rebuild and reinsulate, Substation spraying completed and Golden West Fiber project in Martin; about equipment (Truck #9, Side by Side quotes, Altec Aerial Unit loaner request and Truck #16); that Trace Scott has been hired as a 1,000 hour employee and about a legal matter with a member.

The safety report was presented by Mike. Josh reported that he attended the Spring Member Services Meeting in Pierre; on Smart Home Technology; about Leviton through Border States which offers a wide range of products; on Renewables; he has noticed an increase for information about Solar and Wind projects; on a temporary summer warehouse employee; has three large URD projects; ordered special equipment for URD projects and meeting with Bell Pole this week.

Tom reported on the Rushmore Electric Board Conference Call he had on April 19. Derek reported that T-Mobile has requested information on possible tower space lease, which Rushmore is doing further research; on the Rushmore MAC meeting he attended; about Rushmore charges on Large Loads; on single and three-phase overhead and pad mount transformer purchases; that would like

to change from our current purchases of CSP's (completely self protected) to conventional transformers; he met with Cherry-Todd employees and General Manger to discuss office procedures Lacreek is utilizing; about a drone; that started 9-hour work days on May 14 and that Dakota Gasification Company announced signing a definite agreement with OCI N.V. to sell nitrogen fertilizers and diesel exhaust fluid in North American through a newly formed 50/50 joint venture.

Operations Manager Mike Pisha also provided the board with quotes for a new side by side. The quotes showed trading in two four-wheelers for a new side by side. Secretary Kuxhaus questioned if the tracks were still able to be utilized on the new side by side. After further discussion, it was agreed by the board to table for one month for Operations Manager Mike Pisha to do some additional research on the best option for a new side by side; once he has this information; the board approved for the Equipment Committee to meet, discuss and approve the best overall quote for a new side by side.

The 2019 annual meeting date was set for April 25, 2019.

Discussion was held on the 2018 CoBank new director orientation in Colorado Springs, Colo., in July with no one planning to attend at this time.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve changes to policy #19, 22, 27 and employee policy #25.

The Board Committee and Full Board will review the new per diem policy and this policy will be voted on at the June 2018 meeting.

Next Board Meeting – June 19, 2018 at 4 p.m.

811
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.
Common Ground Alliance

U.S. Department of Transportation
Building Your Quality of Life

JOHN DEERE

TRAVELERS

Lacreek Electric Association

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

811



Journeyman Lineman Aaron Risse on the trencher and apprentice lineman Brad Hahn, Alex Christensen and Trace Scott were joined by Billing Specialist Terri Gregg and Right-of-Way Specialist Amy Pisha on a trenching project.

TRADING SPACES

Office Staff Hits the Fields

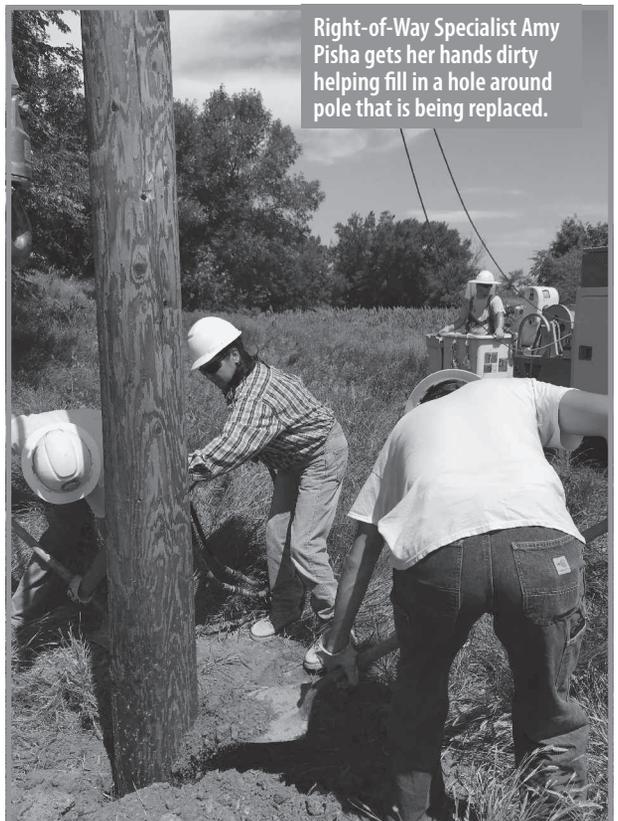
Stacey Robinson

stacey@lacreek.com

The Lacreek office girls were able to see firsthand the line crew working in the field. The girls even helped trench a line and fill in dirt when a pole was changed out. It was a great learning experience understanding what the line crew does on a daily basis. Next up, the line crew will be helping out in the office.



Outside crews work to replace line and a pole.



Right-of-Way Specialist Amy Pisha gets her hands dirty helping fill in a hole around pole that is being replaced.



Basin Electric Cooperative's Dry Fork Station is home to the Wyoming Integrated Test Center, where conversion methods turning carbon dioxide waste into useful materials are tested. (Photo By: Ryan Hall/Rural Montana)

INNOVATIVE

Carbon Test Center Opens at Basin Electric's Dry Fork Station

Derrill Holly

NRECA

Research getting under way at an electric co-op power plant in Wyoming could lead to game-changing breakthroughs diverting carbon dioxide from the power generation waste stream to manufacturing processes for use in new products.

"This is not a lab; it's a facility where testing will take place in 'real world' conditions," Gov. Matt Mead told an audience of about 150 attendees during a dedication ceremony for the Wyoming Integrated Test Center on May 16.

Mead's comments topped a nearly decade-long quest for creation and development of a facility designed to advance technologies that expand the use of CO₂ as a marketable byproduct with commercial value.

Bulk Waste to Useful Products

The facility, which takes on its first tenants this summer, is located at Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Dry Fork Station. The 385-megawatt power plant commissioned in 2011 is one of the most modern coal-based generation facili-

ties in the electric cooperative fleet.

Bismarck, North Dakota-based Basin Electric is majority owner and operator of the plant, which is co-owned by the Wyoming Municipal Power Agency.

With the encouragement of electric cooperative officials, including representatives of Basin Electric, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and NRECA, Wyoming legislators approved \$15 million for the project. The investment is seen as a way to preserve and support coal production as the state's top industry by reducing or eliminating concerns about CO₂ emitted through fossil fuel use.

"This is about saving coal and making coal viable for America," says Paul Sukut, CEO of Basin Electric, adding that even as renewable energy and natural gas use expands, coal remains an abundant and reliable resource. "We need in America an 'all of the above' energy solution."

Emissions from up to 20 MW of energy production will be diverted to a ported vent system feeding five small test bays and one larger working facility at the ITC. Researchers will be able to draw CO₂ from that waste stream for industri-

al-scale production use.

The nonprofit XPRIZE Foundation, headquartered in Culver City, California, is using the Dry Fork Generation Station as one of two test sites for the NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE. Participants have been competing for a total of \$20 million in prize money since 2015.

Westminster, Colorado-based Tri-State G&T began developing the concept for a carbon inducement prize and test center eight years ago and has contributed \$5 million to the ITC project.

“Early on, we identified promising activity in the nascent field of carbon utilization and the need to provide venues for innovators to bring new technology forward,” said Ellen Connor, Tri-State senior vice president and chief technology officer.

“The technology acceleration from the XPRIZE and creation of a test center at an operating coal plant will make an impact on both the speed and scale of development and demonstration of these important technologies,” Connor said.

NRECA has also contributed \$1 million to development of the ITC in support of the association’s commitment to a national energy policy recognizing electric generation diversity that includes fossil fuels and renewables.

“If there is a carbon constraint in the future, it’s going to hit natural gas as well,” says Jim Spiers, senior vice president of NRECA’s Business and Technology Services department.

Spiers, formerly Tri-State’s senior vice president of business strategies and chief technology officer, worked to identify institutions, companies and individuals committed to the carbon waste issue and found 135 entities worldwide are studying the issue.

According to the Energy Information Administration, coal-based electricity generation produced more than 1.2 million metric tons of CO₂ in 2016. That number accounts for 68 percent of the total CO₂ emissions from the energy sector.

Forty-one percent of the power used by electric cooperative members is produced through coal-based generation. Co-ops also rely heavily upon natural gas to operate peaking plants, run primarily

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during periods of high demand.

“As co-ops across the nation work to meet tomorrow’s energy needs, this project is poised to crack the carbon code and create a new future for managing carbon dioxide emissions,” Spiers added. “The Wyoming ITC is proof that public-private partnerships spur innovation.”

Facilities related to the ITC project now occupy 226,000 square feet of space at the Dry Fork site. While the five test bays used by the Carbon XPRIZE finalists will share access to flue gas produced by 1.5 MW of generation capacity, a separate large test center can use up to 18.5 MW of flue gas flow.

Promising Paths

The 10 teams in the juried research competition designed to advance clean energy technologies are divided equally between the coal-based ITC test site and Canada’s Shepard Energy Centre in Calgary, Alberta, where the Alberta Carbon Conversion Technology Centre is fueled by natural gas.

The five teams conducting research at ITC include:

- **Breathe:** Based in Bangalore, India, they will combine hydrogen compounds, extracted from water, with CO₂ to produce methanol. Researchers will use a variety of catalysts, including copper, nitrogen and iron to gauge the economic viability of commercial scale production.
- **C4X:** The Suzhou, China-based team will use CO₂ extracted from flue gas to develop new foam-based bio composite plastics for potential use as insulating and building materials.
- **Carbon Capture Machine:** The team, headquartered in Aberdeen, Scotland, will dissolve CO₂ in a mixture of brine, calcium and magnesium to produce

carbonate solids as an additive for building materials, replacing other carbon-based feedstocks in the manufacture of concrete.

- **CarbonCure:** The team, led by researchers from Dartmouth, Canada, will use CO₂ to produce materials described as “greener concrete” using current manufacturing processes and modified chemistry to reduce water and CO₂ use in concrete fabrication.
- **Carbon Upcycling UCLA:** The Los Angeles-based team will attempt to scale up production of a concrete material that absorbs CO₂ during the production process, bonding with limestone for use in construction.

Researchers working the natural gas track in Alberta will conduct production scale testing on plastics, concrete alternatives, new building compounds and nanoparticles for use in bioplastics and other products. The 10 semifinalists shared \$5 million awarded in April.

Beyond Research

After 10 months of production, XPRIZE judges will consider factors including operational costs, total production and net reduction of CO₂ waste as factors in awarding \$20 million in prize money. Winners from the two test sites will split the proceeds.

Kawasaki Heavy Industries, working with the Japan Coal Energy Center on a solid sorbent-based carbon capture technology, is the first tenant for the larger space at the ITC. Up to \$9 million will be spent on the project, which will use sorbent as a low-cost carrier to absorb CO₂ for later use as manufacturing feedstocks.

“The work of JCOAL and Kawasaki, along with the other Carbon XPRIZE teams, positions the Wyoming ITC as a world-class facility for testing carbon management technologies,” said Mead.

“We continue to move the needle forward on advanced carbon technologies and find real-world solutions to capturing carbon emissions,” said Jason Begger, executive director of the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority. While Basin continues to operate Dry Fork Station, the authority is serving as the managing entity for the ITC.

Derrill Holly is a staff writer for NRECA.

SEE YOU THERE!

Heading to the Fair or Fest?

Stop by and see
your co-op!

Brenda Kleinjan

editor@sdrea.coop

**Those attending
county and state fairs
in the region will
likely find their local
electric cooperative
there as well!**

Whether your August plans take you to Minnesota's FarmFest, South Dakota's DakotaFest, the Sioux Empire Fair, Brown County Fair, South Dakota State Fair or any of several other gatherings this month, be sure to check in with your local electric cooperative.

Those heading to FarmFest Aug. 7-9 near Morgan, Minn., will find Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives in the large ag tent. At DakotaFest, visitors can stop in for the air-conditioned comfort of the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives building on festival's second street. DakotaFest is held near Mitchell, S.D., each August. This year, the event is set for Aug. 21-23.

If you're in western South Dakota on Aug. 2, you will find Butte Electric Cooperative in Newell partnering with West River Cooperative Telephone of Bison to serve barbecued beef during the Butte County Fair in Nisland.

And, Black Hills Electric is making the rounds at area fairs when it serves dinner at the Fall River County Fair on Aug. 2 and then the Custer County Fair on Aug. 9.

Those heading to the Sioux Empire Fair in Sioux Falls in August will want to be sure to check out Ag Appreciation Day Aug. 8. Several cooperatives in the southeastern part of the state have tickets available for free admission and a free meal that day.

And, if experiencing the magic of the South Dakota State Fair is on your agenda for Aug. 30 to Sept. 3, be sure to visit the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of South Dakota booth in the Expo Building throughout the week. Sign up for a drawing and visit co-op employees from across the state to learn about electrical safety, energy efficiency and more!



Visitors to DakotaFest in 2017 were reminded to look out for overhead power lines when moving equipment.



**Find your local electric
cooperative in the
Expo Building on the
fairgrounds all week!**

We'll see you there!

Location:
1060 3rd St. SW,
Huron, SD 57350

WHAT TO DO: IF YOUR CAR CRASHES INTO A UTILITY POLE

Accidents happen. Would you know what to do if your car crashed into an electric utility pole? Knowing what to do could be the difference between life and death.

Always consider power lines and other electrical equipment to be live and dangerous!

IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS NO FIRE:

Your safest option is to stay inside your vehicle until help arrives. The vehicle acts as a path for the electrical current to travel to reach the ground. You are safe inside the vehicle, but if you get out, you could be electrocuted.

Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.

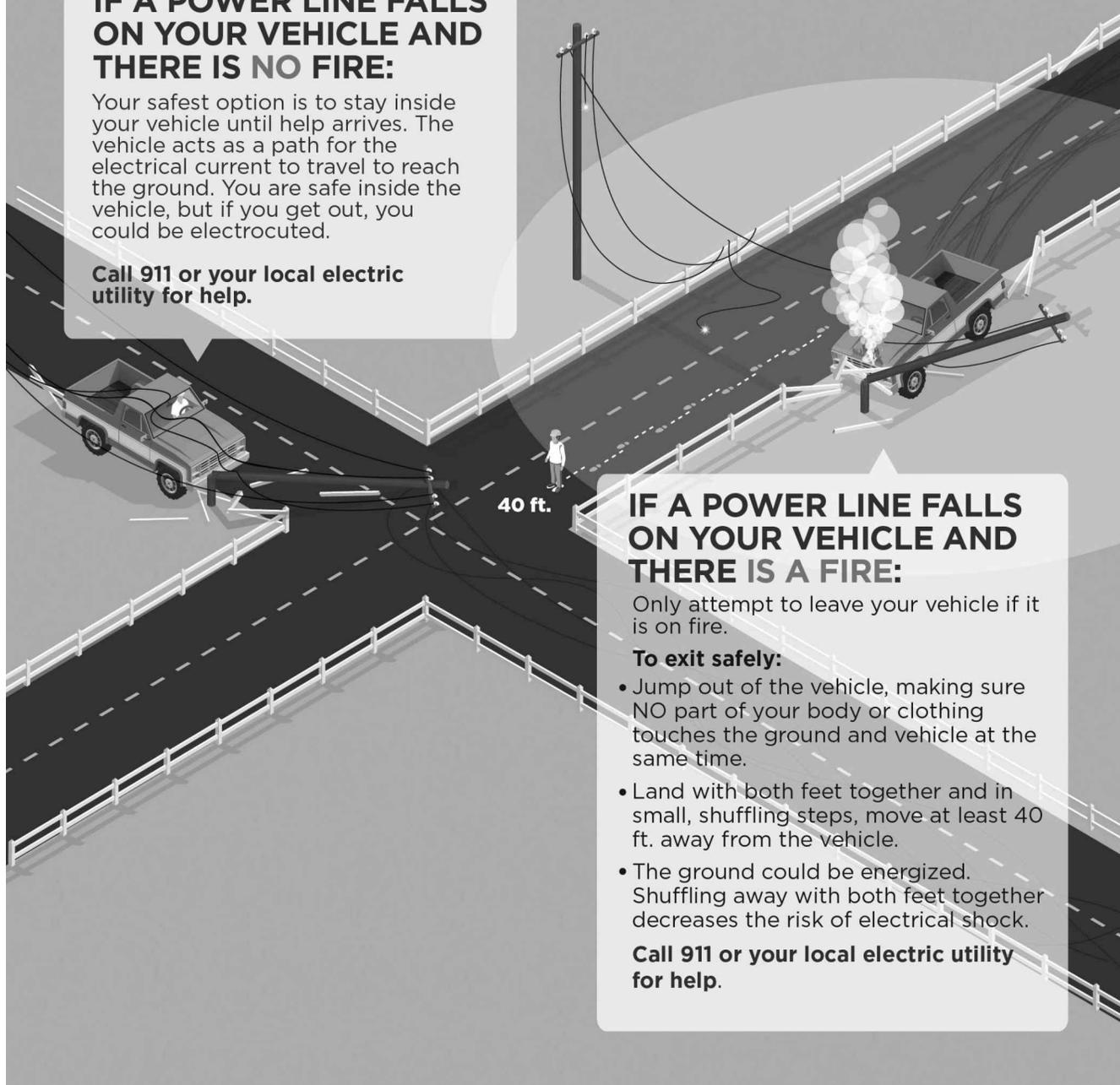
IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS A FIRE:

Only attempt to leave your vehicle if it is on fire.

To exit safely:

- Jump out of the vehicle, making sure NO part of your body or clothing touches the ground and vehicle at the same time.
- Land with both feet together and in small, shuffling steps, move at least 40 ft. away from the vehicle.
- The ground could be energized. Shuffling away with both feet together decreases the risk of electrical shock.

Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.



July 20-21

Senior Games, Brookings, SD, Contact Traci Saugstad at 605-692-4492

July 20-21

Gumbo Ridge Bronc Ride and Ranch Rodeo, Murdo, SD, 605-669-3031

July 20-21

JazzFest, Sioux Falls, SD, 605-335-6101

July 20-21

Storybook Land Festival, Aberdeen, SD, 605-626-7015

July 20-22

Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant, 8 p.m., Pageant Site, De Smet, SD, 800-880-3383

July 20-22

Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Rushmore Plaza Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, 605-269-2015

July 20-22

Stampede Rodeo, Burke, SD, 605-830-0304

July 21

Annual Heritage Music Fest, Elk Point, SD, 605-366-9466

July 21, Aug. 25, Sept. 8, 22

Lawn Mower Races, Pukwana, SD, 605-680-1718 or 605-682-9781

July 21-22

41st Annual Festival in the Park, Spearfish, SD, 605-642-7973

July 25

Stockyard Ag Experience - Local Foods Fair, 3 to 8 p.m., Free, Sioux Falls, SD, Contact 701-883-4304



August 2-5: 33rd Annual Oglala Lakota Nation Wacipi Rodeo Fair, Pow Wow Grounds, Pine Ridge, SD, 605-867-8420

Photo courtesy: travelsd.com

July 28

Growing Ancient Grains and Greenhouse Tomato Tours, Local Foods Potluck, 1 to 5 p.m., Free, Bring a dish to share, Newell, SD, 605-681-6793

August 3-4

Senior Games, Yankton, SD, Contact Kristi Hauer at 605-665-4685 or Brittany Orr 605-668-5238

August 4

Growing Nuts and Hops Tours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Free, Food truck offering meals for sale, Yankton, SD, 605-681-6793 or SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

August 10-11

Senior Games, Huron, SD, Contact Laron Clock at 605-353-8533

August 18

Senior Softball Tournament, Huron, SD, Contact Scott Mckaskell at 605-354-2237

August 19

Small-Scale Farming and Honey Extraction Tours, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Free, \$12 meal available, must pre-register, Belle Fourche and St. Onge, SD, 605-681-6793 or SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

August 23-25

Senior Games, Watertown, SD, Contact Jeremy Herrboldt or Josh Maag at 605-882-6260

August 23-26

56th Annual Steam Threshing Jamboree featuring the Minneapolis Moline National Show, Prairie Village, Madison, SD, 800-693-3644

August 25

McCrossan Boys Ranch Xtreme Event Rodeo, 4:30 p.m. - Pre-show entertainment, 5:30 p.m. - Rodeo Show, McCrossan Boys Ranch Campus, 605-339-1203 www.mccrossan.org

August 30

Value Added Ag Day and Specialty Crop Workshops at the State Fair, SD Value Added Ag Development Center and SD Specialty Producers, Huron, SD, 605-681-6793 or SDSPAinfo@gmail.com

September 6-9

Senior State Games, Sioux Falls, SD, Howard Bich at 605-491-0635 or visit southdakotaseniorgames.org

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.