

Northern District  
2731 Milo Terr.  
Lebo, KS 66856

Southern District  
9346 Jewell Rd.  
Fredonia, KS 66736

Payment Center  
2501 W. 18th Ave., Ste. B  
Emporia, KS 66801

**4 RIVERS**  
Electric Cooperative

# DRIVE-IN Annual Meeting MAY 22, 2021

## AGENDA

**9 a.m. | REGISTRATION OPENS**

Drive in to register

Tune in to 91.1 FM



**10 a.m. | MEETING BEGINS**

Registration of  
Attendance

Call to Order by the  
Board President

Consideration of Bylaws

Approval of Bylaws  
by Vote

Cooperative Reports

Other Business

Attendance Prizes

Adjournment



# ANNUAL<sup>2020</sup> Report

MAY 1, 2021

## Official Notice of Annual Meeting

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Members of 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at the Burlington High School parking lot, 830 Cross Street in Burlington, Kansas, on Saturday, May 22, 2021. Registration will open at 9 a.m., and the meeting will commence at 10 a.m.

Annual meetings are an important part of 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative and give you, the members, the opportunity to participate in making cooperative decisions. We will be considering the cooperative bylaws, and those members in attendance will vote on their approval.

**GENE HUSTON, SECRETARY, 4 RIVERS BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Review Bylaw  
Revisions Online**

[www.4riverselectric.com](http://www.4riverselectric.com)

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Electric Cooperative  
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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Serving and Caring: The Heart of Our Co-op Mission



Michael Springer

“Serving and Caring” is the new mission statement for 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative. Regardless of the challenges created by 2020 and the first few months of 2021, our goal

at your cooperative is to accomplish our mission each day. Everything in our world has revolved around COVID-19 for the last year but I want to reflect on a few things that happened at your cooperative besides COVID-19.

Last summer, our board of trustees entered an agreement with Today's Power, Inc., a subsidiary of Arkansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., to build and operate two 1-megawatt solar facilities within our cooperative service area. The solar fields are located west of our south office (connected to our Studebaker substation) and at our Americus substation about 8 miles north of Emporia. Our power contract with Kansas Electric Power Cooperatives, Inc. (KEPCo) allows us to have a small percentage of our power from renewable sources and use that power to shave

electric peak. Ventures like this are just one way we work to control costs and manage electricity pricing.

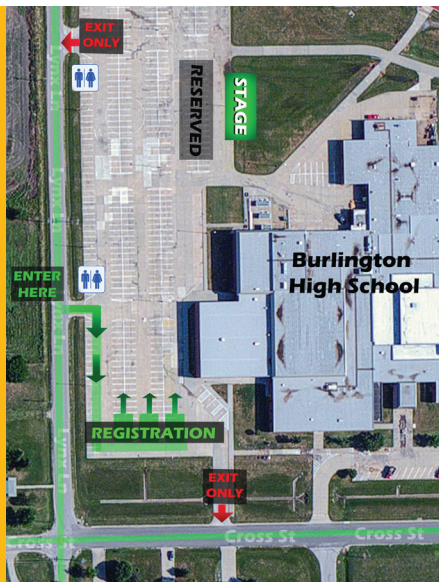
While talking peak management, I think it is fair to discuss the arctic blast all consumer-members experienced in February. Many of our north region experienced the “rolling blackouts”. As many of you know these were a result of Southwest Power Pool's efforts to manage load and keep the entire electric grid in the central United States from collapsing. I know firsthand the challenges that many of us faced trying to care for livestock and physical property during this bitter cold weather. It is rare that we have significant winter peak electric demands like we saw in February. Our staff ran our peak shaving generators for a combined 155 hours to help manage load in our region.

Consumer-members have voiced concerns about high electricity costs for this period. Our power contract with KEPCo helps protect our consumer-members as it is based on summer peak demand not winter peak demand. There will be charges passed on to consumer-members through the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). At this time, these charges are not entirely known, but provisions

have been taken by KEPCo to spread these charges out over time to not burden power users with even higher bills.

The service and reliability you receive from 4 Rivers is a result of dedicated employees working in all facets of your co-op. We have several new faces in our offices and in the field. I would like to recognize those who retired over the last year for their many years of service to our consumer-members: Operations Manager **DENNIS DUFT**, 43 years; Area Foreman **TRACY TINDLE**, 40 years; and Member Service Representative **MIKE TWEDDY** with 40 years.

Much time has been spent over the last two years establishing our bylaws, policies, and regulations for 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative. This has been a challenging feat and taken up many hours of trustee board meetings and staff time. I hope each of you will consider attending our first Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, May 22, in Burlington. This meeting will be a “drive-in” type gathering in consideration of continued COVID-19 concerns in our communities. We need your voice in approving the bylaws for your cooperative so that we can continue to accomplish our mission “serving and caring” for the days and years to come.



## 8 Things to Know About Our Drive-In Annual Meeting

- 1 Registration starts at 9 a.m.; meeting starts at 10 a.m.
- 2 Enter the Burlington High School parking lot on Linx Lane. Stay in your vehicle and follow signs and staff members directing traffic.
- 3 Consumer-members will be routed to register and pick up meeting info (proxy forms should be submitted at registration).
- 4 Staff will direct you to the parking area with the stage set on the east side.
- 5 Tune your radio to 91.1 FM to listen to the annual meeting. If you do not have a working radio in your vehicle, please alert staff at registration.
- 6 When the bylaw vote is conducted, co-op staff will come around to collect your ballots for delivery to the Teller Committee for counting.
- 7 Restrooms will be available and located on the west end of the parking lot.
- 8 We are excited to see our 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative consumer-members!

## FROM THE MANAGER

# Past Challenges and Opportunities Ahead



Dennis Svanes

A little over a year ago, I wrote my article for the first 4 Rivers annual meeting. Obviously, that meeting was canceled, and we have had a very strange and frustrating first year of operations under the newly created 4 Rivers. We are holding our first annual meeting at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 22, at the Burlington High School parking lot. This will be a drive-in style meeting. We will be broadcasting on an FM radio transmitter, which will only cover the area of our meeting — similar to what many

churches have been using during this pandemic. We will have a vote on whether to approve the bylaws. The annual meeting is normally a time for fellowship and visiting, along with conducting the business of the cooperative. This year, fellowship will be a little difficult due to our concern for the health and safety of our consumer-members.

While I am as tired of the topic as I am sure all of you are, I would be remiss to not discuss the impact of COVID-19 on your co-op. The virus threatened our ability to serve you, our consumer-members. Many of our linemen were in mandatory quarantines throughout the year, either due to contracting the virus or, more the case, exposed to someone who had it. Our linemen worked in confined groups without crossing into other groups to curtail potential exposure. This made things much more complicated and frustrating for everyone. Fortunately, with the changes made, we were able to keep working and serving the membership.

The pandemic also negatively impacted our sales. Because of the consolidation, we had already implemented some cost-saving measures that allowed us to have strong margins even with lower revenue. I am truly thankful to both boards of trustees and the consumer-members for voting in favor of the consolidation.

Another benefit of the consolidation is dealing with storms and large outages. Last fall, freezing rain hit the southern part of our system and caused widespread outages. The northern part of our system was not impacted by the storm. We were able to dispatch our crews from the north to work the outage. COVID-19 precautions did make the work a little more difficult, but our crews worked through very long hours to get everyone back in power. In fact, right after the crews finished that work, we received a request for help from an electric cooperative in Oklahoma. Many of our linemen volunteered to travel and continue doing storm restoration.

2020 did bring us a great opportunity. We signed contracts with Today's Power, Inc. for two 1-MW solar facilities. Those facilities, because of the utility-scale size, will provide 4 Rivers with significant savings that will be passed directly to our consumer-members. Those solar installations will be online shortly in time for the summer peak.

As we quickly approach our inaugural annual meeting of consumer-members for 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, I want to express appreciation for you, our consumer-members. We look forward to seeing you at this year's annual meeting, even if it's just through your windshield glass.

## CAN'T ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING?

# Make Your Voice Heard Via Proxy

Your annual meeting is the occasion to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being an electric cooperative consumer-member — Cooperative Principal No. 2: Democratic Member Control.

At this year's annual meeting on May 22, consumer-members will be voting to adopt the proposed bylaws of 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative.

Consumer-members who are not planning to attend the annual meeting can still make their vote count by completing a proxy ballot form to allow another member (proxy) to cast a vote on their behalf. Your proxy must present the proxy ballot form at registration. The proxy must be a consumer-member of 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative and may vote as proxy for no more than three consumer-members at the meeting.

You can clip the proxy below or pick one up at any 4 Rivers office. If you have questions or need a replacement proxy ballot, please call us at 620-364-2116.

If a consumer-member has returned a completed proxy and later decides to attend the annual meeting, the proxy will be voided, and that consumer-member can vote in person at the annual meeting.



## Proxy Ballot

I, the undersigned, being a member of 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby appoint

### PROXY HOLDER

as my proxy, and in my stead, to vote the same as though I were present at the Annual Meeting of 4 Rivers Electric Cooperative (or at any adjournment of adjournments thereof) to be held May 22, 2021, at Burlington, Kansas.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_,

CITY

this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

### PRINTED NAME

### SIGNATURE OF MEMBER



# 2020 Annual Report

## Balance Sheet DECEMBER 31, 2020

### ASSETS

#### UTILITY PLANT

Electric Plant	\$90,846,810
Construction Work in Progress	591,095
Total Utility Plant	91,437,905
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(30,960,033)
Net Utility Plant	60,477,872

Other Property and Investments	10,193,583
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#### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and Equivalents	3,259,491
Accounts Receivable	2,380,512
Materials and Supplies	154,389
Other	3,846
Total Current Assets	5,798,238

#### DEFERRED DEBITS

Total Assets	76,752,459
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### EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES

#### EQUITIES

Patronage Capital	33,362,082
Other Equities	1,257,114
Total Equities	34,619,196

Long-Term Debt	35,919,112
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#### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	1,589,000
Other Notes Payable	1,069,310
Accounts Payable	1,356,151
Other Current Liabilities	2,074,079
Total Current Liabilities	6,088,540

#### DEFERRED CREDITS

Total Equities and Liabilities	76,752,459
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## Operating Statement

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020

Operating Revenue	\$24,789,712
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#### OPERATING EXPENSES

Cost of Power	11,895,925
Power Production	134,664
Operation & Maintenance	4,328,925
Customer Service	933,254
Administrative & General	2,425,619
Depreciation	2,728,766
Interest	1,479,744
Other	19,848
Total Operating Expenses	23,946,745

Other Cooperative Capital Credits	190,298
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Net Operating Margin	1,033,265
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Other Income	176,074
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Net Margin	1,209,339
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