




the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

April 2022

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calendar of events

April

- 7** Minn. Tornado Drill Day
- 11** NRECA Nat'l Lineworker Appreciation Day
- 13** Thomas Jefferson's b-day
- 15** Good Friday
SWCE office is closed;
Income tax filing deadline
- 17** Easter
- 22** Earth Day
- 27** Administrative Professionals Day
- 30** Vietnam War ended in 1975

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Nominating Committee announce board candidates for 2022

The Nominating Committee for Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric have announced their selection of candidates for the board seats up for election in Districts 2, 4, and 6 at this year's annual meeting scheduled Tuesday, June 7, 2022.

The committee first met Nov. 11, 2021, at Steele-Waseca's headquarters in Owatonna.

General Manager Syd Briggs reviewed the duties of the Nominating Committee as stated in the co-op's bylaws, the activities and conduct of individual board members policy, the qualifications for eligibility for service on the co-op's board of directors policy, the director election filing form and affirmation of director qualifications, and questions concerning qualifications for director.

Board President Gary Wilson highlighted areas of the board of director position description with the committee. Wilson addressed potential questions a candidate may have, highlighting the time commitment it takes to be a board director.

Briggs reviewed the selection process with the committee. He explained the nominating committee policy and the rotation plan for the committee which works on a rotation system that keeps six experienced members on the committee, and adds three new members each year.

A list of members in each district was provided, and it was suggested that committee members from each district meet together to search for candidates and review the information given to them.

Nominations for committee chairperson for the January meeting were opened, Denise Bartness volunteered, and Wilson declared her nominating committee chairperson. After no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The Nominating Committee conduct-

ed their second meeting Jan. 19, 2022, at Steele-Waseca's headquarters.

Cooperative Attorney Tricia Lancaster reviewed the director duties, standard of conduct policy, and qualifications for eligibility for service on the board of directors policy.

Briggs reviewed the director position description, highlighting director responsibilities, board-manager relations, board-cooperative member relations, and board-community relations.

The names of the following candidates were submitted, and will appear on the election ballot for Steele-Waseca's 86th annual meeting scheduled, June 7, 2022, at the co-op's headquarters located at 2411 W. Bridge St., Owatonna:


• **District 2:** Geraldine G. Lienke (incumbent), Janesville.

• **District 4:** Dennis C. Ringhofer (incumbent), Owatonna.

• **District 6:** Michael T. Herman, Owatonna; and Gary W. Wilson (incumbent), Owatonna.

A profile of each candidate will appear in the May 2022 *Sparks* newsletter. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor during the annual meeting with nominations closing at that time. 2021

This year's Nominating Committee consisted of the following Steele-Waseca members: District 2—Ryan/Jenny Angelow, Faribault; Joyce Ahlman, Faribault; Dale/Lynn Groskreutz, New Richland; District 4—Keith/Carol Schrader, Nerstrand; Glenn/Linda Wiesjhan, Owatonna; and Denise Bartness, Owatonna; District 6—Joseph Haberman, Blooming Prairie; Patricia Pagel, Faribault; and John/Lylia Iverson, Medford. 

 #swceTRUST





the power of human connections

sparks

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Email: info@swce.coop



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Board of Directors

- PJ Duchene District 1
- Geraldine Lienke District 2
- Duane Edwardson, *Chaplain* District 3
- Dennis Ringhofer District 4
- Rodney Krell District 5
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
- Gary Wilson District 6
President, GRE Director
- John Beal, *Vice President* District 7
- Ronald Sommers District 8
- Renee Malecha District 9
Secretary/Treasurer

Management

Syd Briggs *General Manager*

Division Managers

- Darla DeVries *Office*
- David Lundberg *Finance*
- Dan Meier *Operations*

Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

Operations Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

For Customer Service, Billing Questions and Power Outages Phone:

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

Before calling to report an outage

1. Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on meter pole.
2. Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
3. Look for possible causes such as a tree branch on wires, a broken pole, twisted wires, etc.

To leave a non-emergency message whenever SWCE's Office is closed:

Phone 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514 and listen to the prompts. Please have your account number, phone number, and name on the account available.

Call *Before* You Dig
Gopher State One Call
811 or 800-252-1166

48-hour notice required for ALL underground cable locations

manager connection



By Syd Briggs,
General Manager

It is not unusual for me to receive emails, letters, and phone calls thanking

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric for the work our line crews do.

It takes a great dedication of knowledge, time, and physical fitness to be a lineworker. There are many situations dealing with all kinds of equipment at different power levels our lineworkers have to be familiar with and prepared for; and frequently those situations happen at inconvenient times and in the worst weather. In addition, lineworkers get great satisfaction continually developing their skills and abilities as they “keep the lights on.”

As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day Monday, April 11, I thought I'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30- to 120-foot tall. With the advancements in bucket trucks, lineworkers are able to access poles and lines under a variety of conditions and terrains, but pole climbing is still a necessity in their profession. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

They often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.



Lineworkers always rise to the challenge.

Despite the many challenges, Steele-Waseca lineworkers are committed to powering members in our service area. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Steele-Waseca has 12 lineworkers responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain over 2,200 miles of power lines across nine counties and 900 square miles. 119865

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our members within our service area. Without their exceptional dedication and commitment, we simply would not have the reliable electricity we need for everyday life.

The next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. You can also follow #ThankALineworker on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.

#swceSERVICE

lineworker appreciation connection



National Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has recognized the second Monday in April as National Lineworker Appreciation Day since 2015. Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric wishes to recognize our lineworkers for their dedication in serving the co-op and its member-owners. The line crew with their Steele-Waseca experience includes (left to right): Assistant Foreman Pete Hines, October 2012; Assistant Foreman Adam Davis, July 2013; Line Technician Collin Wencel, May 2020; Line Technician Tanen Holzem, July 2019; Line Technician Marshal Madery, September 2016; Assistant Foreman Chad Henderson, July 2015; Line Foreman Don Bos, May 1991; Line Foreman Troy Pederson, June 1999; Line Technician Carlos Cruz, September 2016; Assistant Foreman Jake Jablonski, September 2013; Line Foreman Kevin Kjersten, October 2012; and Line Foreman Ben Hrcir, May 2012.

#swceSERVICE



**Build. Maintain.
Repair. Repeat.
That's how lineworkers
power our lives.**



LINWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

We thank lineworkers for their courage and commitment to powering our community.

cookin' connection

Pecan Pie

Marlene Lau

Pemberton

1 small pkg. vanilla instant pudding
3/4 c. milk
1 c. white Karo® syrup
1 egg, beaten
1 c. pecans

Mix pudding and syrup. Add egg and milk, mix thoroughly. Add pecans. Pour into unbaked pie crust. Bake at 375° for 35-40 minutes.

Please use a 3 x 5 card when submitting your recipe. The member whose recipe is published will receive a \$7 energy credit.



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 25 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during February 2022. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop. #swceINNOVATION

Was your account number in Sparks?

Each month five account numbers are printed in *Sparks* and a total of \$35 in energy credits is divided among however many of those numbers are found. For example, if all numbers are found, a credit of \$7 will be applied to the members' following month's electric bills; or, if only one number is found, that member receives the full \$35 credit. Members finding their numbers who have a load management receiver on their dual fuel, electric water heater, air conditioner, or genset will receive an additional \$7 credit. When you find your number, phone our office no later than the 7th of the month following receipt of the *Sparks*, or the amount will be forfeited. 27488

March issue of Sparks



Numbers found:

No members found their number

Numbers not found:

Stace/Ellen Byom
Vicente Velazquez
Alan/Catherine Peake
Stacy/Corey Kubat
Dallas/Angela Francis



Sparks in brief . . .

• **Want easy energy payments?** Sign up for **EnergyPay Plus**, our automatic payment plan, or **Energy Prepay**, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at www.swce.coop. By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 13-month history of your account.

• **If you have changed or added phone numbers**, please contact SWCE to update your contact information.

• **Need a new water heater?** For information about our Westinghouse Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Butterfield at our office between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

• **February temps** – The average high temperature for February was 25° F, while the average low was 3° F. This resulted in 1,429 Heating Degree Days (HDDs) and 0 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 16° F and average low of 1° F, which resulted in 1,581 HDDs and 0 CDDs.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2022, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs purchased (limit 5) are eligible to receive rebates (may not be combined with special promotions). Rebate request forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Rebate forms are available at swce.coop. For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 800-526-3514.

• **SWCE's tree service contractor** – Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514

LIVESTOCK OWNERS

If you have questions or concerns regarding stray voltage in your livestock confinement building(s), or are planning an addition, or constructing a new one, call Steele-Waseca at 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514. Steele-Waseca will work with you and your electrician to eliminate potential stray voltage problems. You may also visit: www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com.

CONSIDERING A HOME WIRING PROJECT?

Don't be a weekend warrior

Home wiring projects may sound easy — and even look easy on YouTube tutorials — but tackling wiring projects without the proper knowledge and expertise could result in a fire. **Those qualified to work on electrical components are armed with the following:**

SKILLS

They can demonstrate their skills in all aspects of electrical work.



KNOWLEDGE

They have the knowledge to complete projects safely and successfully.

TRAINING

They are trained in proper installation and know how electrical systems work.



EXPERTISE

They can identify hazards and reduce risks when it comes to home wiring.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) defines a qualified person as: "One who has demonstrated skills and knowledge related to the construction and operation of electrical equipment and installations and has received safety training to identify the hazards and reduce the associated risk" (NFPA 70E).

When in doubt, hire a licensed contractor to do the work.

Safe Electricity.org

#swceAPPRECIATION

April 11-15

WORK ZONE

AWARENESS WEEK

Move over and slow down. Help keep utility employees safe.

Safe Electricity.org

Downed and Dangerous

Always assume a downed power line is energized and dangerous! If you see one:

- Notify local authorities.
- Stay at least 35 ft. away.
- Never drive over a downed line, or through water touching one.
- Never try to move a downed line.

#swceTRUST

Storm Safety

do you have a plan?

Safe Electricity.org

Minnesota's Tornado Drill Day is April 7

Plan ahead so you do not get caught outside in a storm. Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining, even if you do not see it. If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance. If you are inside when a storm hits, stay inside. Keep away from windows and go to the lowest level of your home. If you are outside during a tornado and you can't find shelter, do not take cover in a vehicle or under a highway overpass. Find a ditch or ravine, lie flat, and clasp your hands behind your head to protect yourself from flying debris. If you come across downed power lines, stay away, and instruct others to do the same; call 911 to notify emergency personnel. For more safety tips, please visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org). 1034579

#swceTRUST

ad connection

give away

WOODWORKING MAGAZINES. 451-3939.

UPRIGHT PIANO, Gulbransen-Dickinson, you haul. 213-3820.

FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS, you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, swce.coop. These are separate from Sparks & will not appear in Sparks unless mailed, delivered, or emailed to SWCE.

wanted

GREEN TREATED ROUND WOOD POSTS, 3.5"-4". 210-8425/Richard.

54" PORTABLE, ADJUSTABLE BASKETBALL HOOP. 339-7402/Lynn.

RED WING CROCKS & FENTON GLASS, paying cash. 213-7120.

TRACTOR TIRE, 12.4x38, prefer on a JD rim, would do an exchange as mine does hold air. 465-8194.

ALUMINUM BOAT LIFT for my 20' boat, lift capacity should be at least 3500 lbs. 612-817-3429.

OLD STAMPS from grandparents years ago, published book prices paid. 676-0970.

PAINTING JOBS: we paint homes, outbuildings, barns, garages (wood or metal). 308-8556.

OUTDOOR DOG KENNEL. 334-8827.

PINBALL MACHINE, working or not, any age or condition. 612-327-0255.

BARN, GRANARY &/OR OUTBUILDINGS, I remove to repurpose the lumber; OLD TIN; BARN SIDING; LUMBER. 330-0258/Tim.

USED SAWMILL; SNOWBLOWER for Polaris Brutus or Bobcat 3650. 612-245-3594.

JUNKERS OR REPAIRABLES, trucks or cars, top \$ paid. 332-2300.

BUILDABLE LOT sought by young couple from country, 5-15 acres, west Nfld/Dundas area. 213-0692.

SMALLER MANURE SPREADER, single axle, any make or model. 456-2814.

USED CATTLE GROOMING EQUIPMENT sought by 4-H'ers. 210-7044.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

UNWANTD BIKES & LAWN MOWRS, \$ pd on delivered. 330-3178.

FORD DIESEL SKID STEER. 330-1849.

for sale

INSULATED SHOP FOR LEASE, south of Havana, 40'x65', (3) bays, full radiator repair equipment (still in business), (2) in-ground hoists. 456-4969/Steve.

BASS SHORT WINTER BOOTS, like new, size 13.5; DRESS SHOES, brown, like new, size 13.5. 465-8153.

(2) SONIC FLUID BIKE TRAINERS, you mount your own bicycle's back wheel into the trainer, \$75/each. 952-652-2017/Nfld-Lonsdale area.

FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS, the covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000. 838-5033/John.

SMITH CORONA ELEC. TYPEWRITER; ELEC. ROASTER. 451-2687.

CORN PLANTER, 4-row, 7000 series, 32" rows, always shedded, seed monitor included, \$2500. Email: eakerdr@gmail.com.

GRAVEL TRUCK AVAILABLE for all your delivery needs: rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacity. 456-7774.

1980 MERCURY XR7 COLLECTOR CAR, gd cond., white red interior, no scratches, low mileage, gd tires, best offer; OLD TOYS; CROCKS. 479-0576.

ALFALFA/GRASS MIX HAY BALES, full size, sm. sq., great quality, no rain. 451-2978.

LOWREY GENIE ORGAN & BENCH, gd cond., \$50; DINGO BLK WESTRN BOOTS, new, size 9.5, \$25; GLASS DEVILD EGG PLATE, new, \$10. 213-3820.

FARMALL B, \$600 cash. 456-0835.

1978 14' LUND ALUM. BOAT w/(2) Lund seats, new tires on trailer, 25-hp EL Mercury motor, \$1200/obo. 581-6828.

JD 1750 CORN PLANTER; 21' KEWANEE 380 DIGGER. 583-2026.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

SPEED BOAT & MOTOR: 2000 Sea Ray 18' Bow Rider w/2000 Mercury 115-hp outboard motor, boat trailer included, \$7500. 210-1659.

GRASS HAY BALES, sm. sq., \$4/ea. 612-756-1131.

CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS FOR RENT, 11'x9' to 16'x10'. 332-4623.

GRASS HAY BALES, sm. sq. by Waldorf. 327-3672.

8-HP BRIGGS ENGINE, vertical shaft, like new, \$170. 451-2946.

IH 900, 8-30, dry fert., cross auger, monitor; SUNFLOWER 6333 SOIL FINISHR, like new. 684-3136.

KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP EWE & RAM LAMBS; HEREFORD BULLS. 451-2722.

RENTAL, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$125. 451-7946.

(6) COOPER DISCOVERER ST MAXX TIRES, 10 ply, 235/85R16, 1/3 tread left, \$150/obo. 323-4362.

30' JD 455 DRILL, 10" spacings, has markers & harrow, also comes w/JD 200 monitor, \$20,250/obo. 291-1056/Fbo area.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Ellendale. 456-1460.

BEACHFRONT VACATION CONDOS FOR RENT in Fort Myers Beach, South Padre Island & Mexico, visit www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com for details & photos. 612-865-9604/Sandy.

INT 710 AR 3-18 PLOW, \$700; 4-ROW CULTIVATOR, 3 point, \$200; INT 45 FLD CULTIVATOR, \$700. 952-292-9796.

18.4R38 BAND DUALS w/hardware, \$550; ROCK BOX to fit IH tractor, \$80. 663-1429.

1968 ALUMACRAFT 18' BOAT w/1983 4-cyl. AQ125B Volvo inboard motor w/tandem trailer, used every summer, nice original condition, \$2200/obo. 612-290-2704.

SHINGLING & LIGHT CONSTRUCTION; TREE REMOVAL, free estimates. 456-0296.

'81 HONDA CB650, nice cond., collector. 456-4807.

FIREWOOD, mostly oak, \$100 for standard pickup load. 323-1539.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

SUMMER ON THE MISSISSIPPI, June 22-25. By deluxe motor coach, 6 meals, guided tours, lunch cruise, Circa 21 Dinner Theater, "Beauty and the Beast," and more! \$759 pp w/2 per room.

AUTUMN IN NEW ENGLAND, Oct. 6-15. Delta Air to New York City, 2 nights at Millenium Hotel, Broadway show, cruise eastern seaboard to Canada, scenic ports, & more! \$3,599 pp w/2 per room.

HOLIDAY BRANSON, Nov. 15-19. Deluxe motor coach, 4 n, 8 meals, Miracle of Christmas at Sight & Sound Theatre, Christmas shows w/Doug Gabriel, Dutton Family & more! \$939 pp w/2 per room.

Call 4-Seasons at 373-4705 or 373-2473, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, to learn more about their tour information.



Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by April 5 to ensure being printed in the May Sparks. Please print neatly or type your ad of 20 words or less on this form. We reserve the right to edit ad copy to allow space for more ads. Ads received after the 5th will be printed in the June issue.

For Sale Wanted Give Away

Phone # _____ Account # _____

Name _____

Clip and mail to: SWCE, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060-0485, deliver to the SWCE office, or email your ad to: sparks@swce.coop.

ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

CHICKEN EGGS out of non-caged chickens, no chemicals in feed, \$2.50 a dozen. 461-9422.

BUILDABLE RIGHTS in Webster Twsp in Rice County. 612-919-4130 for info.

'84 **CUTLASS CIERA**, V6 diesel (vry rare), rust free, have receipts for \$2500 in new parts, maintained vry well the last 30 yrs, looks & runs vry good, \$3500. 451-7755.

ENGINES, TRANSMISSIONS, USED AUTO & TRUCK PARTS, 30-day warranty on eng. & trans. 332-2300.

2013 **POLARIS SWITCHBACK**, \$5200; 2014 **POLARIS RUSH**, \$4700; **REESE 18K 5TH WHEEL SLIDER**, \$800. 210-6084.

POWER WHEELBARROW on a walk-behind mower 16-hp Kaw. 32" deck; **FIRST PRODUCTS AERA-VATOR/SEEDER**, 80" width, 3 point, tractor mounted, like new. 612-978-1219.

GRASS HAY, 4x4 rounds, stored inside, Faribo. 210-1552.

SHOT GLASS COLLECTION, vry large, includes states, bars, funnies, etc. 456-2339.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against SWCE as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

'09 **CHEV. IMPALA**, \$2500; **TREK 850 MT TRK**, 21 spd, men's, \$100; **TREK 3700 MTB**, men's, 21 spd, \$100; **TREK MT 200**, 24x175, \$100. 330-3178.

5-GAL. WHITE PAILS w/covers, were pickle pails, \$3/each. 327-9965.

12-GA. LIGHTFIELD HYBRID EXP 2.75" SLUGS, 5-rd boxes, \$16 a box; **HORNADY PRECISION HUNTER 300 RSAUM**, 178 gr ELD-X, 20 rds, \$60. 461-1191.

FIREWOOD, \$80/qtr cord, \$300/full cord; **ONIONS & POTATOES**, \$1/lb, Nfld area. 651-357-5092/Paul.

B&D CORDLESS MOWER; AIR COMPRESSOR; BARI SAXOPHONE; BCS GARDEN SHREDDER; EARTHWAY GARDEN SEEDER; RYOBI CORDLESS POLE SAW, like new. 340-0506.

MILLER PRO 500 SPRAYER, Demco yellow tank on front w/controls. 649-1228 after 6 p.m.

OAK MUSIC STAND; TENOR SAXOPHONE; 6' BOOKCASE; TREK 12-SPD BICYCLE; BOX SCRAPER; GAS STRING TRIMMER. 461-3450.

16' LUND FISHING BOAT w/25-hp Johnson motor, new swivel seats, Minn Kota trolling motor, depth finder, anchor, lights, & oars. 451-9445 or 413-2819.

ROUND BALES, 4x5. 451-5131.

(2) **DOWNHILL ROSSIGNOL SKIS**. 678-978-7444.

1938 FORD PICKUP, rebuilt, standard transmission, in primer, lots of new options, \$27,800; **LUND FISHING BOAT** w/accessories, \$2600. 327-3626.

Ads need to be received in the Steele-Waseca office by Tuesday, April 5, to ensure being printed in the May 2022 Sparks newsletter.

#swceAPPRECIATION

GRE members reaffirm approval of sale of Coal Creek Station, HVDC transmission system; approve Discovery Wind project

At a special meeting Wednesday, Feb. 9, Great River Energy's (GRE's) member cooperatives approved the updated agreement for the sale of Coal Creek Station and the high voltage direct current (HVDC) system to Rainbow Energy Center, LLC, and Nexus Line, LLC, respectively.

GRE's all-requirements members also approved the purchase power agreement with Apex Clean Energy for the 400-megawatt (MW) Discovery Wind project in McLean County, North Dakota.

Great River Energy is building a power supply portfolio that will serve its member-owner cooperatives with clean, affordable and reliable energy for decades. The cooperative will more

than double its wind energy by the end of 2025 and remains on track to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by more than 80% by 2025, achieving Minnesota's emissions target decades ahead of schedule.

Rainbow Energy Center, LLC plans to operate the 1,151-MW power plant using current plant employees they hire. GRE will operate and maintain the HVDC system for Nexus Line, LLC using existing Great River Energy transmission employees under a 20-year contract. Discovery Wind will deliver renewable energy across the 436-mile HVDC system from North Dakota to Minnesota. GRE projects these transactions could save its members approximately \$130 million.

The sale of Coal Creek Station and the HVDC system is expected to close no earlier than May 1, 2022. The Discovery Wind project is expected to reach commercial operations in 2025.

Great River Energy, headquartered in Maple Grove, Minnesota, is a not-for-profit wholesale electric power cooperative that provides electricity to 28 member-owner distribution cooperatives, including Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric. Rainbow Energy Center, LLC and Nexus Line, LLC are affiliates of Rainbow Energy Marketing Corporation of Bismarck, North Dakota. Apex Clean Energy is based in Charlottesville, Virginia.

#swceCOOPERATION

Would you like your Sparks newsletter delivered to your inbox?

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric wishes to announce the electronic Sparks newsletter is now available for your email inbox. If you have allowed Steele-Waseca to have your email saved on your account, you may have already received an email with the co-op's electronic Sparks. If not, send us your email address at info@swce.coop, or go to www.swce.coop/news to subscribe! You can still enjoy the printed version monthly and receive it electronically as well.

Happy reading!

#swceINNOVATION

member connection

Email notifications available to Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members wishing to receive email notifications regarding their bill or payments applied to their account may register on the co-op's website, swce.coop.

To sign up for the notifications, visit the home page on Steele-Waseca's website, move your cursor over **INFORMATION** and click, enter your username and password, then click **Login**.

If you haven't established a username and password, then follow the webpage instructions and click on **Register**. You will be guided to an "Account Registration" page. Enter your created username and password. The password must include at least: one capital letter, one lowercase letter, one digit, and one special character. Examples of special characters are %, \$, #, !, etc. Password length will need to be between 7 and 30 characters. Enter how you would like your name displayed in your online account, and your email address. Make sure to enter the displayed "Security Code" to proceed. 1052675

The final process will have you complete a form where you will need to enter your Steele-Waseca account number and your choice of one of four options: password, your account's meter number, your phone number, or email (whichever option you choose must match what Steele-Waseca has on file for the account).

Once you're in your account information, click on **Alerts**. There will be a list of notification options (pictured right). The notifications include when your bill is available to view online; a payment notification when your payment posts to your account; a due soon notification will notify you a few days prior to the bill's due date if your payment hasn't been received; a due now notification will alert you on the due date that your payment has yet to be received; and a delinquent notification will alert you if your account is past due.

You may click on any or all of the boxes adjacent to their respective notification, then enter your email address for each one selected. Once completed, click on **Update**, and you have finished your Steele-Waseca email notification registration.

If you have questions, please call Steele-Waseca during regular business hours 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. ☎️ #swceINNOVATION

Alerts

Subscriptions <input type="checkbox"/>		Email History <input type="checkbox"/>		Subscription History <input type="checkbox"/>	
Notification		Contact Information			
<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Notification: Notify the customer when the bill is available to view o		Email			
<input type="radio"/> Electronic Only					
<input type="radio"/> Electronic and Paper					
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment Received Notification: Notify the customer when a payment has been received.		Email			
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment Due Soon Notification: Notify the customer when a payment is due soon.		Email			
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment Due Now Notification: Notify the customer when a payment is due now.		Email			
<input type="checkbox"/> Account Delinquent Notification: Notify the customer when the account has become delinquent.		Email			
<input type="checkbox"/> Budget Change: Notify the customer when budget amount has been changed.		Email			
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card Expiration - Notify customer when card is about to expire.		Email			

Update

NORTHFIELD EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 23, 2022

Bridge Sq | Northfield
Rain Date: April 30

www.northfieldearthday.com

