

Barron Electric Cooperative
July 2022
Photo by Kathleen Koch

News FOR YOU...

Honoring Those who Served

Barron Electric Cooperative teamed up with Chris Kroeze at Barron's Music in the Park to help raise over *\$14,000 for the Never Forgotten Honor Flight, a not-for-profit organization of dedicated volunteers providing Veterans respect, gratitude and honor, by flying them free of charge to Washington D.C. to visit their memorials. Thank you for your support.



**Includes matching donations*

Cooperative Employees and Contractors Help Improve Reliability



A contractor plows in underground wire.

Our efforts to ensure reliable power for our members means we must cross your property from time to time. You may see our lineworkers, contractors, and other personnel performing the following tasks:

- Making routine repairs
- Replacing meters
- Trimming trees and brush
- Locating buried utilities for construction and digging projects
- Working to upgrade poles, wires, transformers and equipment
- Inspecting power poles, lines, transformer boxes and equipment

If you have any questions regarding projects, please contact Barron Electric at 800-322-1008. Please note our office hours have changed to 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Save The Dates Cooperative Month Events

october

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

We look forward to celebrating Cooperative Month in-person on October 4 and October 6. Watch the *News for You* for more details.

Co-ops Vote Helps Ensure that Rural America Has Reliable Electricity

American's electric cooperatives understand what's important to our homes and our communities, and we understand that registering to vote and voting in every election is vital to protecting our way of life. Building relationships with elected officials and educating them on the unique issues we face is also important.

Co-ops Vote is a non-partisan project of America's Electric Cooperatives designed to inform its members on the key issues facing electric co-ops and encourage them to vote and support their co-ops and communities they serve when they go to the polls. We do not endorse or recommend any candidates for election. For more information, visit vote.coop.



The Talk About Rolling Blackouts

Barron Electric's June *News for You* and other media sources discussed the possibility of power shortages or rolling blackouts this summer. We want to assure you that under most normal conditions the electric grid will be fine. The grid we are referring to isn't just in Barron or Washburn Counties, or even just Wisconsin for that matter. Barron Electric is part of a grid that stretches from Manitoba, Canada, to Louisiana, and is a part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) footprint. When we talk about weather affecting our grid, it's not just the weather that we experience here. When we talk about generating electricity, it's not just our power supplier, Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC), that we refer to in this article.

Why is talk about potential rolling blackouts in our area currently in the news? (During a blackout, power would be alternated between circuits to minimize downtime.) If it is unseasonably warm and we experience an unplanned baseload generation outage (i.e., a coal generating plant goes offline unexpectedly) anywhere in the MISO region, we could potentially be at risk of not having enough power to supply all of the homes, farms, and businesses on our lines. Dairyland Power has enough generation capacity to reliably supply Barron Electric and the 24 other cooperatives on their system. However, being interconnected to the entire Midwest changes the supply of, and demand for, electricity.

For example, a tornado hits the coal-fired plant in Alma, which is where we get the majority of our power. In order to supply us power, MISO will redirect power from other parts of the grid to our area. However, the amount of transmission lines needed to feed all of DPC's member cooperatives is more than what exists between the

southern part of the MISO system and the northern part of the MISO system. (see map)

Imagine putting marbles in a tube. If you only have one tube (or transmission line), only so many marbles (or electricity) are going to flow through the tube at any given time. This could cause the need for a planned and coordinated rolling blackout. Utilities across a region must share, or take turns using, the electricity that's being supplied from elsewhere. Everyone gets some, but not all, of the marbles.

What about this new electricity being added to the grid, like the Tatanka Ridge Wind Farm and Badger State Solar? The majority of that energy is called intermittent resources. These renewable energy resources cannot produce reliable electricity 100% of the time. Solar doesn't produce energy at night, and it isn't always windy enough for wind turbines to generate power. On top of that, utility-scale battery storage just isn't here yet. That means we need baseload generation, generation that is reliable 100% of the time. This type of electricity comes from coal, natural gas, and nuclear power. Unfortunately, coal-fired

and nuclear plant retirements are outpacing new generation installations. Approximately five gigawatts of planned baseload generation will be retired in the MISO footprint in the next few years. These retirements were planned well before our current energy climate. With the retirements of coal plants, coal companies started slowing down operations, both in mining and rail transport. To meet current need, remaining coal plants are running more, nearly double what was forecasted they would run.

So, what does this mean for us locally? If you are on the load management program, you might notice more controls than normal. These are the first line of defense in reducing load across the MISO footprint. You will also see more communications asking members to shift any unnecessary usage to lower demand hours (i.e., waiting to run the dishwasher or do laundry until after 8 p.m.) If we each do our part, we can help relieve the demand on the grid when it's needed. In times like these, the best kilowatts are the ones we don't have to produce.



*Condensed Board Minutes

April 27, 2022



Richard Bol represents District 9 on Barron Electric's Board of Directors which includes the following townships: Chetek, Dallas, Sioux Creek, Dovre, Sampson, and Sand Creek.

- The 2021 Audit was presented by Jim Halvorsen of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP. Director Kuhl moved to accept the 2021 Audit as presented. Motion carried.
- Director Kessler gave the treasurer's report, with comments by General Manager Torud. A report of vouchers

for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #100087 thru #100307 of CCF Bank in the amount of \$163,094 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$19,213. Director Kessler reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$2,267,370; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$1,154,271; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$2,808,322; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$202,369 and power bill paid 04/27/2022 in the amount of \$2,083,983.

- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of March in the amount of \$82,841.42 was presented for approval and included new services - \$0; change jobs - \$9,525.82; Other Work Order Projects - \$73,315.60 and 4 retirements. Form 219 stood approved as presented.

* [View full board minutes on SmartHub at barronelectric.com.](https://www.barronelectric.com/SmartHub)

News FOR YOU...

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Published for the members of Barron Electric.
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newsletter, please e-mail
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Barron Electric is an equal
opportunity provider.



Happy 4th of July! Our office will
be closed on Monday, July 4th.
Have a safe holiday.

What to Do During a Peak Alert

You can help
conserve electricity
during peak alerts from
2 to 6 p.m. by doing the
following:

- Turn up the thermostat to 78 degrees or warmer, especially if no one is home.
- Leave home to run errands.
- Run the dishwasher after 6 p.m.; open the door to let dishes air dry.
- Do laundry before or after the Peak Alert and hang up clothes to air dry. Use cold water when you wash clothes.
- Use the microwave or grill for cooking, instead of the oven.
- Break out the board games instead of playing video games.