



**Adams-Columbia
Electric Cooperative**

zations are eligible to apply for these funds to assist with local projects within our service area. Visit our website under Co-op Programs for an application and to learn more.

Members interested in participating in Operation Round-Up can enroll by logging in to their SmartHub account or by calling one of our customer service representatives at (800) 831-8629.

Renewables As we ease our way into warmer weather, the sun may have you thinking about installing solar panels or other renewable options. Making our distribution system greener is a goal of ours, and being in contact with us is a crucial step in the process. If installing renewables is of interest to you, please give us a call before you start your project to be sure your plans comply with our service requirements. If you don't know how to get started or if you have general questions, we are here to help.

Youth Leadership Congress Due to COVID-19, Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) has been canceled. While it saddens us that YLC will not be happening this year, we know that it's in the best interest of our youth and we're supportive of efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19.

West Riverside Energy Center Towards the end of April, testing was done on different units throughout the plant, with the units running at different levels and simultaneously to ensure the plant will be able to operate ranging from low capacity to the maximum amount of megawatts it can output. The first week of May the plant began full commercial operations. It is officially online and producing energy! We're proud to have invested in this facility to provide cleaner energy for our members.

Office Closed Our office will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day. Enjoy the holiday with loved ones, outdoor summer activities, and of course fireworks! Have a safe and happy holiday, everyone.

SAFETY MESSAGE



June 21–27 is Lightning Safety Awareness Week.

We all know that summer is our storm season. As a friendly reminder, go inside if it begins to thunder and lightning and wait at least 30 minutes from the last observed lightning or audible thunder before heading back out. If you aren't near a shelter, avoid using trees, and metal objects like fences, machinery, and flag poles for shelter.



Pictured, left to right: Myself, Jerry, Rick, and Steve

UPDATES AND ADJUSTMENTS

By Jay A. Porter, General Manager

This month we honor three longtime employees. Jerry, manager of sales and service and transportation, has been an employee of the co-op for nearly 36 years. Rick has been our stores crew leader for seven years. Steve has been a part-time laborer for the co-op for 13 years. Best wishes in your retirement and future endeavors, and thank you for your dedication and service to ACEC over the years.

June is Dairy Month and our farmers need our support more than ever. We provide electric service to nearly 85 dairy farms, and COVID-19 has had a huge impact on their operations and production. Many dairy farmers have been asked to dump thousands of gallons of milk because their customers (restaurants, schools, etc.) are closed. With Wisconsin being the dairy state of our nation, be mindful of our farmers and support them when you can.

Lobby Closure As this issue goes to print, we are still uncertain how long the lobby at our Friendship office will be closed as COVID-19 is an ever-changing situation. For updates, watch our Facebook page, or visit our website at www.acecwi.com.

Jay's Discussion Days Wisconsin Supreme Court overturned the Safer at Home order on May 13. We will resume having Jay's Discussion Days at our outer offices beginning Friday, June 12. I will be at our Wautoma office from 8–11 a.m. and at our Pardeeville office from 1–4 p.m. We will continue to follow precautions recommended by the CDC to ensure the safety of everyone.

Operation Round-Up One of the many reasons you can count on us is for our commitment to community, even during the recent times of major life changes. We accept applications for our Operation Round-Up program year-round, with quarterly deadlines. Members of our co-op voluntarily round their bill up to the next dollar amount. For example, if your bill were \$86.21, it would be rounded up \$0.79 to make your bill \$87.00. The \$0.79 is contributed to the Adams-Columbia Community Fund. Charities, families, individuals, and organi-



UNDERGROUND EQUIPMENT CLEARANCES

Each year we contract with Karcz Utility Services to complete inspections and maintenance to our underground equipment like transformers or junction boxes. To some, such equipment—or perhaps better known as “the green metal box” you may see on your property or along roadways—is an eyesore that you may be tempted to conceal. However, having the proper clearance around our equipment is extremely important to ensure we can continue to provide safe and reliable service to our members.

As Karcz crews inspect and maintain our facilities, they often face the challenge of not being able to access our equipment. Many members want to beautify the equipment on their property, but those type of enhancements restrict us from doing our job. Whether we are updating our equipment or we need to restore service during a power outage, we need to be able to access our equipment.

Examples of landscaping obstructions include:

- Fences
- Flower beds
- Trees
- Retaining walls
- Trellises
- Shrubs
- Decks

To make sure we have the proper clearances for our equipment, leave at least 12 feet from the front (side with the lock) and four feet on all other sides of the ground-mounted equipment clear. If crews come across obstructions, they have the right to remove them or work will be postponed until obstructions have been removed. This means that if there is a power outage and we need to fix the problem in the transformer but there is a fence built around it, the member would need to relocate the fence before we'd be able to restore the outage.

What not to do:



Before doing any digging for yard work or landscaping, call Diggers Hotline at 811. They will come to your property and locate any utility underground facilities for free.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, LEAVE THE METER TO US

Warmer weather gets many people motivated to tackle those projects that have been sitting on the back burner for a while, including home improvements.

For the safety of yourself and others, if you need your meter removed or service disconnected, please contact our office instead of attempting removal on your own. There is no cost to schedule a crew to come out and disconnect service so you are able to do your work. Please call at least three business days in advance.

Not only is safety a concern, but it may cost you in the long run if you attempt to remove your meter. One of the features of our new meters is that they notify our office when power is disconnected, or an outage occurs at a service location. If we are notified of an outage, we dispatch a crew. If upon arrival meter tampering is discovered, fees will be assessed.

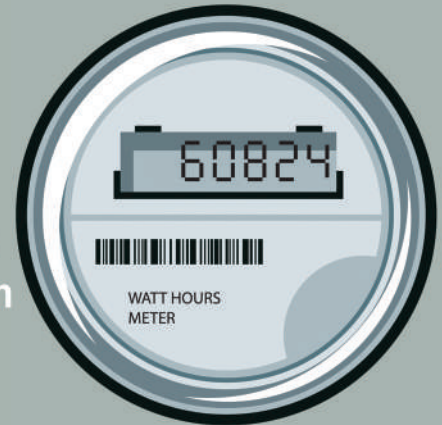
For your safety and the sake of your checkbook, leave the work to us.

It's better to call our office to learn about the options available to you rather than to tamper with the meter and put yourself in danger's way.

DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal, and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.

- ⊘ Never break a meter seal.
- ⊘ Never open a meter base.
- ⊘ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.



If you know that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately.



smart hub can help during a power outage

REPORT AN OUTAGE

If you experience a power outage, log in to your SmartHub account and click "Report an Issue/Inquiry." It will walk you through the process.

RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS

Did you know you can receive a variety of notifications from us? From billing to outages, we'll keep you updated. Click on "Manage Notifications," to select what types of updates you want to receive.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION WITH US

It's important for you to keep your information with us current should we need to contact you about your service. Update your email and phone number under "Manage Contacts."



Download the mobile app on your smartphone to get started!





Board Meeting Summary

March 25, 2020

The monthly board meeting of Adams-Columbia Electric Cooperative was held via a conference call (due to the “Safer at Home” COVID-19 pandemic) on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 9:32 a.m.

Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Director Ebert’s invocation. A Safety Message was provided by Director Hoernke.

All directors were in attendance. The agenda was approved as sent. Following is a summary of the meeting activities.

Gibeaut welcomed to the conference call the unopposed board candidates: James Kelly, District 7, and Gary Skolarz, District 5.

The agenda, consent agenda items, board expense vouchers, and the minutes of the February 26, 2020 regular board meeting minutes were approved.

Director Reports: Gibeaut thanked Porter, his staff and employees for their dedication during the pandemic.

Financial Review Committee: The Financial Review was postponed until the April meeting, noting both the February and March financial statements will be reviewed.

Attorney Niles Berman of Wheeler, Van Sickle & Anderson joined the conference call. Berman presented the yearly review of Directors’ Fiduciary Duty and Cooperative Governance.

In discussing the 2020 Annual Meeting, Berman provided explanation on the four questions that were presented by Vedder: voting on bylaw amendments, necessary quorum for an annual meeting, the advisory resolution process, and rules committee. Berman provided a possible option noting Wisconsin state statute, that 50 signed absentee ballots would meet our bylaw quorum requirement.

Board Action Items:

- Board approved by roll call vote to changing the location of the 2020 Annual Meeting to the Friendship office; the meeting details and agenda may be modified pending current state sanctions on group gatherings in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Voting will be available for the At-Large board position by evote or absentee starting on April 1, 2020, through noon on May 20, 2020. If necessary, the meeting may be livestreamed in order to conclude the election of the At-Large board position and the uncontested District 5 and 7 board positions. Board confirmed candidate Fahey may give the invocation at the annual meeting. Board requested absentee ballots to be mailed to them on April 1, 2020.
- Advisory Member Committee evening meetings have been cancelled and members will be sent a notice.
- Board approved the yearly review of policy #2-23 Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest and #2-24 Whistleblower Complaint Procedure and Anti-Retaliation.
- Gibeaut requested that the WECA Resolutions be added to the April agenda for discussion.
- Board self-assessments will be mailed by Fahey and discussed at the April board meeting.

Departmental Reports: Monthly financial statements and departmental reports were reviewed. Kerska noted ACEC will not disconnect members for nonpayment of their electric bills and late fees will be waived during this time. Kerska noted that due to the pandemic, allocation notices will not be sent till May or June.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Board approved the March meeting minutes on April 30, 2020.

Please note any confidential or sensitive information has been edited for this summary.



Adams-Columbia
Electric Cooperative

Friendship Service Center

401 East Lake Street • P.O. Box 70
Friendship, WI 53934-0070

Office Hours: Monday – Friday,
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

www.acecwi.com

Customer Service & Billing
800-831-8629

Power Outage Reporting
888-928-2232

Diggers Hotline
800-242-8511

**To make a payment anytime 24/7,
please call 1-844-219-1223.**

Jay A. Porter—GM
Haley Melby—Editor

ACEC Board of Directors

District 1

Gene Alexander
Term Expires 2021

District 2

Karen Fahey, Secretary
At-Large
Term Expires 2020

District 2

Ethan Olson
Term Expires 2022

District 3

Aaron Hoernke
Term Expires 2022

District 4

Jon Ebert
Term Expires 2022

District 5

Vacant

District 6

Cheri Gibeaut, Chair
Term Expires 2021

District 7

Dietrich Vedder, Vice Chair
At-Large
Term Expires 2021

District 7

Scott Link, Treasurer
Term Expires 2020