



By Mike Wade,  
President & CEO

## FROM HERE TO THERE



Happy summer! That's probably not the typical summer greeting, but it will have to do. I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer because fall is just around the corner (and we know who is waiting after that). Summer means travel and vacation, enjoying the great outdoors, and spending time with family and friends. And being more active can sometimes mean we overlook safety. As you enjoy your summer, be conscious of the heat, drink plenty of water, and be safe with your outdoor activities. And don't forget the sunscreen!

Summer is a busy time at the cooperative as we work on construction and maintenance projects. We have had several widespread outages this year as thunderstorms have developed unexpectedly and the wind began to blow. Our vegetation management program has paid off as we are able to access our rights-of-way to restore power. As we experience these storms, remember to notify the cooperative if you see downed poles

or power lines. Downed power lines are dangerous and should never be touched with your hand or with an object such as a broom or pole. Keep children and pets away, and avoid driving over a fallen power line.

Your board of directors is always looking for ways to keep our members better informed about the cooperative. As such, we will be adding a new section to our monthly magazine entitled Board Meeting Summary. This summary will describe the discussions and decisions that are made by our board of directors each month. Because the development of the magazine happens a month prior to the magazine going out to our members, there will be a delay in seeing this new section. For instance, when this magazine goes out to our members in August, you will see the summary of the board meeting that took place at the end of May. Please read this new summary, and I hope it provides insight into the decision-making process at the cooperative.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer, and I hope to see you at our member appreciation breakfast on Saturday, October 28.

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative was held at the headquarters in Rosholt at 7:56 a.m. on May 25, 2017. The following is a summary of the meeting activities. The agenda, minutes of the April 27, 2017 meeting, new and terminated memberships, and the monthly safety report were approved.

### Action Items

- Monthly financial statements and reports were approved. Finance Committee reviewed checks written, and the board and CEO expenses.
- Governance Committee approved changes to Chapter 3.0 Metering and Metering Equipment, Policy 101 – Qualifications for Eligibility to Serve on Board of Directors, and Policy 101 – Addendum. Policies now conform to Bylaw changes approved at the CWEC Annual Meeting. New Board Policy 108 – Director Election was approved.
- A review of CWEC's internal financial controls and procedures used to help prevent fraud and theft was presented.
- CWEC's updated 10-year financial forecast, prepared in conjunction with Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), was presented.
- The cost summary for our 2017 CWEC Annual Meeting was reviewed.
- Approved change from current supplier of Employee Life and Disability Insurance to NRECA pending employee education.

- Amendment and Resolution of NRECA RS Plan and 401(k) giving authority to CEO Wade to execute all necessary documents.
- Member Appreciation Breakfast date set for Saturday, October 28, 2017.
- Directors Rombalski, Oppor, and Eckendorf selected to attend WECA District 1 Meeting on July 19, 2017. Director Rombalski selected voting delegate and Director Oppor as alternate.

Operations and Engineering – Idle service investigations are progressing and 20 miles of cycle trimming have been completed. 69 total miles of vegetation management have been completed year to date. Alliant Energy to move the primary metering from Rosholt to Groenier Substation.

Accounting and Finance – A summer intern has been hired to work on our document scanning project.

Member Services – Hotline safety demonstrations were performed at local schools. Operation Round Up scholarship certificates were presented at high school award ceremonies. Began working with consultant and the Sand County Foundation on feasibility of placing a monarch butterfly habitat at CWEC office.

President and CEO Report – An independent audit of our information technology procedures and policies is being done by CliftonLarsonAllen.

Directors reported on Employment Law Update, WECA board meeting, and employee and safety meetings they attended.

Under Other Business, the board approved authorization of five \$100 scholarships for two environmental and educational workshops for teachers at local school districts.



# CWEC DEMONSTRATES ELECTRICAL SAFETY TO FOURTH-GRADERS

Every year employees from the Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative visit grade schools throughout our service area to put on electrical safety demonstrations for the students. Demonstrations were held in the Tigerton, Bowler, Iola-Scandinavia, Rosholt, Birnamwood, and Wittenberg school districts. CWEC appreciates the teachers and students for taking time out their busy day to let us come to give our safe electricity presentation. They were a great group of students.

The interactive display demonstrates how important it is to treat electricity with respect. Students saw firsthand what happens to a kite when it comes in contact with a power line during a hot line demonstration. They discussed the dangers when contact is made with



Ms. Boerner and Ms. Eron along with their students learned how dangerous electricity can be from CWEC linemen Mack Yarbrough and John Bestul.

power lines and electrical equipment, farm electrical hazards, and how to safely emerge from a vehicle following accidental contact causing power lines to fall on or near the vehicle.

“Our main area of focus is to inform and instruct students about potential

hazards that are around us every day, and how to recognize and react to these situations,” said Mark Forseth, vice president of member relations. “This display is well designed to create a fun, but serious experience students will remember for a long time.”



1. CWEC lineman Quin Zdroik shows Ms. Mueller and Ms. Jensen’s fourth-grade students how a “hot” electric wire can burn a green tree branch. 2. CWEC linemen Chris Tuszke and Zdroik demonstrate to Ms. Block’s students what happens when a metal rod touches a “hot” wire. 3. Ms. Bonikowske and Ms. Davy’s students found out how much work it is to create electricity pedaling a bicycle. When they pedal fast enough power is generated and all of the light bulbs will light up. 4. Yarbrough and Mark Forseth, VP of member relations, had lots of questions of electrical safety from Ms. Bremer and Mr. Ebert’s students. 5. Forseth explained to Ms. Rades and Ms. Van Dreef’s students how dangerous electricity can be, while Yarbrough demonstrated, using a hot dog, what happens to your skin if you touch a “hot” wire.

## SURVIVING AUTO ACCIDENTS INVOLVING POWER LINES

Instincts tell us to flee danger. Unfortunately, in vehicle accidents that bring down power lines, these natural inclinations can lead to tragic results.

If your car hits a power pole, or otherwise brings a power line down, CWEC and Safe Electricity urge you to stay in your vehicle and wait for help. If you come upon or witness an accident involving toppled power poles and lines, don't leave your vehicle to approach the accident scene. Getting out of the vehicle, with few exceptions, is the wrong thing to do until the line has been de-energized.

"Often our inclination is to step in and help those in danger and offer assistance to the injured," says Molly Hall, executive director of Safe Electricity. "But, in accidents involving power poles, call for help. Wait for the co-op to arrive and de-energize the line, or you could become another accident victim in need of rescue."

If you must get out because of fire or other danger, jump clear of the vehicle without touching it and the ground at the same time. Then hop with feet together or shuffle away—don't run or stride. Electricity spreads out through the ground in ripples, like a stone dropped in water. The voltage is highest in the ring closest to the vehicle and decreases with distance. Hop with feet together or shuffle away so that one foot won't be in a higher voltage zone than another, which could make you a conductor for electricity.

"If the power line is still energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path for that electricity and electrocution is the tragic result," says Hall.

"Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential for the area near your car to be energized," Mark Forseth, CWEC VP says. "Stay inside the vehicle unless there's a fire or imminent risk of fire. It's best to wait until our crew arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off."

Prevention of electricity-related tragedies is the goal of Safe Electricity, an industry-wide program of electric utilities (including CWEC) and educators aimed at expanding public awareness of electrical hazards and proper actions to take around them. For more information, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).

## CWEC AND COBANK SUPPORT THE TIGERTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op along with one its financial partners, CoBank, donated \$2,000 to the Tigerton Fire Department. Fire Chief John Gutho indicated the funds will be used to purchase turnout gear.

Through a program CoBank offers cooperatives called Sharing Success, Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op had the opportunity to apply for grant funds on behalf of an area nonprofit organization. To be eligible for the grant the co-op has to commit to match the amount of the grant application, which in this case was \$1,000.

"The Tigerton Fire Department does a magnificent job of protecting the Tigerton area while operating on a very tight budget, so we felt they were an excellent choice," said Co-op Vice President Mark Forseth. "We want to thank our good friends at CoBank for their wonderful support of rural communities like Tigerton."

This is the fifth time CWEC and CoBank have partnered to assist an area fire department—previous recipients were the Bowler Fire Department, Iola Fire & Ambulance Departments, Rosholt Fire Department, and the Birnamwood Fire District.

On hand to present the checks to Tigerton Fire Chief John Gutho was CWEC CEO Mike Wade and CWEC Board Vice Chairman Tom Smith. "As part of our ongoing commitment to the communities we serve it gives us great pleasure to present these checks to the Tigerton Fire Department," said Wade.



## NICK HANSEN RECEIVES CWEC UTILITY WORKER SCHOLARSHIP

To address a forecasted shortage of electric utility employees and to encourage students to consider a career in an electric utility, CWEC has established an electric utility worker scholarship. The scholarship has been established to assist a student pursuing a post-secondary education in an electric utility worker program. We're pleased to announce Nick Hansen of Iola is the recipient of the first annual CWEC \$1,000 Utility Worker Scholarship. Nick, a 2017 Iola-Scandinavia High School graduate and the son of co-op members Rick and Tracy Hansen, will be attending Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay pursuing a career as a lineman. Congratulations Nick, and best of luck in your studies!





## DATES TO REMEMBER IN AUGUST

### Iola Thursday Night on Main Thursday, August 3

Dekorra, 6–8 p.m. Downtown Iola. Live music, food, raffle tickets, and more. Farmers Market at Vidar of Iola carving. Bring a lawn chair. Sponsored by the Iola-Scandinavia Chamber. For more information go to [www.ischamber.com](http://www.ischamber.com) or visit the Chamber on Facebook @ Iola-Scandinavia Chamber/Hometown.

### 49th Annual Scandinavia Corn Roast Weekend

August 4-6

Music, food, kids' petting zoo, softball tournament, chainsaw wood sculpting, truck pull, tractor pull, and more. Friday gates open at noon, Highfield Drive performing 8 p.m.–midnight, presented by Scandinavia Volunteer Fire Dept. Parade Saturday at 10:30 a.m.; Ask Your Mother performing 8 p.m.–midnight. Free corn Sunday only, starts at 11 a.m.; music all day. Ellison Memorial Park, Scandinavia. Sponsored by the Scandinavia Booster Club. For more information call 715-467-2366 or go to [www.cornroast.net](http://www.cornroast.net).



### St Adalbert Parish Picnic August 5 & 6

Saturday night 4 p.m. Mass; music from 5:30–9:30 p.m. by Gray Katz; concessions available. Sunday—outdoor Mass 10:30 a.m.; music from noon–8 p.m. by Duane Burclaw & The Golden Aces, and Cynor Classic Polka Band; family-style dinner from 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m. Raffle, kids' games, cherry tree, Country Store, mini raffle, bingo, Rainbow snow and ice cream, food stand, and more. Rain or shine. Rosholt.

### Iola Thursday Night on Main-Comedy, Corks & Cheese

Thursday, August 10

Comedian Steve Hartman, winetasting with Winemaker's Daughter, and cheese with Dupont Cheese 6–8 p.m. \$5 cover charge for the Comedy Show, wine and cheese tasting open to the public. Must be 21 or older to attend. At The Iola Millstone. Sponsored by the Iola-Scandinavia Chamber. For more information go to [www.ischamber.com](http://www.ischamber.com) or visit the Chamber on Facebook @ Iola-Scandinavia Chamber/Hometown.

### Iola Lioness Brat Fry

Saturday, August 12

10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Iola Sentry Foods.

### Iola Lion/Lioness Stuff the Bus

Saturday, August 12

9 a.m.–3 p.m. School supply drive. Iola Sentry Foods.

### 11th Annual "Drive your Tractor to Church"

Sunday, August 13

NORTH NEW HOPE & FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCHES invite friends and neighbors. New Hope Church, Junction Hwy T and MM or 845 Hwy T North. 8 a.m. early bird tractor parking and registration; 9:30 a.m. music, 10 a.m. outdoor church service, 11 a.m. auction, noon pig roast picnic lunch, 1 p.m. hay wagon rides and tractor displays. With good weather everything will be outdoors; if not there is room inside—please bring lawn chairs.

### "3rd Thursday" Summer Concert

Thursday, August 17

6–8 p.m. Featuring Mike McAbee. No admission cost, but donations always gratefully accepted. Bring a picnic

lunch and lawn chair, free ice cream at intermission. Rain or shine. WOWSPACE, 114 Vinal St Wittenberg. For more information call 715-253-2737 or [www.wallsowittenberg.com](http://www.wallsowittenberg.com).

### Sacred Heart Parish Church Picnic

Sunday, August 20

10 a.m. Mass with music by Duane, Tom, and the Choraleers, followed by a chicken and roast beef dinner from 11 a.m.–2 p.m., in air-conditioned dining room. Noon–7 p.m. music by The Ampol Aires from Chicago and Rich Raclawski and The Keepers of Honky. Food and refreshments, ice cream parlor, cherry tree, basket raffle, country store, cake spin, kids' games, mini raffle and many more games. Bingo starts at 1 p.m.; huge rummage sale and furniture sale auction starts at 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday softball tournament, and Sunday horseshoe tournaments double elimination. \$4,000 cash raffle drawing at 7 p.m. Polonia. For more information call 715-592-4221.



### Tigerton Lumberjack Days

August 26 & 27

Saturday—corn roast, music, bike give-away. Sunday—parade at 1 p.m.,

amateur lumberjack contest, chainsaw and crosscut events. Bingo both days, lots of food and pies. Tigerton Community Park. For more information call Diane at 715-535-3300 or Wally at 715-445-3165 or 715-459-6115.

### Portage County Fair

September 1–3

Parade on Main Street at noon on Saturday. Rosholt Fair Park. For more information go to [www.rosholtfair.com](http://www.rosholtfair.com).



### Hatch Lake Association Brat Fry

Saturday, September 2

10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Iola Sentry Foods.

### Big Falls Free Corn Roast

Sunday, September 3

Parade at noon, live music 1 p.m.–midnight. Games, food stands, raffles, free corn. Live music throughout the day. Village Park in Big Falls. For more information call 715-250-2032.

### Office Closed Monday, September 4 In honor of Labor Day

To submit your community events email [brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com](mailto:brenda.mazemke@cwecoop.com) or call Brenda at 715-677-2211.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY REBATES AVAILABLE

Did you know your cooperative offers rebates for energy efficiency upgrades? If not, we're pleased to inform you we offer rebates for all sorts of upgrades including Energy Star appliance purchases, insulation, new windows, heat pumps, alternative water heaters, LED lighting, and much more. For a detailed listing please visit [www.cwecoop.com](http://www.cwecoop.com) or give us a call.

### Mike Wade, President & CEO

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