

WRAPPING UP AN EVENTFUL MONTH



Adams-Columbia
Electric Cooperative



By Jay A. Porter, General Manager

June was a very busy month at the co-op, wrapping up a lot of projects we've been working on.

Broadband Partnership You may remember reading in May's issue about our partnership with Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative.

Our partnership allowed us to apply for a broadband grant together. I am pleased to announce that the grant was approved! Marquette-Adams has continued extending fiber to our Cambria and Friesland substations and can offer their fiber services to residents in those areas. By running fiber to our substations, our equipment communicates faster throughout our service area, which in turn leads to better service for you.

Alliant Energy & West Riverside Energy Center Alliant Energy announced plans to have 675 megawatts in solar arrays in six counties throughout the state. Their plan is to install 1,000 megawatts of solar generation in Wisconsin by 2023. Once they reach their goal Alliant will be the largest owner-operator of solar in Wisconsin. Because we purchase our power from Alliant, our members will reap the benefits of having "greener" power. Alliant also plans on retiring their Edgewater Generating Station in Sheboygan as a part of their Clean Energy Blueprint to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. When Alliant invests in renewables to work towards eliminating their carbon footprint, that mimics what we are doing too.

Supporting the Clean Energy Blueprint, West Riverside Energy Center (WREC) will emit half the carbon dioxide, about two-thirds less nitrogen, and 99% less sulfur and mercury than traditional coal-fired facilities. Construction is set to begin soon on a 4,400-kilowatt solar array on the Riverside campus. Because we own 4% of WREC, we will be able to offer around 180 kilowatts of community solar to our members. The board of directors discussed options in their strategic planning at the end of June. More information on this to come in future publications.

Lobby Now Open Our Friendship office is back open for members, vendors, and visitors. Please know we have taken precautions to keep everyone safe and healthy. We have installed plexiglass, provided hand sanitizer for everyone, and have plenty of signage to keep our social distance.

As a reminder, our Wautoma and Pardeeville offices are closed to the public, but we can meet members there by appointment.

Scholarship Opportunity Since Youth Leadership Con-

gress is canceled this year, Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association (WECA) has decided to offer their essay contest to all high school or college freshmen students whose primary residence is located in Wisconsin and receives electric service from an electric cooperative. Scholarships are awarded to the top three essays in the amounts of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250. Visit our website or call our office to learn more.

RESP Loan Have you looked into our Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) Loan? If you have an energy efficient project on the horizon for your home or business, keep us in mind for low-interest rate lending. This loan is exclusively for ACEC members.

Annual Meeting Recap The Facebook Live format for the annual meeting was a bit different this year, but it worked seamlessly. Thanks to the members who took the time to tune in for the live stream. Election results for board members were announced and are as follows:

District 3 (At-Large) – Aaron Bonnett
District 5 – Gary Skolarz
District 7 – James Kelly

Prior to May's board meeting, the new board held their organizational meeting. The board officers elected are:

Chair – Aaron Hoerneke
Vice Chair – Dietrich Vedder
Secretary – Cheri Gibeaut
Treasurer – James Kelly

Retiring Board Members I'd like to recognize Karen Fahey, Scott Link, and Kendal Nichols for their commitment to the cooperative serving as board members over the years. Thank you for your guidance and we wish you the best in your future endeavors.

SAFETY MESSAGE



Construction work is a main focus for our crews this time of year. This month, I want to remind you to please slow down and move over if you see crews on roadways. Not only is it for their safety, it's the law. Safety is our number one priority and we want to make sure our employees are able to get home to their families safely every day.

FROM IRAQ TO FALL RIVER, A SYMBOL OF FREEDOM STANDS

A 42-foot flagpole stands strong in Fall River, thanks to local members of the community. The flagpole in this picture once stood in Iraq when Keith Miller was in the U.S. Army from 2004–05. He would fly a flag on that pole in memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. When his tour ended, he knew that flagpole had a much deeper meaning and without a doubt it needed to come back home. Disassembled into four sections, the flagpole made its way on the plane and back to Fall River.

It's true when you hear "Everybody knows everybody in a small town," as a connection was made to rebuild the flagpole. John Stokely, a local welder, straightened, sandblasted, painted, and rebuilt the pole. He also shared the same appreciation for patriotism and freedom as Miller and understood the importance of making this flagpole a symbol of freedom in their community.

In 2015, Miller and Stokely together raised the first flag on the pole since its days in Iraq. More recently, some maintenance was needed on the flagpole: maintenance only a bucket truck could assist with. Chris Campion, a lineman from our



Pardeeville office, lent a hand by putting a topper on the flagpole and restrung the rope.

This picture may not look like much to a blind eye, but it represents more than someone in a bucket truck and a flagpole. This reconstructed flagpole expresses the freedom we have, thanks

to those who put everything on the line for us. Here at ACEC, we are extremely proud to serve our local communities and to be involved with such a special part of Fall River.

To watch the full story behind the flagpole, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXtBHzetKr0>.

HELP US STUFF THE BUS!

- Markers
- Pencil Pouches
- Colored Pencils
- Notebooks
- Backpacks
- Folders
- Filler Paper
- Headphones
- Erasers
- Scissors
- Composition Notebooks
- Monetary Donations

DROP OFF DONATIONS AT OUR FRIENDSHIP OFFICE UNTIL JULY 31.

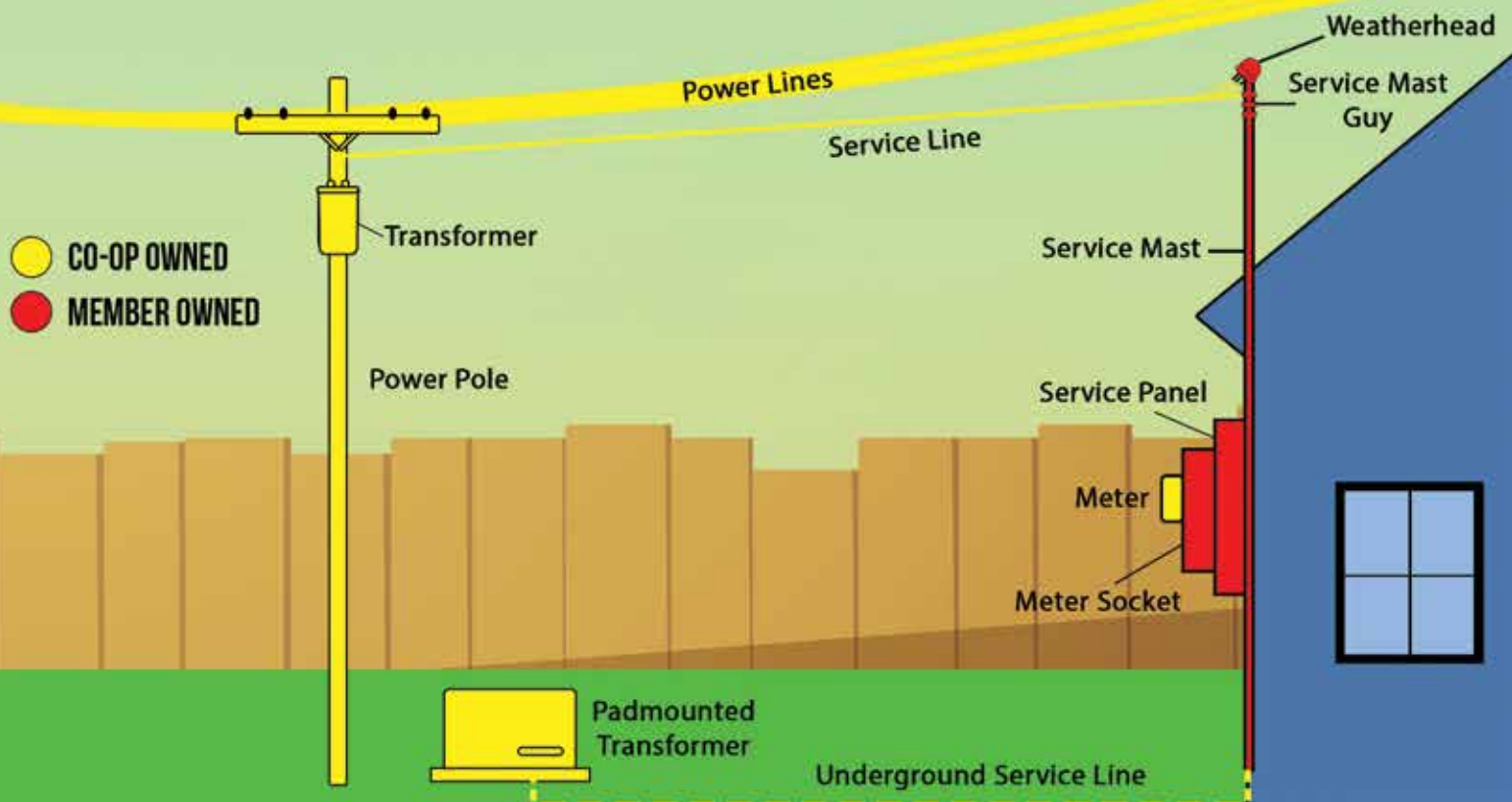
EXPERIENCING AN OUTAGE? THIS IS HOW WE RESTORE POWER:

A phone ringing in the middle of the night may catch you off guard, but it's a very familiar sound to our linemen. Navigating major outages from emergency situations, like natural disasters, can often be challenging. There may be obstacles they don't typically encounter like flooded roadways or downed trees that put a halt to our restoration process. Overall, our goal is to get as many members back in power in the shortest amount of time.

- STEP 1** First things first; our crews assess the damage on our system and check our substations. This is where the high-voltage transmission lines feed into our system and from there, we distribute power to our members. On average, one substation may feed power to nearly 1,200 meters. If we repair the problem in the substation, we could potentially get 1,200 meters back in service.
- STEP 2** Next, crews follow our distribution lines as they carry power away from the substation to many members. Power lines are like spider webs that leave the substation. Instead of everyone having their own power line from the substation to their home or business, members share power lines. Power travels along the distribution lines to get to members living in the same area.
- STEP 3** After distribution lines have been checked over, crews work towards individual services. The image below shows what the co-op owns and fixes (yellow) and what equipment is member-owned (red). Should something that is member-owned be damaged from a storm, it is the members' responsibility to get it repaired. We often find that when we try to restore individual services, damage on the member-owned equipment must be repaired first before we can turn their power on. We recommend hiring a licensed electrician for these repairs.

"I AM STILL WITHOUT POWER AND YOUR TRUCKS KEEP DRIVING BY MY HOUSE. WHY WON'T YOU STOP TO TURN MY POWER ON?"

Most of the time, crews learn that down the line from your home is where the problem is. They may need to repair equipment that is a few miles away from your home in order to restore your power. We realize everyone wants to be the next one to have power restored, but when we spend two hours restoring power for one member, we could have spent those two hours restoring power to 200 members. By following our restoration process, we can restore many members at once.





Board Meeting Summary

April 30, 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 Thursday, April 30, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

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

All directors joined the conference call as well as the unopposed board candidates: James Kelly, District 7 and Gary Skolarz, District 5. The agenda was approved as sent. Following is a summary of the meeting activities.

The agenda, consent agenda items, board expense vouchers and the minutes of the March 25, 2020 regular board meeting minutes were approved.

Director Reports: Gibeaut thanked Porter and the employees for their diligence during this constantly changing time with the “Safer at Home” orders. Fahey had a favorable interaction with a member who had an outage that lasted several hours. Porter noted all our new meters will self-report an outage.

Board Action Items:

- The 2020 Annual Meeting via live-Facebook streaming was discussed. Board in agreement to hold the Organizational meeting prior to the board meeting on May 27, 2020 rather than follow the annual meeting.
- Board approved the redlined review of Board policy #2-14 Director Recognition.
- Vedder will update Board policy #2-19 Attendance by Members or other persons at a meeting of the Board of Directors.
- Board approved awarding all four applicants a Jon Steinhaus Scholarship (each \$1,500) for a total of \$6,000 using FYF funds.
- Board approved a grant of \$500 to Dreams Can Happen for their 7th Annual Prom for People with Special Needs, using FYF funds.
- Strategic Planning topics will include water heaters and a microgrid (solar array and battery) possibility on our system. June’s board meeting is still scheduled to follow the June 24/25 dates of strategic planning.
- Board approved the Resolution and expressed their appreciation to Link for his service to the board.
- Vedder will add a resolution to the proposed WECA resolutions regarding annual meeting quorums and signed ballots, (referencing WI Statute 185).

Departmental Reports: Monthly financial statements and departmental reports were reviewed. Hoernke inquired about the financial stability with businesses closed or member’s decreasing electric usage. Porter noted it depends on so many variables, it may be several months before the true impact is known. Porter has requested staff to determine what items in their budgets can be put on hold or eliminated this year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Board approved the March meeting minutes on May 27, 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

Ethan Olson
Term Expires 2022

District 3

Aaron Bonnett
At-Large
Term Expires 2023

District 3

Aaron Hoernke, Chair
Term Expires 2022

District 4

Jon Ebert
Term Expires 2022

District 5

Gary Skolarz
Term Expires 2023

District 6

Cheri Gibeaut, Secretary
Term Expires 2021

District 7

Dietrich Vedder, Vice Chair
At-Large
Term Expires 2021

District 7

James Kelly, Treasurer
Term Expires 2023