

# MWEC

Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

WILLISTON  
577-3765

STANLEY  
628-2242

NEW TOWN  
627-3550

## MWEC showcases new facility during open house



*Roger Sorenson (center), MWEC board chairperson, cuts the chamber ribbon, thanks all involved with the planning and construction of the new facility and welcomes all guests.*

PHOTO BY NDAREC/LIZAKESSEL

## In this issue:

- **New facility open house**
- **Win a trip to Washington, D.C.**
- **Pros & cons of grain storage**
- **Meeting minutes ... and more!**



*A view of the lobby from stairs connecting the main floor and second floor.*

## MWEC showcases new facility during open house

Nearly 2,100 people walked through the doors of Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative's (MWEC) new facility in Williston Oct. 4. This was the public's one chance to see the entire facility, as it will now become a secured building beyond the lobby.

The event kicked off with a ribbon cutting, courtesy of the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce, followed by tours of the modern four-story building. The public was first greeted by staff and board members as they made their way through the front doors. The front door access is a unique feature to this building. The building was designed to depict a power cable cut in half and the front entrance depicts the peeled-back cable covering. The new facility's curved design allows for more usable space than the previous building, while using the same amount of land. That is also why the building is four stories tall. MWEC couldn't build out, so it had to build up.

Stepping into the lobby, visitors were given a choice of either a guided tour, which included fun facts and answers to questions, or a self-guided tour. It took approximately 45 minutes for the guided tour of the 85,365-square-foot building. The tour included approximately 30 stops with

information regarding the most fascinating aspects of the co-op and the building.

The new facility currently houses more than 70 employees and was built looking toward the future and continuing growth in the area. Prior to the Bakken oil boom, MWEC had approximately 50 employees at all three of its locations and now has more than 110 total employees. Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) has a portion of the building dedicated to its Transmission Systems Maintenance-Williston department, which currently employs nine but could grow to upward of 20. In total, MWEC and BEPC, at max capacity for the current need, would house more than 100 employees in the new facility.

The old office building had its last addition in the 1980s and was far too small for the continued growth the co-op was seeing. To accommodate the quick growth from the Bakken oil boom, two temporary buildings were added. These buildings allowed for the addition of 62 temporary office workers, but had no running water. All staff and visitors shared two restrooms that were located in the main office. This meant that those in the temporary

buildings had to deal with the outdoor elements just to use a restroom.

The lobby features a circle graphics design on the wall that represents a cross section of a power line, keeping with the overall design aspect. It also features a payment kiosk, handicapped-accessible doors and payment window, multiple security cameras, and two unique huddle rooms for member conferences. The huddle rooms will be used by staff to meet individually with member-owners and gives the member-owner the opportunity to see what the employees are seeing on their screen. This feature will help our member-owners visually see what is being discussed.

Each new office is equipped with a sit-to-stand desk, and individual temperature control. If there is no motion in an office for 10 minutes, the lights will automatically turn off, conserving power. The temperatures can be adjusted manually to suit each employee, but are on timers for nights and weekends.

Each floor is equipped with a large huddle room as well as at least one small huddle room that can be scheduled via Outlook. The large huddle rooms allow for large group meetings of more than five people, while the small huddle rooms are for five or less. The huddle rooms are designed to optimize inter-office, in-house, and internet-based communications.

The fourth floor houses two special rooms, the



*The state-of-the-art dispatch room utilizes new technology for monitoring building security and electrical outages.*

boardroom and the training room, accounts payable, accounts receivable and IT. The boardroom has the ability to record and stream board meetings, has a click-share for easy content sharing, a smart podium, and camera/microphone placement designed to optimize inter-office and web-based board meetings.

The training room can seat 92 with a max capacity of 142, and can be used as an alternate boardroom, with



PHOTOS BY INDAREC/LIZA KESSEL



a projection screen, two video monitors and a smart podium. This room will be used for job-specific training, workplace safety, defensive driving, CPR/AED/first aid, active shooter and other training, creating a safer, more efficient, environment.

The third floor is where BEPC's Transmission Systems Maintenance-Williston department is housed. This division works on the transmission portion of MWEC's power services.

The second floor is the busiest, as this is where a majority of the Williston staff is located. There are cubicles for each lineworker and utility worker with their own individual phone and network connection to make communicating within the co-op easier. Staff on this floor includes substation technicians, right of way, engineering, construction coordinators and supervisors.

Two unique features to the second floor are the connection to the second level of the warm storage garage which opened in 2015 and houses the large vehicle fleet as well as metering/substation equipment. You get a nice view of the entire fleet of vehicles from the overlook. Just off to the side of those doors is the bicycle storage and shower facility. This area is a part of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification and promotes bicycling/transportation efficiency and reduces vehicle distance traveled. It also strives to improve employee health by encouraging recreational physical activity with its close proximity to established bicycle trails.

The main floor was the final leg of the tour and included

the high-tech dispatch room. This is one of the most secured areas because of its vitality to the co-op operation. Here, the dispatchers monitor the health of both the electrical grid and the building. Their main focus is the coordination of power restoration. Security is also lodged here to help monitor the security of all MWEC sites and hundreds of video cameras.

To conclude the tour, visitors ended at the kitchen and lunchroom, where hors d'oeuvres were prepared by Cooks on Main. The full commercial kitchen will be used for large safety/training and board meetings, utilizes geothermal systems for cooling and offers equipment ranging from a walk-in freezer/refrigerator to a commercial dishwasher. All the food for the event was prepared on site.



*Some of the utility decals seen throughout the facility.*

Guests got to indulge in meatball sliders, braised beef stuffed mushrooms, barbecue skewers, wings, shrimp cocktail and much more. Food was served from hot and cold serving tables in the 399-person-capacity lunchroom. The lunchroom will be used for daily meals, but seconds as a large meeting room. During normal operations, the room can seat 140, has two projectors and recessed motorized screens, large Innovox commercial grade speakers, a beverage station, USB charging stations and two TV monitors.

Overall, the facility has brought all Williston employees under one roof, is accommodating for future growth, provides a working environment that matches the employee needs and will help in future recruiting efforts. The staff and board are very proud of this facility and what it will bring to the member-owners and local communities. ■



*Bob Grant, MWEC vice chairperson, and his wife, Helen, speak with a guest about the building.*

## FUN FACTS

- 5,220.25 cubic yards of concrete placed on this project, which equals 2.5 football fields, 1 foot deep.
- 125.5 tons of rebar and mesh used, which is the weight of 56 of FCT's GMC trucks.
- 3,377 pieces of glass installed (interior and exterior) or 0.83 of an acre
- 1,699 pieces of structural steel.
- 150 geothermal wells drilled, each 300 feet deep. If stacked end to end, this is deeper than the Kola Superdeep Borehole in Russia (the deepest artificial hole on earth).
- 221 12-inch steel driven piles, each 50 feet long (11,000 feet), which is three times higher than the highest natural point in North Dakota (White Butte).
- 1,200 electrical outlets throughout the entire building.
- 250,000 linear feet of data cabling – enough to run a phone line along the shoulder of the road from downtown Williston to downtown Watford City.
- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Rating.
- MWEC recycled 92 percent of the weight of the original office building site.
- The facility is designed to be 40 percent more efficient than a similar non-LEED certified building.
- Two interior elevators as well as a freight elevator.
- The parking lot has electric car parking and charging stations as well as carpool parking spaces.
- MWEC has 8,000 members and 20,000 services.
- MWEC purchased just over \$14 million of electricity in July 2018, which is more than the total electricity purchased in all of 2006.
- In 2007, MWEC's peak load was 46.1 megawatts. The current peak load is 441.4 megawatts. That's an 858 percent increase.
- MWEC has not seen a residential rate increase since 2009, when the rate was increased to the current 8.4 cents and 7.2 cents (not including the heating program rates). Prior to that increase, the previous change was in 1991 when Mountrail and Williams electric cooperatives merged and rates were gradually shifted to come together.

# CONSIDER PROS, CONS OF GRAIN STORAGE



**G**rain can be stored in many types of facilities, but all storage options should keep the grain dry and provide adequate aeration to control the grain temperature.

“The important point is that all storage options should keep the grain dry and provide adequate aeration to control grain temperature,” says North Dakota State University Extension Agricultural Engineer Ken Hellevang. “Grain must be dry and cool (near the average outdoor temperature) when placed in alternative storage facilities, because providing adequate, uniform airflow to dry grain or cool grain coming from a dryer is not feasible.”

## Storing in bags

Storing grain in poly bags is a good option, but it does not prevent mold growth in damp grain or insect infestations. Place grain in the bag at recommended storage moisture contents based on grain and outdoor temperatures during the potential storage period.

Hellevang also has this advice:

- Select an elevated, well-drained site for the storage bags. Run the bags north and south so solar heating is similar on both sides. Sunshine on just one side heats that side, which can lead to moisture accumulation in the grain and spoilage on the cool side.
- Monitor the bags for damage. Wildlife can puncture the bags, allowing moisture in, which can lead to spoilage and the grain

smell being released, which attracts more wildlife.

- Monitor the grain temperature at several places in the bags.
- Never enter a grain bag because it is a suffocation hazard. If unloading the bag with a pneumatic grain conveyor, the suction can “shrink wrap” a person.

## Cooling stored grain

Cool grain with aeration to extend the allowable storage time and reduce the potential for insect infestation. Temperatures below about 60 degrees reduce insect reproduction. Extended exposure to temperatures below about 30 degrees can kill insects.

Cooling grain as outdoor temperatures cool will reduce moisture migration and the condensation potential near the top of the grain pile. Also, the grain should be cooled because grain moisture content and temperature affect the rate of mold growth and grain deterioration. The allowable storage time approximately doubles with each 10-degree reduction in grain temperature.

Aeration ducts need to have perforations sized and spaced correctly for air to enter and exit the ducts uniformly and obtain the desired airflow through the grain. The maximum spacing for aeration ducts is equal to the grain depth to achieve acceptable airflow uniformity.

## Long-term grain storage

Grain has an acceptable storage life

before the quality is reduced enough to impact its value. Allowable storage time is cumulative, so consider the amount of storage life remaining when deciding if you can store the grain longer.

For example, if corn is stored at 14 percent moisture and 60 degrees for two months (November-December), then cooled to 40 degrees for four months (January-April), then stored through the summer months (May-August) at 70 degrees, approximately 90 percent of the storage life has been used. That means little expected allowable storage life is remaining if the grain is going to be stored for another year. Grain going into storage for a second year needs to have been kept cool and dry during the first year and have few broken or cracked kernels.

“Remember, airflow through the grain permits grain temperature to be maintained, but it does not extend the allowable storage time,” Hellevang says.

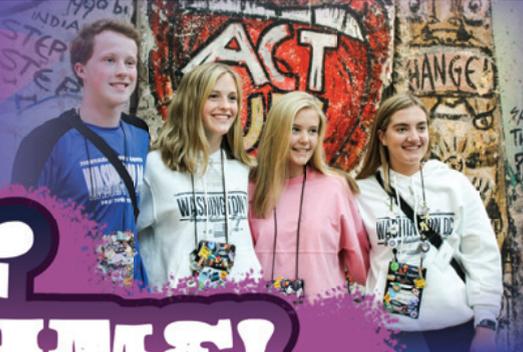
With more soybeans going into storage this fall, the immediate issue is lack of storage and a limited number of less-than-ideal alternatives,” Hellevang says.

“Soybeans can be a challenge to store,” he notes. “Soybeans need to be harvested at 11 to 13 percent moisture to limit cracks in the seed coat and cooled with aeration to maintain their quality. Any storage option needs to prevent water intrusion and have aeration to control the bean temperature.” ■

**JUNE 15-21, 2019**

**WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND**

# **WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!**



**AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.**

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative.
- If you have a question, contact Jessica George, Mountrail-Williams Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-577-3765 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 31, 2019. Emailed entries should be directed to [jessicam@mwec.com](mailto:jessicam@mwec.com), and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative, 218 58th St. W., P.O. Box 1346, Williston, ND 58802-1346.

## **TOP 3 REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST**

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.



## **ESSAY QUESTION:**

*Electric cooperatives are member-owned and controlled. As a future member-owner of your cooperative, describe ways that smart technologies and social media might be used to communicate with young adults. How might they be used to increase awareness and interest in the many career opportunities with electric cooperatives?*

**CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT [www.ndyouthtour.com](http://www.ndyouthtour.com)**

**HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS**

North Dakota Electric Cooperative

# **YOUTH TOUR**

**Directors present:** Lynne, Johnson, Hartsoch, Grant, Sorenson, Jorgenson, Ludwig and Lalim.

**Directors absent:** Lahtinen.

**Others present:** Manager Haugen, in-house counsel Johnson Ellis, attorney Foust and staff members.

The meeting was held at the MWEC office building and called to order at 9:30 a.m. An executive session was added to the agenda and approved as amended. Minutes of the reorganizational meeting of June 7 were approved. Minutes of the regular board Aug. 29 were accepted as corrected.

**OPERATING AND FINANCIAL REPORT:** Jay Lux presented the operating report for the year to date and for August. The total margins and capital credits for the year to date was \$20,616,972. OTIER is 2.68; MDSC is 2.15; cooperative equity is 25.3 percent; and SPP equity is 35.8 percent.

**SPECIAL EQUIPMENT/WORK ORDER CLOSEOUTS:** The board approved the closeout of the following special equipment/work orders:

Closeout 712.....	\$10,529.83
Closeout 713.....	\$217,340.87
TOTAL.....	\$227,870.70

**BAD DEBTS:** The board approved the transfer of \$591.93 from accounts receivable to bad debts. Efforts will continue to collect these sums including the retention of capital credits.

**CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENTS:** The board approved the retirement of the following capital credit accounts for August:

Donald D. Kiwimagi estate .....	
Maureen Fevold estate .....	
Thomas Brekke estate .....	

**HEALTHCARE TRUST:** The cooperative's healthcare insurance premium rate and NDREC benefit trust for 2019 were discussed.

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT:** Attorney Foust reviewed N.D.C.C. §10-15-31 and the "Business Judgment Rule" with the board.

The board also reviewed Policy 105, Policy 115 and Policy 216.

In-house counsel Johnson Ellis presented an offer to purchase mineral interests for the board's consideration. She

also presented a request to retire its capital credits early from a bankrupt corporate member.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**RELIABILITY AND OUTAGE REPORT** – Jerry Rehak presented the reliability and outage report for August and year to date. There were 200 outages in August.

**SAFETY** – James Neether reported there were no lost-time accidents, one employee injury requiring a stitch and no vehicular accidents in August. He also reported they are looking at new fire retardant clothing lines. The in-house safety meeting minutes from Sept. 2 and the September Federated near-miss report were made available for the board to review.

**CONSTRUCTION UPDATES** – Scott Iverson with the cooperative and Matthew Morrison from HDR Engineering gave a presentation and virtual tour of projects that are currently in construction.

**SPP** – The Delivery Point Network Study Agreement for the Howie Substation was made available to the board for review. Manager Haugen discussed the application forms, the process and the information required for SPP approval of a new delivery point.

**SOUTH DAKOTA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION** – Manager Haugen is going to be a guest speaker at the South Dakota Rural Electric Association meeting.

**BASIN ELECTRIC MANAGER MEETING** – Manager Haugen gave a report on the Basin Electric managers meeting he attended. A full financial forecast for Basin Electric is anticipated at its annual meeting in November.

**OFFICE BUILDING** – The updated budget was reviewed, and the project is still on budget. A certificate of substantial completion was issued on Sept. 20.

**OPEN HOUSE** – The board discussed the logistics of the open house and participated in the full guided tour of the building.

**MEETING REPORTS:**

**NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION** – Director Grant reported on the regional meeting he attended.

**NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES (NDAREC)** – Director Grant discussed Measure 1 and the opposition or approval of the measure. He reported the full board will discuss and decide whether NDAREC

will take a position on North Dakota Measure 1 at the October meeting.

**UPPER MISSOURI POWER COOPERATIVE** – Director Jorgenson briefly discussed the preliminary budget and rates for 2019, which were made available to the Board.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The board broke for executive session to discuss employee matters.

**MEETING REPORTS CONTINUED:**

**BASIN ELECTRIC** – Attendees for the Basin Electric Power Cooperative annual meeting will be Directors Sorenson, Grant, Jorgenson, Hartsoch, Johnson, Lynne, Lalim, Lahtinen and Ludwig.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS** – Cooperative Leadership Class will have Directors Sorenson, Grant and Ludwig attending. No one was interested in attending the CCD Class No. 2640, Financial Decision Making.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. ■

**OUR OFFICES  
WILL BE CLOSED**

**Nov. 12 - Veterans Day**  
**Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving**

**MOUNTRAIL-WILLIAMS  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

**P.O. Box 1346**  
**Williston, N.D. 58802-1346**  
**P.O. Box 129**  
**Stanley, N.D. 58784-0129**

DIRECTORS

Roger Sorenson .....Chairperson  
Robert Grant .....Vice-Chairperson  
Cheryl Hartsoch ..... Treasurer  
Blaine Jorgenson .....Secretary  
Larry Johnson..... Director  
Aaron Lynne ..... Director  
Garrett Lalim ..... Director  
Luke Lahtinen ..... Director  
Dick Ludwig ..... Director  
Neff, Eiken  
& Neff, PC.....Project Attorney  
Dale Haugen .....General Manager

OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS:

Williston ..... (701) 577-3765  
Stanley ..... (701) 628-2242  
New Town..... (701) 627-3550  
WATS..... (800) 279-2667

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 