

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

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CEO Report

JEFF RUSTAD
CEO
PKM Electric Co-op

Now that winter is here, I want to remind everyone to start your generator and test it if you haven't already. You should run and plug something into your generator once or twice a year just to exercise it and make sure it is working. I just checked mine a month ago and I noticed I had not shut the gas off, and I found out the float had stuck on the carburetor and filled the cylinder full of fuel. I could not even pull it over until I pulled the spark plug – good thing this was not during a storm situation. I have had this generator since 2005 and I have never had to use it for an outage.

PKM was very lucky with the Christmas ice storm. It only affected the East Grand Forks area, and we had minimal outages compared to our neighboring cooperatives. Most of the issues stemmed from trees. My line was the first line outage of this storm at 2:30 in the morning, and the next was about an hour later a few miles north. The roads had so much ice cover that night that one of the trucks slid to the bottom of the ditch going around the curve east on County 19. We had five linemen go help Nodak Electric Cooperative for a couple days, then they headed down to Cass County Electric's lines by Page, N.D., for another six days. I want to thank the linemen for taking the time to go help our neighbors in need.

I like to listen to 1310 KNOX when I can, and I was listening during the time of ice storm repairs. One

complaint I heard was, "Why are they still using wood poles to deliver electricity?" PKM has around 2,300 miles of overhead line and about 700 miles of underground. Our total utility plant in service is around \$43 million. Installing 2,300 miles of underground line would cost about \$25,000 per mile. In areas with three-phase circuits, it would be three times that cost – plus, we would also have boring costs where there are roads to go under. The minimum cost of this effort would be \$58 million.

So far this winter we have only had 51 hours of off-peak control. Now that the temps are dropping, we will see some added control times. Whatever you are using for your backup source, make sure you have an adequate supply. The off-peak rate is still 5.4 cents, and this is comparable to \$1.40 propane for electric resistance heat. We have had such a mild winter so far, I was able to take advantage of running my heat pump for most of my heating. A heat pump at 5.4 cents is comparable to propane at 70 cents. We do have interest-free loans to upgrade to a heat pump or electric plenum along with rebates. Forms are available on our website pkmcoop.com.

The office is currently working on year-end, and our December sales are down 19.5% compared to 2022 and about 15.8% compared to 2021. Overall, our sales for the year

are better than expected. Now that we have seen some cold weather, I noticed American Crystal Sugar is freezing their piles down. Usually, we would see this load in December not in January, which means for 2024 we may see this load twice in January and in December depending on the weather. As we look at projects that we are doing for 2024, I wanted to share with you some pricing I just received on some transformers we need. We are pricing out six smaller three-phase transformers. I asked what our last purchase price was and when it was. On the smallest of the ones we quoted we purchased one in 2020 for \$4,000. The current quote for the same size is \$16,000. This is how crazy materials have become. That might be just a little higher than the inflation they are talking about nationally. This was the main reason for raising the fixed charge that will take effect on your January billing. Our budget just for transformers for 2024 is \$340,000; in 2021, it was \$120,000. Hopefully we will see some lower price changes coming. We have had many calls lately about upgrading to three-phase service for added grain drying load – please call if you are thinking about this and we can investigate the costs. Lead times can be as much as 1 year for some of this equipment.

As always, if you have questions just give us a call.

Electrical Inspectors

Marshall and Kittson Counties

Ronald Ditsch: 218-779-6758

Polk County

George Stage: 218-284-1083

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Next board meeting

Board meeting to be held the last Tuesday of the month.

Officers and Directors

President Mark Hatton
Vice President C.J. Peterson
Secretary-Treasurer..... Wayne Malm
Directors Paul Aakre, Jerred Copp, Steve Goodwin,
Chris Mortenson, Blake Owens, and Tom Woinarowicz
CEO Jeff Rustad
Editors Danny Schmidt, Megan Dagoberg

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Voices for GRID RELIABILITY

America's electric grid is beginning to face significant reliability risks. As more baseload and dispatchable power plants are retired without adequate replacement, the margin for error is becoming razor thin.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, PKM Electric Cooperative's wholesale power provider, maintains a diverse resource mix that includes coal, wind and hydro power that contribute to a reliable grid. However, the Minnkota system is connected with other utilities across the central United States – from North Dakota and Minnesota down through Louisiana. Challenges in other parts of the country can contribute to reliability issues in our region.

Regulators, policymakers, utilities and others are voicing their concerns about transitioning too quickly toward intermittent resources – like wind and solar – without retaining the stability provided by coal, nuclear and natural gas power plants. Here's what some of the major entities responsible for reliability are saying.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

WHAT THEY'RE
SAYING:

"We are heading for potentially very dire consequences, potentially catastrophic consequences in the United States in terms of the reliability of our grid." – MARK CHRISTIE, FERC COMMISSIONER, AT A HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE, ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON JUNE 13, 2023.

North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC)

WHAT THEY'RE
SAYING:

"... one of the important things that these plants provide is the ability for the grid to maintain voltage and maintain frequency and to resist disturbances. Other resources can't do that nearly as well as large spinning mass generation. And that's why the loss of coal plants and natural gas plants and nuclear plants is so concerning from a grid reliability perspective." – JIM ROBB, NERC PRESIDENT AND CEO, AT A SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES HEARING ON JUNE 1, 2023.

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO)

WHAT THEY'RE
SAYING:

"The recent acceleration in the pace of fleet change is increasing risks to system reliability for MISO. Dispatchable generators that we need to ensure reliability are being removed from the system before new resources with the needed reliability attributes are being brought online." – TODD RAMEY, MISO SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETS AND DIGITAL STRATEGY, AT A HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY, CLIMATE AND GRID SECURITY HEARING ON SEPT. 28, 2023.

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MNPUC)

WHAT THEY'RE
SAYING:

"A major reliability event will set us backwards. The public will absolutely revolt." – JOE SULLIVAN, VICE CHAIRMAN OF MNPUC, AT A CONFERENCE HOSTED BY THE MINNESOTA SOLAR ENERGY INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION, ON OCT. 9, 2023 (COURTESY MINNPOST).

Minnkota Power Cooperative (MPC)

WHAT THEY'RE
SAYING:

"Despite all the regulatory uncertainty, our board and staff have committed to the view that we are going to live in a carbon-managed world and we'll need to develop technologies and strategies to help us navigate this challenge. We want to be part of the solution, but there needs to be an understanding that America's electric grid can't be completely transformed overnight." – MAC MCLENNAN, MINNKOTA PRESIDENT AND CEO, IN AN OCT. 9, 2023, ARTICLE ON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RULES.

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Your cooperative answered the call during a freezing rain storm of rare proportions

Photos by PKM Electric Cooperative

On Christmas Day of 2023, eastern North Dakota and parts of northwestern Minnesota were struck with a freezing-rain storm of rare proportions. The system lingered long enough to encase the entire region in inches of heavy ice, making roads undrivable, bringing down tree limbs, and snapping hundreds of power lines and poles in several rural communities. The impact to the electric grid was devastating.

But your cooperative answered the call.

PKM Electric Cooperative – along with several other cooperatives in North Dakota and Minnesota – joined Nodak Electric and Cass County

Electric in their efforts to restore power to thousands of members. In total, more than 1,300 poles needed replacement or repair in the wake of the storm. With the many hands and teamwork involved, power was successfully restored to the membership of both cooperatives.

We would like to thank our line crew for the long hours and hard work they dedicated to helping our cooperative family during this time of need. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our core co-op principles. In times like this, our shared commitment to serving our communities is what keeps us strong.

Thank you for being a member of an electric cooperative.





Restoring a power outage

“How long is it going to take?” These are familiar words to all who work in the electric industry. It’s a phrase our lineworkers have been asked thousands of times. By phone, through car windows, from front porches, sidewalks, bicycles, gas pumps and diners. It’s the first thing people think when the lights go out. It doesn’t take long sitting in the dark to realize how dependent we are on electricity. How much it makes our lives better and easier.

But what does it take to get those lights back on? Why does it sometimes take so long? Most people will never get to experience or witness the work that goes into ending outages. Hopefully, after reading this, you will better understand the process and the work that PKM Electric Cooperative line crews are doing to restore your power.

The electricity you use travels a great distance and goes through several steps to get to your home. It starts with a power plant. Power plants use fuel to produce power. That fuel could be coal, hydro, wind or solar. A power plant typically produces voltages of less than 30,000 volts. That voltage needs to be “stepped up” so it can travel long distances. That process starts next door in the power plant’s substation and switchyard. In the substation, a transformer will step the voltage up to 345,000 volts, or sometimes higher, and send it out on transmission lines to another substation.



At the next substation, electricity starts to get closer to its destination. Here, we start stepping the voltage down. A transformer will step the voltage down to 69,000 or 115,000 volts in this second substation and send it out to smaller local substations.

These local substations are the final substation before the electricity reaches your home. Here, it is stepped down, again with a transformer, to the 7,200 or 13,800 volts that can then be delivered to the equipment outside your home. Once it arrives outside your home, it is stepped down a final time, yes, by another transformer. This final transformer will step the

voltage down to 120/240 volts that operate all the devices that power your life.

What was just described is hundreds of miles of line and thousands of poles. That's a lot of exposure for something to happen and cause an outage. Just like your home, our system has breakers. Our breakers help us reduce the exposure of the line and allow us to split our system into sections. Doing so helps limit the size of the outages and allows us to keep as many people on as possible. Breakers also help to protect equipment on the line. Ever

wonder why your lights blink a few times before going off? That's the breaker. They operate a few times, trying to give the fault a chance to clear the line before they open for good.

We work for you, our neighbors

We've become so dependent on electricity that every outage, whether short or extended, can be stressful for those without power. The longer outages last, the more stressful and irritating it can become. We hope this provides a better understanding of the restoration process so you



can understand what's happening while you wait. Just know that your co-op line crews are doing their best to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible.

PKM Electric Cooperative and its employees are members of your community. We live in the same neighborhoods. We shop at the same stores. Our kids go to the same schools. If your lights are off, there is a good chance ours are off, too. We will always be committed to serving our members and communities by providing safe and reliable electricity – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.



THE PROS AND CONS OF COAL

Coal has been an essential resource on our nation's electric grid for decades. But like all power supply options, it comes with its own set of strengths and challenges.

The following coal pros and cons illustrate why Minnkota Power Cooperative (our power supplier) maintains a diverse portfolio of coal, wind and hydropower – and why coal's strengths outweigh its challenges.

STRENGTHS

24/7 RELIABILITY

Coal-fired power plants provide a stable and continuous source of electricity, which is important for maintaining a consistent baseload power supply. Minnkota's Milton R. Young Station can produce coal-based power every minute of every day, as electricity needs to be used the moment it is generated.

RESILIENT OPERATIONS

Coal-based power plants have consistently proven they can operate in extreme conditions - from 100-degree summer days to 30-below-zero winter nights. While resources like wind and solar are dependent on ideal weather conditions, coal-based power plants can operate through the harshest of conditions.

ECONOMIC STRENGTH

Dependable power generation leads to stable costs. North Dakota's coal-based power plants provide competitively priced electricity that people across the Upper Midwest depend on. In North Dakota alone, the coal industry creates thousands of jobs in mining and power plant operations, and still more in those industries that support coal generation.

CONCENTRATED LAND FOOTPRINT

A 2020 report from the Brookings Institution found that electric generation from wind and solar requires at least 10 times as much land per unit of power produced than coal-based power plants. The concentrated nature of a coal power plant also means fewer transmission lines need to be constructed to bring electricity from generation point to substation.

CHALLENGES

EMISSIONS MANAGEMENT

Coal-based power plants must manage emissions levels to ensure environmental stewardship. Approximately \$425 million in state-of-the-art technology has been invested at the Milton R. Young Station to capture emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury, particulate matter and more. Plus, Minnkota is pursuing Project Tundra, a carbon capture and storage system that would significantly reduce CO₂ emissions.

BYPRODUCT MANAGEMENT

Generating electricity from coal requires the management of byproducts, like coal combustion residuals (CCR). Much of the bottom ash from the power plant is responsibly recycled into materials, including shingle grit and sandblasting material. CCRs that cannot be recycled are safely stored in approved storage cells. Plus, some CCRs can be reused safely to strengthen concrete, wallboard, bricks and more.

TEMPORARY LAND DISRUPTION

While coal mining does require the use of land, Minnkota and its partners at BNI Coal have developed an award-winning land reclamation program that returns these areas to their natural state (or better) once mining is complete.

FIND PEAK VALUE WITH OFF-PEAK WATER HEATERS

Our region isn't known for its vast mountain ranges with high, towering peaks. The peaks we see are of the ENERGY variety – but PKM Electric Cooperative has a program that beats those energy peaks and saves our members some serious bucks on their electricity bills. It's called the off-peak program, and an easy way to participate is by installing an electric water heating system on your cooperative's program.

An average household spends up to 20% of its monthly electric bill on water heating, and an electric water heater is often more efficient than gas or propane models. So, make sure you are maximizing all the peaks "off-peak" has to offer when it comes to water heaters.

1 A MOUNTAIN OF SAVINGS

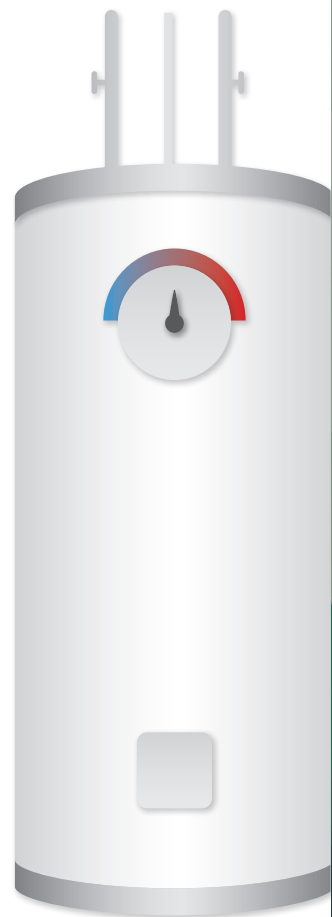
The peak in saving starts with installation. Not only will your water heater qualify for a reduced rate when set up on off-peak – up to half the standard rate – but there are also co-op rebates available up to \$500!

2 A SPIKE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

On the off-peak program, your electric water heater will warm your water during lower-demand times of the day. The water tanks are specially insulated so there is little to no heat loss over 24 hours.

3 HEIGHTEN RELIABILITY

During peak energy times of the day, our electrical grid can experience some serious strain. When your electric water heat is on the off-peak program, your water is heated during periods of lower demand which helps keep the reliability of our grid strong!



With large-capacity electric water heater tanks ranging from 80-100 gallons (or larger), you never have to worry about having enough hot water for your entire family! Visit ValueofElectricity.com to learn more about electric water heaters and how you can get peak savings when joining PKM Electric's off-peak program!



How to Become a Director

The grassroots participation in nominating and electing directors is one of the most important powers that you, the members, have in controlling your cooperative – PKM Electric Cooperative, Inc. The cooperative's service territory is divided into three director counties. Each of the counties is represented by three directors who are qualified members of the cooperative and reside within the county to be represented. One director from each county is elected at each annual member meeting for a term of three years.

At the PKM Electric Cooperative, Inc. annual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, 2024, director elections for each county will be held. This year the three-year terms of the following directors will expire at the 2024 annual meeting. They are: Blake Owens, Polk County; Chris Mortenson, Kittson County; Wayne Malm, Marshall County.

To qualify as a director candidate, you must:

- **Be a member in good standing of the cooperative**, receiving electric service at the member's primary residence in the district from which the director is elected prior to being nominated for director.
- **Be only one**, and not more than one, member of a joint membership.
- **Have voting rights** within the district from which the director is to be elected.
- **Not be employed by**, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in, any individual or entity which either is directly or substantially competing with the cooperative, selling goods and services in substantial quantity to the cooperative or possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the cooperative.
- **Not be**, nor within three (3) years preceding a director candidate's nomination have been, **an employee of the cooperative**.



- **Not be a close relative** of an existing employee, or existing director.
- **If a member of the cooperative** is not a natural person, i.e. a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or similar, then the member may appoint or elect one (1) duly authorized natural person, residing within the external boundaries of the district from which they are nominated, to be eligible for election as a director to the board of directors.
- **Never have been convicted** of a felony.
- **Not be or become the full-time employee or agent** of, or be or become the full-time employer or principal of, another director.
- **Agree, upon election, to regularly attend** all board, regular and special members' meetings.

It shall be the duty of the board of directors to appoint, not less than seventy (70) days nor more than one hundred and twenty (120) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a Committee on Nominations ("Committee") consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members of the Cooperative who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the Committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the cooperative.

The PKM board of directors appointed the Nominating Committee at their December monthly meeting held Dec. 19, 2023. This committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, for the purpose of nominating one or more qualified member(s) from each county for each office of director slated for election, to be elected by the membership at large at the annual meeting, and shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative at least twenty-five (25) days before said meeting, a list of nominations.

If you are interested in being considered for nomination or if you know a member who you believe would be a qualified candidate, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee for 2024 is as follows:

POLK

Dale Huderle – *Angus*
Bob Wimpfheimer – *Warren*
Matt Linsley – *Euclid*

KITTSON

Gary Jensen – *Drayton*
Jeff Mortenson – *Kennedy*
Garrit Winge – *Kennedy*

MARSHALL

Jeff Chwialkowski – *Argyle*
Troy Osowski – *Argyle*
Ryan Rivard – *Argyle*

Any 15 or more members can make other director nominations in writing on or before March 13, 2024. Director candidates may only be nominated by the committee on nominations or by petition. Voting will take place during the annual meeting. The director candidate receiving the highest vote for each county will serve on the board of directors until the end of their designated term.

PKM ELECTRIC 84TH ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024

Warren-Alvarado-Oslo High School

The annual meeting of the members of PKM Electric Cooperative will be held at the **Warren-Alvarado-Oslo High School in Warren, Minn.**, at 5:45 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 2, 2024**, for the following purposes:

1. **To pass upon reports of officers, directors and committees.**
2. **To elect three directors of the cooperative.** Elections will be held for a three-year term for one director in each of the following counties:

Polk: Blake Owens, Warren

Kittson: Chris Mortenson, Kennedy

Marshall: Wayne Malm, Argyle

Per the cooperative bylaws, nominees for open director seats must submit a petition at least twenty-five (25) days before the annual meeting. Please note that the bylaws mandate that no nominations for director can be made from the floor at the annual meeting nor are write-in nominations accepted.

3. All other matters, which may properly come before the annual meeting, or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

Board meeting highlights *November and December*

A regular meeting of the board was held Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023.

Mark Hatton, president who presided, asked for roll call. Upon calling the roll, the president reported that all directors were present except for Director Goodwin. Director Copp and Owens participated via phone conference.

Director Woinarowicz and Director Aakre gave their reports on Minnkota and Square Butte.

Line Superintendent Joe Marcotte presented the monthly safety and operations report, indicating no accidents and no lost time. MREA presented on Nov. 2 with the topic of electrical burns. Highlights from his report included crews wrapping up all the last of the underground for the year.

The manager of member services Danny Schmidt shared recent activities within his department. He had a call with Eaton to fix some issues we have been having. He also participated in GridEx both days, which was very interesting information.

The CFO Karen Olson opened her report with an office update. The 2024 budget preparations continue with the preliminary capital requirements budget included for discussion later in the meeting and a preliminary review of the operating budget.

The CFO continued with the presentation of the Operating and Financial report for the cooperative. Historical data for margins for a 10-year PTD and YTD comparison were provided and discussed. Other financial data was presented and discussed along with the current tier of 2.04 up from last month.

The CEO referenced his submitted written report outlining recent meetings he had attended.

The 2023 operating budget preliminary review was presented and will be finalized at the December meeting for discussion and approval as the November reported financials will aid in accuracy for budget projections.

The 2023 capital budget preliminary review was presented and will be finalized at the December meeting for discussion and approval. Staff have held several meetings to discuss capital needs going forward.

After meeting last month with Teri Wallis, the board had asked for a few rate increase scenarios. It was recommended that effective Jan. 1, 2024, the fixed rate for single-phase increase to the table below. Policy bulletin 20-1.27: Rate code 1 – General Farm and Rural Residential Single-Phase Service Rate will need to be updated to reflect the below changes.

Single-Phase Power			
KVA Size	Fixed Charge 2023	New Fixed Charge 2024	
0-15	\$ 34.00	\$ 50.00	
25-37.5	\$ 37.00	\$ 50.00	
50	\$ 37.00	\$ 60.00	
75	\$ 50.00	\$ 90.00	
100	\$ 60.00	\$ 110.00	
167	\$ 60.00	\$ 167.00	

Following discussion, upon motion duly made by Director Aakre, seconded by Director Woinarowicz and with a roll call vote, the board approved and adopted the policy bulletin 20-1.28: Rate Code 1 – General Farm and Rural Residential Single-Phase Service Rate with the fixed rate change effective Jan. 1, 2024, to be increased to the table above.

Roll call vote – Yes: Chris Mortenson, Tom Woinarowicz, Paul Aakre, Wayne Malm, C.J. Peterson, Blake Owens, Jerred Copp.

Other agenda items discussed were the CRC voting delegate (no change), MREA voting delegates which have been updated to Mark Hatton with Tom Woinarowicz as the alternate, NRECA voting delegates (no change), and dates and locations discussed for the winter planning meeting.

The president reminded the directors that the 2024 ACRE and REPAC contributions are now being accepted, and to please submit to the administrative assistant for processing.

The CEO shared miscellaneous information with the directors including the CW power article, federated member update, cooperative energy sales and solar information.

Carr's Tree Service financials were provided for October 2023 and they are doing very well for the year. Jeff Rustad will be attending a meeting on Dec. 18.

A special meeting of the board was held Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023.

Mark Hatton, president who presided, asked for roll call. Upon calling the roll, the president reported that all directors were present with the exception of Director Copp. Director Owens participated via phone conference.

Director Woinarowicz and Director Aakre gave their reports on Minnkota and Square Butte.

Upon motion duly made by Director Goodwin, seconded by Director Mortenson and unanimously carried, an executive session was called. The president returned the meeting to regular order concluding the executive session at 11:04 a.m.

Operations Manager Joe Marcotte presented the monthly safety and operations report, indicating no accidents and no lost time. Miff from MN Safety was here with the topic of commercial vehicles and load securement. Terri from MREA was here with PPE review. The linemen have been busy finishing up the last of the work orders for the year. Marcotte shared an update from his District 1 meeting.

The manager of member services shared recent activities within his department. Minnkota has had 25:22 minutes of Dual Heat control and 10:31 minutes of Yellow Zone control with no minutes of Red Zone. Yukon is doing a big software update tomorrow to get things running a little smoother.

The CFO Karen Olson opened her report with an office update to the directors that the office was continuing to work on closing out work orders for the year and 219 processing. There is an abundance of paperwork that needs to be addressed prior to year-end close and the annual inventory in February. She will present the bad debt listing after year end and it will be included in the January board agenda. Olson gave an update on the grants, with PKM nearing the completion of the REAP LED lighting grant.

The CFO continued with the presentation of the Operating and Financial report for the cooperative. Historical data for margins for a 10-year PTD and YTD comparison were provided and discussed. Other financial data was presented and discussed.

The CEO referenced his written report outlining recent meetings. He shared that PKM will need to give USIC 60 days' notice to cancel services. A few other items discussed were Touchstone Energy®, three-phase fixed charge, grid access charge and a Cass County survey.

The 2024 operating budget was presented to the directors for consideration with the changes recommended at the last meeting. Staff held several preparation meetings and shared their methods of recommendation with the directors.

The 2024 capital requirements budget was presented to the directors for consideration with the addition of the trailer. Staff held several meetings to discuss capital needs going forward.

After last month's single-phase fixed rate increase, it was recommended that effective Jan. 1, 2024, the fixed rate for three-phase power increase to the table below. Policy bulletin 20-3.24: Rate Code 3 – Non-Demand Metered Three-Phase Service Rate and Policy bulletin 20-4.9: Rate Code 4 – Three-Phase Service Rate Large Power or Demand Metered will need to be updated to reflect the below changes.

Three-Phase Power			
KVA Size	Fixed Charge 2023	New Fixed Charge 2024	
0-150	\$ 45.00	\$ 60.00	
151+	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00	

Following discussion, upon motion duly made by Director Aakre, seconded by Director Peterson and with a roll call vote, the board approved and adopted policy bulletin 20-3.25: Rate Code 3 – Non-Demand Metered Three-Phase Service Rate and policy bulletin 20-4.10: Rate Code 4 – Three-Phase Service Rate Large Power or Demand Metered with the fixed rate change effective Jan. 1, 2024, to be increased to the table above.

Roll call vote – Yes: Chris Mortenson, Tom Woinarowicz, Paul Aakre, Wayne Malm, C.J. Peterson, Steve Goodwin, Blake Owens.

With the approaching NRTC annual meeting, voting delegates will stay the same with Steve Goodwin and Jeff Rustad.

The policy bulletin 1-9.1: Non-Union Sick Leave Plan was

presented with updates to follow the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry Earned Sick and Safe Time law. As you may be aware, effective Jan. 1, 2024, employees in Minnesota are entitled to Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST), a form of paid leave outlined in Minnesota Statutes Sections 181.9445 to 181.9448. The new law does not provide additional hours of paid leave to employees who already earn paid leave from their employer that meets or exceeds these new statutory requirements.

The manager of member services, Danny Schmidt, asked the board to approve the 2024 Electric Rebate Application, with no changes.

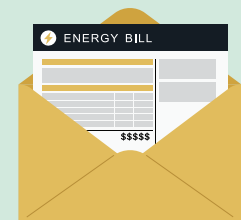
The CEO stated with in accordance with the bylaws it would be appropriate for the board to appoint a nominating committee to meet prior to the annual meeting for the purpose of nominating candidates for the board. The board caucused and with completion of their caucus, selected members. Those members appointed will receive mileage and a fee for their attendance. The board selected the following members to act as the committee on nominations prior to the 2023 annual meeting described by the bylaws: Dale Huderle, Angus; Bob Wimpfheimer, Warren; Matt Linsley, Warren; Gary Jensen, Drayton; Jeff Mortenson, Kennedy; Garrit Winge, Kennedy; Jeff Chwialkowski, Argyle; Troy Osowski, Argyle; Ryan Rivard, Argyle. The nominating committee will be reimbursed a \$25 fee and mileage for their attendance.

Financials were provided for Carr's Tree Service. The CEO shared miscellaneous information with the directors including annual meeting information, REPAC and American's Electric Cooperative PAC, the cooperative energy sales, solar information and the safety career day in East Grand Forks.

NEED HELP PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

Energy assistance may be available!

If you are receiving a low income or suffering from a temporary financial shortfall, these agencies may be able to assist you with your electric bill. We urge you to contact them immediately to avoid disconnection if you feel you are eligible for aid.



NORTHWEST COMMUNITY ACTION
PO Box 67
Badger, MN 56714-0067
(218) 528-3258 or 800-568-5329
northwestcap.org

TRI-VALLEY OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL, INC.
1407 Erskine Street
Crookston, MN 56716
(218) 281-9080 or Toll Free (866) 264-3729

PKM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE EMPLOYEE AND BOARD DIRECTOR YEARS OF SERVICE MILESTONES

PKM would like to recognize these employees and directors for their years of service.



Karen Olson
CFO
35 Years



Tom Woinarowicz
Board Director
30 Years



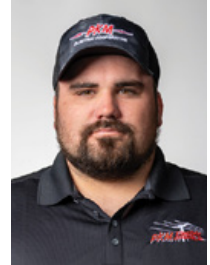
Scott Slusar
Line Crew Foreman
30 Years



Blake Owens
Board Director
20 Years



Nolan Buchner
Journeyman Lineman
15 Years



Josh Tutt
Journeyman Lineman
5 Years

Over the past five years, your electricity prices have remained stable while the average U.S. egg prices have increased by **48%**.

ELECTRICITY – DELIVERING A POWERFUL VALUE EACH AND EVERY DAY.



Apply now for a PKM Scholarship

Individuals in PKM's service area who are members of the cooperative, their spouses or children.

- Applicants planning to attend an accredited postsecondary educational institution in pursuit of their initial postsecondary degree. These institutions could include technical colleges, universities or colleges.

- Eligible applicants include high school seniors, active college students enrolled in an accredited institution in pursuit of their initial degree and nontraditional students who are initiating or resuming their initial postsecondary degree. Nontraditional students include "older than average students" or individuals who did not begin a program after high school. This could also include students whose first postsecondary degree was interrupted.

**Postmark
Deadline:
April 15, 2024**

**Applications
available at local
schools, PKM office
or online at www.pkmcoop.com**

