



2024 Annual Report

MWEC

**BUILDING TOMORROW,
LEADING TODAY.**

Chairperson Report



Bob Grant
Board Chairperson

Welcome to the 34th annual meeting of Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWECC).

Time sure flies! Tonight, we will share updates on the work and progress of your electric cooperative. It's also a chance for you to ask questions and engage with the MWECC Board of Directors.

As you read through each department's report and listen to

the presentations tonight, one thing will stand out—the quality of our greatest resource—our employees. They are the reason we will be able to work through any challenges today and in the future. For the employees and the MWECC Board of Directors, the question is: “How will this decision affect the membership?”

A YEAR OF CHANGE

It was a year of transitions marked by staff retirements and the first full year with Alex at the helm. For the board, Char Aubol moved out of her precinct, creating a position to fill in the New Town District. The board appointed Geri Bratvold to fill the remainder of the term. We thank Char for her dedication and contribution while on the board and welcome Geri.

Change can bring a mix of emotions, but we did not skip a beat! MWECC continues with the strong leadership developed “IN HOUSE.” Alex is a prime example - he has taken on key roles at the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) and Basin Electric committees and recently spoke at a legislative hearing representing all of North Dakota Electric Cooperatives.

CONTINUED GROWTH

One constant at MWECC is our growth in kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales. To meet this growing demand, your cooperative continues to invest in new lines and infrastructure to provide reliable and affordable energy. A project that will become visible this summer in Stanley has the future in mind. We will build a new office/shop complex to meet current and future needs and continue the high-quality service to Mountrail County. You can see the renderings of the new office on page 15.

Keeping up with changes, challenges, and trends in the electric industry takes a lot of time and dedication from the board members. To stay informed we attend educational classes and meetings that are sponsored by NDAREC and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. These meetings have great speakers on current and possible future trends affecting our business. It seems like there is always something new to read and learn about.

INSIGHT TO ACTION

Our board is always looking for ways to improve our efficiency and effectiveness for the good of MWECC. Over the past few months, we conducted a series of evaluations – including a self-assessment evaluation, an overall board evaluation and a general manager evaluation. Through these efforts, we have established goals to align with the expectations and needs of our membership. These evaluation sessions, facilitated by Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), set the stage for a strategic planning session where our board and senior staff worked together to identify challenges and opportunities with safe, reliable, and affordable service in mind.

AFFORDABILITY & VALUE

We often hear: “Will electricity continue to be reliable and affordable into the future?” Many of these questions are driven by the rising power demand of data centers and other large-load industries. The study and planning of adding these large loads is very complex and can lead to a misunderstanding of how it all works. We assure you that the MWECC board, staff, and our associated cooperatives carefully evaluate every new load, and our ability to serve it. Experts use load forecasts and system modeling to ensure the grid can handle any new load and/or recommend when upgrades to the electrical system are needed – just as they have done the last 20 years of growth.

Your input plays a vital role as we continue to navigate the challenges that lie ahead. As our world rapidly changes around us, your electric cooperative is ready to adapt to an ever-evolving electric industry, one that is much more complex today than yesterday. We hope tonight's program of speakers and the question and answer session will give you a better understanding of all that MWECC is doing to meet your needs. Service to the membership and our communities is the reason that MWECC exists and will always be at the forefront as we build tomorrow and lead today. ■

Agenda

- **Presentation of Colors**
- **National Anthem**
 - **Wrigley Hysjulien**
- **Invocation**
- **Call to Order**
- **Member Quorum Report**
- **Notice of Annual Meeting and Mailing**
- **Annual Meeting Minutes**
- **Recognition of Guests**
- **Introduction of Directors**
- **Business Session**
 - **Director Candidates**
 - **Appointment of Tellers**
 - **Elections**
 - **Financial Report**
 - **Attorney Report**
 - **General Manager Report**
- **Guest Speaker**
 - **Todd Brickhouse**
- **Presentation of Reports**
 - **Round Table**
- **Unfinished Business**
- **New Business**
- **Adjournment**

On the Cover

MWEC lineworkers at work

Rules

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The chairperson shall take the chair at the time set forth for the opening of the annual meeting or the time to which the annual meeting has been adjourned and shall call the convention to order.

2. POINT OF ORDER:

The chairperson shall preserve order and decide all questions of order subject to the appeal to the convention.

3. RECOGNITION BY THE CHAIR:

Every member previous to his speaking shall rise from his seat and address the chair and remain standing before proceeding to speak until he is recognized by the chair.

4. WHO RECOGNIZED:

When two or more members rise at the same time to speak, the chairperson must designate the member who is to speak but in all cases, the member who shall rise first and address the chairperson may speak first.

5. RULES AS TO SPEAKING, NUMBER OF TIMES, AND DURATION:

No member shall speak more than twice on the same subject without permission of the convention nor more than once until every member choosing to speak on the subject pending shall have spoken. Nor shall any member occupy more than five minutes at the first time nor more than three minutes the second time without the consent by a majority of the members present. After all members have spoken any director, manager, employee or attorney may speak.

6. MOTION TO BE SECONDED AND STATED BEFORE DEBATE:

No motion shall be debated unless put forth and the same be seconded. It must then be stated by the chairperson before the debate and any such motion must be reduced to writing if the chairperson desires it.

7. MOTION MAY BE WITHDRAWN:

If the motion has been stated by the chairperson, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the convention, but may be withdrawn at any time before amendment upon decision of the delegate offering it with consent of the seconder.

8. MOTION ON DEBATE AND PROCEDURE:

When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received but to table, to postpone, to amend, or substitute.

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN IN ORDER, WHEN:

A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, except when a member is addressing the chairperson or a vote is being taken.

10. CONDUCT BEYOND THESE RULES:

On any point not covered in the above rules "Robert's Rules of Order" shall govern.

11. VOTING:

All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon in person, except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation, or these bylaws.

12. VOTING ELIGIBILITY:

Each member shall be entitled to only one vote. Joint membership shall constitute a one joint vote.

General Manager Report



Alex Vournas
General Manager

The founders and pioneers of rural electrification were true leaders, driven by their goal of improving quality of life in the rural areas. Today, we reap the benefits of their vision and hard work, as electricity is the foundation of our modern world. Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative continues the same mission of the rural electrification pioneers. Even though there is access to electricity through nearly our entire service area, we cannot kick up our feet

and rest. There is a lot of work to do. Our entire membership, including our residential members, use more power each year, and they rely on it more than ever.

Electric cooperatives face a variety of issues and challenges today. Increasing power demands, aging infrastructure, government regulation, and extreme weather all threaten reliability and contribute to upward pressure on electric rates. MWEC continues to lead as we navigate these challenges, looking for the best outcome for our membership.

The reliability of our system is also under constant threat from extreme weather and regulations affecting our power supply. We will never be immune to weather related outages, but we are constantly improving our system by replacing aging lines and hardening our infrastructure to be more resilient. At the same time power demand is growing, it is becoming more difficult to build new sources of generation and needed electric infrastructure, which threatens our ability to serve our members. We are working closely with Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) to ensure our members have the power they need, as they build new electrical generation plants and transmission lines to support MWEC.

As we continue building and maintaining our system, safety remains at the forefront. We continuously train our employees in safe work practices and educate the public on the potential hazards of electricity. We have always known that extreme weather could pose a threat to electricity reliability and safety of our members, but in 2024 we were reminded of another threat that extreme weather can bring – wildfires. We are committed to building, maintaining, and operating our electrical system in a way that minimizes the potential of wildfires. Safety of our members, employees, and the public is a top priority.

Maintaining the affordability of electric service to our members is also becoming more challenging. The investment needed to build and maintain our system is becoming more expensive due to inflation; our members have seen inflation in every area of their lives, and the electric industry has seen it too. In fact as of January 2, 2025, MWEC's cost of wholesale power from BEPC increased by about seven percent. With power supply cost being our largest operating expense and with additional increases forecasted, this is a challenge that lies ahead. Increased sales of electricity in our area has insulated us from rate increases for a long time, but we need to prepare for a future where modest rate increases are likely to achieve the reliability our membership demands.

The founders of our cooperative laid the groundwork for the access to electricity that we enjoy today. But the work is never complete, we must continue *Building Tomorrow, Leading Today* to make sure MWEC overcomes the challenges ahead and meets the needs of our members, now and into the future. ■

2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 4, 2024

The Annual Meeting of the members of Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative met at the Upper Missouri Valley Fairgrounds Agri-Sports Complex in Williston, North Dakota on Tuesday, June 4, 2024.

Ryan Block, Safety Coordinator for the Cooperative, outlined the safety procedures which were in place for this meeting.

RECOGNITION OF OTHERS PRESENT

Chairperson Grant recognized Manager Vournas and Attorney Foust.

AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda as printed and presented was seconded and carried.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS AND NATIONAL ANTHEM

The presentation of colors was presented by the Williston All Veteran Honor Guard. Freya Throntveit led the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

The childcare and activities for children was pointed out and Chairperson Grant called the 2024 Annual Meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

INVOCATION

Director Pete Peterson provided the invocation and led a prayer.

QUORUM

Chairperson Grant reported there were 330 registered members in attendance. A quorum was declared present. He also noted 372 absentee votes were presented.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Secretary Jorgenson read the official notice of the 2024 Annual Meeting.

APPROVAL OF 2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

A motion was seconded and carried to suspend the reading of the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes and accept the minutes as printed and presented in the annual meeting booklet provided to the attending members.

ANNUAL MEETING RULES

A motion was seconded and carried to adopt the annual meeting rules as printed and presented.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairperson Grant recognized and welcomed all Mountrail-Williams guests, legislators, neighboring cooperative directors and employees, consultants, suppliers of the cooperative, and Veterans in attendance. He also noted the letters of greetings received from numerous political offices.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson Grant introduced the current Board of Directors. It was announced that Charlene Aubol had resigned due to moving outside of the East District 3A precinct.

LEGAL REPORT

Attorney Brittany Foust presented the legal report. It was reported Attorney Foust and In-House Counsel Johnson Ellis attended the special and regular board meetings for the Cooperative. Attorney Foust noted that the Board's actions in the past year had complied with the bylaws of the Cooperative as well as the laws of the State of North Dakota. She informed the membership that the Cooperative continues to participate as an intervenor in the ongoing State lawsuit brought by McKenzie Electric Cooperative against Basin Electric and Upper Missouri and that trial was anticipated in 2025. She also informed the membership that the Cooperative continues to monitor and participate in relevant ongoing FERC cases that could impact the Cooperative. It was reported there are no other known or anticipated specific or threatened litigation or claims that would impact the financial integrity of the Cooperative.

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT

Chairperson Grant discussed why the Board had presented the proposed bylaw amendment. Attorney Brittany Foust provided a brief overview of the proposed bylaw change. She explained the proposed bylaw amendments provide a process for members to request a change to the bylaws, and that if adopted, there will be two procedures for members to propose changes to the bylaws. Chairperson Grant provided the opportunity for member comments or questions. No member asked to be addressed to provide comments or question.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Vice Chairperson Lalim reported there were three petitions submitted, one for each district up for election. The candidates who filed petitions before the deadline and verified to have met candidate qualifications and background checks in accordance with the bylaws included:

West District and within Precinct 1B: Blaine Jorgenson
Central District and within Precinct 2B: Pete Peterson
East District and within Precinct 3B: Robert Grant

The candidate biographies were included in the meeting handout.

Vice Chairperson Lalim appointed an election committee to run the election. The members selected were:

From the West District: Jim Garaas
From the Central District: Peter Anderson
From the East District: Derald Hoover

Vice Chairperson Lalim called for the membership to vote upon the Director positions and proposed bylaw changes. Ballots

were collected, and Attorney Foust and the election committee brought the ballots to be tallied by a representative from SBS.

AUDIT REPORT

Courtney Richman, CPA, of Eide Bailly, LLP, presented the results of the financial audit for the Cooperative for the year ending December 31, 2023, via Microsoft Teams. It was reported Mountrail-Williams received a clean, unmodified opinion. Richman presented a high-level summary of the financial audit and reported GAAP accounting principles were followed to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatements. She summarized the financial statements. It was noted the operating revenue increase was due to additional kWh sold and additional customers and the operating expenses increase was related to cost of power to sell more kWh. The Financial Report was given in full and reviewed as by the Board of Directors at its March 2024 meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER

Trent Loos was the keynote speaker. Loos travels the globe to unearth stories about the people involved in the many different facets of production agriculture and to ignite a passion for the story of food and the people who raise it. He discussed the accomplishments and innovations in the agriculture and energy sectors, the difficulties of regulations to both industries, and how food and fuel are tied to the future.

WRITTEN REPORTS

Chairperson Grant noted the written reports printed in the annual meeting booklet and encouraged the membership to review the reports.

BOARD/MANAGEMENT REPORT

Chairperson Grant introduced Manager Alex Vournas as Mountrail-Williams new General Manager. Manager Vournas addressed the membership and discussed his desire to have a positive impact on members and northwest North Dakota. He thanked the employees in his first few months as manager. It was reported approximately \$15.9 million in capital credits retired in 2024. Manager Vournas and Chairperson Grant talked about upcoming challenges to electric cooperatives including regulation, supply chain issues, and inflation. Chairperson Grant showed the membership a copy of his Mountrail Electric Cooperative power bill from 1982 and compared to current rates. It was noted that there was a 57% increase in rates today compared to 1982 if inflation was not taken into account, but a 52% decrease in rates when inflation was taken into account. The membership was also showed the 2023 cost of electric service pie chart and it was announced Mountrail-Williams has the second lowest residential rate in the Country of electric cooperatives.

ELECTION RESULTS

Attorney Brittany Foust presented the election results. The candidates elected to serve 3-year terms were:

West District and within Precinct 1B: Blaine Jorgenson
Central District and within Precinct 2B: Pete Peterson
East District and within Precinct 3B: Robert Grant
It was reported that the proposed bylaw amendment passed.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS AND BOOTH GIVEAWAYS

Director DeTienne announced the booth giveaway winners and that Jacob Tostenson and Landen Miller were the Luck-of-the-Draw \$1,000 scholarship recipients.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business brought forward for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Grant announced a \$250.00 attendance credit will be credited to attending members' power bill. There was no other new business brought forward for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was seconded and carried to adjourn. ■

Financial Report



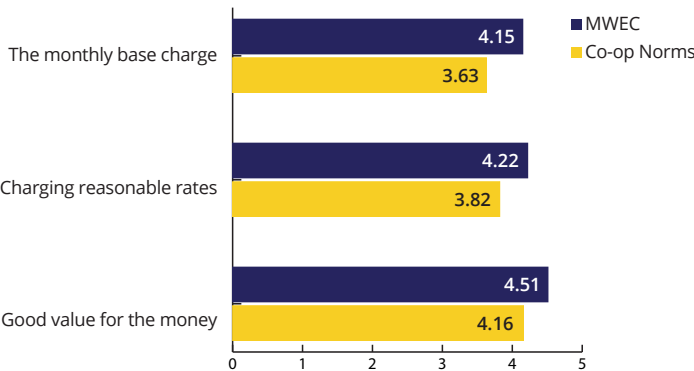
Cole Hendrickson
Chief Financial Officer

Despite ongoing inflationary pressures in 2024, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC) maintained its strong financial position. Due to careful planning, effective cost management, and ongoing growth, our margins exceeded those of the previous year. This report highlights the investment your cooperative is making in the electrical infrastructure, creating value today and for future generations.

AFFORDABILITY

As a cooperative, we exist to serve our members, not to generate profits. That’s why our pricing is based on the actual cost of providing electricity. We are happy to share that the 2024 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey ranked your cooperative higher than the cooperative norm in terms of service cost.

MEAN RATINGS COMPARED TO THE CO-OP NORMS



These survey results serve as a key driver as we lead today through prudent financial practices and make investments to build tomorrow. While upfront costs may sometimes be higher, investments help us to hedge inflationary pressures, while a newer infrastructure benefits from fewer repairs, longer lifespans, and enhanced performance, making your cooperative stronger.

OPERATING MARGINS

As shown in the financial report, we closed 2024 with an increase in revenue of \$29 million compared to 2023. While this growth is encouraging, we are also mindful that our largest expense, the cost of power, continues to increase. In fact, this expense increased by nearly \$20.8 million compared to the prior year. This leads us to our operating margins. We finished the year with \$33.5 million in operating margins and just over \$59 million in total margins. Operating margins come from our

distribution activity, whereas the total margins include interest income and capital credit allocations from other cooperatives. As a cooperative, we return these margins to you, our members, in the form of capital credit retirements.

CHECKS AND BALANCES

Reviewing our 2024 balance sheet, we see that our total assets grew by \$64 million to \$957 million, mostly made up of our electric plant. Liabilities were just shy of \$524 million, primarily driven by \$371.9 million in long-term debt.

Total members’ equity rounds out the balance sheet of \$433.5 million. This is your ownership in MWEC and is comprised of patronage capital and other equities. Patronage capital has increased by approximately 11% since 2023.

In 2024, MWEC returned just over \$15.8 million in capital credit checks to our members. With another good year in the books, the board will consider another substantial retirement in 2025.



FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

Eide Bailly LLP, a certified public accounting firm, completed the audit in March 2025, resulting in a clean audit opinion on the financials. The 2024 audit was presented and reviewed by the MWEC Board of Directors on March 26, 2025. We are happy to report that the audit confirmed the excellent state of your cooperative’s financial records.

LOOKING AHEAD

The cooperative’s goal is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to our members. We will continue to be diligent in keeping pace with our fiscal responsibility while leading with transparency and integrity. Steady growth, load diversification, and increased energy sales all help in offering competitive rates. We closely monitor each category to produce an affordable and reliable service for our members. ■

Financials

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND PATRONAGE CAPITAL

Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

WHERE IT CAME FROM

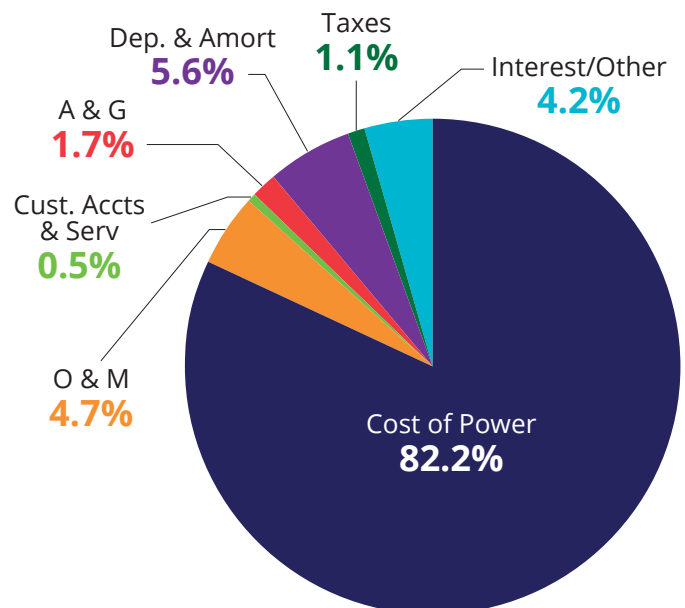
	2024	2023
OPERATING REVENUE:		
Electric	\$447,153,705	\$417,635,769
Lease	16,849,458	17,300,857
Other	952,431	1,009,751
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$464,955,594	\$435,946,377

WHERE IT WENT

OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Cost of Power	\$354,650,404	\$333,857,478
Transmission Expense-Operations	1,436,558	1,193,327
Transmission Expense-Maintenance	469,005	791,769
Distribution Expense-Operation	12,403,190	11,803,578
Distribution Expense-Maintenance	6,168,852	7,567,049
Operations Costs	20,477,605	21,355,723
Customer Accounts Expenses	1,873,164	1,769,519
Customer Service & Info. Expense	294,410	265,617
Administrative & General Expense	7,186,824	6,809,380
Administration Costs	9,354,398	8,844,516
Depreciation Expense	21,176,674	20,353,782
Accretion of Plant Reserve	2,665,377	2,665,377
Taxes	4,862,488	4,526,539
Interest on Long-Term Debt	18,038,566	16,767,213
Amortization of Loss on Reacquired Debt	181,401	181,401
Other	43,510	49,000
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$431,450,423	\$408,601,029

2024 COST OF ELECTRIC SERVICE

Cost of Power	\$354,650,404
Operations & Maintenance	20,477,605
Customer Accounts & Service	2,167,574
Administrative & General	7,186,824
Depreciation & Amortization	24,023,452
Taxes	4,862,488
Interest/Other	18,082,076
TOTAL	\$431,450,423



Financials

Statements of Operations and Patronage Capital continued from Page 9

OPERATING MARGINS BEFORE CAPITAL CREDITS:	\$33,505,171	\$27,345,348
GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION AND OTHER COOPERATIVE CAPITAL CREDITS:	23,511,235	25,428,771
NET OPERATING MARGINS:	\$57,016,406	\$52,774,119
NON-OPERATING MARGINS:		
Merchandising, Less Costs & Expenses (2024 - \$1,195,401; 2023 - \$644,491)	\$306,295	\$76,109
Other Non-Operating Margins	(9,321)	(1,604)
Interest Income	2,076,542	2,126,831
TOTAL NON-OPERATING MARGINS	\$2,373,516	\$2,201,336
NET MARGINS	\$59,389,922	\$54,975,455

BALANCE SHEET

Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

ASSETS:	2024	2023
ELECTRIC PLANT:		
In Service	\$733,162,585	\$696,816,636
Under Construction	90,747,207	61,867,957
TOTAL INVESTMENT IN ELECTRIC PLANT	\$823,909,792	\$758,684,593
Less Accumulated Provisions for Depreciation	\$197,201,279	\$176,809,140
ELECTRIC PLANT - NET	\$626,708,513	\$581,875,453
OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS:		
Investments in Associated Companies	\$182,840,097	\$163,869,568
Other Investments	274,729	263,246
Revolving Loan Fund	254,591	253,650
Special Funds	865,040	809,654
TOTAL OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS	\$184,234,457	\$165,196,118
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$4,136,940	\$4,494,595
Temporary Cash Investments	10,453,503	24,476,589
Accounts Receivable, Less Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts (2024 - \$5,573,644; 2023 - \$5,558,430)	23,432,433	17,094,093
Other Accounts Receivable - FEMA	2,118,403	18,006,426
Unbilled Revenue	38,244,508	38,638,136
Materials and Supplies	53,431,549	29,524,298
Prepayments	7,382,865	6,545,971
Interest Receivable	375,732	99,500
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$139,575,933	\$138,879,608
DEFERRED CHARGES:	\$6,937,445	\$7,312,652
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$957,456,348	\$893,263,831

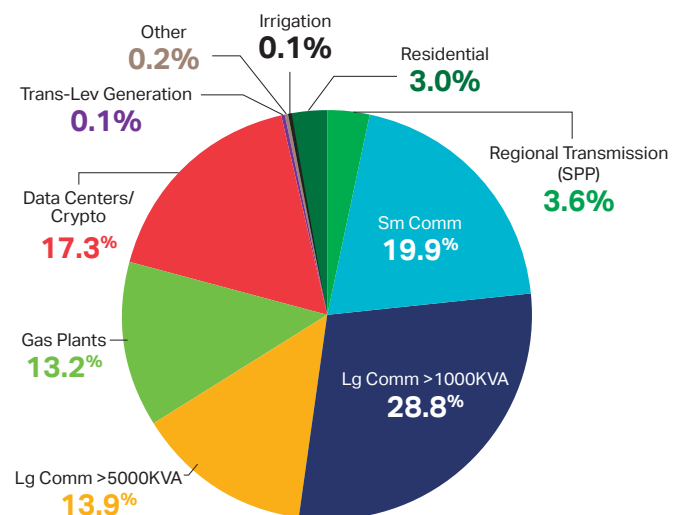
Financials

EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES

EQUITIES:	2024	2023
Patronage Capital	\$414,868,921	\$373,511,696
Other Equities	18,643,294	15,785,704
TOTAL EQUITIES	\$433,512,215	\$389,297,400
LONG-TERM DEBT, LESS CURRENT MATURITIES:	\$371,909,392	\$368,538,364
OTHER NON-CURRENT LIABILITY:		
Deferred Revenue	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000
Leased Plant Maintenance Reserve	711,923	711,923
Plant Retirement Reserve	27,804,627	25,139,250
Postretirement Benefit Obligation	55,384	72,796
TOTAL OTHER NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$40,571,934	\$37,923,969
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	\$11,628,972	\$10,980,223
Line of Credit	29,600,000	18,000,000
Accounts Payable	36,429,928	37,217,741
Customers Deposits	4,360,765	3,162,737
Taxes Accrued	9,552,730	7,929,311
Accrued Interest	-	22,515
Miscellaneous Accrued Current Liabilities	55,023	43,951
Accrued Compensated Absences	1,079,300	1,043,984
Postretirement Benefit Obligation-Current	16,400	15,400
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$92,723,118	\$78,415,862
DEFERRED CREDITS:	\$18,739,689	\$19,088,236
TOTAL EQUITIES & LIABILITIES:	\$957,456,348	\$893,263,831

2024 OPERATING REVENUE

Residential	\$14,090,280
Regional Transmission (SPP)	16,849,458
Sm Comm	92,415,553
Lg Comm >1000KVA	133,758,289
Lg Comm >5000KVA	64,489,675
Gas Plants	61,322,927
Trans-Lev Generation	451,684
Data Centers/Crypto	80,296,645
Other	971,015
Irrigation	310,068
TOTAL	\$464,955,594



Engineering Report



Scott Iverson

Distribution Electrical
Engineer
Distribution and Load
Forecasting



Matthew Stoltz

Electrical Engineer
Transmission System
Consultant

The electrical industry is no longer a simple network. As technology continues to evolve and change, the need for electricity will continue to grow. In fact, in January 2024, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC) set a record peak demand (the amount of energy used at one specific time) of 863 Megawatts (MW), with no signs of slowing down.

As demand continues to rise each year, we understand the importance of investing in three areas of the electrical system: distribution, transmission, and generation.

DISTRIBUTION

MWEC continues to make technological advancements to the distribution system to improve how we deliver power to your home, farm, and business. One example of technology in action is Fault Location Isolation and Service Restoration (FLISR). We continue to use this technology to redirect the flow of electricity, safely repair the primary electrical pathway, and restore electricity safely and in less

time. One example of FLISR in action was when a vehicle struck a pole, causing a power outage. FLISR quickly isolated the fault and restored power to over half of the affected members in less than a minute. This is just one example of how technology can make a big difference in outage response times.

TRANSMISSION

The Southwest Power Pool (SPP) and MWEC conduct annual reliability assessments to identify and reduce issues that could impact reliability. SPP is one of seven Regional Transmission Organizations (RTO) that monitor the grid, signaling power plants when more electricity is needed to deliver the power you need when you need it. The goal of the analysis is to identify projects that will improve the overall reliability of the transmission grid. In 2024, SPP identified the following transmission line projects within MWEC's service area.

- **Ellisville Substation to Simpson Substation** – This project includes 15.6 miles of 115 kV transmission line, with an estimated completion date in the fourth quarter of 2026.
- **Pioneer Substation to Sanderson Substation** – This project includes 10.1 miles of 115 kV transmission line, with an

estimated completion date in the fourth quarter of 2029. This project supports the transmission network in the southwestern area of Williams County.

- **Future Basin Electric Crane Creek Substation to MWEC's Satterthwaite Substation** - This project includes 12.6 miles of 115 kV transmission line, with a completion date in the fourth quarter of 2027. Crane Creek Substation is part of the Basin Electric "East Loop" 345 kV transmission line project. The East Loop will also include 175 miles of 345 kV transmission line connecting the Leland Olds power plant to Basin Electric's Tande Substation near Tioga.

Although these projects are being built in our service area, their costs will be included in the Southwest Power Pool transmission tariff, which means MWEC will recover expenses from all members of the SPP.

Additional transmission investments included the New Town Statcom, East Fork Substation expansion, Dry Fork Substation, West Bank South Projects and the 115kV transmission connecting Northeast Williston Substation to Folvag Substation. By investing in new technology and equipment and creating a looped electrical path, these projects will enhance the electric grid's overall resilience.

GENERATION

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) continues to be busy with new generation additions in Western North Dakota.

The ongoing expansion of the Pioneer Generation Station will add 583 MW of natural gas-fueled generation, bringing the total generating capacity of the site to approximately 825 MW. Pioneer Generation Station is located 15 miles northwest of Williston.

In 2024, BEPC also announced plans for the Bison Generation Station. This project will add 1,490 MW of combined-cycle natural gas-fueled generation. The power plant will be located in Williams County, 7 miles southwest of Ray.

Load growth coupled with investment in distribution, transmission, and generation projects will ensure that MWEC is able to meet the electrical needs of our members today and tomorrow. ■

Operations Report



Matt Glueckert
Operations Manager

While the Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MVEC) Operations Department develops and follows construction plans daily, some of our work is driven by the unexpected. One example is the 2024 wildfires in Western North Dakota, which tested our systems, staff, and membership. With safety as our top priority, we responded with an all-hands-on-deck approach by requesting mutual aid from neighboring cooperatives to restore

power to our members. Within 24 hours, crews from four neighboring cooperatives and various contractors responded to the call to begin repairs. The wildfire impacted 1,759 member services, damaged 550 poles, and resulted in additional damage to the electrical infrastructure. While the wildfires caused a lot of damage, they were even more devastating for many of our members.

While we can never predict the unexpected, we can prepare for it. Several preventative strategies at MVEC help mitigate fire risk, including electrical system maintenance and inspection, pole testing, vegetation management, and the ability to detect and isolate faults quickly with up-to-date technology, just to name a few.

TRAINING

One of the largest challenges with a growing, ever-changing electric grid is how different it is today compared to 30 years ago. Many recent changes to the system create unique situations requiring an elevated level of situational awareness.

MVEC has programs to equip employees with the skills and knowledge needed to respond effectively for future emergency situations. Training is conducted regularly to ensure employees stay up to date with the required certifications and industry best practices.

In 2024, MVEC also initiated two emergency preparedness exercises to strengthen our response and coordination in emergency situations. These exercises allowed us to identify strengths and gaps in our processes as we tested our preparedness, coordination, and resource management efforts.

As your electric cooperative, we believe training and safety opportunities should be extended beyond our walls. Our community outreach focuses on raising awareness about electrical safety among our members and communities, highlighting potential electrical hazards and providing guidance on preventing them and staying safe. Our safety department works with a wide range of our membership, including schools, first responders, and is present at various community events.

DISTRIBUTION

MVEC owns over 5,000 miles of distribution lines that deliver power to our members. Our construction plan guides and prioritizes the work we do to improve reliability on an annual basis. In 2024, we invested nearly \$4 million in burying main tie lines, nearly \$2 million in burying overhead road crossings, and approximately \$12 million in replacing aging infrastructure.

TRANSMISSION

Unlike most other distribution cooperatives, MVEC owns transmission lines, and with that comes the responsibility of maintaining our transmission system. Currently, MVEC manages approximately 460 miles of 115 kV transmission line. As the need for electricity continues to grow, future plans include the addition of 40 miles of transmission line over the next five years. Building and maintaining transmission lines presents unique challenges, including heavier construction, larger equipment, and specialized training. However, as the needs of our members continue to grow and our existing transmission system ages, we are committed to building and maintaining the transmission lines necessary to ensure reliability now and in the future. ■

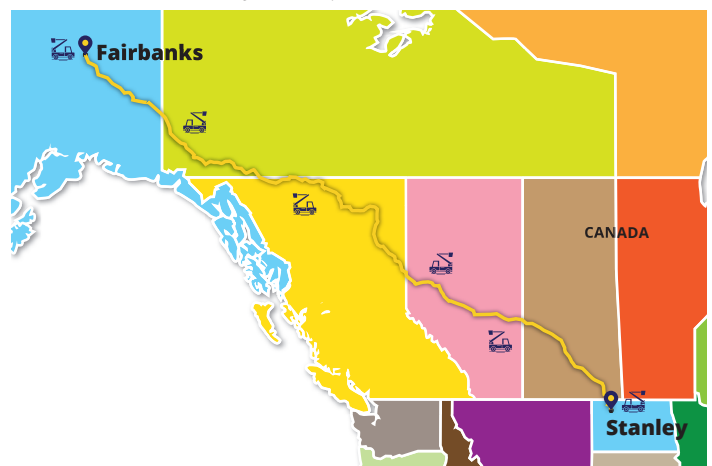
460 MILES OF TRANSMISSION LINE

That's the distance between Stanley, ND and Brainerd, MN



5,000 MILES OF DISTRIBUTION LINE

Like driving from Stanley, ND to Fairbanks, AK and back



Substation/Dispatch/Security Report



Steve Peterson
Division Manager:
Substation/Dispatch/Security

Staying current with technology is vital to improving the power we supply to our members, both from a safety and a reliability standpoint. The substation, dispatch, and security departments are working on several projects that align with this year’s theme, *Building Tomorrow, Leading Today*.

THE STATCOM SOLUTION

Several years ago, planning efforts between Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC) and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) showed the need for additional reinforcements in the New Town area. Due to the area’s geography, being partially surrounded by Lake Sakakawea, SPP determined the best solution was a 150 MVAR STATCOM. After several years of engineering and design, in 2024, we began the construction phase, with a completion date of February 2025.

The state-of-the-art device will provide voltage support to the area, allowing for future load growth. The STATCOM, the only

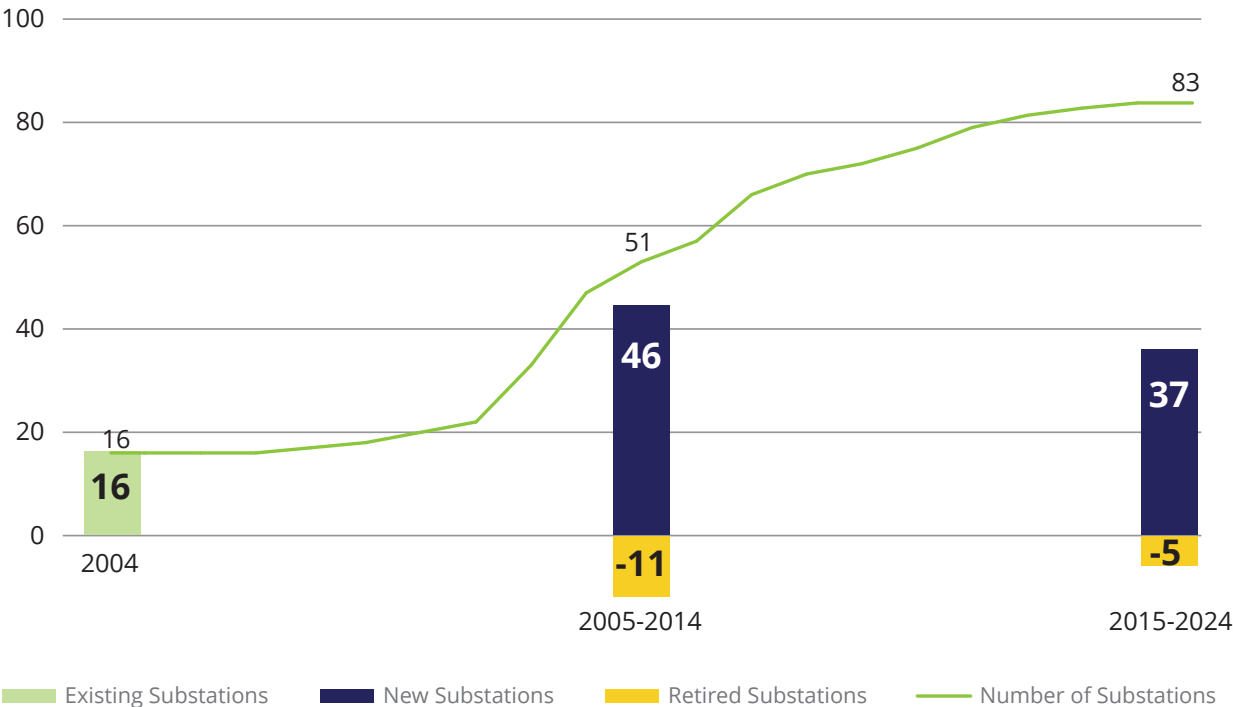
one in North Dakota, regulates voltage and eliminates dips and spikes, providing consistent and steady service to MWEC members. During a disturbance, such as a lightning strike or downed pole, the STATCOM minimizes the voltage waver and compensates for the deviation. This equipment requires additional training for our employees who test, maintain, and monitor the equipment and property.

PROTECTING YOUR COOPERATIVE

As mentioned in the engineering report, the STATCOM was just one of several substation projects underway in 2024. Today, we operate more than 80 substations, up from 16 in 2003. This growth and ongoing investments highlight the importance of prioritizing the physical security of critical electric infrastructure. In 2024, 50 cameras were installed to better protect your electric cooperative from physical threats, a major concern for electric providers across the nation.

Your electric cooperative also has security plans in place, with dispatch staff available 24/7 to monitor the electrical and security systems. ■

SUBSTATION GRAPH OVERVIEW 2004-2024



New MVEC Stanley Office Opening Fall 2026

GROWING DEMAND AND MEMBERSHIP

Since 2011, Mountrail William's Electric Cooperative's (MVEC) monthly peak demand has grown by nearly 16% annually. During this same time period, the MVEC membership has grown by nearly 4.5% each year. To support this continued growth, in 2014 planning began to build a new Williston office, followed by New Town and Stanley in 2015, for facilities designed to meet both current and future needs. In 2018, MVEC opened the Williston office and in 2021 the New Town office.



STANLEY FACILITY EXPANSION

The expansion of MVEC's Stanley Office includes a lay-down yard, a fueling area, and a consolidated facility to house all employees under one roof.

Key features of the facility include a 218' X 100' concrete panel garage with drive-through, wash, and mechanic bays. The attached office consists of a concrete panel base with a metal stud-framed structure clad in dark bronze metal panels.



FLEXIBLE OFFICE SPACE

The new office offers an efficient and collaborative environment that ensures seamless service to our members. Designed to support up to 40 employees, the office includes a kitchen, a break room, and a 48-seat classroom-style training space. The site and building layout provide long-term flexibility, with expansion zones on the east or west for future shop or office growth if needed.



FUNCTIONALITY AND FUTURE GROWTH

This new facility not only doubles the operational capacity of MVEC's Stanley Office but also supports future workforce expansion in the community.

We know that the facility investments today will ensure MVEC is well-equipped to meet the evolving needs of our members for years to come. For updates on building progress go to mvec.com/stanleyoffice.



Information Technology/Mapping/ Compliance Report



Jerry Rehak
IT/Compliance/
Special Projects Manager

At Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC), there are dedicated employees working behind the scenes to ensure we meet regulatory requirements, reduce risks, and improve operational efficiency. As the electrical industry changes, we understand the importance of investing time and resources in these areas, to make sure your cooperative operates to the highest standards.

COMPLIANCE

The Compliance Department ensures that MWEC is building a reliable and secure transmission system. How do we do that? We continuously review fifty-two standards that the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) identifies as essential to our transmission operation. For each of these standards, MWEC gathers and analyzes information to ensure NERC requirements are met. Each standard is reviewed on a yearly basis.

In 2024, MWEC was also selected by NERC's Compliance Enforcement Authority, Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO), for a self-certification to review one of our compliance standards. MWEC was found compliant, with no findings, demonstrating our commitment to reducing risks that could impact the reliability and security of the electric grid.

In certain instances, MWEC also provides information on incidents to the Department of Energy (DOE). In 2024, the DOE found no significant threats.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology (IT) Department continues to build, test and improve our Disaster Recovery Plan. In 2024, we conducted a worst-case scenario test, restoring critical MWEC systems to our disaster recovery hardware. We continue to improve our cybersecurity framework through:

- **System updates** – Updates, fixes or patches to improve system security.
- **Enhanced security** – Implementation of multi-factor authentication, wherever possible, to enhance security.
- **Education** – People are the biggest risk when it comes to cybersecurity. Employee education is conducted monthly to ensure our employees are always alert to cybersecurity threats.

This year, we also worked with the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NRECA) and other North Dakota cooperatives to improve our cybersecurity. As part of this effort, we developed a program called RECAP (Rural Electric Cyber

Advancement Program) to audit and provide recommendations and resources to participating North Dakota cooperatives to improve their overall cybersecurity efforts.

In 2025, we will continue to make our computer network stronger to minimize risk of cybersecurity attacks while testing and improving our Disaster Recovery Plan.

MAPPING

The primary goal of MWEC's Mapping Department is to create a series of comprehensive and accurate digital maps of our facilities and assets. Our maps are used by several MWEC departments and contain information from both internal and external applications. This allows our employees to make knowledgeable and informed decisions.

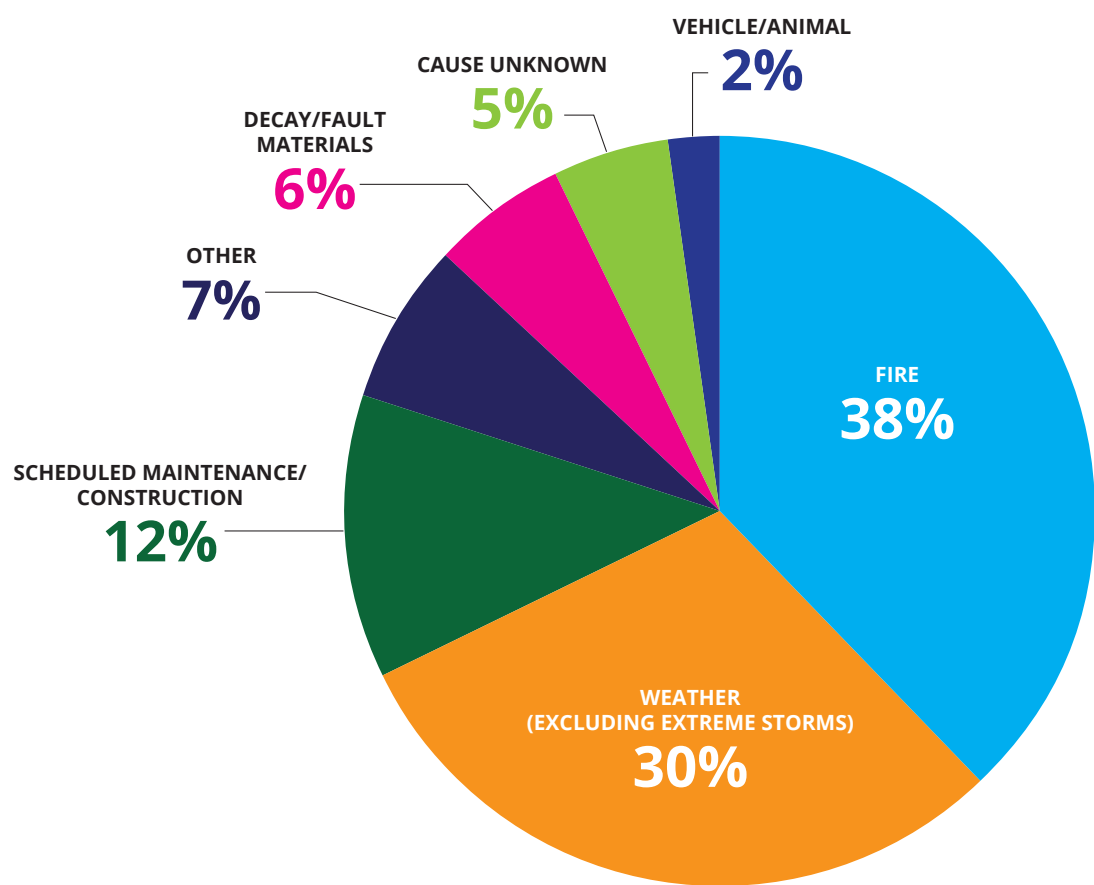
Each year, we assist our Operations Department with MWEC's yearly distribution inspection program. This inspection program allows us to ensure consistent and high standards of quality, reliability and safety across our service area.

The Mapping Department also assisted in the October wildfires, by mapping field issues and generating documentation used by both MWEC and third-party contractors to restore our system back to normal. We also worked with the Engineering Department in preparing comprehensive FEMA documentation.

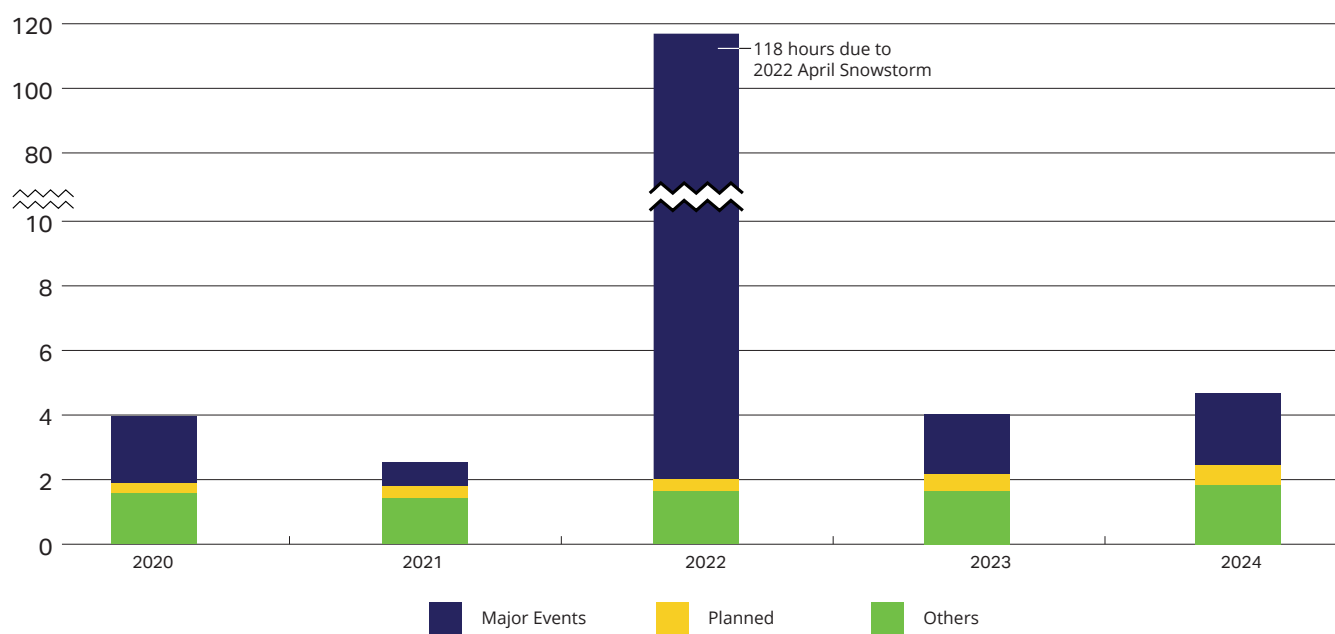
I'm very proud of every member of our IT, Mapping, Compliance and Cybersecurity teams. They constantly strive to make MWEC the best cooperative it can be. ■

Outage Report

2024 OUTAGES BY CAUSE



5-YEAR OUTAGE OVERVIEW



PR/Communications Report



Dubi Cummings
PR & Communication
Manager

In our ongoing efforts to improve communication, Mountrial-Williams Electric Cooperative (MVEC) conducted its first member satisfaction survey in Spring 2024. Members were chosen at random by our third-party partner to complete the online survey. We are excited to share that you, our member-owners, ranked your electric cooperative among the top cooperatives across the country with a score of 89. While we are thrilled with these results, we believe this survey is also a

valuable tool for creating positive change. The 2024 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey results identified two communication opportunities.

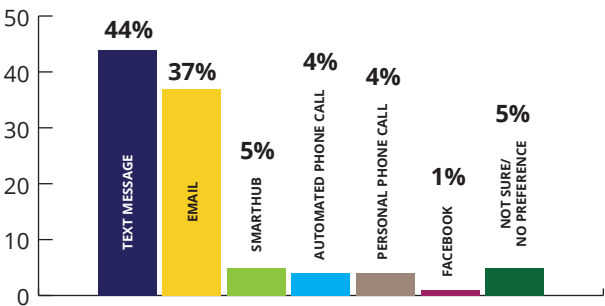
Operation Round Up – Survey results showed that 51 percent of members were aware of the Operation Round Up program. In comparison, only 17 percent knew how the funds were being donated in the communities we serve. With this information, we can improve how we communicate the impact of your dollars at work.

Learn more about Operation Round Up and the impact of your dollars at <https://mwec.com/operation-round>.

Outage Notifications – When it comes to communicating with our members about time-sensitive information, such as planned power outages, survey results showed a strong preference for text and email communications.

Preferred Method for Communication

How would you most prefer MVEC communicate time-sensitive information to you?



In response, your MVEC staff is working hard to implement planned outage notifications via text, email, SmartHub, and voice messages. As a SmartHub user, you can manage your notification preferences. If you are not currently a SmartHub user, a member services team member will be contacting you to guide you through the application process.

Learn more about SmartHub or sign-up at <https://mwec.com/smarthub>.

We will continue to prioritize member satisfaction through the use of member surveys. In fact, in May 2025, you may have received an email from marketreserach@ncreca.coop to complete the most recent survey!

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

At MVEC, we believe in powering the communities we serve through sponsoring local events and programs. To name just a few:

- Lewis & Clark State Park 50th Anniversary
- Western Wranglers
- National Night Out
- Grenora Community Club
- NHS College
- Williams & Mountrail County 4-H

These and many other organizations and individuals make our communities a great place to work, play, and live.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

In 2024, MVEC continued our commitment to supporting the next generation.

Scholarship Program – Through our scholarship program, we awarded nearly \$18,500 in college scholarships to area youth.



Youth Tour – We sponsored an all-expense-paid youth tour trip to Washington, D.C. Check out <https://mwec.com/youth-tour> or page 21 of this program to hear more about Caydin Hughes’s 2024 Youth Tour experience!

Lineworker Program – For the second consecutive year, we partnered with Bismarck Public Schools Career Academy on this exciting opportunity for high school students. This elective program focused on lab-based electronics and electrical skills, offering a hands-on introduction to the skills required for a career as a lineman. In 2024, eight students from Williams and Mountrail Counties attended the Lineworker Program.

As we continue our commitment to *Building Tomorrow, Leading Today*, your communications team is eager to enhance our communication with you, keeping you informed and engaged.

2025 Scholarship Winners

MWEC-BEPC



MaKenna Vigness
Williston High School
\$2000



Keira Borreson
Concordia College
\$1500



Kendra Hall
University of Sioux Falls
\$1000

HAUGEN FAMILY



Hunter Haugen
Williston High School

COMMUNITY



Thomas Arnson
Grenora High School



Jaeden Grady
New Town High School



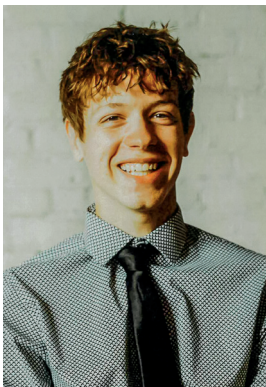
Hailey Nelson
North Shore Plaza
High School



Shaylee Kunze
Ray High School



Avery Ellis
Stanley High School



Kysten Kever
Tioga High School



Susannah Schug
Williston High School



Ella Richards
Williston Trinity
Christian School

2024 LUCK-OF-THE-DRAW



Landen Miller
North Dakota
State University



Jacob Tostenson
Williston High School

Operation Round Up

Operation Round Up is a program where members voluntarily “round up” their electric bills to the next whole dollar amount. The money is put in one of two trusts, Mountrail Cooperative Trust and Williams Cooperative Trust. Each trust is made up of a voluntary board that meets on a bi-annual basis to grant funds to community based, non-profit organizations within our service area.

The average contribution is 50¢ per month or about \$6 per year.

Since its inception in 1997
OVER \$430,000
has been awarded through Operation Round Up

2024 Disbursements

Mountrail Cooperative Trust:
\$11,500

Williams Cooperative Trust:
\$10,000

TOTAL: \$21,500

2024 Recipients

North Dakota Law Enforcement Canine Association

BIO Girls

Williston Band Boosters

Williston Trinity Christian PTO, Inc.

McVay Elementary PTO

Bethel Lutheran Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

James Memorial Preservation Society

The Crazy Cat Crew

Acro Stars Gymnastics Club

Grenora Public School - Family Consumer
Sciences Department

Arthur Solie American Legion

Northern Pines Stables (Stanley)

Stanley Commercial Club

Parshall American Legion Auxiliary

Northern Pines Stables (Parshall)

Stanley Elementary School

New Town Chamber

Stanley Cares for Kids (SACK) Program

White Earth Valley Saddle Club

Sibyl Center for the Arts Culture

Prairie Rose Golf Club

Domestic Violence Program NW ND

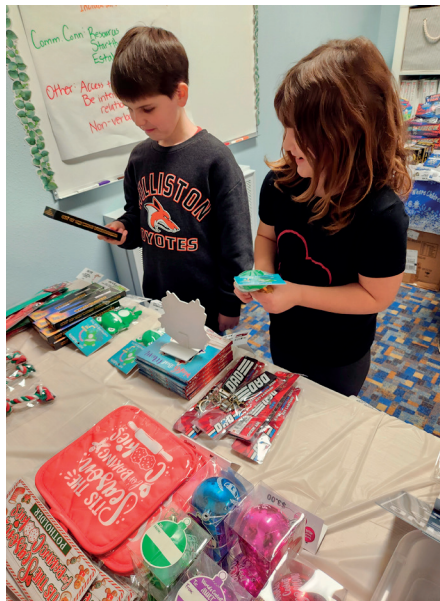


Photo courtesy of About You Photography by Michelle Rudland

Right-of-Way



Leah Johnson Ellis
In-House Legal Counsel/
ROW

As Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC) continues to grow, new construction is not possible without the cooperation of our members and landowners. At the end of 2024, MWEC constructed approximately 9 miles of new transmission lines and 120 miles of new distribution lines. In 2024, Right-of-Way (ROW) representatives secured approximately 450 easements.

These easements grant MWEC access to land for the purpose of building, upgrading, or repairing the electrical system.

Within MWEC, the ROW department is continually working to refine the right-of-way process and work with other departments to ensure the Cooperative continues to meet the growing electrical demand in this region. MWEC understands that the construction and maintenance impacts many of our members, and the Cooperative continues to strive to be good stewards of your land. If you have any concerns or questions about right-of-way on your land, whether it's planning, construction, or reclamation, please do not hesitate to reach out and contact one of our ROW representatives. ■

Youth Tour: A Life-Changing Experience



Caydin Hughes, center, along with two other North Dakota delegates in front of President George Washington's Tomb at Mount Vernon. The students were selected for a wreath-laying ceremony paying tribute to our nation's first president.

Caydin Hughes, the 2024 MWEC Youth Tour Delegate, was one of three students chosen to participate in a special wreath-laying ceremony at former President George Washington's tomb at Mount Vernon. Hughes hesitated to choose a favorite experience. "The whole thing was just amazing and fun," he said.

Trip Itinerary Included:

- Mount Vernon
- Ford's Theatre
- Gettysburg
- The U.S. Capitol; where delegates meet with North Dakota Representatives
- The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Classes about the inner workings of our nation's government and the important roles electric cooperatives play from their local communities to throughout the world
- and much more

Hughes was one of 16 students and four adult chaperones from North Dakota to join the more than 1,600 students from 44 states. Since the late 1950s, nearly 50,000 high school students have participated in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) program. The annual event is intended to be an eye-opening immersion in history and civics, with plenty of youthful camaraderie and opportunities to grow.

Krista Rausch, communications specialist with the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, explains, "Youth Tour is a great opportunity for students to learn about cooperatives and take in the history that continues to shape our world today." Rausch continues, "They're long days, and we pack in a lot, but it's worth it!"



MEET YOUR 2025 YOUTH TOUR DELEGATE

The 2025 MWEC Youth Tour Delegate, Alivia Lowery, is excited to represent her cooperative while experiencing a trip-of-a-lifetime. With an interest in joining the electric cooperative world, this trip is shaped to be an asset for her future plans. ■

Service Anniversaries

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

BECKY CORNELL
JASON IVERSON
CHRIS MEIERS

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

MATT GLUECKERT
JAKE STOLTZ
BROOKLYN ALBERTSON
BRAD HABERMAN

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

STEVE PETERSON
LORA WALTON
ANDREW JACKSON
JOREY BARTSCH
DUANE SCHAUER
LEON BRACKKEY
BRAD EIDE

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

RYAN BLOCK
WENDY SLOTSVE
TATE BARBOT
KAINE TONNIGES
KORBIN KNUTSON

Lineworker Program

Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (MWEC) partnered with Bismarck Public Schools Career Academy for the second year in a row to offer an exciting opportunity for high school students to participate in an elective program focused on lab-based electronics and electrical skills. The week-long program took place at Bismarck State College, offering high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors a taste of dorm-life while offering a hands-on introduction to skills required to be a lineworker.

2024 ATTENDEES

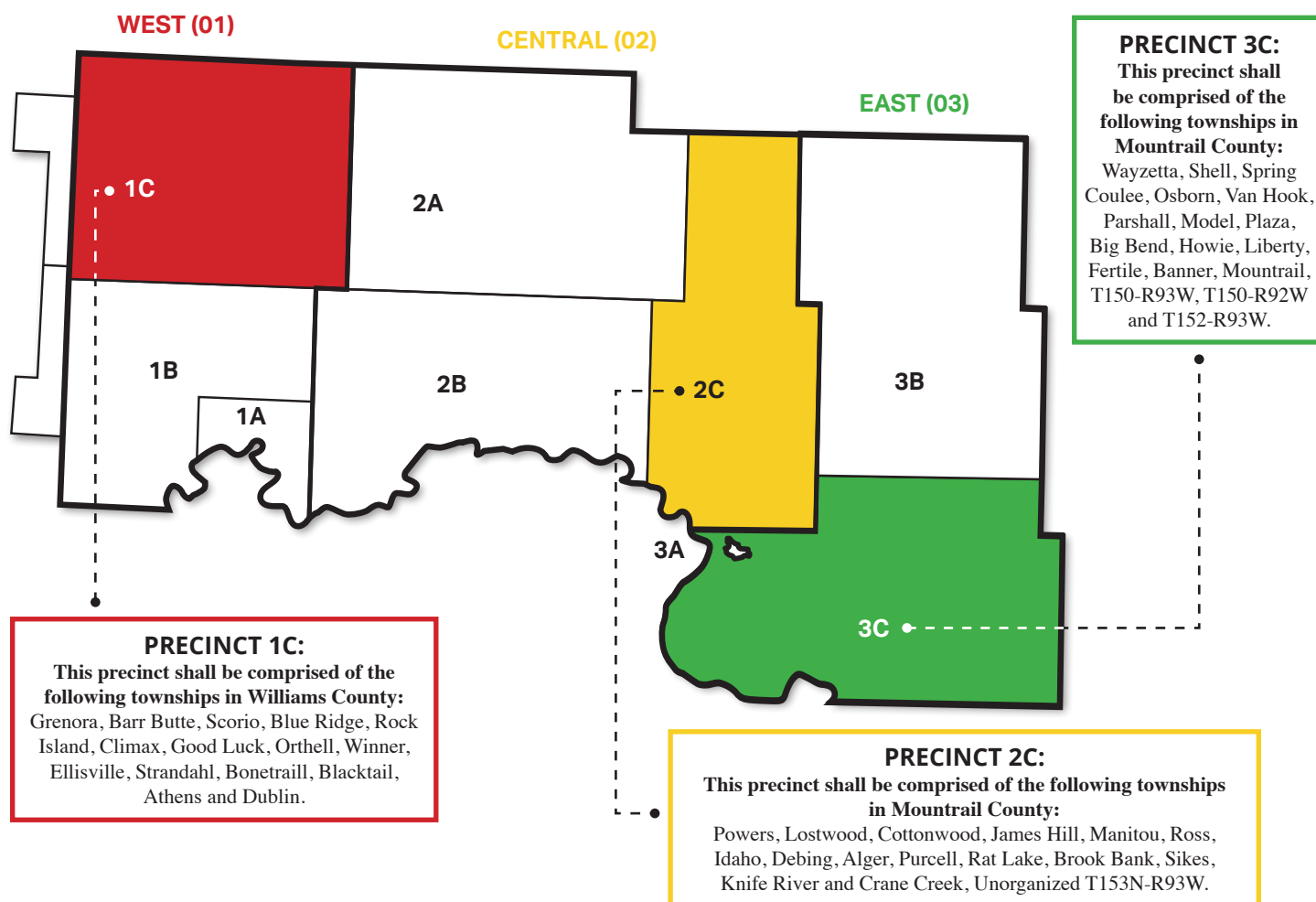
Kale Kolden – Parshall High School
Bobby McIntosh – New Town High School
William Nelson – Stanley High School
Ashton Peterson – Stanley High School
Jakob Peterson – Tioga High School
Griffin Wilhelmi – Stanley High School
Hunter Yarbrough – Williston Homeschool
Samuel Arnson Erwin – Williston High School.

To learn more about the lineworker and other educational programs visit, mwec.com/education. ■



Students from the 2024 Lineworker Program.

Board Seats Up for Election



Guest Speaker



Todd Brickhouse
CEO
Basin Electric Power
Cooperative

Todd Brickhouse, chief executive officer and general manager, joined Basin Electric Power Cooperative in 2022 as its senior vice president and chief financial officer. He was named chief executive officer and general manager in December 2023. Brickhouse leads a team of nearly 1,800 employees who work to provide value to the cooperative's membership by providing affordable and reliable power, products and services produced in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

Basin Electric's service territory includes 3 million consumers across nine states in the Upper Midwest, Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regions. Basin Electric's largest subsidiary, Dakota Gasification Company (DGC), operates the Great Plains Synfuels Plant, a coal gasification facility which produces synthetic natural gas and 12 additional products. DGC captures and sequesters approximately 2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide annually.

Brickhouse started working in the utility industry at Old Dominion Electric Cooperative in 2000 and served as Old Dominion's vice president and treasurer from 2010-22. He spent his early career in the financial services industry and has a background in securities trading, investment banking and investment management.

Brickhouse holds a bachelor's degree in economics and business from the Virginia Military Institute. ■

Board of Directors



JENNIFER WADE
DIRECTOR
DISTRICT 1C
Serving Since 2019



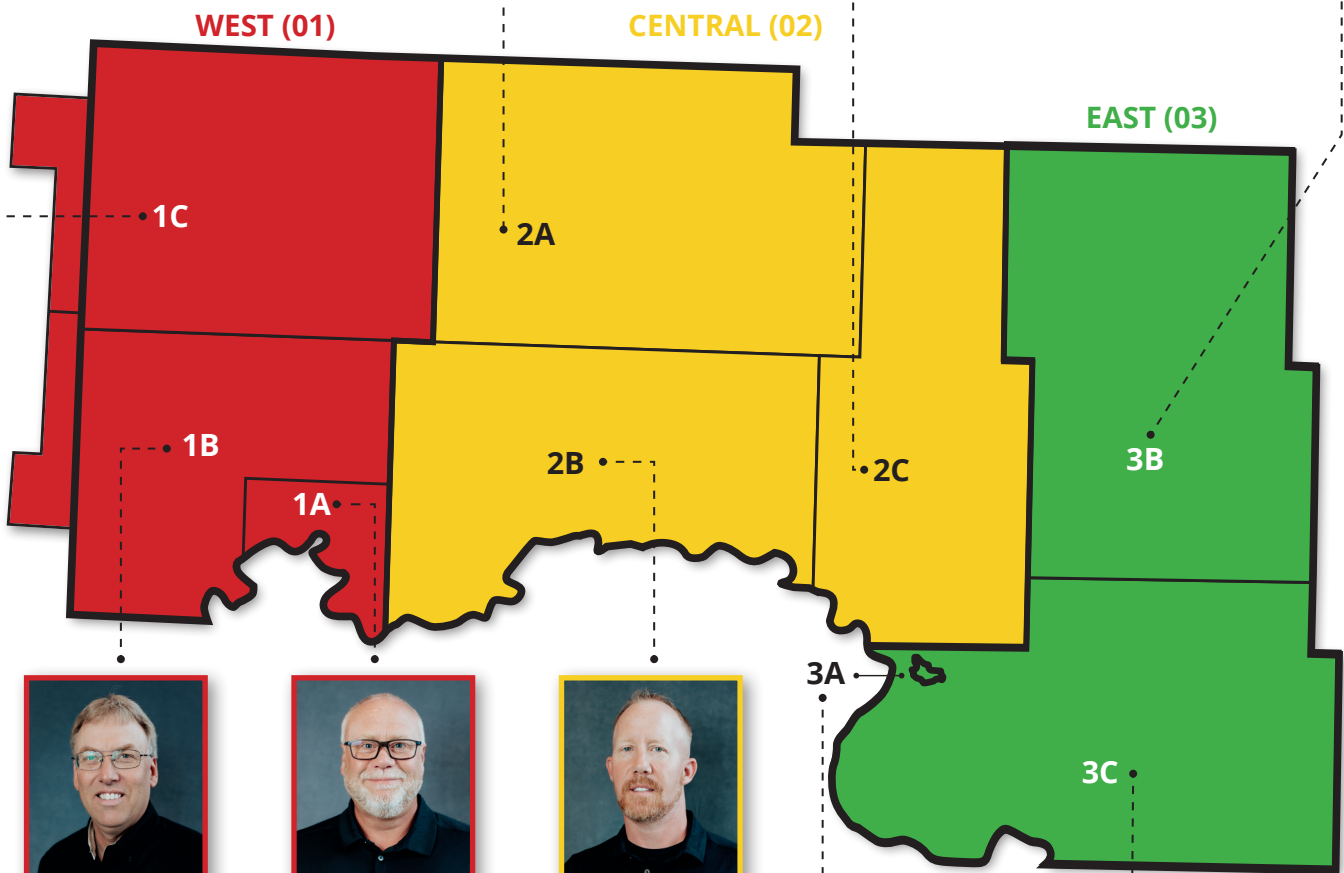
GARRETT LALIM
VICE CHAIRPERSON
DISTRICT 2A
Serving Since 2014



RYAN WILHELMI
DIRECTOR
DISTRICT 2C
Serving Since 2022



BOB GRANT
CHAIRPERSON
DISTRICT 3B
Serving Since 1981



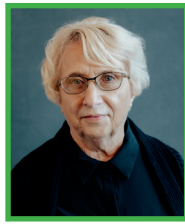
BLAINE JORGENSON
SECRETARY
DISTRICT 1B
Serving Since 2006



BRION NORBY
DIRECTOR
DISTRICT 1A
Serving Since 2021



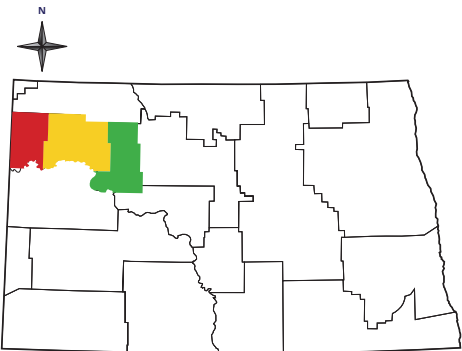
PETE PETERSON
DIRECTOR
DISTRICT 2B
Serving Since 2021



GERI BRATVOLD
DIRECTOR
DISTRICT 3A
Serving Since 2024



KYLE DETIENNE
TREASURER
DISTRICT 3C
Serving Since 2019



MWEC
Mountrail-Williams
Electric Cooperative
mwec.com
Facebook - @mwelectric