



WATTS CURRENT

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative
Reliable. Affordable. Responsible



August 2020



Alternate Energy Production Facility Notice Requirement

On January 1, 2013, a notification requirement went into effect. This requirement applies to the owner of an alternate energy production facility which will be attached to an electric transmission or distribution line. Alternate energy production facilities are defined as solar, wind turbine, waste management, resource recovery, refuse-derived fuel, agricultural crops or residues, or wood burning facilities used to generate electricity.

Under this requirement, the owner of the facility is required to provide written notification to their utility of the intent to construct or install the facility at least 30 days prior to construction. In the written notice the owner must provide information on the type of facility and the anticipated completion date of the construction.

If you are considering installing an alternate energy system please contact RVEC at 712.659.3649.

It's A Boy!

Morgan and Brandon Kramer became proud parents of a baby boy. Levi was welcomed home by big sister Presley and big brother Clay. Congratulations, Morgan and Brandon! 14.34.01

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative Will Be

CLOSED

SEPTEMBER 7TH FOR LABOR DAY

Nominating Committee Appoints Director Candidates

The Nominating Committee responsibility is to select director candidates from each of the districts in which directors' terms expire. The following members of the Cooperative were nominated for the office of Director for the term specified to be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held on September 9, 2020:

District 4 – David Onken

District 7 – Karen Werner

Twenty or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures, not less than 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting date of September 9, 2020. The secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.



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— CEO Comments —



Jim Gossett

According to The Farmer’s Almanac, the “Dog Days of Summer” are from July 3 to August 11. The term is a reference to when the Sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius, the brightest star visible from any part of Earth. Sirius is sometimes known as the “dog” star. The Dog Days of Summer are supposedly almost over, but who knows. Like COVID, maybe the Dog Days of Summer will hang around this year.

What does all this have to do with your electricity? Maybe not much. But when it comes to the pandemic, dealing with COVID seems something like the Dog Days, or the most oppressive part of the summer. Still...there are positives when you look for them!

I’ve been reading articles on “COVID fatigue” that are helpful. They recommend ways to handle the pressure that comes with prolonged alertness to the virus. The experts agree, we must pay attention and focus on taking care of our head and our body when the stress of COVID is pancaked on top of the strain of everyday life. Try to get some exercise and good rest.

Taking care of your friends and your family can also be a stress reliever. Helping others cope by providing social support can make a difference for you and them. During times of increased social distancing, people can still maintain social connections and care for their mental health. Phone calls or video chats can help you and your loved ones feel socially connected, less lonely, or isolated. Remember that we are not all in the same boat, but rather in the same storm. 06.01.04

The RVEC Board has made the tough decision to cancel the public portion of the Annual Meeting this year. It just isn’t right to ask our member-owners to gather in this way right now. You will receive your Annual Meeting packet and ballots with instructions to vote for the directors up for election. Look for your packet this month, which will come complete with the 2019 Annual Report. We look forward to seeing you in 2021!

The Iowa Economic Development Authority recently announced The COVID-19 Small Business Utility Disruption Prevention Program will assist small businesses and nonprofits struggling to pay their electric and natural gas bills due to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will distribute \$14.5 million to provide short-term relief to eligible small businesses in Iowa.

Applications will be accepted at www.iowabusinessrecovery.com until August 21, 2020, or until funding is depleted, whichever comes first. An eligible business can apply for a grant up to \$7,500 to cover utility bill debt incurred for electric or natural gas service provided between March 17, 2020, and June 30, 2020. The applicant's utility service provider(s) will receive a credit, which will be applied to the applicant's utility debt.

Bus-Stop Safety Reminders

With children heading back to school this month, this is a good time for parents to teach children about school bus safety.



- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing.
- Wait for the bus to come to a full stop and its doors to open before stepping off the curb.
- Although other vehicles are required to stop when a school bus does, don’t rely on that. When crossing the street in front of a bus, make eye contact with the driver and look all ways at traffic before stepping out.
- Stay in your seat, keep your head, arms and hands inside and keep aisles clear of books and bags.
- Wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from your seat and leaving the bus.

Director Candidates Appointed by Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee nominated the following members of the Cooperative for the office of Director to be voted on by mail submitted before the Annual Meeting to be held on September 9, 2020.

DISTRICT 4

Dave Onken



- Lives one mile north of Lidderdale.
- Married to Betty Seidl and they have two sons, two daughters and four grandchildren
- Farms; corn and soybeans
- Seed Dealer for Hoegemeyer Seed.
- Member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lidderdale.
- Board Director since 1998 and a Corn Belt Power Cooperative Director since 2008.

DISTRICT 7

Karen Werner



- Lives north of Highway 20 on M43 between Schaller and Early.
- Married to Wayne Werner and they have two sons, one daughter and five grandchildren.
- Works part time as an enumerator for USDA working with farm statistics.
- Members of Grace Lutheran Church in Storm Lake.
- Board Director since 2011.

Fallen Power Line Safety

- Stay far away from fallen power lines and from anything that is touching them. Assume the lines are energized and dangerous.
- Fallen lines are most common after storms and high winds. Debris from a storm can hide fallen power lines. Fallen trees may contain energized power lines. 33.36.06
- Shuffle, don't run, from a fallen power line. Shuffle with your feet together and on the ground. Running or taking large steps can increase the chance that you will be shocked or even killed.
- If a power line falls on your car, stay inside unless the car catches fire. In such a case, jump clear of the car without touching metal and the ground at the same time.

Report outages and hazards!

Call RVEC if your power goes out or you see an electrical hazard such as a downed power line. Our phones are answered 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Why Membership Matters

You could be a member of a lot of different places; a gym, a 4-H club, a food of the month club – the list goes on and on! But what makes being a member of a co-op different? The simple answer to that question is that when you are a member of a co-op, you are also an owner. You own a stake in our business, and just like any stakeholder, there are many benefits to your membership. As a member-owner of RVEC, you have a say in the representatives who are elected to serve on the co-op's board of directors. You have an opportunity to make your voice heard every year at our Annual Meeting. You get a say on policy issues your electric cooperative supports or opposes. You can even help to determine how your profits are redistributed. Our bottom line is providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Sure, we have to think about expenses, overhead and other aspects of daily business, but when we have a little left over, we send it back to you. And returning capital credits to you is a major part of why being a co-op member matters. As your local electric co-op, we get to be a part of this community. When we think about membership, we think about all of the ways we can give back to you, our members – and that's what matters most to us.

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Published monthly by
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative

-- Directors --

David Onken, Pres. Glidden
Mark Adams..... Glidden
Jeff Cranston Odebolt
Steve Schable..... Carroll
Mark Ludwig Breda
Steve Seidl Coon Rapids
Karen Werner Schaller

-CEO-
Jim Gossett

-Office Address-
Headquarters
PO Box 486, 28725 Hwy 30
Glidden, IA. 51443
Phone: 712.659.3649
800.253.6211
Fax: 712.659.3716
Monday - Friday
7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

www.rvec.coop
e-mail: info@rvec.coop

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



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Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

Homeowners – Don't Assume You Know What's Below!

Source: Iowa One Call website

Whatever your summertime projects may be – Whether you are putting in a fence, planting a tree, or starting a garden – call 811 or file your locate requests online. Iowa One Call is here to help!

Things To Remember

- ✓ You must contact Iowa One Call at least 48 hours (not including weekends and holidays) in advance of your plans to excavate.
- ✓ A ticket is valid for 20 calendar days from the time of the call. 28.27.01
- ✓ **ALWAYS** check yard markings and Iowa One Call Positive Response ticket status before beginning excavation.

What Does NOT Get Marked

Only the buried facilities registered with Iowa One Call will be located and marked. Private facilities will not be marked for locates. These can include LP gas lines, sprinkler systems, gas grill lines, or more.

Homeowners may call private locating companies to have their private facilities marked.

Tolerance Zone

Paint and flag markings are approximate. The tolerance zone is 18" on either side of the markings. You should hand dig with caution in the tolerance zone to expose the facility.

Paint or Flag Color Indicators

Underground facilities will be marked according to the APWA Color Code. It is extremely helpful for you to outline your proposed excavation site in white paint or with white flags to reduce any confusion as to where the proposed excavation will occur.

- ❖ Red – Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
- ❖ Yellow – Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials
- ❖ Orange – Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
- ❖ Blue – Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines
- ❖ Green – Sewers and Drain Lines
- ❖ Pink – Temporary Survey Markings
- ❖ White – Proposed Excavation
- ❖ Purple – Reclaimed Water

Before Contacting Iowa One Call

When you contact Iowa One Call with a locate request, a series of questions will be asked.

What is your name, address and phone number?

What type of work will you be doing? (i.e. planting a tree, installation of fence)

What is the dig location's address, city, county and nearest intersecting street?

At the dig location, where will you be digging? (i.e. east side of house, within 5 ft radius of white stake.)

When will you be digging? (i.e. 3 days, next week)

Before Iowa One Call arrives, it is extremely helpful for you to outline your proposed excavation site in white paint or with white flags to reduce any confusion as to where the proposed excavation will occur.



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.