

Hotline Update

NEWS FOR WRIGHT-HENNEPIN MEMBERS

May 2022

Celebrating 85 years of the cooperative advantage

Wright-Hennepin (WH) held its 2022 Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2022. The 85th Annual Meeting was WH's third meeting held in a limited format, with a 35-minute business meeting and approximately 60 in attendance. The Annual Meeting was also livestreamed for members to watch from home, where more than 100 people joined. Four members won an \$85 bill credit in recognition of the co-op's 85th Anniversary. The business meeting included a financial report, WH and WH Holding leadership reports, and results of the director election for Districts 4, 6 and 8. Members also heard about the positive impact of the cooperative has made over 85 years.





Christopher Dore won an electric grill.



Robert and Carol Brang won an electric trimmer.



Halli Graff won an electric air fryer.



Board of Director election results were announced.



Employees, Nathan and Jamie, were happy to help celebrate 85 years by distributing butter and a tote.



The results are in!

This year, director seats for Districts 4, 6, and 8 were up for election. All voting was done online or by mail.





John Reynolds DISTRICT 4



Mike Tieva DISTRICT 6



Mark Skinner DISTRICT 8

Learn more about Mark on page 3

2 CEO Memo POSITIONED TO THRIVE 3 Introducing Mark Skinner New DISTRICT 8 DIRECTOR 4 Stay Safe NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



CEO's Memo

TIM SULLIVAN WH PRESIDENT AND CEO

WH positioned to thrive in new power supply world

This month marks nothing short of a sea of change in the way Wright-Hennepin (WH) procures its power supply. And while you won't immediately see an impact on your bill, the changes for all WH members will be profound and long-standing. Allow me to explain.

Let's start with the fact that power supply makes up 70% of your monthly electric bill. Therefore, power supply is the single most important cost for WH to manage on your behalf, and the consequential changes I refer to above help us do it better.

The trigger for these changes is the sale of Coal Creek Station, an 1,100-megawatt coal-fired power station located in central North Dakota. As of May 2, Great River Energy (GRE), one of WH's key power suppliers, transferred the operation of Coal Creek Station and the related high-voltage transmission system to Rainbow/Nexus Line, LLC, a private North Dakota energy company.

This is part of GRE's strategy to convert its power supply portfolio from one significantly dependent on coal to one that emphasizes power supplied by wind, natural gas and the market. GRE will also sell the related high-voltage transmission system, which extends from central North Dakota to just outside of Buffalo, Minnesota. With the sale of Coal Creek Station, GRE's power supply will meet Minnesota's carbon dioxide reduction goals of 80% (from 2005 levels by 2050) well ahead of schedule.

This same transaction will mark a new day in power supply for WH. This is because, under a 2019 contract negotiated with GRE, WH now has 50% choice and flexibility to select its own power supply when GRE retires a generating resource, like Coal Creek. Consequently, in just one transaction, WH will now have control of 50% of its energy and 34% of its capacity. And how has WH chosen to replace Coal Creek power? We have signed three contracts for wind, signed purchased power agreements and selected other market-based resources. Our ability to choose resources beyond those of our power suppliers – GRE and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, based in Bismarck, ND – is quite unique. Your Board of Directors first put WH on the path towards flexibility more than 15 years ago. The resulting diversification of our power supply since has served WH extremely well. Over the past five years, WH has saved \$38 million and has increased its competitive advantage on the typical residential bill from half of a percent to 10% and growing over Xcel.

It also bears noting that, consistent with our members wishes, WH's power supply is becoming increasingly clean. In fact, we are incorporating more renewables than ever before and, by buying from the market, we are purchasing more natural gas-generated power, which produces about half the carbon emissions of coal. We are also managing the risk of volatile energy prices by purchasing power from a greater number of sources, thus making us less dependent on any one provider.

What does this all mean to you, the energy consumer? It means you will receive more of what you want: safe, reliable, affordable energy that is increasingly clean. It's all part of our effort to continue to put our consumer members first in a rapidly changing power supply world.

Thank you for your business,

Tim Sullivan

Rate changes for 2022

Based on the average residential monthly bill of 1,000 kWh, the average bill will increase from \$133.04 in 2021 to \$137.71 in 2022. We anticipate beating Xcel on an average monthly residential bill by 13.57% by the end of 2022.

	FROM	то
Average PCA*	\$0.01881	\$0.02081
Basic charge	\$19.90	\$19.90
Average residential bill	\$133.04	\$137.71
2021 and 2022 Energy Rates	9.5 cents	9.8 cents

*Power Cost Adjustment

WH Security

We simplify security for you



Together, we plan how you can protect your home and family with a customized, state-of-the-art security system and fast-response alarm monitoring. Your custom-built system detects and alerts you of intrusion, fire, environmental and medical situations, and more.

763.477.3664 • wh-security.com



Solar Winners

tenKsolar Winner



PAUL LINDALA of Annandale wins a credit for 101 kWh, February's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.

RICHARD NAAKTGEBOREN

of Maple Lake wins a credit for 125 kWh, March's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.

Solar Winner

SARA ANDRES of Albertville wins a credit for 171 kWh, February's output from WH's solar panels.

THOMAS SICHENEDER of Hamel wins a credit for 200 kWh, March's output from WH's solar panels.

Learn more at *http://bit.ly/2re3mGN*



Mark Skinner elected as District 8 director

WH members elected Mark Skinner to be the director in District 8 at the Annual Meeting on April 21, 2022. Mark and his wife, Martha, live in Maple Grove and have been members of WH for 32 years. Mark's professional career has focused on power and control systems, through which he has developed strong fiscal, technical and leadership skills.

Currently, he is a technical manager for Asyril U.S. in Edina. Mark enjoys cross country skiing and riding his electric bike. When asked what he hopes to accomplish as a board member, Mark stated, "I will apply my personal and professional experience and lead WH into the future. A future where the planet is respected and all members receive great value and a life enhanced by electricity."

Board Report: Meeting highlights

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

The Wright-Hennepin and WH Holding monthly Board of Director meetings were conducted February 15, 2022. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Conducted CEO's 2021 performance review.
- Approved revenue deferral of \$2.5 million consistent with prior Board action in November 2021.
- Approved Reserved Equity of \$2.5 million for 2021.
- Approved \$3.5 million Special Capital Credit Retirement.
- Approved allocating 2021 margins to the membership for future capital credit retirements.
- Approved updated rate and tariff policies.
- Approved resolution accepting annual Cogeneration reports and filings.
- Approved updated Small Power Production Rider.

- Approved notice of the 2022 Annual Meeting, draft agenda and director ballots.
- Approved rescheduling the June Board Meeting.
- Directors reported on industry meetings they attended on behalf of the cooperative.
- Heard year-end reports and business accomplishments.
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, legal, financial, and operations reports.

Keep in touch with your cooperative!

Member call center:

(763) 477-3000 or (800) 943-2667 Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

To report an outage:

Dispatchers are available 24/7 **Call:** (763) 477-3100 or (888) 399-1845

WH Security monitoring:

Security dispatchers are available 24/7 **Call:** (763) 477-4275 or (800) 858-7811

Website: whe.org

Email: info@whe.org



Board of Directors:

District 1: Timothy Young, Annandale District 2: "Butch" Lindenfelser, Monticello District 3: Pat Bakeberg, Waverly District 4: John Reynolds, Buffalo District 5: Chris Lantto, Annandale District 6: Mike Tieva, Maple Grove District 7: Kenneth Hiebel, Plymouth District 8: Mark Skinner, Maple Grove District 9: Erick Heinz, Corcoran

WH President and CEO: Tim Sullivan

WH CFO: Brian Swanson

WH Holding COO: Wendy Youngren

This cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Distributed generation and small power production

In compliance with WH adopted rules relating to small power production, WH is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from small power producers who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. WH is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by WH. Interested members should contact Wright-Hennepin at (763) 477-3000.

5/1/2022, Vol. 42 Issue 3, Hotline Update (ISN 08939845) (USPS 000839) Copyright © 2022 by Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association is published monthly except January, April, July, September and November by Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association, 6800 Electric Drive, Rockford, MN 55373. Business, Editorial, Accounting and Circulation Offices: Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association, 6800 Electric Drive, Rockford, MN 55373. Business, Editorial, Accounting and Circulation Offices: Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association, 6800 Electric Drive, Rockford, MN 55373. Call (763) 477-3000 to subscribe. Subscription is \$1 annually. Periodicals postage paid at Maple Lake, MN 55358 and additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Hotline Update, PO Box 330, Rockford, MN, 55373-0330

Periodicals



6800 Electric Drive Rockford, MN 55373

Hotline Update

MAY NEWS FOR WRIGHT-HENNEPIN MEMBERS

It's Electrical Safety Month

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH!

licensed electrician.

Take time to review how to be safe around electricity.



an electric vehicle (EV), check to make sure your home can (safely!) handle your EV charging needs.

the efficiency of your dryer and keep your family safe from potential fire hazards.

Celebrating lineworkers!

WH celebrated Lineworker Appreciation Day in April. We want to thank all our lineworkers for the great work they do keeping the lights on!





