



When thunder roars, seek shelter indoors



PHOTO BY MELISSA BURGHART

The weekend of June 6 and 7, severe weather spread across North Dakota. In the Mor-Gran-Sou service area, we experienced severe thunderstorms and wind gusts. Line crews responded to isolated outages. There were some volatile — and beautiful — moments.

All thunderstorms produce lightning, which can strike as far as 10 miles from rainfall. If you hear thunder, you're in the danger zone.

The U.S. Weather Service offers this advice: Make sure you have a way to receive weather alerts, and be prepared to seek shelter if threatening weather approaches.

What's inside:

- **VIRTUAL annual meeting scheduled**
- **Power supplier reports**
- **Avoid stacking hay under power lines**
- **Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation discounts**
- **Meeting minutes, and more**



**Lights. Comfort.
Connection.**

Annual Meeting

RESCHEDULED FOR VIRTUAL CONNECTION

AUG. 20 ON BEK TV

Watch for information in the coming weeks to learn how you can vote by mail-in ballot for the open board of director positions.

Annual Meeting rescheduled for Aug. 20, 2 p.m. CT on BEK TV

As you may know, the Mor-Gran-Sou board of directors has decided for the safety of our members to reschedule the 2020 Annual Meeting as a virtual meeting. Although the meeting is virtual, your voice is important to us.

Five Mor-Gran-Sou members are vying virtually for one of three board director positions up for re-election. This year, the three board positions sought include: one for the Grant County position, one for the Mandan-Area position, and one for the Sioux County position. The approved list of candidates includes:

- Grant County:** Casey Wells, Carson
 - Mandan Area:** Stan Boehm, Mandan; Bob J. Leingang, Mandan
 - Sioux County:** Rodney Froelich, Selfridge; Randal J. White Sr., Selfridge
- To ensure that you have the opportunity to ask questions at the annual meeting, please use the form below. Instructions on how to submit are included in the form. ■



I Have A Question:

Please use the space provided below to ask a question or make a comment. Time is allotted at the end of the virtual meeting to answer questions. If the question is in written form and you want your question answered, please include your name and address. Anonymous questions or questions from non-members will not be answered.

Please provide your name and address:

You may submit a question, prior to the annual meeting, by mailing to: Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Inc. – P.O. Box 297 – Flasher, ND 58535-0297. You may also call the office at 1-800-750-8212, 1-701-663-0297 or 1-701-597-3995, and ask for Jackie; or log into SmartHub and use Contact Us, or email us at info@morgransou.com.

Please have all questions submitted by **4:30 p.m. CT, Friday, Aug. 7.**

If all questions are not answered during the meeting, the responses may be put in the *North Dakota Living* magazine local pages or provided individually to a member.



Message from Basin Electric Power Cooperative

BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND GENERAL MANAGER PAUL SUKUT AND BOARD PRESIDENT WAYNE PELTIER

(Editor's note: Basin Electric Power Cooperative generates the majority of the power purchased by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. We asked Paul Sukut and Wayne Peltier to update our members on what is happening at Basin Electric.)

As we write the message you are reading today, our world is shifting dramatically.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a rapidly changing situation. These are extraordinary times that require exceptional measures to deal with a health risk that affects us all. We are committed to doing everything we can for the safety of our employees and members.

Additionally, our focus is to assure the continuity of business functions, as we have an important role to play, ensuring 3 million members across nine states have reliable electricity, along with continuing our operations at Dakota Gasification Company.

While the safety and health of our members and employees continue to be a top priority, it's inevitable that the effects of this pandemic hamper our business. Already-low commodity prices impact us at Dakota Gas, which produces synthetic natural gas from coal, and a growing list of products including urea, anhydrous ammonia and carbon dioxide.

Low commodity prices also affect the production of oil in the Williston Basin of western North Dakota and eastern Montana. Oil production is slowing, and in some cases, production is at a halt. We are closely monitoring this, as our pre-pandemic load forecast showed immense growth, for which we were making plans to buy and build generation capacity. The related financial impact and duration of this economic slowdown due to the pandemic cannot be reasonably estimated at this time.

We will continue to work with our members to find new ways to support them. Programs, like the demand period waiver, allow members to increase the number of consumers that can be placed under their load management system, and our load incentive rate



Peltier, left, and Sukut

meant to attract business and industry to our members' service areas. We implemented a 1 mill/kilowatt hour rate decrease for 2020, another step we took to help our members thrive.

What other decisions did we make in 2019 that promise to set us up for a strong future? Our board decided it makes good economic sense to add solar generation to our already diverse portfolio. We are buying more of our capacity in the market rather than building new generation, and repowering wind turbines to generate more electricity. We are investing in research to develop new technology to capture and store carbon dioxide from our coal-based power plants, which has the potential to keep our plants running for many more years, provide necessary stability to the transmission grid, and further protect our environment. We also continue to find new market opportunities for our Dakota Gas products to enhance its revenue stream.

Every decision we make is carefully researched and debated. We serve our members, and we are our members at the same time. We are facing many uncertainties, but our strong network of people is what will bring us through this challenging time. Our board, membership, and employees – we're all in this, together. ■



Message from Western Area Power Administration

BY ACTING SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND REGIONAL MANAGER FOR UPPER GREAT PLAINS LORI FRISK



(Editor's note: Western Area Power Administration also generates power purchased by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. We asked Lori Frisk to update our members on what is happening at WAPA.)

Engaging in the present with our eyes on the horizon

Engaging at all levels pays dividends to Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and our customers. The partnerships and common goals we share are the foundation of a bright future that is stable and progresses WAPA toward a successful, relevant and valuable future.

Stability and progress initially sound like opposites, but in reality they are interconnected and dependent on each other. Being a progressive organization takes stability in our purpose, finances, people and operations. Remaining a stable organization requires making progress in our ability to deliver on our mission in a changing energy world, modernizing our operations, securing our financing and developing our people into thoughtful, collaborative leaders capable of carrying on our legacy.

COVID-19 response

Like our customers, we are staying engaged and rapidly adapting to a new environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. We took swift actions across WAPA's 15-state region to protect our staff, successfully deliver on our mission and provide stability for our customers. At our telework peak, WAPA had more than 1,250 employees working remotely.

Of course we do have essential personnel who cannot work from home. Those mission-critical personnel are the primary focus, as we work to ensure safe social distancing for maintenance and operations employees. We also worked to get as many of our real-time merchant staff teleworking as possible. When real-time merchants work from home, we improve their safety, as well as the safety of those who still must work onsite.

WAPA helped shape some of the industry's best practices and a collective path forward. For example, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and North American Electric Reliability Corporation have shared WAPA's Pandemic Plan across the country as a model template from which to begin. Email us at COVID-19@wapa.gov to request it.

Cost containment

Since 2013, we have returned about \$2 billion to the Treasury, helping pay down that debt and ease pressure on cash flow. The power rates for Pick Sloan Eastern Division have decreased by about one cent per kilowatt-hour since 2013, and we anticipate Pick-Sloan's composite rate to remain stable through fiscal year 2022.

We continue to improve our business processes with the goals of better predictability, cost containment,

and making sure we are properly managing the lifecycle of our assets. The tools we have developed over the past several years, from unified 10-year capital plans to asset management, reserve strategy and improving our planning processes, are allowing WAPA to be more efficient than ever.

The Continuous Process Improvement Program topped \$93 million this year in mostly cost avoidance. Implementing common tools, especially in IT with projects like selecting a common supervisory control and data acquisition system vendor, results in fewer maintenance, service, installation, employee training and other costs.

Our Office of Security and Emergency Management avoided a one-time cost of more than \$1 million by consolidating alarm monitoring, rightsizing the contract security force and implementing enhanced procedures for identifying security solutions. The office will also save us more than \$443,000 annually starting in fiscal year 2021 by absorbing the roles performed by contactors with no increase in federal staff.

We continue to find, evaluate and implement best practices in the utility industry to maintain our extensive transmission assets. Using aviation-assisted maintenance, we avoid costs, reduce time spent on maintenance projects and avoid environmental impacts. We can also complete more maintenance with less wear and tear on vehicles, and most importantly, reduce the physical stress and risk to our workers.

Cost savings and avoidance through continuous improvement allows us to redeploy limited resources to other pressing priorities, ensuring we are spending money and time on the right programs and activities.



Looking to the future

As we operate at cost, WAPA is wisely prioritizing funds and focusing on mission-essential and future-essential tasks beyond the immediate pandemic-related activities.

Our regions are paving the way to move into new energy imbalance management options, including the Southwest Power Pool's Western Energy Imbalance Service or the California Independent System Operator's Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIS). Upper Great Plains-West in Montana will transition into SPP's WEIS market in February 2021.

Another future-leaning task is a study to combine transmission rates in the Southwest. Our goal is to proceed quickly toward these

decisions and transitions to best meet our customers' needs based on region-specific circumstances.

As always, we are focused on reliability. Each day we work toward that goal so it can be one fewer thing to concern our customers and their communities.

Value of hydropower and WAPA

As baseload generation resources continue to retire, hydropower — and by extension, WAPA — will become more critical. Hydropower is one of the main remaining baseload resources; the supercomputer of the energy world, given its unique black-start capabilities and low-carbon emissions.

WAPA is working to ensure the capacity, reliability, black-

start capabilities and other operational benefits of hydropower — ignored in today's market structure — are appropriately and adequately compensated.

Working together with our customers and the industry at large, WAPA continually seeks ways to better understand our customers' specific and unique needs, manage the challenges and opportunities before us, and develop better tools for communicating and working together that yield tremendous results. We look forward to engaging with our partners to deliver value across North Dakota and the Upper Great Plains region in the years and decades ahead. ■

Protect your livelihood — and your life

Stacking hay under electrical infrastructure can be dangerous, if not deadly.

Imagine up to 115,000 volts of electricity running through the power lines directly above the hay you just stacked. Highly loaded, those aluminum wires get hot — and the warmer the temperature — the more the lines sag. There needs to be at least 10 feet of clearance between the neutral line and the top of your hay bales. Did you plan for sag and leave adequate space?

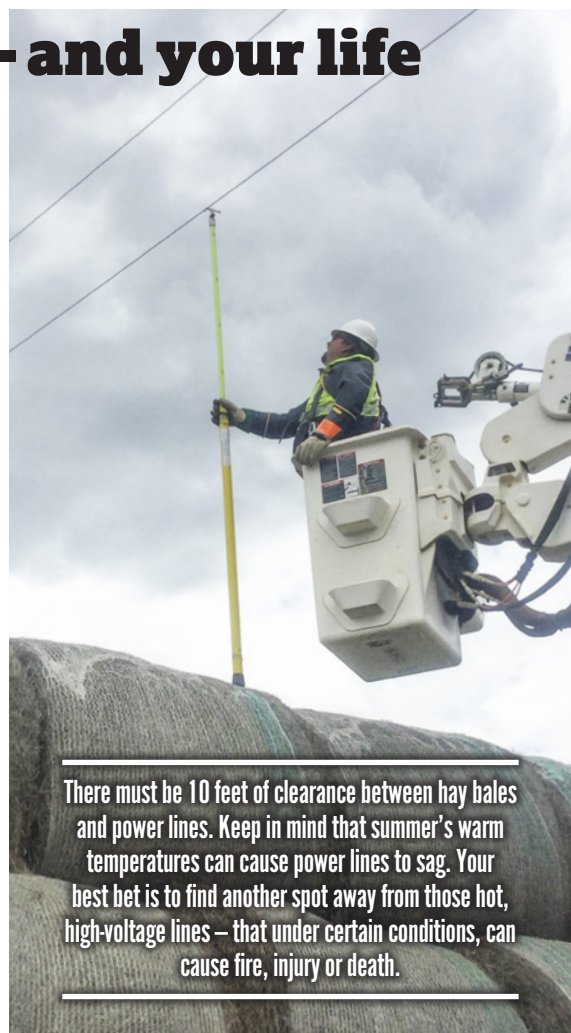
As amps travel the circuit, the wires get warm. If you back your equipment into a guy wire and a pole bends or breaks, or if you hit an overhead line with the loader, the line could fall on the hay and ignite. The hay you need to feed your cattle — and the provisions you made to feed your family — just went up in smoke.

And that could be the best-case scenario. If you or your equipment comes into contact with a power line, you could receive an electric shock that could cause injury and even death.

Protect your livelihood and your life, and stay away from power lines and poles. If you do make contact with a power line, call 911. Remain seated, warn others to stay away, and wait for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric linemen to de-energize the lines. Do not move from the equipment.

To report system damage that is not in need of immediate repair, call Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative at 1-800-750-8212 or email info@morgransou.com. If you send an email, please include the location, your name and contact information, and a photo if possible.

Members, your safety matters. Working together helps ensure the safety of all! ■



There must be 10 feet of clearance between hay bales and power lines. Keep in mind that summer's warm temperatures can cause power lines to sag. Your best bet is to find another spot away from those hot, high-voltage lines — that under certain conditions, can cause fire, injury or death.



LIHEAP offers emergency crisis program

Assistance may be available to those having trouble paying their heating bills due to the COVID-19 pandemic and changes in household income.



The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) offers heating assistance until May 31, and a year-round crisis program to assist qualifying households.

- Assists with unpaid heating costs associated with read dates that are no more than 90 days prior to the application date
- Qualifying households can receive Emergency Assistance more than once
- Costs must have been incurred from the current residence

- Can assist with reconnection fees
- CANNOT assist with deposits

In addition, the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services will provide additional LIHEAP funding through the CARES Act.

Households can contact the human service zone office, formally known as county social services, to request an application. Anyone who needs help completing and submitting an application can contact Community Options at 800-823-2417 ext. 140.



Electrical infrastructure may be closer than you think

Take a few moments to look around, noting electrical infrastructure including pad-mounted transformers near fields and around your property and home. As the grass grows, the cans may become more difficult to see. Know their placement, and keep a safe distance.

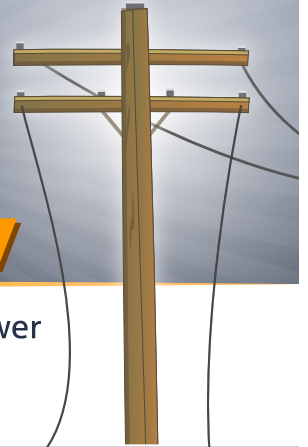
Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative linemen need room to work safely on this device. Please keep shrubs and structures 10 feet from the side that opens, and three feet from the other sides.

An obstruction may cause a power outage or may cause delays when restoring electric service.

For planting instructions, call Mor-Gran-Sou at 1-800-750-8212. ■



ALWAYS ASSUME **LIVE** ALL DOWNED LINES ARE **LIVE**



Downed power lines can be **deadly**. Always assume a downed power line is **live** and avoid approaching them or anything near them.

Use Precaution



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 feet away**. Even more in wet conditions.



If you see a downed power line, **call 911**.



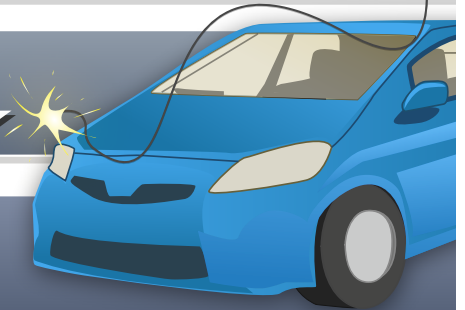
Never drive over downed power lines or anything in contact with them.



Never try to move a downed power line.

If a vehicle contacts a **power line** or **utility pole**...

STAY AWAY AND CALL 911



Consider **all lines** to be live and dangerous.



Stay in place or inside your vehicle unless you see **fire** or **smoke**.



Warn others to stay at least **35 feet away**.



Tell others not to approach vehicle, downed lines, or anything that may be in contact with downed lines.



Call **911**.

In the Event of Fire or Smoke

Do not touch the ground and vehicle at the **same time**.



Jump from the vehicle with your **feet together**.



Shuffle away, avoid lifting your feet.



MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

board meeting highlights



Meeting date: May 20, 2020

- Approved the April 22, 2020, Regular Board meeting minutes
- Approved the May 6, 2020, Special Board meeting minutes
- Approved a special equipment capitalization
- Approved a work order inventory
- Approved the capital credit refund applications to estates and those age 80 and over
- Reviewed the monthly director's financial report
- Reviewed the financial report for April
- Reviewed senior staff department reports
- Heard legal counsel report
- Heard the Co-General Managers/CEOs updates, and reports on meetings
- Heard update on Southwest Power Pool
- Heard update on Cooperative's ongoing response to the coronavirus pandemic
- Set the date of August 20, 2020, for Mor-Gran-Sou's Virtual Annual Meeting, and the time of 2:00 p.m. CT
- Discussed capital credits and associated policy
- Confirmed the July Board meeting date; location or conference call TBA
- Set the June Board meeting to be held via conference call
- Held Executive Session; completed annual Board of Director evaluations, and annual General Manager appraisal summary

Upcoming regular board meeting date:

July 17 conference call or location TBA

Members are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time. Please contact Mor-Gran-Sou at cternes@morgransou.com, or call 1-800-750-8212 or 597-3301 to confirm the meeting date and location if you wish to attend.

To place an item on the agenda, please contact Board Chair Casey Wells or Co-General Manager/Chief Executive Officer Donald Franklund at 701-597-3301 at least one week in advance.

Members may obtain a copy of approved board minutes by completing and returning the "Request for Information or Data" form. You can find this form at www.morgransou.com, or contact the Flasher office to request a copy.

Spend the day in Medora — and save

In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, more than 10 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in North Dakota have joined forces to make vacationing in North Dakota more affordable for families, including Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative. This summer, head west to Medora, where electric cooperative members are eligible for a 15-percent discount off the following reservations:

- ✓ Tickets to the Medora Musical
- ✓ Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- ✓ Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- ✓ Badlands Motel
- ✓ Elkhorn Quarters
- ✓ Rough Riders Hotel

Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code **Touch2020** at the door.

Mor-Gran-Sou members, if you are traveling to beautiful Medora this summer, call 1-800-MEDORA-1 to provide the discount code **Touch2020**, make reservations and receive your savings.

KX/CO-OP DAY at the N.D. State Fair cancelled

In mid-May, it was announced on <https://ndstatefair.com/> that the 2020 North Dakota State Fair would be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A statement read: "This decision is in the best interest for all involved. It is impossible to predict the scale of this pandemic, and our concern is for the health and safety of our community, our attendees, exhibitors, vendors, staff and all involved with the North Dakota State Fair."

Every year, North Dakota's electric cooperatives are proud to take part in KX/Co-op Day at the Fair. This is only the second cancellation since the flood of 2011, and we regret that we won't be able to see members from across the state taking part in the pancake breakfast, stopping by the co-op tent and getting a free ice cream cone.

Thank you for your understanding, and we hope we can continue the tradition during safer times next year. ■



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UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 OR 811

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair..... Casey Wells
Vice Chair..... Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer..... Lance Froelich
Directors Mark Doll, Vernard Frederick,
Pam Geiger, Jay Larson,
Bob J. Leingang, Kathy Tokach

MANAGEMENT

Co-GM/CEO..... Donald A. Franklund
Co-GM/CEO..... Travis Kupper

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