

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Gardening Greats

**Master Gardeners
Cultivating Community
Growth**

Pages 8-9

Bridging History
Pages 12-13

Photo courtesy of SDSU Extension.

Changes to Load Management Program



Chris Larson,
General Manager

Rain drops keep falling on my head but that doesn't mean my eyes will soon be turning Red. As I'm writing this, the weather people are calling for an end of March rain which is much needed to get the growing season started. Hopefully, the cattle growers have enjoyed a decent calving season with no big blizzards thus far. Our thoughts go out to our neighbors in Iowa and Nebraska who were impacted by the nasty storm that rolled through mid March.

DETAILS ON LOAD MANAGEMENT (LM) DEVICES UPDATE:

Our LM device lifecycle is nearing its end, and in the coming years, we will update these devices to continue providing savings on our power bill, which we pass on to our members. When we replace your LM receiver, we will stop controlling air conditioning at your location and cease offering a rate incentive during the cooling months.

Today's LM devices are called the "ripple" system, and the new devices are a cellular type of device. The new devices will give us the ability to know if the LM receiver is working correctly and connected as needed to produce the savings needed for us to pass on credits to our members.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR LM RECEIVERS:

- LM receivers will be changed in sections across our territory over the next few years.
- Coordination will be done in an orderly manner to allow efficient change outs.
- Any malfunctioning devices will be replaced with new generation receivers.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO THE LM PROGRAM:

- New policy: LM devices will not be installed on new heat pump installations to control air conditioning during May through September.
- Rebates will continue as before, but members will not receive a rate incentive during the

summer months.

- Electric water heaters may still be controlled and receive monthly credits.

CLAY-YANKTON IRRIGATORS MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

At the recent Clay-Yankton irrigators meeting, I reminded the members in attendance about rebates for installing third-party systems like Ag Sense, FieldNet, or FieldWise. These systems offer flexibility to members in controlling their pivots and provide savings to the cooperative. This fall and winter, our plan is to change any "ripple" style LM receivers with the new generation receivers during the irrigation off season.

LM PROGRAM SAVINGS REPORT:

- East River staff reported approximately \$16.3 million in savings to East River members across eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota.
 - 42% or \$6.7 million was saved by controlling water heaters.
 - \$1.7 million was saved by controlling irrigation services.
- As a not-for-profit cooperative, these savings are passed on to you, our members.

CONCLUSION:

We appreciate your help in controlling expenses as it gets harder to find ways to manage rates. We talk often about new ways to improve efficiency in our operations and will continue to explore more savings while being safe and providing our members with reliable service.

As I wrap up, I'm curious to know how many people started singing when you read the first line of my article? I still can't stop, and my wife is going to tell me to knock it off when I get home.

Thank you again, for allowing us to provide your electric service needs.

Chris Larson

General Manager

clarson@clayunionelectric.coop

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

CLAY-UNION ELECTRIC SPARKS

(USPS 116-800)

Office Hours
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
31321 SD Hwy. 19, Vermillion, S.D.

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POWER FAILURE – 24-hour service In case of Power Failure Call: 1-800-696-2832 or 624-2673

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Telephone (605) 624-2673, 1-800-696-2832
Fax (605) 624-5526.

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Solutions for Postal Delays

Our monthly residential statements are sent to our printers on the first or the first working day of each month. Recent changes in USPS operations might be causing slower delivery times. To help with the situation, we have many available options for managing and paying your electric bill.

BILLING NOTIFICATION EMAILS

When your bill has processed, you can receive an email notifying you of the amount due and due date.

BANK DRAFT

You may have your payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. Payments are processed on the due date each month. *No fees apply for this service.* (Please note that returned payments will be assessed a fee.)

RECURRING CREDIT/DEBITCARD

You may call in your credit/debit card payment and ask for recurring. It will then bill to that card on the due date

of each month. *No fees apply to use this service.*

PAY BY PHONE

You may call in your credit/debit card payment each month. *No fees apply for this service.*

IN OFFICE

We accept cash, check, money order or credit/debit card in our office. *No fees apply for this service.*

ONLINE BILLING

You may pay your bill online with credit/debit card at www.clayunionelectric.coop. *No fees apply for this service.*

DROP BOX

For your convenience, our drop box is located on the right side of our main entrance, 31321 SD Hwy. 19.

For more details or assistance, please contact us at 605-624-2673 or 1-800-696-2832.

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIALS

	February 2025	Year To Date
Number of consumers BILLED	3,567	3,566 avg.
Electric & Other Revenue	\$927,176	\$1,908,374
Cost of Service	\$966,652	\$1,991,989
Operating Margins	\$(39,476)	\$(83,615)
Other Margins	\$4,916	\$12,380
Net Margins	\$(34,560)	\$(71,235)
KWH Purchased	8,733,803	18,456,667
Cost of Power	\$555,391	\$1,169,521
KWH Sales	8,507,545	17,810,609
Average kWhs used (residential)	1,741	1,815
Average Amount of Bill (residential)	\$213	\$219

Power Life Safely

May is Electrical Safety Month

Every May, Electrical Safety Month serves as a vital reminder of the importance of preventing electrical hazards at home. Electricity powers nearly every aspect of modern life, but if handled improperly, it can pose serious risks, including injuries and property damage.

Your electric cooperative understands the risks associated with improper electricity use, which is why we're committed to reminding you to stay vigilant and practice electrical safety not only in May, but year-round.

By following key safety practices, you can reduce the risk of electrical hazards and ensure your family stays protected. Here are five essential tips for powering up safely at home.

1. **Be vigilant.** Regularly inspect your home's electrical system for any signs of damage or outdated components and replace any frayed electrical wires or cords. The Electrical Safety Foundation International estimates roughly 3,300 home fires originate from extension cords every year, either from overloading, overheating or fraying. If you're relying on extension cords as permanent power solutions, consider contacting a qualified electrician to install additional outlets where you need them.
2. **Use Surge Protectors.** Safeguard your sensitive electronics and appliances from surges with surge protectors. These handy devices help divert excess voltage away from your electronics, reducing the risk of damage or electrical fires. Not all power strips include surge protection, so read the product label carefully. Additionally, surge protectors can lose effectiveness over time and should be replaced when damaged or outdated.
3. **Practice Safe Power Strip Use.** Avoid overloading electrical outlets with power strips that exceed the outlet's capacity. High-energy devices, like heaters, microwaves and hairdryers should be distributed across multiple outlets. Overloading an outlet with a "busy" power strip can lead to overheating and create a fire hazard, so be sure to check the power strip's wattage rating before plugging in items.

4. **Water and Electricity Don't Mix.** It may seem obvious, but accidents involving water contact with electrical items happen. Always keep electrical appliances and devices away from water sources, like sinks, bathtubs or swimming pools. Make sure your hands are dry before touching any electrical switches or appliances – never handle electrical devices with wet hands. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) should be installed in areas where water and electricity are typically in close proximity, including kitchens, bathrooms and outdoor outlets.
5. **Educate Family Members.** One of the best ways to ensure the safety of everyone in your household is to talk about electrical safety. Teach children not to play with electrical outlets or appliances and ensure they understand the potential dangers of electricity. Create and practice a home fire escape plan that includes electrical safety precautions in case of emergencies.

Practicing electrical safety at home is essential for protecting your family, property and peace of mind. Remember, electrical safety isn't just a one-time effort – it's a year-round responsibility. Taking these steps can help ensure a safer, more secure home for you and your loved ones.



"Don't plant trees near power lines."

Jeremiah Barlow

Jeremiah cautions readers not to plant trees near power lines. Thank you for your picture, Jeremiah! Jeremiah's parents are Mosiah and Cristine Barlow, members of West River Electric Association.

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.



Delicious CHICKEN

CHICKEN BREAST SUPREME

Ingredients:

4 chicken breasts
(boned and halved)
8 strips bacon
2 pkgs. chipped beef
8 oz. sour cream
1 can cream of chicken soup
6 oz. evaporated milk

Method

Wrap each half of chicken breast in a piece of bacon. Place in a baking dish lined with two layers of chipped beef.

Blend sour cream, soup, and milk. Pour over chicken.

Bake uncovered at 300°F for three hours. Serve over rice.

*Makes 8 servings.

Sharon Houchin
Central Electric Member

CHICKEN ROLLUPS

Ingredients:

8 oz. tube crescent rolls
4 boneless chicken breasts
(cooked shredded and seasoned to taste)
8 oz. cheddar cheese
(finely shredded, divided)
10 1/2 oz. can cream of chicken soup
1 packet chicken gravy mix
1 cup water

Method

In a bowl, mix the shredded chicken and 1/3 of the cheese. Take a scoop of the mixture and roll it into a crescent roll then place in a greased 9" x 13" pan. Bake at 350°F until the crescent rolls look browned on top. Mix the soup, gravy mix, 1/3 of the cheese, and enough water to make the mixture pourable. Pour over the crescent rolls. Sprinkle the remaining 1/3 of the cheese on top and bake again until the cheese melts and starts to brown.

Nicole Einrem
B-Y Electric Member

SMOKY CHICKEN TACOS

Ingredients:

1 tbsp. oil
1 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breast, cut into thin strips
1/4 cup Flavor Maker Taco Night Topping Seasoning
1/2 cup water
12 (6-inch) flour or corn tortillas, warmed

Method

Heat oil in large skillet on medium-high heat. Add chicken; cook and stir just until browned.

Stir in Flavor Maker Seasoning and water. Bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes or until sauce has thickened and chicken is cooked through, stirring occasionally.

Spoon chicken into warm tortillas. Serve with desired toppings, such as shredded lettuce, shredded cheese, sour cream, guac or salsa.

McCormick.com

Please send your favorite 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 2025. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

"KRUSE"ING INTO RETIREMENT



Mike Kruse, Operations Manager, will officially retire on April 30, 2025 after a long, successful career with Clay-Union Electric. Mike began his career as an electrician for Johnny's Electric and apprentice lineman for the City of Vermillion and in August of 1983 made Clay-Union Electric his permanent career choice.

Mike held the positions of

Apprentice Lineman, Journeyman Lineman and Lead Lineman before becoming the Crew Foreman in 1996 and in 2012 was promoted to Operations Manager.

We will miss Mike's sense of humor, his knowledge of the industry and always knowing "oh that's where so and so lives, location number ... in map ..." without even blinking an eye.

Thank you Mike for the years of dedicated service to our members and the staff. May you enjoy your days on the golf courses and your weekly bowling adventures with the leasure of doing them whenever you want.

Mike and his wife, Laurie, are well known residents of the Vermillion Community.

On April 25th we will host an Open House at the office from 2 to 4 p.m. Please stop in and enjoy cake and coffee, stories and to thank Mike for his years of dedicated service.



ALAN GAUER PROMOTED TO OPERATIONS MANAGER

Alan Gauer, Crew Foreman for the past 13 years has accepted the position as the Operations Manager.

Alan began his career with a electrical substation and powerline construction company, then began working in his hometown of Ipswitch for F.E.M. Cooperative as a Lineman and finally settling in Vermillion to become a Lineman for Clay-Union Electric.

Alan will be a great leader for the incoming electrician contractor and the other crew members of Clay-Union Electric.

Alan and his wife Mary, have been a wonderful addition to the Vermillion community.

Congratulations Alan on a well deserved new position.

Are you Power Line Ready?

The best way to stay safe this season when moving large farm equipment is to **ALWAYS** be aware of your surroundings. **Look up, look out and use extra caution when backing up. If your equipment contacts a power line, be sure to do the following:**



Stay Put & Call 911

Call emergency response and your local power cooperative, remaining in the cab until authorities confirm it is safe to exit.



Don't Climb, Jump!

If you must leave the cab due to fire or other safety concerns, jump as far away from the equipment as possible.



Hop Away To Safety

NEVER touch your equipment and the ground simultaneously; hop with both feet until you are at least 40 feet away.

For more power line safety tips and resources visit
YourCoopPower.com



GARDENING GREATS

How Master Gardeners are Cultivating Community Growth

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdua.coop

After years of tending to her garden, Codington-Clark Electric member Dianne Rider of Hazel can confidently say she is an expert in horticulture. However, her extensive experience of working with the earth isn't the only reason she is considered a soil savant.

In 2016, Rider earned the prodigious title of Master Gardener through the South Dakota State University Extension's Master Gardener Volunteer Program. This program provides in-depth horticultural training – covering topics like plant science, soil management and sustainable gardening practices – so enthusiasts like Rider can share their extensive gardening knowledge with their communities.

Becoming an Extension Master Gardener volunteer is a commitment. Applicants must complete horticulture classes, pass the course test and contribute 40 hours of volunteer service

during the first year of involvement. Despite the challenges, Rider had aspired to this achievement for decades, but it wasn't until she retired from her teaching career that she was able to dedicate herself fully and earn her place as a Master Gardener.

Reflecting the adage, “once a teacher, always a teacher,” Rider continues to educate and influence those around her, even after retirement, through gardening.

“Becoming a Master Gardener has always been on my bucket list since they organized,” Rider said. “I’ve always been a teacher, so finding a way to help others through gardening is probably what’s most rewarding.”

As a Master Gardener, Rider plays a key role in organizing annual gardening events for SDSU Extension, including the Master Gardener Annual Update Conference at Joy Ranch near Watertown. This event, attended by more than 125 Master Gardeners, serves as a thriving forum for gardening clubs to exchange ideas on the latest and greatest

projects they are tackling.

“The event is a lot of fun, because when you get 125 Master Gardeners in one room – let me tell you, the conversations are riveting,” Rider laughed.

Master gardeners also help SDSU Extension achieve its broader goal: to make cutting-edge research easily accessible to the people who can benefit from the findings. Master Gardeners have regular continuing education opportunities with experts from the SDSU Horticulture team, such as Professor John Ball, a SDSU Extension Forestry Specialist and South Dakota Department of Agriculture Forest Health Specialist. Once equipped with this information, volunteers can share the most significant takeaways from research being conducted across the state through the university, providing a bridge between research and practical application.

“Dr. John Ball’s presentation on how to trim a tree after planting it is one of the best things that I’ve learned that I can now share with others,” said Rider. “He says that raising a tree is just like raising a kid: you have to shape your tree when

Missouri Valley Master Gardeners remove invasive bellflower and other non-desirable plants at the Dorothy Jenks Memorial Garden in Yankton.
Photo courtesy of SDSU Extension.

they are young, otherwise they turn into ugly adults.”

Master Gardener Field Specialist Prairey Walkling emphasizes that the connection between research-based information and enthusiasts is what the Master Gardener Volunteer Program thrives on. And the research goes far beyond just trees. SDSU’s horticulture research also extends into innovative mulching techniques, soil care and even studies on the growth and quality of four popular zinnia varieties.

“SDSU Extension wants to empower individuals to reach their gardening goals through providing science-based information. Each person has different pieces of land, resources and goals for their gardens and landscapes,” she said. “We strive to provide them with trusted, research-based information to help them make decisions.”

Walkling said the impact of these volunteers cannot be understated. According to Walkling, there are more than 400 Master Gardeners across the state and 14 Master Gardener clubs. In 2024, these vital volunteers hosted 153 gardening events, including farmers market booths, gardening workshops and demonstrations, reaching nearly 10,000 South Dakotans. Regardless of the event or what is being discussed, Walkling said Master Gardeners carry an infectious love of digging in the dirt.

“These volunteers help get people excited about gardening,” she said. “There are so many volunteer opportunities – teaching youth, teaching adults, maintaining demonstration gardens, answering questions, organizing events, engaging in horticultural research, writing horticulture articles – the sky is the limit.”



SDSU Extension Master Gardeners host an educational booth at the SD State Fair. From left: Lael Abelmann, Sharelle Meyer and Nancy Kadous.



Coteau Prairie Master Gardener Club (Watertown area) hosted the 2024 state conference at Joy Ranch. | Photos courtesy of SDSU Extension.

2025 Youth Excursion

**Deadline
May 9th**

**July 21-24, 2025
Bismarck, N.D.**



TEENS:

Head to North Dakota This Summer for Free!

It's Fun and Free!

**Visit
North Dakota and
learn how you get
your energy.**

**Meet new
people and
travel this
summer!**

**Ask us how!
July 21-24, 2025**

**Deadline is
May 9th, 2025**

Clay-Union Electric will be sponsoring an all-expenses-paid excursion to North Dakota. Two area high school students will be randomly drawn to participate on the excursion. The South Dakota Rural Youth Excursion will give these students the opportunity to learn and see where and how electricity is generated.

The Youth Excursion Tour will be held July 21-24, 2025, and is headquartered in Bismarck, N.D. All area high school students whose parents or guardians are members of Clay-Union Electric are eligible to apply.

Young people attending this event will:

- Have the opportunity to sightsee and to meet new friends from other participating cooperatives.
- Learn about "The Story Behind the Switch" and see where South Dakota's electricity is generated.

■ Tour the Great Plains Synfuel Plant, Freedom Coal Mine and Antelope Valley Station Power Plant.

■ Spend their evenings swimming, shopping and cruising on the Lewis and Clark Riverboat.

Clay-Union Electric will provide transportation, lodging, meals, entertainment and sightseeing events. Students are required to supply their own personal/shopping money.

To Apply, please fill out the below registration and mail to Clay-Union Electric, PO Box 317, Vermillion, SD 57069



Clay-Union Electric Youth Excursion Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Students Phone Number: _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Name of School _____

T-Shirt Size: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____

"Move Over" to Protect Roadside Crews

Scott Flood
NRECA

When lineworkers are perched in a bucket truck, repairing power lines along a busy road, they have good reason to be concerned about their safety. However, most are less apprehensive about problems like working with high voltages or falling. Their biggest worry is also the most unpredictable: a distracted driver slamming into their vehicle or a nearby power pole.

The National Safety Council reported that 891 people were killed and 37,701 people were injured in work zone crashes during 2022 (the most recent statistics). Most of those crashes occur in construction sites, which are usually well-marked. Electric co-op crews are likely to face even greater danger, as they are often working alone along remote stretches of roads, frequently in heavy rain or other adverse weather conditions that can reduce their visibility.

The danger of work zone crashes led every state to adopt "move over" laws that require drivers to lower their speed and switch lanes when possible to protect emergency vehicles. The goal is to provide an added safety buffer and minimize the potential for accidents. Drivers caught violating the laws can face penalties such as significant fines.

Unfortunately, the Journal of Road Safety reports that just 14 states' "move over" laws protect other types of service vehicles, such as construction

trucks and utility vehicles. That means drivers in those states are under no legal obligation to give lineworkers that added margin of safety.

Compounding this issue is the dramatic increase in distracted driving. The National Transportation Highway Safety Administration has reported that as many as 1,000 Americans are injured each day because of activities that take drivers' attention away from the road. The most common is reading and responding to text messages. If a driver traveling at 55 miles per hour glances at their phone for just five seconds, they'll have traveled the length of a football field before returning their gaze to the road.

The design of today's vehicles contributes to distraction. Many vehicles have complex controls for entertainment and climate that demand the driver take their eyes off the road to make even simple adjustments.

Geography can also be a factor. Co-ops serving rural and remote areas often have power lines along twisty and hilly roads. Locals accustomed to driving those roads at fairly high speeds may be startled and have little time to react when they encounter a work crew past a hill or around a curve.

Besides the potential for lineworker injuries, accidents can also damage or destroy expensive service vehicles, reducing a co-op's ability to respond to outages and other problems. Power poles and other infrastructure may also suffer severe damage.

Additionally, many of the tasks performed by lineworkers, such as reconnecting high-voltage power lines, are inherently dangerous and require their complete focus. When their attention is distracted by speeding or noisy vehicles, they're more likely to make mistakes that can complicate the repair or cause injury.

Nor are co-op employees at risk only when their vehicles are parked and repairs are underway. Lineworkers frequently have to drive slowly along the shoulder of roads to pinpoint broken power lines or failed transformers, especially in darkness or conditions that interfere with visibility.

Many state transportation agencies have work zone awareness programs. Amplifying those efforts by devoting part of a co-op's advertising, publicity and social media reminds co-op members and other drivers of the importance of giving lineworkers a wide berth.

Co-ops are considering ways they can modify bucket trucks and other service vehicles to make them more visible. Bright colors and additional lighting such as flashing strobe lights and lighted detour arrows can attract attention from a distance. Reflective "work zone ahead" signs can also alert drivers to be ready for an unusual situation. Sometimes, a little bit of extra attention is all that's needed to prevent a serious incident.





Local, state and federal officials celebrate the ribbon-cutting of the new Lieutenant Commander John C. Waldron Memorial Bridge, March 25, 2025. Photo by Marcy Anderson, Courtesy of the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce.

BRIDGING HISTORY

The Demolition of the Waldron Memorial Bridge

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Tons of concrete and steel came crashing down in a planned demolition of the Lt. Cmdr. John C. Waldron Memorial Bridge that connected Pierre and Fort Pierre over a half mile stretch of river. The planned explosion marked a significant historic moment for not only Pierre and Fort Pierre, but also eastern and western South Dakota.

The demolition of the bridge unfolded in seconds. A plume of black smoke erupted from the detonating cord placed at key points in the bridge, quickly followed by a bone-rattling shock wave. Paul Nelson, a recently retired employee of the South Dakota Department of Transportation, witnessed the end of the bridge's 63-year lifespan. Nelson, a member of Oahe Elec-

tric, spent over 40 years with the SDDOT, serving most of that time as the regional bridge engineer. In this role, he was responsible for the maintenance, inspection and upkeep of the very bridge that he saw demolished.

As legacy bridge engineer, this was not Nelson's first experience with such a demolition. "I had actually witnessed the 1986 demolition of the old truss bridge that was just downstream of the current railroad bridge – so I have been around something of this magnitude before," he explained.

Even still, Nelson laughed that the modern demolition had a "pretty good report when it went off."

Although the bridge has been decommissioned, its history endures. In 2002, the bridge was dedicated to Lt. Cmdr. John C.

Waldron, a naval aviator from Fort Pierre who led a torpedo squadron during the Battle of Midway in World War II. His actions proved pivotal in the battle, but led to death of himself and most of his squadron. Of the 30 men who served under his command, only one survived the Battle of Midway.

Waldron's legacy is still commemorated through the new Pierre-Fort Pierre Bridge, which had its ribbon-cutting ceremony last month.

Construction of the new bridge began in 2020, just yards from the old bridge's location. In total, the bridge cost nearly \$50 million and is designed to last a century.

"This bridge is going to be a beautiful and wonderful enhancement to the communities and something that will last more than a hundred years," South Dakota Governor Larry Rhoden said at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new bridge that now connects the two halves of the state.

BRIDGE DEMOLITION



The Lt. Cmdr. John C. Waldron Memorial Bridge comes crashing down at 9:03 a.m., on March 13.
Photos by Frank Turner.



Clay-Union Electric Corporation Board Meeting Summary

FEBRUARY 28, 2025 • VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

The board meeting was called to order on February 28, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. by board President Tom Larsen. The meeting was held in the conference room at the Clay-Union Electric Headquarters.

In attendance were Tom Larsen, Chris Kinney, Jim Ryken, Mike Slattery and Sara Schulte. Attending staff members included Chris Larson, Beth Bottolfson, Mike Kruse, Alan Gauer and Jackie Williams.

Agenda (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Visitors to Be Heard – None

Approval of Minutes from the January Board Meeting (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the January board minutes held on 1/24/25.

Approval of Minutes from the January Executive Session (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the January executive session minutes held on 1/24/25.

Check List & Electronic Funds Transfer – The board reviewed the EFT/ACH payments, and the monthly check list as presented.

New Members and Refunds (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the new members, refunds and credit deposits as presented.

Early Retirement of Capital Credits (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the Early Retirement of Capital Credits as presented.

Contracts (ACTION ITEM) – A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the following contracts as presented.

- Electric Service Contract
- Boring Contract
- Locating Contract

Policy Review – A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the following policies as presented.

Member Attendance at Board Meetings Policy 117

Parental Leave, Policy 716

Work Order and Special Equipment Summary – None

Management Reports:

A. Manager's Report – Manager Larson provided reports on the monthly activities:

March Board Meeting – The date of March 26th, 2025, was set as the next regular board meeting to begin at 8:30 a.m.

East River REED/MAC – The REED Board/ER MAC met on Feb 4th at East River.

New Building – Manager Larson reviewed with the Board various warranty and other happenings that are being dealt with Puetz and other contractors.

2025 Annual Meeting Date – The dates of April 8th with a backup of April 15th are the dates for our Annual Meeting.

East River Board (Action) – A motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept Resolution 2025-02 to nominate Chris

Kinney to the East River Board of Directors.

Munger Property Development – Manager Larson reported that AMS had their second reading for rezoning, and it passed by both the City and County and we have refreshed an estimate to AMS for the Aid in Construction amount for the backbone infrastructure.

SD Line Patrol – Virtual meetings have started in planning the SD Line Patrol poker run scheduled for September 2025. The event will be hosted by BY, Union and Clay-Union.

Distributed Generation – Manager Larson gave an update on current applications and the process for getting the NOVA portal up and running.

NRECA Annual Meeting – The NRECA Annual meeting is March 10th to the 12th in Atlanta, GA.

Strategic Plan – Manager Larson is expecting to receive a summary of the strategic planning session that was held on February 14th from the East River staff who guided the process.

SE Cooperative – Meckling (Action) – A motion was made, seconded and carried to move forward the application for Clay County to the REED Board for approval.

Energize Forum – The 2025 East River Electric Energize Forum was held at the Sioux Falls Convention Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on February 5th and 6th.

CoBank – Manager Larson asked the board officers to sign an updated incumbency certificate for the CoBank line of credit.

Gov't Affairs Committee – Manager Larson reported on the first Cracker Barrel event that was held on February 15th at City Hall.

SE Managers – The SE Managers met on January 31st at Central Electric near Mitchell.

SDREA Managers – The SDREA Managers met in Pierre on February 10th and 11th.

Basin Managers – Basin hosted the managers in Sioux Falls on the 19th and 20th for the winter update.

ACRE – The Board made their annual pledges to the 2025 America's Electric Cooperative PAC.

Mary on ER Interview – Manager Larson reported that he met on February 7th with Mary Askren who is writing a book for East River to celebrate its 75th anniversary.

Crew Foreman – Staff has been advertising for a new Crew Foreman.

B. Administrative Report – Manager of Finance and Administration Bottolfson reviewed the following reports with the board:

- Billing Activity
- January 2025 Financials
- 2024 Annual Audits
- Treasury Direct Loan Advance
- City of Vermillion's Municipal Tax
- Property Taxes
- Annual kWh Tax for 2024

All reports were posted to the website earlier for board review.

C. Operations Report – Operations Manager Kruse reviewed the following reports with the board:

- Monthly department work summary
- FEMA
- New Service
- Retired Service

- January Outage Report
- Service Upgrades
- Wiring

All reports were posted to the website earlier for board review.

Financial Report – Manager of Finance and Administration Bottolfson reviewed the following reports with the board:

- Balance Sheet
- Interest Income
- kWh Sales Report
- Large Power
- Line Loss
- Operating Statement
- Power Bill
- Summary of Purchased Power

All reports were posted to the website earlier for board review.

Legal Report – None

Strategic Planning – Manager Larson is expecting a summary from the February 14, 2025, meeting.

Safety Meeting Minutes – The Safety Meeting Minutes from January 14 and February 13, were posted to the website for the board to review and was discussed during the meeting.

Cyber Security – The January Cyber Security report from East River IT was posted to the website for the board to review and was discussed during the meeting.

Video and/or Meeting Reports –

- East River Report
- East River Financials
- Basin Reports

Calendar – The board reviewed the March 2025 calendar.

Executive Session – The board went into Executive Session at 11:21 a.m., Executive Session was adjourned at 12:31 p.m. There was no action taken.

Adjournment – There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded, and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 12:32 p.m.

Thomas Larsen, President

James Ryken, Secretary



Outage Reports

Date	Time	Township	Members	Cause
2/2025	No Outages to report			
3/14	8:30 p.m.	Glenwood	2	Lightning
3/15	1:45 a.m.	Prairie	2	Lightning
3/30	8:00 a.m.	Garfield	1	Equip. Failure

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.

Source: energy.gov





MAY 31, JUNE 28, JULY 26
Fort Sisseton Lantern Tour
 Lake City, SD
 605-910-4465

*Photo courtesy of
 Travel South Dakota*

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.

APRIL 27
Country Roads
 2 p.m. Matinee
 Gayville Music Hall
 Gayville, SD
 605-760-5799

MAY 2-3
SD Spring Square Dance Festival
 Fri. 7:30-10:30 p.m.
 Sat. 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.
 Faith Lutheran Church
 601 N. Cliff Ave.
 Sioux Falls, SD
 Call for events & times
 605-360-2524

MAY 3-4
Prairie Village Events
 Sat. Consignment Auction
 Sun. Season Opening
 Madison, SD
www.prairievillage.org

MAY 3
West River Pheasants Forever Banquet
 5 p.m. Central Time
 Draper Auditorium
 Draper, SD
 605-516-0143

MAY 3
American Legion Post 15
Just Because It's Time to Dance
 6-10:30 p.m.
 El Riad Shrine
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-336-3470

MAY 3, JUNE 7
Davis Flea Market & Vendor Fair
 American Legion Post #176
 Davis, SD
 605-351-3074

MAY 6-7
7th Annual Energize!
Exploring Innovative Rural Communities Conference
 Hosted by SDSU Extension
 Community Vitality
 Platte, SD
 605-626-2870

MAY 10
Cinco De Mayo Falls Park Fiesta
 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
 Sioux Falls, SD

MAY 17
Norwegian Independence Day
 Vivian, SD
 605-222-3296

MAY 17
Annual Plant Sale
 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
 Codington Co. Extension Complex
 Watertown, SD
 830-534-5359

MAY 23-25
Brandon's Big Car Show
 Carnival & Car Show
 Fri. 6-11 p.m., Sun. 12-5 p.m.
 Sat. 1-11 p.m., Car Show 1-4 p.m.
 815 McHardy Rd
 Brandon, SD

MAY 31
Auto Parts Swap Meet & Car Show
 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Brown County Fairgrounds
 Aberdeen, SD

MAY 31
Miss Prairie Village Pageant
 6:30 p.m.
 Lawrence Welk Opera House
 Madison, SD
www.prairievillage.org

MAY 31
Hay Country Jamboree
 7 p.m.
 Gayville Music Hall
 Gayville, SD
 605-760-5799

JUNE 5
Danish Constitution Day Celebration
 6:15 p.m.-9 p.m.
 Danish Folk Dancing & Music
 Daneville Heritage Museum
 Viborg, SD
 605-766-1312
danevilleheritage.com

JUNE 13
Jesse James Days
 Garretson, SD
visitgarretsonsd.com

JUNE 20-21
Czech Days
 Tabor, SD
www.taborczechdays.com
Facebook.com/TaborCzechDays

Note: We publish contact information as provided. If no phone number is given, none will be listed. Please call ahead to verify the event is still being held.