

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APRIL 2020

Remembering the 2010 snow and ice storms

A mostly mild February provided welcome weather for Roughrider's linemen, who performed scheduled maintenance. A little more than 10 years ago, they were working in blizzard conditions to replace poles and splice line, fixing damage caused by two powerful storms. In this month's local pages, we reflect on those historic storms, and give thanks for our linemen and support staff, who serve our members with integrity and accountability.

*Roughrider Lineman **Cody Hintz***



JANUARY 2010 FILE PHOTO

What's inside:

- **Considering serving your cooperative as a director**
- **Annual meeting save the date: June 3 in Hazen**
- **Basic rights essay earns Sloane McCray Youth Tour trip**
- **Meeting minutes ... and more**

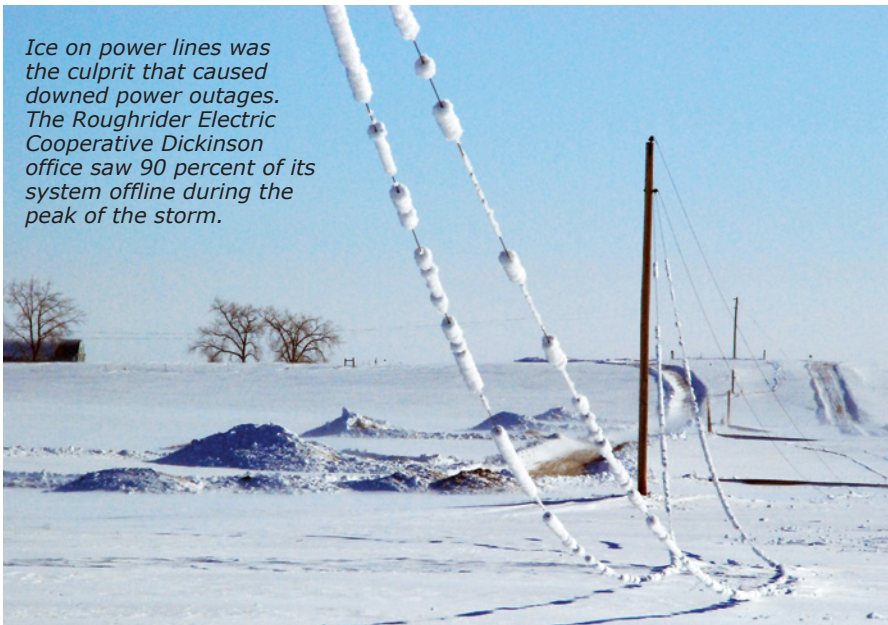
PHOTO BY TYLER PHELPS

#THANKALINEMAN

Roughrider remembers historic storms, celebrates Linemen Appreciation Day

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Ice on power lines was the culprit that caused downed power outages. The Roughrider Electric Cooperative Dickinson office saw 90 percent of its system offline during the peak of the storm.



JANUARY 2010 FILE PHOTOS

A map of the eastern coverage area was dotted with notes detailing power outages in the area. The cooperative devised a color-coded system that helped bring a visual order to outages.

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of two storms that caused major destruction in the Roughrider Electric Cooperative service area.

It started Jan. 20, 2010, when a week of dense fog and rain, frost and ice gripped the power lines. Electrical conductor that is normally the diameter of an ink pen turned into a 6-to 8-inch diameter block of ice, putting tons of additional weight on every pole. Then the wind picked up.

Sagging with the burden of the weight, poles started snapping like toothpicks. At the height of the storm, about 90 percent of the system around Dickinson was offline. There was also extensive damage in the eastern part of the system south of Center, Hannover, Hazen and Beulah.

Line crews, with assistance from

outside contractors and crews from several neighboring cooperatives, were charged with putting back together an ice-ravaged system, consisting of countless wire breaks and more than 1,000 broken or damaged poles.

Some members were without power for as long as seven days. The Gorham and Fairfield areas were some of the last to have power restored. It was the closest many had been to understanding what it was like the day the lights were first turned on.

The cooperative suffered millions of dollars in damages. On Feb. 26, 2010, President Barack Obama approved a major disaster declaration for the state of North Dakota, which triggered the release of federal assistance to help communities and

others including electric cooperatives mitigate the storm costs incurred.

Amid the destruction, there were many blessings. County crews plowed roads so the linemen could access and fix the damage faster. Some members joined the effort, using tractors to help move snow. Other members brought baked goods to the office to thank and sustain the staff, who were all working long hours. Cafés opened extra early, so lineworkers could eat before heading to the field.

Jason Bentz, Roughrider's current manager of operations and former line superintendent for Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, said at the time, "It was an experience I'd rather not have to go through again, but we can't predict the weather. We will be up to the challenge if it happens again."

Just a few short months later, it did.

Linemen were still patrolling the system and making repairs from the January storm when the second



PHOTO BY BRUCE BUCHERT

and keep the power flowing. This year, we remember and give thanks for that work and dedication on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

Lineworker Appreciation Day

Roughrider's linemen build and maintain the power system that keeps electricity flowing to your farm, home or business — regardless of storms, national holidays, vacations, birthdays and other milestones.

Your electric cooperative maintains more than 5,200 miles of power lines that cover 5,800 square miles of service territory.

The service-oriented mentality of our employees, managers and board members is the foundation of Roughrider. We exist to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service to about 9,000 member-owners.

Monday, April 13, is Lineworker Appreciation Day. As we reflect on where we've been and where we are headed, Roughrider Electric Cooperative gives thanks for our dedicated staff who do business with integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. ■

storm hit Good Friday, April 2, 2010. In the heart of calving season, the sky dumped golf-ball-size snowballs that were heavy and slushy. Power lines and poles, bogged with weight, began toppling when the wind started gusting.

Within an eight-hour timeframe, 625 poles were destroyed in Oliver County, along with severe damage to overhead conductors.

Sloppy conditions and warm temperatures hampered restoration efforts. Once again, members partnered with cooperative employees to pull lodged diggers out of the mud with their tractors.

Power was restored within

one week to all occupied dwellings, with the help of 60 contractors and lineworkers from neighboring cooperatives.

On April 21, 2010, Pres. Obama again approved a federal disaster for North Dakota counties to help electric cooperatives and others recover costs associated with the storm.

Even with financial assistance from the state and Federal Emergency Management Agency, the two storms were a financial burden to the membership.

From the support staff in the office to the linemen working long days to rebuild the system and restore power, it takes a dedicated team to restore

SAFETY@ROUGH RIDERELECTRIC.COM

Roughrider is an advocate of working safely. In fact, it is our way of life; the culture of your cooperative. We look out for the safety of ourselves and others — before, during and after work.

Did you know that members also play a key role in keeping our system safe? At times, you are our eyes in the sky and on the ground. Should you see a power line issue that may need Roughrider's attention, please call the office or send us an email at safety@roughriderelectric.com with your concern. This correspondence should include the description of the location, your name and complete contact information, and a photo if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all!

Annual Meeting 2020

Lights. Comfort. Connection.

June 3, 2020 Hazen, ND

Learn about co-op issues; cast your vote and elect three members to serve on the board of directors; and enjoy a hearty meal.



ROUGH RIDER
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



FREE SHUTTLE BUS RIDE

ROUGH RIDER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WILL BE OFFERING A FREE SHUTTLE-BUS SERVICE TO THE MEETING, LEAVING FROM DICKINSON HEADQUARTERS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN RIDING THE BUS TO HAZEN,

PLEASE CONTACT

ROBIN AT 800-748-5533 OR RRANUM@ROUGHRIDERELECTRIC.COM.

THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP TO RIDE THE BUS IS MAY 15.

Vote by mail 2020 Annual Meeting

In 2009, Roughrider Electric Cooperative's board of directors decided to offer the members the option of voting by mail. Ballots and instructions will be mailed prior to the annual meeting. Under the bylaws, no nominations are accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. A qualified member of Roughrider Electric Cooperative may become a candidate for election by being nominated by the Nominating Committee or by a petition submitted not less than 60 days before the meeting.

Mail-in ballots will only be sent to members upon request. To request a ballot, please contact Brad Quenette at 701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533 prior to May 11. You may also contact Brad at: bquenette@roughriderelectric.com



If so, it pays to plan ahead. Members can save time, money and aggravation by consulting with Roughrider Electric Cooperative before locating new grain bins or adding new load.

Members considering a new bin site or added load are encouraged to contact Roughrider Electric. We are available to provide assistance in planning for a safe, reliable environment for everyone. ■

New or upgraded service

When adding electrical loads, such as bin fans or shop heat, Roughrider Electric encourages members to contact the cooperative first. Representatives will design a service adequately sized for the proposed electrical load. Existing services will be inspected to determine if an upgrade in service is required.

Whether you are adding a new service or expanding an existing service, Roughrider Electric needs to study the effect the added load will have on the cooperative's electric distribution system to determine the co-op's ability to serve that load.

Bin placement

When placing a primary electric service at a grain bin site, Roughrider Electric adheres to the requirements set forth in the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). The NESC specifies the minimum distance between a grain bin and the nearest overhead power line and has two sections that apply to grain handling systems.

Adequate clearance between grain bins and overhead power lines reduces the risk of accidental contact between the power lines and tall farm equipment such as portable grain augers, elevators or grain-probing devices. Also, a grain bin or shop built too close to an overhead power line may mean the bin or power line would need to be relocated, most times at the member's expense.

GRAIN BIN SAFETY

DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!
FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND POWER LINES

Height of grain storage structure	D=Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.

*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22kV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.

Sloane McCray champions basic rights; earns Youth Tour trip

BY CARMEN DEVNEY



This year, the United States is commemorating the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage. Some women spent years, and in some cases lifetimes, advocating for the right to vote.

That milestone likely helped pave the way for Nellie Ross of Wyoming, the first female governor; Sandra Day O'Connor, the first female U.S. Supreme Court Justice; and Nancy Pelosi, the first female Speaker of the House.

How will it pave the way for Sloane McCray, a sophomore at Hazen High School? An avid reader and history enthusiast, she doesn't know yet where her career path will lead. But if she could go back in time, and take part in an influential movement in history, she would attend the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848.

According to www.history.com, those who attended the convention

fought for the social, civil and religious rights of women. The meeting was held July 19 to 20, 1848, at the Wesleyan Chapel in Seneca Falls, New York. Originally known as the Woman's Rights Convention, the Seneca Falls Convention launched the women's suffrage movement.

The daughter of Kim and Kevin Kraft and Loren McCray, Sloane wrote an essay about this convention and her desire to advance women's rights. She submitted it to Roughrider Electric; it was her official application for the co-op's annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip. This year's tour is scheduled from June 20 to 26.

Coordinated and paid for by electric cooperatives across the state and nation, the Youth Tour is an opportunity for students to watch history come alive as they explore museums, memorials and

Sloane McCray is this year's Youth Tour winner. She saw a poster promoting Roughrider's annual essay contest in school, and thought the trip to Washington, D.C., sounded interesting. She wrote her essay in one night, and was thrilled when Brad Quenette, Roughrider's Member Services Manager, came to her school to tell her she won the trip.

monuments for one amazing week. The contest is open to sophomores and juniors who are dependents of Roughrider members. The Krafts, who live in rural Hazen, are members.

This year's essay question was, "If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will travel to Washington, D.C. to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?"

In her response she wrote, "I would be one of those women around the table in the Wesleyan Chapel, using my words to guarantee freedom to my female descendants and myself. I would contribute to the advent of gender equality with my words, for they were the only thing I could own at the time."

Had she fought for women's rights in the 1800s, she believes society would have declared her insane. Her response would have been, "So be it. Mad woman I might be, but you must be madder still to deny a citizen her basic rights."

Sloane's thoughts, research, organization and compelling essay earned her the 2020 Youth Tour trip.

While in Washington, D.C., she is most interested in touring the Smithsonian Museums and being immersed in a large city so vastly

different than rural North Dakota.

You can also bet she'll be mesmerized by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, which has been called a "Shrine for Freedom." When he penned the now-famous words in the Declaration of Independence, "Men are created equal," he declared all people to be considered of equal value and worth.

Sloane says there aren't a lot of travel opportunities for students who live in small towns, and she is thankful Roughrider Electric offers this annual tour to area students. In turn, Roughrider is proud to sponsor a

Active in basketball, track, choir and science Olympiad, Sloane lives on a bison ranch. She is interested in learning languages, and speaks some Spanish and Latin. In her spare time, she likes to watch videos on YouTube, read and write. One of her poems about Abraham Lincoln has been published by Appelley Publishing.

student with such a promising future.

Enjoy the Youth Tour, Sloane! Congratulations on earning a spot on this coveted trip. Upon your return, we'll visit with you again and share your highlights.

Sloane's complete essay is printed below. ■



We Hold These Truths to be Self-Evident

BY SLOANE MCCRAY

History can only be measured in time, and time, as mankind knows it, is infinite. Therefore, one must ponder: What, then, out of the billions of events preceding this moment, causes one to stick out? That question seems heavy at first glance, loaded with every possible answer a person can think. Know this, though: the only factor that makes one event out of billions linger is its impact on humankind. Take the Holocaust as an example. Almost 80 decades later and we still learn from it in textbooks to documentaries. So too, then, does the legacy of the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848 linger on, and that is what I wished to have been a part of.

At the Seneca Falls Convention, women established their own rights that held them in the same esteem that men at the time were. Women took their first stumbling steps towards equality. It is an undeniably consequential in American history, and a century later it is still fondly recalled.

I cannot claim to be a charismatic orator like Martin Luther King Jr., but had I a pen and parchment, I would have written until my fingers fell off. I would be one of those women around the table in the Wesleyan Chapel, using my words to guarantee freedom to my female descendants and myself. I would contribute to the advent of gender equality with my words, for they were the only thing I could own at the time. Society would have ostracized me. Nonetheless, I would speak up, be it under my own name or an alias. I would teach the people I had pride and honor deep within my heart and thus knew myself to be just as good as anybody. I would have undoubtedly been declared insane

and a mad woman, and to that I would have said this: "So be it. Mad woman I might be, but you must be madder still to deny a citizen her basic rights." Fear would have shrouded me; perhaps too would have poverty. However, I would have stood tall, spoken boldly, and written proudly in support for the abolition of an idea that is as un-American as anything. Perhaps I wouldn't have led the change, but I would have tried to spark it.

Admittedly, this is not purely altruistic. The greatest minority is the individual, and had I been at the Seneca Convention, I could have stood up for myself for something I do take for granted every day. I could have taken the first steps to ensuring myself a life of liberty, one that was not dictated by government or man, but by my own free will. That, then, is why, out of every turning point in American history, from the Revolution to the Civil War, I would choose an unlikely meeting at a ubiquitous chapel in the year 1848.

In conclusion, I believe in my rights and the United States Constitution. And just as Thomas Paine wrote Common Sense and swayed people over to the side of freedom and independence, so too would I have written until my words were not ludicrous but a tempting future. Perhaps I even could have had the honor to write one of the most dear passages to any American heart: We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men and women are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator certain unalienable rights, and that among these rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Report from **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **FEB. 28, 2020**

When, where and who: The Board of Directors met Feb. 28 at the J&L Building in Bismarck.

Agenda: The Board reviewed, added to and approved the meeting agenda.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the Jan. 31, 2020, meeting.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative presentation: Mr. Paul Sukut discussed Basin Electric's views and projections with regard to coal, western North Dakota, and its relationship with Roughrider.

With regard to load capacity, Basin Electric is able to meet western North Dakota's load through 2024, with some minor capacity additions that will be proposed to the Basin Board at its next meeting. Discussion about the electric industry, and the different sources of electric generation, their interplay and their effect on Basin and Roughrider were discussed.

Co-General Managers' report: Don Franklund and Travis Kupper presented the managers' report. Roughrider is moving forward with its Southwest Power Pool application, and it is working toward an April 1 membership date.

Operations and Construction report: The Board was referred to Mr. Bentz's written report.

Members Services/Key Accounts report: Mr. Hibl referred the Board to his written report.

Legal report: Ms. Grosz provided the Board with an update on the status of projects addressed in her written report.

Upcoming meetings: The next Board meeting was set for 9 a.m. MT on March 27, 2020, at Roughrider's office in Dickinson, N.D.

Other business: There being no other business, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

www.roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box by Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Krause's Super Valu in Hazen or Bronson's Super Valu in Beulah.

DICKINSON OFFICE

701-483-5111 or 800-627-8470
P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.
Dickinson, ND 58602
7 a.m. – 4 p.m. MST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Dickinson City Hall, or the west and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Roger Kudrna, President; Dickinson483-8377
Darell Herman, Vice President; Beulah873-4371
Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley983-4222
William Retterath; Center794-8729
Arnold Kainz; Dickinson483-8207
Dan Price; Hensler794-3779
Greg Steckler; Dunn Center548-8122
Callen Schoch; New England290-3836

MANAGEMENT

Don Franklund Co-GM/CEO
Travis Kupper Co-GM/CEO

EASTER HOLIDAY CLOSING

In observance of the Easter holiday, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will be closed on Friday, April 10. Line crews will be available in case of an emergency outage.



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