



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Dokken's Dogs

Training Dogs to
Hunt

Pages 8-9

Touchstone Energy
Anniversary

Pages 12-13

August 2023 Board Minutes and June 2023 Financial Information

The August 22, 2023, board of directors’ meeting was held at the Timber Lake office with the following directors present: Bartlett, Clark, Hieb, Keckler, Lawrence, Maher, McLellan, Walker and Wall, director absent: Landis and others present: Manager Maher and Finance Officer Lemburg (Delegated Recorder of Minutes).

The Large Power Users monthly report was given by Stephanie Bartlett, which included topics on large power usage and payments.

The Member Services report was given by JJ Martin, which included inventory of computers and equipment, ice cream socials were successful, advertising for the Central States Fair, attended a Regional Communicators Advisory Group (RAG) meeting, visited the Eagle Butte 20-1 Upper Elementary School in preparation for the annual meeting, Country Market submitted the only annual meeting meal bid, annual meeting giveaway item suggestions, will work on the Director and employee annual meeting work schedule, and Basin Electric will be present to assist with the power point.

The Operations report was given by Kent Larson, which included hauling OCRs to Electro-Test and Maintenance for servicing, RAM/ EXO completed pole inspections in Dupree, Isabel and Timber Lake, MGEC is already changing out the rejected poles, tree trimming, two new trucks arrived, house move, a storm damaged two transmission poles on the Takini line and lightning struck the new Dupree Substation transformer, and working on new services.

Manager Maher gave the Managers report, which included an SPP resource advisory issued for this week, recent WAPA outage update, solar project updates and inquiries, no update on IJJA Grant applications, 2023 CFC patronage capital

allocation and distribution, Basin Electric July financials, NISC software rates increasing, began the Cost of Service Study with PSE, update on the new headquarters facility, former Assistant Manager Roger Hegre passed away, and CRST Treasurer request.

Director Maher gave a SDREA Legislative Committee report, which included eminent domain rules and regulations, concerns about landowner rights and ACRE changed its name.

Director Maher gave a report on Senator Thune’s visit to Rapid City, which included a discussion of the Farm Bill, country of origin labeling, electronic ID tags, importing meat from other countries, and West Central Electric Manager Jeff Birkeland discussed the new metal EPA wants to use in transformers.

Manager Maher gave the Basin Electric Managers meeting report, which included Todd Brickhouse appointed as interim manager, strategic planning update, and load forecast.

Manager Maher and Directors gave the Basin Electric annual meeting report, which included a presentation on the new EPA rules and regulations, financial forecast, stable rates but are projected to increase in a few years, DGC is doing a brown plant this fall in preparation for a new project that will go into effect the spring of 2024, revenue deferral fund, and Basin Electric will increase the heat rate in 2024.

Board approved the following: the agenda, the minutes from the July meeting, new members, refunds, line extensions, financial statistics, disbursements, donation to Meals on Wheels Western SD blizzard bag program, annual donations to the area fire departments, safety report, RUS Secretary’s Certificate, RUS Loan Contract, RUS Treasury Direct Note, director petitions for Districts 2, 3 and 5, 2024 NRECA medical insurance and R&S rates, and 2024-2025 CoBank Nominating Committee Election candidates.

The next board meeting was scheduled for Sept. 19, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in the Timber Lake office.

LOCATE YOUR ADDRESS



If you locate your address on any of the inside pages of the Moreau-Grand Electric’s *Cooperative Connections*, notify us and you will receive a \$25 bill credit. “Eligible addresses will not be on the front or back cover.”

JUNE 2022 FINANCIAL INFORMATION			
	JUNE '23	JUNE '22	YTD 2023
Operating Revenues	\$956,242	\$834,762	\$6,757,502
Cost Of Power	\$502,308	\$479,612	\$3,082,600
Cost Of Electric Service	\$981,917	\$964,941	\$6,295,417
Margins	\$(9,224)	\$(125,911)	\$570,242
Kwh Purchased	7,555,463	7,312,881	58,138,745
Kwh Sold	6,923,236	6,667,735	54,295,326

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC

(USPS No. 018-951)

Manager: Melissa Maher

Editor: JJ Martin, Member Services and IT Director

Directors

- Larry Hieb, President
Kerry McLellan, Vice President and acting Secretary-Treasurer
Lois Bartlett
Clint Clark
Bob Keckler
Paul Lawrence
Ryan Maher
Royce Walker
Troy Wall

Attorney: John Burke

Management Staff:

- Kent Larson, Operations Superintendent
Josh Lemburg, Assistant Operations Superintendent
Kyrie Lemburg, Finance Officer
Jamie Jones, Accountant

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Design assistance by SDREA

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for the membership of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held at the Eagle Butte Upper Elementary School, Eagle Butte, S.D., on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 with a prepared box dinner beginning at 5:00 p.m. (MT), with the meeting to follow the meal. Note: Membership registration will be open at 5:00 p.m. and will close 15 minutes after the start of the meeting. The meeting will be for the following purposes:

- 1. Reports on business for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting.
2. For the purpose of electing directors in Districts 2, 3, and 5. If you are disabled and require a special accommodation to have full and equal participation in this Annual Meeting, call 1-800-952-3158.

Kerry McLellan, Acting Secretary-Treasurer, Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc. PO Box 8, Timber Lake, SD 57656-0008

MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Sample Certificate of Delegation

This form is to designate the voting delegate of an organization. This form should be completed and signed by officers of the organization and brought to the meeting.

Voting Authorization Necessary for Organizations

Non- Individual members such as schools, municipalities, churches, organizations, and corporations are entitled to representation and one vote, but the proper procedure must be followed to exercise this right.

Each member organization should designate a representative who is an officer, shareholder, or member of their organization. This form must be signed by an officer of the governing body.

Authorization to Vote

I, _____, do hereby certify that I am a(n) Officer, Shareholder, or Member (CIRCLE ONE) of said organization and the duly authorized delegate to the Annual Meeting of Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative, Inc., to be held on October 4, 2023, in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. I request the right to exercise the authority of the membership vested in the:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

SIGNATURE OF DELEGATE

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify that we comprise the governing body of the above referred organization and that the above referred person is the sole, duly authorized delegate to the Annual Meeting of MOREAU-GRAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

(TWO OR MORE SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED)

Three horizontal lines for signatures.

DATE _____

Actual Certificate of Delegation's are available at Moreau-Grand Offices in Timber Lake or Eagle Butte & by calling 1-800-952-3158

October is Fire Safety Month

Is your workplace or home fireproof? Each year, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) celebrates National Fire Safety Month in October. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2016, there were 88 occupational fatalities as a result of workplace fires or explosions. This is down from 2015, in which there were 121. While the statistics show that the number of fatalities due to fires or explosions in the workplace is on a downward slope, any number other than 0 is unacceptable and demands the attention from management, safety professionals and employees in every company. Not only do fires present a severe life safety hazard, they also can be detrimental to business success due to the possible destruction of business equipment and facilities. This campaign serves as a reminder to us all of the importance of fire safety awareness in both the workplace and our home lives.

The safety reminders communicated in the workplace can be easily translated to fire safety in the home. Establish a family emergency action plan, discuss escape routes with family members, and locate fire extinguishers in your home. Additionally, conduct a mock fire drill with your family members to ensure you and your loved ones know how to get out safely. During this drill, outline meeting places that are at a safe distance from the home. Designate a neighbor to contact for help in the event of an emergency. Simple exercises such as the aforementioned could mean the difference maker in your family making it out alive in the event of a fire in your home.

Below are key components to ensuring your workplace and home are fireproof:

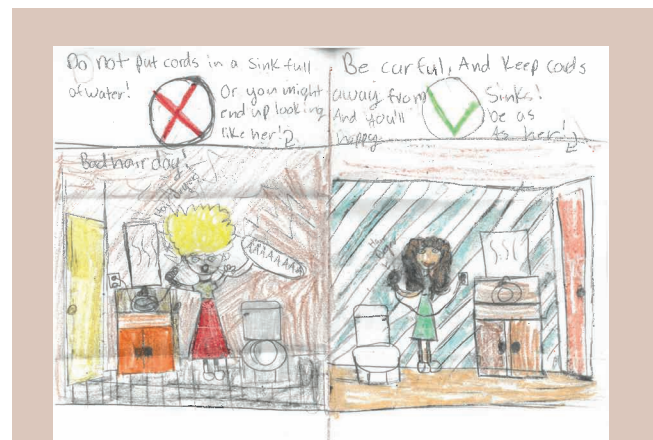
- **Eliminate Clutter** – Exercise good housekeeping. Clutter can easily become a fuel source in the event of a fire, allowing a fire to spread quickly. Furthermore, clutter can restrict access to emergency equipment and exit routes.
- **Fire Extinguishers** – Maintain the appropriate type and number of fire extinguishers. Conduct monthly and annual extinguisher inspections to ensure they are in good, working condition. Provide training for employees on the correct use of fire extinguishers.
- **Chemical Safety** – Use and store chemicals safely. Read hazard warning labels and safety data sheets

to determine flammability and other fire hazards. Ensure your chemical storage areas provide adequate ventilation for the storage of chemical or other hazardous substances.

- **Waste Control and Storage** – Limit the accumulation of flammable or combustible materials and residues as to prevent the risk for such materials contributing to a fire emergency.
- **Exits** – Ensure emergency exit route diagrams are posted and accessible in all areas of the facility for all employees to easily view. Additionally, ensure means of egress are well-lit with regulated exit signs and free from debris or clutter.

Remember it is always better to be proactive rather than reactive and it is best to alleviate hazards or hiccups in times of peace than in times of chaos. Utilize the above tips to reduce the risk for catastrophe or at least minimize the damage.

Source: Safety Resources, Inc.



Keep cords away from water!

Maddy Pannell, Age 12

Maddy Pannell advises people it's not safe to plug in appliances around water. Maddy is the daughter of Scott and Kim Pannell from Sioux Falls, S.D., members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

PASTA PERFECT

ITALIAN SPAGHETTI

Ingredients:

1-8 oz. can tomato sauce
 1-6 oz. can tomato paste
 1 1/2 paste cans water
 1 small onion, chopped
 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
 1 tsp. garlic salt
 1/2 tsp. chili powder
 3 shakes cayenne pepper
 1/8 tsp. black pepper
 1 tsp. basil
 1 tsp. oregano
 1/2 to 1 lb. ground beef

METHOD

Combine all ingredients except ground beef. Cover and simmer 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Brown beef and add to sauce. Serve over cooked noodles. May add green peppers or mushrooms.

Gail Keating
Flandreau, S.D.

GARDEN HARVEST PASTA SHELLS

Ingredients:

2 tbsps. vegetable oil
 2 medium zucchini, shredded
 1/2 cup finely shredded carrots
 2 cups chopped fresh broccoli
 1 small onion, chopped
 Salt and pepper
 1 lb part-skim ricotta cheese
 2 cups shredded mozzarella
 1 egg, lightly beaten
 1/4 cup grated parmesan
 1 tbsp. dried basil
 27.5 oz. jar pasta sauce
 12 oz. pkg jumbo pasta shells, cooked and drained

METHOD

Heat oven to 350. In a large skillet heat oil, then saute broccoli, zucchini, carrots, and onions until tender. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside. In a large bowl, thoroughly combine ricotta, mozzarella, egg, parmesan, and basil. Add vegetables and stir to combine. Spread 1 cup of the pasta sauce evenly in a 9" x 13" baking dish. Fill pasta shells with the vegetable and cheese mixture and arrange in the baking dish. Spoon the remaining sauce over the shells. Cover and bake for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake another 10 minutes or until bubbly.

Faye Chambliss
Murdo, S.D.

CREAMY CHICKEN AND BACON PASTA

Ingredients:

8 oz. spaghetti
 1 1/2 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 3/4-inch chunks
 2 tbsps. flour
 4 slices bacon
 1 cup milk
 4 oz. (1/2 package) cream cheese, at room temperature
 1 1/2 tsps. basil leaves
 1 1/2 tsps. garlic powder
 1/2 tsp. salt
 1/4 tsp. coarse ground black pepper

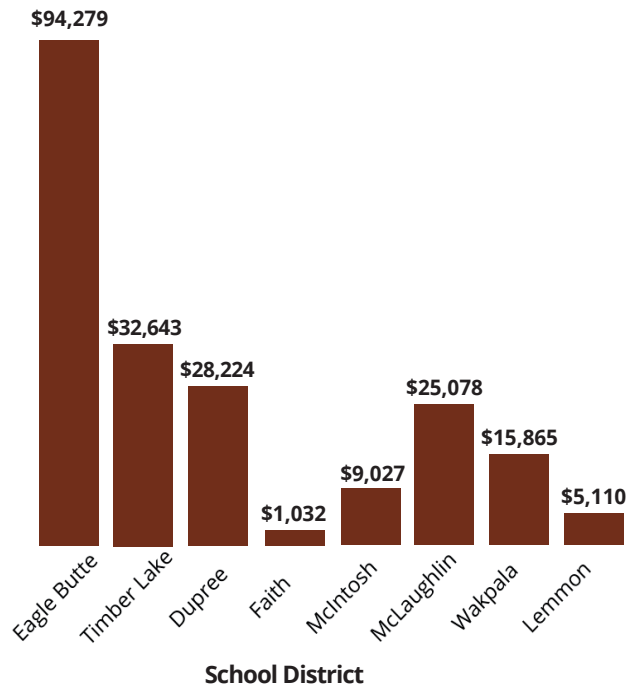
METHOD

Cook spaghetti as directed on package. Drain well. Meanwhile, toss chicken with flour. Set aside. Cook bacon in large skillet on medium heat until crisp. Drain on paper towels. Set aside. Remove all but 1 tbsp drippings from skillet. Add chicken; cook and stir 4 minutes or until golden brown. Stir in milk, cream cheese and seasonings until well blended. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cut bacon into bite-size pieces. Add to skillet. Place spaghetti in serving bowl. Add chicken mixture; toss well. Serve immediately.

mccormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Cooperative Taxes Benefit Schools



Your electric cooperative pays a generation tax in lieu of real and personal property taxes.

The tax is .016 percent of the kilowatt sales in each school district of Moreau-Grand's service area.

All of this tax amount is allocated directly to the school districts and is used for school purposes.

Total 2022 taxes paid in 2023 were \$211,261.76.

2022 Year End Statistics

Members.....	3,893	Average Residential Usage.....	856 kWh
Meters.....	7,133	Average Residential Statement.....	\$113.16
Service Area.....	6,950 sq mi	Average Residential kWh.....	\$0.13
Cost of one mile single-phase line:		Average Commercial Usage.....	3,552 kWh
Underground.....	\$66,100	Average Commercial Statement.....	\$362.35
Overhead.....	\$53,300	Average Commercial kWh.....	\$0.10
Cost of one mile three-phase line:		Average Revenue/kWh.....	\$0.12
Underground.....	\$98,400		
Overhead.....	\$88,500		
Transmission line.....	210 mi		
Underground line.....	446 mi		
Overhead line.....	3,195 mi		

Taxes Paid by Moreau-Grand Electric Cooperative in 2022

S.D. Generation Taxes	211,261.76
Real and Personal Taxes	14,196.10
Sales, Use and Excise Taxes U.S.	491,571.69
Unemployment Taxes	2,594.09
Employers Share FICA	149,257.43
TOTAL TAXES PAID	\$868,881.07

Balance Sheet

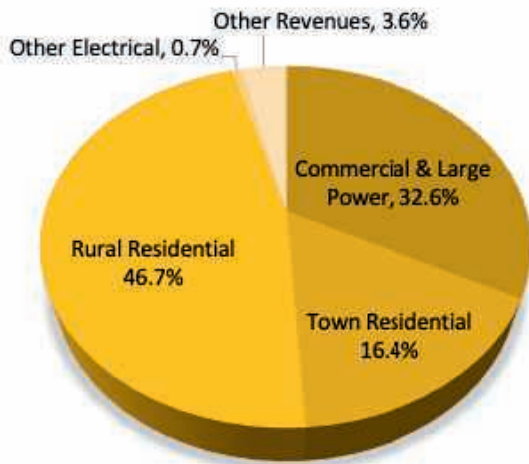
What we own as of Dec. 31, 2021 and Dec. 31, 2022

ASSETS	2021	2022
We have an electrical system that costs	57,169,588	59,363,636
Plus construction in progress	3,038,574	3,700,655
Less depreciation to date	-22,432,041	-23,484,617
Our net plant is	\$37,776,121	\$39,579,674
IN ADDITION		
Non utility plant:	-	-
We have cash on hand & checking deposit	602,337	319,814
We have time and savings deposits	3,787,082	4,156,001
We have owed to us for elect. and supplies	1,325,333	1,496,447
We have material on hand	1,355,664	1,508,354
We have investments in associated orgs.	5,997,551	6,517,389
We have other investments	289,606	287,632
We have deferred debits	175,594	89,447
FOR TOTAL ASSETS OF	\$51,309,288	\$53,954,758
LIABILITIES	2021	2022
We owe RUS and CFC	29,076,158	31,561,586
We owe power bill, short-term notes, accrued taxes and supplies	3,791,496	2,924,296
We owe consumers and others for deposits	500,267	509,442
We owe other deferred credits	102,258	201,845
FOR TOTAL LIABILITIES OF	\$33,470,179	\$35,197,169
NET WORTH	2021	2022
We have patronage capital credits	14,708,833	15,263,848
We have other equities and donated capital	3,130,276	3,493,741
FOR TOTAL NET WORTH OF	\$17,839,109	\$18,757,589
WE HAVE A TOTAL OF LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH OF	\$51,309,288	\$53,954,758
PERCENT EQUITY	34.77%	34.77%

Statement of Revenue and Expenses

What we took in as of Dec. 31, 2021 and Dec. 31, 2022

OPERATING REVENUE	2021	2022
Farms	5,748,654	6,128,640
Residential	2,104,708	2,149,392
Commercial	4,170,677	4,275,029
Street Lights	91,687	91,456
Penalties	65,571	68,174
Miscellaneous Revenues	508,303	397,392
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$12,689,600	\$13,110,083



Your Cooperative

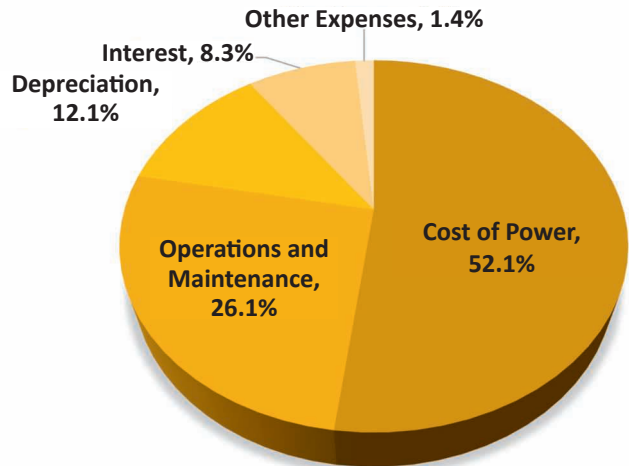
Incorporated: May 6, 1946
Counties Served: Dewey, Corson and Ziebach
Power Supply: Basin Electric – 85% WAPA – Hydro 15%
Source of Loan Funds: USDA/Rural Utilities Service, CFC, & CoBank

What we spent as of Dec. 31, 2021 and Dec. 31, 2022

OPERATING EXPENSES	2021	2022
Purchased Power	6,162,000	6,658,238
Transmission Expenses	47,637	53,102
Distribution-Operations	823,610	912,268
Distribution-Maintenance	758,850	766,249
Consumer Accounting	462,729	514,277
Customer Service and Information	124,327	117,649
Sales Expense	11,304	13,594
General and Administrative	873,568	957,594
Depreciation	1,507,078	1,547,336
Taxes	158,874	168,542
Interest	969,538	1,066,696
Other Deductions	13,437	15,654
TOTAL OPERATION EXPENSES	\$11,912,952	\$12,791,199

What we have left as of Dec. 31, 2021 and Dec. 31, 2022

Operating Margin	776,648	318,884
Non-Operating Margin	-537	116,967
G&T Capital Credits	225,422	810,473
Other Capital Credits	96,030	100,652
TOTAL MARGIN	\$1,097,563	\$1,346,976



WHOLESALE POWER COSTS

2012	\$5,210,090
2013	\$5,943,216
2014	\$6,094,754
2015	\$5,565,165
2016	\$6,197,421
2017	\$6,510,770
2018	\$6,492,208
2019	\$6,366,728
2020	\$6,250,325
2021	\$6,162,000
2022	\$6,658,238

TOTAL KWH USED

2012	90,244,095
2013	99,826,108
2014	102,067,527
2015	96,557,188
2016	95,406,619
2017	97,047,679
2018	103,396,323
2019	103,360,213
2020	100,374,906
2021	99,296,260
2022	105,338,954



FOR THE LOVE OF HUNTING DOGS

Source: Travel South Dakota

A Successful Hunt May Depend on Your Dog

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

With numerous television appearances and A-list clients under his belt, Day County resident and Lake Region Electric Cooperative member Tom Dokken has become one of the premiere hunting dog trainers of our time.

But you won't hear the modest pro brag about himself. Instead, Dokken gives credit to the hard work and the innate capabilities of the dogs themselves.

The 70-year-old Minnesota native has been professionally working with dogs over the last 50 years at his training facility, Dokken Oak Ridge Kennels, Inc. in Northfield, Minnesota.

It's one of the largest gun dog training kennels in the region.

His love for hunting alongside a canine

companion harkens back to his teenage years when he'd tag along to go hunting throughout the country with his friend and his friend's Labrador Retriever, Charlie.

"We were probably 16 years old when we started hunting together. He had a lab and I didn't have one. We hunted with that dog just about every weekend."

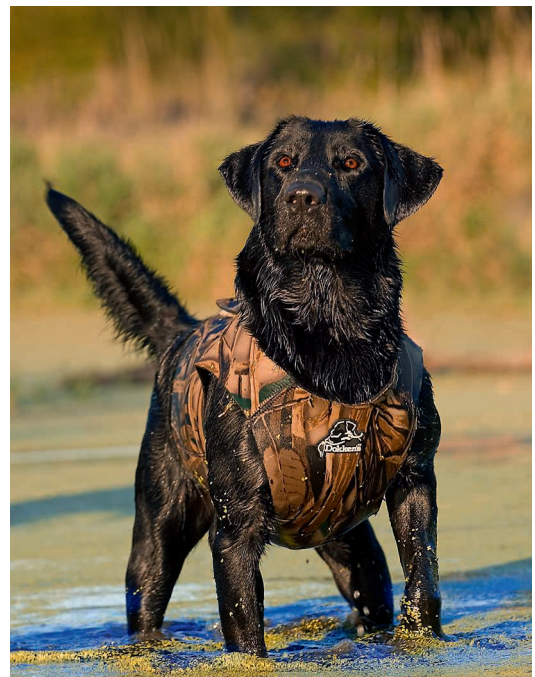
After a few years, Dokken decided it was time to get his own dog.

And to that dog goes all the credit, in Dokken's eyes.

"I started training her then I started running field trials. I did really well, not because of me, but I had a good dog who did

really well on a national level," he recalled.

After that, Dokken was hooked and knew training dogs was what he wanted to do for a living. He's since established



An adult black lab out hunting

himself as one of the top hunting dog trainers in the world, even bolstering a line of dog training products – Dokken Dog Supply – which is carried in sporting good stores across the country.

“That’s just as a result developing products we wanted for training themselves,” Dokken said of his supply company.

Some of the dogs Dokken has trained have hunted under some big names, including President George W. Bush and country music legend Hank Williams, Jr., along with many major professional athletes.

But it takes some prying to get that kind of info out of the humble Dokken, and he’s quick to emphasize that everyone that he does business with is treated the same, no matter what.

“Every customer is important. One person doesn’t get treated different than the other,” Dokken said.

His facility employs four full-time trainers, as well as office staff.

When Dokken isn’t training one of the 350 hunting dogs that come to his Minnesota training facility each year, he’s at home with his wife, Tina, in Day County.

“My wife and I live north of Webster. That’s our connection with the area. I’ve hunted down in the Lily area for years. We’ve had our place here 18 years or better,” Dokken explained.

“My mom’s family homestead is down in the Selby area, so as kids we’d be back on the farm for a good portion of the summer,” he added.

Dokken said his business trains pretty much any of the sporting, pointing and flushing breeds. But in the Upper Midwest, the more popular breed tends to be the Labrador Retriever.

Dokken has a special place in his heart for labs, which he described as a hardy breed able to withstand the punishing winter conditions known to challenge hunters in South Dakota during pheasant season.

And in South Dakota, pheasants are

king, according to Dokken.

“As far as population of pheasant – up in our area the weather sometimes knocks them back a little bit. Last year we had rain in December, which is a little bit of a factor when it comes to pheasant numbers,” Dokken said.

“The further south and west you get, the population changes too. Regardless, South Dakota numbers will always be top in the U.S.”

Hunters who have a dog in their arsenal have a much greater advantage over those who do not. For one, they can flush birds out of thick cover and, unlike the average human, have an absolute blast doing so.

“Without a dog – if you’re a pheasant hunter – you’re not going to have the ability to get the birds up and get them out of higher and denser cover. Finding birds that you’ve shot is going to be a real challenge as well. A dog is a great conservation tool as well,” Dokken said.

From a training standpoint, Dokken advises dog owners to start teaching their hunting partners good habits when they’re really young.

The earlier the training begins, the more success you’re setting the dog up for down the line.



Dokken with two adult labs

“Try to buy the best bloodlines that you can because if you do, in most cases your success rate just gets higher.”

Dokken says it boils down to three things: teaching, repetition and reinforcement. For the human, practicing patience is crucial.

“A majority the time the dog is not in the wrong, it’s that the dog can’t understand what you want,” he said.

The entire job is a dream for Dokken and his team, and one he hopes to continue for decades more to come.

“It’s what we do,” he said. “It’s a labor of love.”



Source: Travel South Dakota

2023 DIRECTOR CANDIDATE PROFILES



Ryan Maher, District 2

Ryan Maher, Isabel, is an insurance agent at Western Dakota Insurance, serving the Timber Lake, Isabel, and Eagle Butte areas. He is the unopposed incumbent returning to the board from District 2. Ryan graduated from Isabel High School in 1996 and went on to pursue a bachelor's degree in accounting and business from Black Hills State University. In 2007, he

graduated from Colorado Graduate School of Banking. In 2022 he opened a grocery store in Isabel.

Maher is currently a member of the Isabel City Council and an active member of the South Dakota State Senate. He has been a senator for 13 years, holding the position from 2007 to 2014 and currently 2017-2024.

"I feel that my work in the Capitol has provided insight that serves the board and Moreau-Grand members," said Maher.

Maher expressed that he is honored to serve the members of Moreau-Grand and will be running unopposed for his third term filling the District 2 director position.



Geralyn Hahne, District 3

Geralyn Hahne is the unopposed candidate for District 3. She and her husband, Bill, have four adult children and nine grandchildren. They live on a 4th generation ranch five miles east of Trail City. She has been helping people her whole life, starting out in 1977 as a licensed practical nurse. She worked as an RN from 1989 until she became a physician assistant in

2001. She retired in 2019 and served as a church secretary until the summer of 2023.

Geralyn graduated from Timber Lake High School and obtained

her LPN license from St. Mary's in Pierre. She then earned her Associate's Degree in nursing from Presentation College through the Eagle Butte campus. Finally, she earned her physician assistant certification from UND in Grand Forks. She is the president of the Holy Rosary Altar Society in Trail City. She is also an active member in the Holy Rosary Catholic Church and Trail City Community Hall.



Kerry McLellan, District 5

Kerry McLellan, Lantry, is a fourth-generation rancher/farmer who returns to the board unopposed for District 5. Kerry has four children: Kennedy, Klayte, Kami, and Kross. Kerry is a graduate from Dupree High School and also has completed the Utility Lineman Program at Mitchell Technical Institute. Kerry enjoys spending time with his family, attending

kids events, and hunting.

McLellan is currently a director for the Ziebach County Conservation District, the Rushmore director for Moreau-Grand, and has served as parish council member for the Sacred Heart Church in Dupree.

As a Moreau-Grand Electric board member, Director McLellan completed the NRECA CCD (Credentialed Cooperative Director) Program. The purpose of the NRECA director level education program is to prepare directors to make informed business decisions.

"My greatest take away from the course has been to help me understand the co-op world and the finances of the cooperative," McLellan said.

McLellan is running unopposed for the District 5 director position. Kerry has been a board member at Moreau-Grand for nine years and enjoys representing the members and employees of Moreau-Grand.

"The most challenging part of being a board member is trying to keep rates low without compromising reliability and service," McLellan said. "Regulations and legislation have a huge impact on rates." PO Box 304, Timber Lake, SD

Table 1

Height of Grain Storage Structure	D = Minimum Distance From Line* To Bin Wall
15 feet	55 feet
20	68
25	80
30	93
35	104
40	118
50	143
60	168
70	193
80	218

*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 750V to 22KV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.

FALL WORK UPDATE

Moreau-Grand Electric wants to remind our members that if you are planning any work that you want completed by fall, please let us know as soon as possible.

Lead times for receiving some electrical materials and equipment have lengthened in the past few months. This can lead to delays in getting your projects completed when you need them.

Projects such as new grain bins, new houses or new outbuildings require some planning. For anyone planning a new grain bin, please keep overhead power lines in mind. Be sure you allow enough room for tall augers used during filling and unloading times. Stay as far away from power lines as possible and reference the tables shown when locating your new or reconstructed bins.

Good Neighbor Award: Buddy and Helen Neigel

Buddy and Helen Neigel are the epitome of good neighbors. Beloved by all who know them, the Neigels have impacted innumerable lives in the Eagle Butte area. They have been Moreau-Grand Electric Co-op members since 1961, and have seldom missed an annual meeting.

Buddy ran a plumbing business for over 40 years. He reflected on the changes over the years, especially when it comes to technology and equipment. What took him a week to complete is now achievable in only a day-and-a-half. He remembers his dad helping set poles years ago, using three smaller poles to get the power pole straight. As with plumbing, line work was a whole different animal without equipment.

Helen was a renowned baby-sitter in Eagle Butte. Our very own Kent Larson and Melissa Maher were a couple of her rugrats, as Buddy referred to them. In fact, Melissa was the very first baby that Helen took care of. After that, Helen worked for 25 years

in the school kitchen, a place she loved so much she would have worked there for free.

Growing up in a time of big families and small budgets, both Buddy and Helen developed a spirit shared by their generation: work hard and make your own fun. Along with their siblings, Buddy and Helen did their fair share of labor at home and took to entertaining themselves in their downtime. Whether they were playing music and dancing or playing cards, you can bet both households were having a good time.

Buddy described the excitement of the early rural co-op members as electrification spread. He enjoyed driving through the region and seeing new yard lights on in the distance, evidence of Moreau-Grand's development. People were so grateful for electricity and were more than willing to help. Many a farmer or rancher assisted the linemen with their tractors to expedite the process.



The night before visiting with us, Buddy was awoken in the middle of the night with a heartfelt message he scribbled onto a piece of paper. It read:

Have to give credit to the linemen.

Working in the trenches was no fun, but I always thought I was better off than those guys working on poles in snowstorms and cold, windy weather.

Committed to Serving Your Cooperative

Employee	Years of Service	
Melissa Maher , General Manager	39	Troy Long , Timber Lake Line Foreman 9
Neil Hahne , Eagle Butte Service Lineman	34	Brock Fischer , Journeyman Lineman..... 5
Kent Larson , Line Superintendent	31	Deb Thill , Custodian..... 5
Wendy Shupick , Eagle Butte MS Rep.....	30	Jess Keller , Material Work Order Clerk
Chad Mettler , Journeyman Lineman	24	Tyler Olson , Apprentice Lineman
Justin Thorstenson , Eagle Butte Line Foreman	23	Ethan Aberle , Apprentice Lineman
Jody Pateneau , Mechanic/Groundsman	22	Kyrie Lemburg , Financial Officer
Jamey Pateneau , McLaughlin Line Foreman.....	20	Tammi Ducheneaux , Operations Clerk
Josh Lemburg , Asst. Ops. Superintendent	18	Stephanie Bartlett , Billing Supervisor.....
Hunter Smith , Staking Foreman.....	11	Jamie Jones , Accountant
Jace Vrooman , Journeyman Lineman	11	JJ Martin , Member Services & IT Director
Garret Simon , Journeyman Lineman.....	9	Brent Spafford , Apprentice Lineman
		Collin Grage , Apprentice Lineman

COMPARATIVE REPORT	Current (July 2023)	1 year ago (July 2022)	10 Years Ago (July 2013)	% Change in 10 years
Number of Meters	7,134	7,122	6,785	5%
Kilowatt Hours Sold	7,410,128	7,673,859	7,586,774	-2%
Cost of Purchased Power	\$527,141	\$515,715	\$447,693	18%
Overall Ave. Rate / kWh Per Member	0.1213	0.1202	0.1145	6%



Touchstone Energy Celebrates 25 Years with Commercial Debut

Frank Turner

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Touchstone Energy Cooperatives is encouraging member electric cooperatives and their member-owners to pop some popcorn, settle in, and join them in celebrating the organization's 25th anniversary on Nov. 29, when they'll debut their

newest line of 2024 commercials.

The historic milestone will commemorate a quarter-century of Touchstone Energy's drive to establish a universal brand – seen on t-shirts, logos, and even soaring hot air balloons – for co-ops nationwide. Select commercials from the lineup, which will feature on the Touchstone Energy website, will highlight the local South

Dakota prairie landscape and local co-op employees with Sioux Valley Energy.

Touchstone Energy Board of Directors President and Sioux Valley CEO Tim McCarthy said he is glad to see South Dakota being represented on a national scope. "We are excited to be celebrating this historic milestone," said McCarthy. "Touchstone Energy continues to be an invaluable resource for co-ops in South Dakota and throughout our nationwide network."

Touchstone Energy's journey began 25 years ago when a group of movers and shakers recognized the need for an outward-facing organization that would connect the image of

co-ops across the nation. Although individually small, cooperatives from all around the nation believed a unified brand would broaden and strengthen their presence. Together, these co-ops owned and operated more distribution lines than any other sector in the electric utility industry and served more than half of the American landmass. On Nov. 26, 1998, 17 founding co-ops established Touchstone Energy, powering through a time of regulatory uncertainty.

“In the late ‘90s, there were some revolutionary things happening in the energy industry,” said Jana Adams, executive director of Touchstone Energy. “The cooperatives really wisely said: as individual entities we are small, but if we come together and create a recognizable brand, we will have a better opportunity to compete in this evolving energy landscape.”

From the start, Touchstone Energy was set on making an impression. By purchasing six iconic Touchstone Energy branded hot air balloons and sponsoring notable events such as the famous NASCAR Talladega 300 race, Touchstone Energy quickly transformed into a nationally recognizable brand.

To date, Touchstone Energy’s membership has grown to nearly 700 co-ops, which now reaches more than 30 million member-owners across 46 states. Along with this remarkable growth, Touchstone Energy has enhanced its services, including advertising, social media management, and web development, among others. Over time, Touchstone Energy’s wide range of services, said Adams, have become a crucial communication resource for their membership.

“Our first national ad was in the early 2000s, and to this day, we run advertisements in every single zip code served by a Touchstone Energy cooperative,” said Adams. “We are

constantly innovating and giving our cooperative members the opportunity to highlight the great work they do and the achievements they have.”

Looking back on the last quarter century, Adams said Touchstone Energy is thrilled to connect to its original roots and celebrate its longstanding service to co-ops across the country.



Touchstone Energy celebrates 25 years while producing new commercials in South Dakota.



“We encourage everybody to join us on Nov. 29 for our 2024 national ad premier and to celebrate the 25 years behind us, but more importantly the many years ahead of us where we continue to work together,” she said.



HOMES OF STEEL

Mike Adolph, left, checks in with an employee during a break from construction on Aug. 22 in Watertown. Photo by Shannon Marvel

REED Fund Helps Finance Summit-Based Manufacturer

Shannon Marvel

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On the northwestern edge of Watertown, just east of Jefferson Elementary School, a sea of hard hats, brightly colored safety materials, utility trucks, commercial vans, and lumber piles spans across several blocks.

It's hard to differentiate between the houses under construction as most contractors rarely deviate from the methods they've relied on for years. Especially when framing a house.

But one construction crew's telehandler towers above the rest. The steel trusses and wall panels hoisted into the air are also not typically seen in residential construction, but using steel in lieu of timber is just as effective.

And thanks to financial assistance through the Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) Fund, Skyview Construction is able to provide steel

trusses and wall panels to the local home building industry.

Contractors usually use the platform framing method, which allows the use of dimensional lumber pieces instead of the larger, natural wood pieces which are harder to come by in the supply chain.

Lumber used in construction has become more difficult to secure and more expensive.

That's why the owners of Skyview Construction, LLC in Summit decided to manufacture trusses and beams out of steel themselves then use those

products to build homes.

But that required purchasing two very expensive pieces of equipment.

After visiting with American Bank and Trust about ways to finance the new venture, Skyview Construction owners Mike, Jackie, and Gerry Adolph reached out to Dave Eide, the general manager of Codington Clark Electric Cooperative to see if their business qualified for REED funding.

Eide was happy to help.



Gerry Adolph, Mike Adolph, and Jackie Adolph stand in the doorframe of a townhome built with steel members that the family manufactured themselves.

Photo by Shannon Marvel

The REED Fund worked with American Bank and Trust to help secure financing that offered Skyview Construction a loan with more amicable terms.

Codington-Clark Electric provides financing through REED to help business start-ups and expansions, create and retain jobs and assist communities with facilities, services and infrastructure needs.

The Adolphs were able to secure the funds through the REED Fund to purchase the machine that will form the steel members for the rafters, floor trusses, and walls, and the rotating telehandler that will be used to place the components on-site.

That was in January. Within the last month, the Adolphs and their crew of around nine men completed construction of four twin home units using the wall panels and trusses they manufactured right on their own property in Grant County.

Jackie and Mike reflected on their journey into the steel manufacturing and construction industries.

The couple wanted to start a construction business after going through the extensive process of building a group of townhomes and their own home a few years ago.

Mike's mother, Gerry Adolph, is also an owner of Skyview Construction.

The family has been in the seeding and erosion control and real estate investing business together for the last 18 years, and agreed to expand into the housing industry.

They had planned to build with wood, but the soonest the equipment and necessary supplies could be delivered was at least three years down the road. It also would've cost at least \$3 million.

"So how it went down, we were going down the wood side pretty hard. Like we were going to put

in a big fancy factory with robots and everything," Mike said. "And then the equipment cost so much and it would've put us three years out. I didn't want to wait three years. Then someone asked if we had looked into steel. So we looked into the steel and it made sense."

The program the Adolphs use to manufacture the steel wall panels and trusses maps out the design and provides a detailed view of the project.

"It labels each piece and even tells you how many nails or screws to put in each connection and where to put them for that design," Jackie explained.

Their existing employees would also work as laborers for the construction outside of the seeding and soil erosion season.

The software allows the workers to assemble components without any guess work.

"While we have an experienced building supervisor, the guys that are installing it, they really don't have much construction experience. They've never done this. But it's laid out so well by the software," Mike said.

"The biggest thing with steel is they can do this with minimal experience."

The steel parts are manufactured at the Adolphs' shop in Grant County.

Once the structure's design has been completed within the software, steel is ran through a machine and manufactured into the proper stud or truss material.

"Our goal right now is to do a whole house in a week or two— print it, assemble the components in the shop, and then send it out to the jobsite and have it up in a couple of days," Jackie said.

"We're hoping when we get to the single-family homes, it's going to be a little bit quicker," Mike added.

Eide noted how the insulation used with steel framework is at a higher rating and uses a Zip system, creating a more energy efficient temperature control system.

"This is just a really cool project and the owners provide the market with a product that no one else had before," Eide said.

To learn more about the REED Fund, go to www.reedfund.coop.



Jackie Adolph points to a label on one of the steel components, which was generated by the design software to ensure the pieces are properly assembled. Photo by Shannon Marvel



Oct. 7-8
Fort Pierre Horse Races
 Stanley County Fairground
 605-223-2178

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

SEPT 22-23
Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair
 9 a.m.
 Davison County Fairgrounds
 Activity Center
 Mitchell SD
 605-359-2049

SEPT 22-24
Coal Springs Threshing Bee
 Meadow, SD
 605-788-2229

SEPT 23
German Fest
 Webster, SD
 605-380-0588

SEPT 23
Springfield Dakota Senior Meals Fall Festival
 9 a.m.
 Springfield Community Building
 Springfield, SD

SEPT 24
Annual Bazaar & Fall Fest
 4-7 p.m.
 St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
 Wagner, SD

SEPT 30
Day of Wellness
 10 a.m.
 Sturgis Armory
 Sturgis, SD

SEPT 30
Mission Quilt and Bake Sale
 Zoar Lutheran Church
 Revillo, SD

SEPT 29-30
Junkin' Market Days
 Ramkota Exhibit Hall
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-941-4958

OCT 6-7
Holman Acres Pumpkin Fest & Vendor Show
 Philip, SD
 605-441-1060

OCT 7
Spirit of Dakota Award
 Huron Event Center
 Huron, SD
 605-352-6073

OCT 12-19
"In Flanders Fields" Art Exhibition & Silent Auction
 Vermillion Public Library
 Vermillion, SD

OCT 14
Oktoberfest
Leo Lonney Polka Band
 6 p.m.
 Menno, SD
 605-660-1839

OCT 19-21
Fall Fundraising Rummage Sale
 Spearfish Senior Center
 Spearfish, SD
 605-642-2827

OCT 21
Fall Festival
 11 a.m.
 18473 U.S. HWY 83
 Onida, SD
 605-788-2229

OCT. 28-29
Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association
 Ramkota Hotel Exhibit Hall
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-731-9155

NOV 11
Sisseton Area Merchants & Crafters Holiday Extravaganza
 Sisseton, SD
 605-698-7425

NOV 12
Lutefisk, Lefse & Meatball
 4-7 p.m.
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 Chamberlain, SD
 605-730-0553

NOV 24
Parade of Lights
 7 p.m.
 Dakota Avenue
 Huron, SD
 605-788-2229

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.