

POWER LINE

March 2020



Redwood Electric Cooperative

60 Pine Street • Clements, Minnesota 56224

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF REDWOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Annual Meeting of the members of the above Cooperative will be held in the Wabasso Community Center in the City of Wabasso, Redwood County, Minnesota, at 1:00 o'clock on the 2nd day of April 2020, to take action upon the following matters:

1. The report of Officers, Directors and Committees.
2. The election of two (2) Directors of the Cooperative who are nominated from the floor and elected as per Article III, Section 3, of the Cooperative's Bylaws:
 - A. Directorship currently held by Leo Mertens (3 year term)
 - B. Directorship currently held by Michael J. Baune (3 year term)
3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

Dated this 25th day of February 2020

Michael Baune, Secretary

Annual Meeting

Redwood Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting will be April 2nd, 2020

at 1:00 p.m. at the Wabasso Community Center

Annual Meeting Notice Postcards will be mailed out the middle of March, so please watch for yours in the mail.

***PLEASE BRING YOUR POST CARD TO THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR REGISTRATION AND TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR DOOR PRIZES!!**

Important Dates

Annual Meeting:

April 2, 2020 at 1:00 pm

Office Closed:

April 10th for Good Friday



Electric Cooperatives to Purchase Power from South Dakota's Largest Solar Project

Redwood Electric Cooperative is adding solar power to its generation mix thanks to a 128 megawatt (MW) solar energy project that will be constructed near New Underwood, S.D., and is projected to be operational by 2022. On Feb. 18, Geronimo Energy, a National Grid company, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative announced the execution of a Power Purchase Agreement for the Wild Springs Solar Project. Redwood Electric Cooperative is a member of Basin Electric, a wholesale generation cooperative that provides a large portion of its power supply. Once operational, Wild Springs will be the largest solar project in South Dakota. It will be located about 20 miles east of Rapid City in the service area of West River Electric Association, Inc., which is a distribution electric cooperative member of Basin Electric.

"We're excited that West River's service area will be home to the Wild Springs Solar Project," said West River Electric Association CEO/General Manager Dick Johnson. "This solar energy project will benefit our cooperative family, as well as our local communities. As not-for-profit co-ops that are owned by our members, everything we do goes back to the people we serve."

In total, Basin Electric is a not-for-profit wholesale power provider to 141-member cooperative systems in nine states. In South Dakota, Basin Electric transmits its power supply to two generation and transmission (G&T) cooperatives, Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative and East River Electric Power Cooperative. Those two G&T cooperatives then transmit the power supply to their respective distribution cooperatives, with Rushmore Electric being the G&T provider to West River Electric. The state's 28 distribution co-ops power the homes, farms and businesses within their service areas.

"For the first time in its history, Basin Electric will buy solar generation on a large scale to serve our members. The board's decision to add solar generation to our resource portfolio is to continue with our all-of-the-above strategy, as well as solar generation becoming a more economic energy source. We are excited about adding solar to our already diverse generation mix," said Paul Sukut, CEO and General Manager of Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Redwood Electric Cooperative is a member of East River Electric, the G&T that serves the eastern half of South Dakota and parts of western Minnesota. In 2019, nearly 38 percent of East River's power supply mix came from wind and hydropower generation. That percent is projected to increase as new renewable sources, including the Wild Springs project, are added to the mix. Redwood Electric Cooperative also offers a

Renewable Energy Credit (REC) program through which its member-owners can purchase RECs to offset their current energy usage with 100 percent renewable energy and showcase their support for current and future renewable projects.

"Our cooperative network is always looking to ensure we have a mix of power resources to meet the needs of our membership and renewable energy is an important part of that strategy," said East River Electric General Manager Tom Boyko. "This project with Geronimo Energy is an important strategic step as we look to the future in continuing our strong history of providing safe, affordable and reliable power."

The Wild Springs project has been supported by local and state community members and will bring significant economic benefits to the local area. Current estimations for the project's economic benefits total over \$17 million throughout the first 20 years of operation, including positive impacts in new tax revenue, construction jobs, new full-time jobs, and charitable funds through the project's Education Fund. The Wild Springs Education Fund alone will offer approximately \$500,000 in donations to the local school districts connected to the project above and beyond all tax revenue and local spending benefits.

"Historically, there has been a misconception that solar in the northern regions of the United States wasn't feasible," stated David Reamer, President for Geronimo Energy. "Both Geronimo and Basin Electric recognized that the addition of solar to its overall generation fleet not only offers customers a clean, economic option for their electricity, but it also diversifies a utility's portfolio."

Geronimo's South Dakota operating project portfolio includes the recently completed Crocker Wind Farm, a 200 MW wind project located in Clark County, South Dakota. Geronimo also successfully developed the operational Pierre Solar Project, a joint effort with the City of Pierre and Missouri River Energy Services, located on City property in Hughes County, South Dakota.



JOIN US FOR REDWOOD ELECTRIC'S 2020 MEMBER ENERGY TOUR

The REC energy tour is July 27, 28, & 29. Members will travel by bus to the Bismarck, North Dakota area to visit:

- Antelope Valley Station-A 450 megawatt coal fired power plant.
- Freedom Mine-See the gigantic equipment used to mine lignite coal.
- Garrison Dam-The fifth largest earthen dam in the world.
- Riverboat Cruise-Enjoy a pizza dinner as you cruise the Missouri River.

The cost of the tour is \$150 per person. The \$150 includes bus, two nights hotel, meals (excludes supper the first night and breakfast the last day) and a riverboat cruise. Seats on a bus fill on the first-come, first-serve basis. \$150 per person deposit must accompany your reservation. We have 23 seats available as we share a bus with South Central Electric. The final tour schedule will be available in early July.

Registration coupon for the 2020 Energy Tour July 27, 28, & 29

First & Last Name (s) _____

Address _____

Location or Account # _____

Phone # _____ How many are attending? _____

_____ Enclosed is a check for \$150 per person

Send checks to:

Redwood Electric Cooperative
ATTN: Sarah Groebner
60 Pine St.
Clements, MN 56224



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Although useful for adding some extra warmth in your home when the cold wind blows outside, space heaters typically use a lot of energy and can be very dangerous if not used correctly.

When purchasing a space heater, make sure to verify that it has been tested for safety. Look for the UL, ETL, or CSA safety certification mark (see below).

Key features to look for include heating element guards and an automatic shut-off feature if the unit tips over or begins to overheat. Redwood Electric does not recommend using space heaters for your main heating source.



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Office Hours & Contact Information

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U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.