



# WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative  
Reliable.Affordable.Responsible



February 2022

## Iowa's Electric Cooperatives Discuss Important Issues at Legislative Reception

More than 160 directors, managers and employees from Iowa's electric cooperatives discussed priorities with nearly 90 state legislators on January 11 during the annual Welcome Back Legislative Reception in downtown Des Moines. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the annual reception in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUEL Iowa.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to meet with state legislators at the beginning of the 2022 Legislative Session to discuss issues that impact rural electric cooperatives and the communities we serve. For example, as the Legislature and Governor prioritize tax cuts this session, we are asking for a correction to a 2018 legislative oversight that left electric cooperatives out of a tax exemption on digital good and services. This unfair tax burden has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars in increased taxes for rural electric cooperatives.

In the coming months, the Iowa General Assembly will be addressing a multitude of issues, including energy-related matters that are central to Iowa's rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, electric co-op directors, managers and staff will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues. Collectively, Iowa's locally owned electric cooperatives provide affordable, reliable, safe and environmentally responsible power to more than 650,000 Iowans throughout all 99 counties every day.



RVEC's directors Mark Ludwig and Karen Werner meet with Senator Craig Williams (photo 1), Representative Gary Worthan (photo 2) and Representative Brian Best (photo 3) to discuss issues that impact our communities and our member-owners.

### - Outage Information -

If you do not have power or have an emergency call 712.659.3649.

RVEC phones are answered 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

## — CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

As we look forward to the last weeks of winter, we cannot help but recall a year ago this time. The week of February 14, 2021, when the upper Midwest was in the grips of a deep freeze that left some RVEC member-owners without power for short periods of time due to “load curtailments” or rolling blackouts. These outages were necessary, directed by our Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) – Southwest Power Pool (SPP), and implemented by our power supplier, Corn Belt Power Cooperative in order to avoid cascading outages affecting a much wider area.

Since that time, all of us throughout the system have taken steps to identify where we can be better. SPP has identified the source of the problems in the February event as lack of generation resources – more demand for energy than the system had at the time, with a lack of fuel being the biggest cause of the problem. Extremely high natural gas prices were the primary driver of record-high energy costs. A rapid spike in SPP’s market prices raised concerns about some short-term ability to purchase fuel. Full use of generation in certain locations was limited by congestion on SPP’s transmission system.

Each of these causes have been and will continue to be addressed by SPP, Corn Belt and RVEC.

The good news is, relationships & interconnections with SPP’s neighboring systems facilitated critical helpful assistance; Corn Belt, as the market operator, responded to minimize outages on their system; and RVEC’s experienced and talented staff worked to maintain the distribution system and communicate to member-owners what was happening with their power.

Still, we can do more. We continue to refine a communication system that will allow us to contact you by text and automated phone call – this will allow us to reach more members more quickly. Reliability issues with this communication will not be tolerated. We will roll this out when we are 06.15.03 confident you can count on it.

We take reliability of your electric distribution system very seriously. We are currently putting together the Annual Reliability Report for 2021 that reflects our efforts to provide you with power 99.999% of the time, while maintaining costs to allow for rate stability. Meantime, outages will occur. We have good technology and strong partners, but our best source for outage information is you, the member-owner. We ask that if you have a power outage at your location, please call 712.659.3649 right away. Our phones are answered 24/7/365. RVEC’s office staff and line crews are dedicated and they will continue to work as safely and quickly as possible.

## What Exactly is an Electric Cooperative?

You receive this publication because you buy your electricity from an electric cooperative. That’s a utility that operates like no other.

Cooperatives are consumer-owned businesses, which means that you and your neighbors actually own your electric utility. In fact, you may have noticed that the utility refers to you as a “member” rather than as a “customer.”

The cooperative’s board of directors is a group of member-owners just like you, and, in fact, you can run for a seat on the board yourself

if you would like to. When the directors’ terms expire, the cooperative will hold an election—and you will get to vote. So the cooperative is governed by its consumers, and those who govern it are elected by the consumers.

Cooperatives have their roots in their local communities, so they never sell stock. That way, member-owners retain local control.

Take advantage of the opportunity to participate as a member-owner of your electric cooperative by attending its membership meetings and voting in board elections.

## RVEC WILL BE CLOSED FEBRUARY 21st FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY



### Line Inspection Continues

Annual maintenance of our entire system has started. The linemen will be inspecting the lines for defective items, checking meters and looking for any safety hazards.

During the inspections we look for shot insulators, blown arrestors, loose guy wires, split or bad poles, poles have nothing stapled to them and that trees are not close to our electric lines. We are also looking for inadequate clearances from buildings and other driveways.

We have maintenance programs to upgrade lines and ensure that you have the most reliable and safest system possible.

Anytime you have questions about the trucks in your neighborhood, give us a call. 21.15.02

### What to do if you have a Power Outage?

Check your fuses or circuit breakers to rule out problems with electricity inside your home. Replace fuses or reset breakers if needed. It is the member's responsibility to repair any wires or equipment located between the meter pole and your buildings and/or equipment.

### Stay Safe and Warm in Snow and Ice Storms

Power outages due to snow and ice storms are especially threatening because of extreme cold temperatures.

After a snow or ice storm, avoid going outside if possible. Downed power lines could be submerged in snow and ice, making them difficult to identify. When outside, treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized. Stay away and immediately contact RVEC. Remember that downed power lines do NOT have to be arcing, sparking, or moving to be "live" — and deadly. 37.01.02

When the power is out because of a snow or ice storm, RVEC and Safe Electricity suggests these tips to help you stay safe and warm:

- Stay inside, and dress in warm, layered clothing.
- Close off unneeded rooms.
- When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards, and be sure to properly ventilate. Always keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it.
- Stuff towels and rags underneath doors to keep the heat in.
- Cover windows at night.
- Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants and people over the age of 65 are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives or go to a shelter if you can't keep your home warm.



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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

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Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative  
(RVEC) is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.



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Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
*Reliable • Affordable • Responsible*



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The power of human connections

## Help Us Find These Former Members

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative (RVEC), located at 28725 Highway 30, PO Box 486, Glidden, IA 51443 is holding unclaimed property resulting from patronage dividends which are due to the persons listed below. The owner may claim this property by contacting us at the address listed above and/or by phone at 712-659-3649 during regular office hours. 28.33.07

Albertson, Marshall or Joyce  
American Concrete North  
Anthofer, Ricky  
Anthofer, Steve  
Bailey, Kirby  
Bayer Schroeder (John A. Schroeder)  
Bondinello, Bill  
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Building & Trade Home (Sac Resources Inc)  
Carruthers, Joseph or Leeann  
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Corsaut, Charles F.  
Crawford, Scott or Angela  
Cuddy, Mark or Kelley  
Currie, Randy  
Dunn, Patricia  
Ehrp, Gail  
Fox, Jason S.  
Frohlich, Lynn or Tiffany  
Gallagher, Eugene  
Gossman, Chad  
Gross, Linda J.  
GTE Telephone Operations  
Halbur, Denny  
Hall, Mike  
Hofbauer, Matt (Tammy Crawford)  
Honold, James P.  
Hunt, Mike or Brenda  
Hyland, Jim  
Johnson, Darrell P.  
Johnson, Marjorie  
Jorgensen, Don  
Karns, Scott or Kimberly  
King, Louetta  
Klockslem, Roger  
Knoke, Scott or Diane  
Koch, Randy  
Krog, David  
Laxson, Michelle or Tony  
Lesle, Marigene  
Loew, Merlin or Shelly  
Lorenzen, Phyllis  
Ludwig, Lonnie

Maack, Dean  
Mahler, Leroy H.  
Mahogany Partnership  
Mason, David D.  
McCullough, Kevin J.  
Mehrhoff, Mark  
Meyer, Herbert or Charlotte  
Mitchell, Michael  
Moon, Dennis  
Mullenburg, Rachel  
Nemaha Milling-Mooney  
Nichols, Royce  
Norwood, Bob or Violet  
Novartis (Allen Brush)  
Olson, Beth G.  
Olson, Mark  
Ort, Loretta  
Owen, Mark  
Patrick, Ronald or Susan  
Patrick, Susan  
Powell, Matt  
Renze, Doug  
Riesberg, Doug or Vilay  
Roberts, Don or Jackie  
Robertson, Rick  
Rohlin Construction  
Romey Electric INC  
Rosemeyer, Brad or Kristy  
Ross, Regina  
Schleisman, Brian or Chris  
Schroeder, V. L.  
Sheeder, Ronald or Tara  
Siebrecht, Jamie  
Simons, Rita C.  
Smith, Thomas Q.  
Snyder, Orville or Myrna  
Sporrer, Brian  
Stidham, W.D. or Magdalena  
Stone Path II, LLC  
Stonerook, Tony or Stephanie  
Van Meter, Sherri  
Willenborg, Chris  
Williams, Marilyn  
Wood, Pat  
York, Chris or Mary

## Spot Your Number

Read Watts Current and watch for your location number. If you spot it, call RVEC by the 20th of the month and you will receive an electrical bill credit for \$25.00.