

# NORTHERN

## L I G H T S

June 2025

### JOIN US FOR CO-OP CONVERSATION AT 2025 DISTRICT MEETINGS

Members are invited to join Beltrami Electric Cooperative and your elected directors at the 2025 district meetings this month. Meetings start at 6 p.m., with a co-op update and time for member questions. Refreshments and cookies will be provided.

District meetings are held each year in districts whose directors are up for election. District meetings for members of Beltrami Electric Cooperative will be held in June for Districts 1, 5 and 8.

Official business will be conducted at the district meetings, including the nomination of a director candidate. Nominations for qualified candidates from your district to Beltrami Electric's board of directors will be accepted at this meeting. The top two candidates as determined by popular vote will have their names on the general election ballot in August.

If you are interested in seeking a directorship position with Beltrami Electric Cooperative and desire more information, please contact Jared Echternach at **(218) 444-2540** and request a director candidate packet.

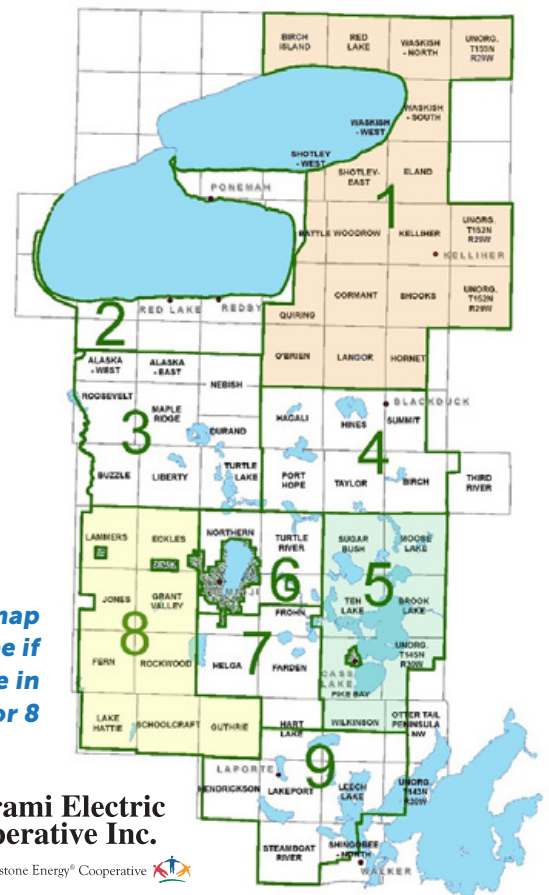
**\*NOTE:** Members seeking to run for the board of directors shall, not less than five (5) business days prior to the district meeting in which there is a director election, submit to the corporate office a completed candidate packet, as provided by the cooperative, by which the cooperative will verify said member's qualifications to be an eligible candidate for the director position.

[View the map here to see if you reside in District 1, 5 or 8](#)



**Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



#### 1 DISTRICT 1

Incumbent: Murl Nord

**Monday, June 16, 6 p.m.**

North Beltrami Community Center, 220 E. Main St., Kelliher

#### 5 DISTRICT 5

Incumbent: Bob Wallner

**Tuesday, June 17, 6 p.m.**

Ten Lake Town Hall, 2142 Mission Road NE, Bemidji

#### 8 DISTRICT 8

Incumbent: Sue Kringen

**Wednesday, June 18, 6 p.m.**

Fern Town Hall, 47978 129<sup>th</sup> Ave., Becida

*Members are encouraged to mark their calendars for BEC's annual meeting. The meeting will be held at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 6, at the Marilyn Shutter Country Stage at the Beltrami County Fairgrounds.*



# Legislative visits and updates

by Jared Echternach, *Beltrami Electric Cooperative president and CEO*

Each spring, electric cooperative leaders from across the country head to Washington, D.C., to advocate for rural communities – and this year, Beltrami Electric Cooperative was proud to be part of that effort. I recently traveled to Capitol Hill with members of our board to meet with Minnesota’s congressional delegation and join more than 60 representatives from Minnesota electric cooperatives. Together, we stood alongside more than 2,000 directors, CEOs and employees from electric co-ops across the nation for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference.

These meetings are a vital part of how we give our member-owners a voice in national energy policy. As demand for electricity grows and federal regulations evolve, the laws passed in Washington increasingly impact our ability to deliver safe, affordable and reliable power to our communities. Here’s a look at the priority issues we discussed with our elected officials.

## Smart energy policy for a growing nation

America’s energy needs are increasing at the fastest pace in more than 20 years, fueled by the growth of data centers, manufacturing and electrification. According to the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), peak power demand will rise more than 18% in the next decade. At the same time, dependable power plants are

being retired faster than they can be replaced. Electric cooperatives like Beltrami Electric are working hard to meet today’s needs while planning for tomorrow. But we need smart, supportive policies from Washington to succeed.

## Permitting reform & grid reliability

The federal permitting process for building new energy infrastructure is slow, bureaucratic and costly. Delays in securing permits for generation and transmission projects put reliability at risk and drive up costs for co-ops and consumers. We’re asking Congress to pass permitting reform, including judicial streamlining, to help us build the infrastructure we need on a reasonable timeline.

We also voiced deep concern about the EPA’s recently finalized power plant rule. This regulation pushes for the premature shutdown of reliable power plants and forces unproven technologies on an unrealistic timeline. It’s a threat to grid reliability and, ultimately, to the safety and well-being of the communities we serve. We asked lawmakers to repeal this unworkable rule and support an energy transition grounded in innovation, not ideology.

## Protecting hydroelectric power

Hydroelectric energy is one of our nation’s most reliable and cleanest sources of electricity. However, an agreement made during the previous administration threatens to dismantle the Lower Snake River dams – jeopardizing power supply in the Northwest. We urged policymakers to



rescind that memorandum of understanding and stand behind hydro as a vital part of our national energy mix.

**Wildfire prevention and infrastructure safety**

Wildfires pose an increasing threat to electric infrastructure. We urged lawmakers to support the Fix Our Forests Act, which would give cooperatives the tools needed to better manage vegetation around power lines and reduce wildfire risk.

**Investing in rural communities**

Electric co-ops like Beltrami Electric rely on the USDA’s Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Electric Loan Program to finance infrastructure projects. Because these loans are repaid with interest, the program actually returns money to the federal government. We’re asking our delegation to sign a letter to support full funding for rural electric infrastructure.

**Fair access to energy tax credits**

Before 2022, electric cooperatives were shut out of tax incentives that investor-owned utilities could use. Thanks to changes in law, we now have access to “elective pay” tax credits that support investments in renewable energy, grid upgrades and other innovations. We asked lawmakers to protect our access to these credits and ensure co-ops continue to compete on a level playing field.

**Protecting grant and innovation programs**

Through programs like New ERA, PACE, GRIP and RMUC, electric co-ops are building smarter, more resilient systems – restoring nuclear plants, deploying new technologies and protecting against cyber threats. These voluntary USDA and Department of Energy programs are critical to rural energy innovation, and we’re urging lawmakers to resist any proposed funding cuts.

**Disaster recovery and resiliency**

Finally, we asked lawmakers to protect FEMA’s Public Assistance Program, which helps electric co-ops restore power quickly after natural disasters. Without FEMA support, recovery times and costs would rise sharply – particularly in the small and rural communities we serve.

**Our commitment to you**

The conversations we had in Washington were driven by one mission: protecting your access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity. From maintaining essential infrastructure to preparing for future energy demands, we will continue to advocate for you – our member-owners – every step of the way.

Your voice matters, and we are proud to represent it where it counts most. Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

<b>SAVE</b>	<b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> <b>BELTRAMI ELECTRIC NIGHT AT THE FAIR</b>
<b>AUGUST 6 2025</b> <i>Registration Opens at 4 p.m.</i>	<b>THE</b>
<b>DATE</b>	 <b>Marilyn Shutter Stage</b> <b>Beltrami County Fairgrounds</b>

**BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

*Beltrami Electric’s board conducted its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, April 23, 2025. A quorum of directors was in attendance.*

**The following reports were given at the meeting:**

- President and CEO Echternach and the board discussed recent safety successes and observations.
- President and CEO Echternach made his monthly report, including financials, Operation Round Up, legislative issues affecting our cooperative, employee updates, Red Lake Business Activity Fee and economic development.

- Mike Birkeland and Angela Lyseng presented the digital media report.
- Arlene Hogquist presented March’s financial report.
- Arlene Hogquist presented the cooperative’s Balanced Performance Scorecard.
- Directors and President and CEO Echternach shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative and discussed

upcoming meetings, events and education conferences.

**The following actions were taken at the meeting:**

- Approved the consent agenda.
- Approved director and President and CEO expenses.

*The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 25, 2025.*



# 2025 WORK PLAN PROJECTS



**Lee Pemberton**  
Operations Manager



As we enter the 2025 construction season, your cooperative will continue to build on an already strong safety culture and system infrastructure. Here is a brief overview of some of the work plan projects we will be working on and in what area of our system they will be.

- 1. South side of Steamboat Lake:**  
V-phase overhead to three-phase underground conversion (4.5 miles)
- 2. Three-phase out of Guthrie substation:** Overhead to

underground conversion of a feeder heading northeast (4 miles)

- 3. Balm Lake:** Overhead to underground conversion (4 miles)
- 4. Roosevelt Road:** Overhead to underground conversion (1.6 miles)
- 5. Timberlane Way SW:** Underground wire replacement
- 6. Hart Lake Addition Red Lake:** 33 new lots in a subdivision
- 7. Walker Woods Development:** 23 new lots

These projects will improve your electric service reliability and support further growth in the area. As always, your cooperative is here for you with any questions you may have if you feel you will be impacted by these projects. Rest assured, the employees here at Beltrami Electric Cooperative will keep the membership's best interest in mind as we start these projects. We hope you all have a safe and fun summer!

## BY THE NUMBERS | Q1 2025

Beltrami Electric Cooperative's leadership spends substantial time managing and providing oversight of the co-op's operations, including ensuring that the organization remains in a strong and stable financial condition. Below is an overview of our First Quarter Unaudited Financial Report.



	2025	2024
Cost of Purchased Power	\$11,363,728	\$11,937,407
Other Operating Expenses	\$5,019,730	\$4,758,788
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$16,383,458	\$16,696,195



**kWh SOLD**  
**159,605,926**  
2024 Comparison: 163,236,578

**TOTAL MARGINS**  
**\$1,014,563**  
2024 Comparison: \$458,380

	2025	2024
Operating Margins	\$1,083,688	\$725,890
Non-Operating Margins	\$(69,125)	\$(267,510)

**MEMBER SERVICES BILLED**  
**22,506**  
2024 Comparison: 22,279

**AVERAGE kWh**  
used by residential members



**1,635**  
**PER MONTH**  
2024 Comparison: 1,447

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP



Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.



## UNFORGETTABLE EVENING AT THE GRANDSTAND – FREE CONCERT AT THE BELTRAMI COUNTY FAIR: WEDNESDAY, AUG. 6, AT 6:30 P.M.

Beltrami Electric is pleased to bring back **Figuring It Out**, the talented Abello Acoustics Band, for a second year. This family ensemble promises to captivate audiences with their diverse musical repertoire.

**About Figuring It Out:** The Abello Acoustics Band is a tight-knit family band that brings an acoustic touch to multiple genres, including Christian Contemporary, Folk, Bluegrass, Celtic, Swing and more. Hailing from Bemidji, Minnesota, they enjoy performances out of state and close to home. Whether at a classy theatre, a bluegrass festival or a family reunion, the group is excited to share music with a powerful message. When preparing to choose a band name nearly eight years ago, the band decided to use the phrase most often repeated in practice and life: “Let’s figure it out!”

Don’t miss this opportunity to enjoy an evening of enchanting melodies and harmonious rhythms during this year’s Beltrami Electric Night at the Fair. Admission is free, so bring your family and friends for a night to remember! We look forward to seeing you there!



## EMPLOYEE NEWS AROUND THE CO-OP

### BELTRAMI ELECTRIC WELCOMES DWIGHT WENDORFF



We are pleased to welcome **Dwight Wendorff** to our team. Dwight joined the cooperative on April 14, 2025, as a **mechanic** in our operations shop. Originally from Hutchinson and raised in Bemidji, Dwight is a graduate of Bemidji High School. He holds an Associate of Applied Science degree in Diesel Mechanics from Alexandria Technical & Community College. Dwight brings valuable experience from previous roles with the City of Bemidji, Reiersen Construction and Potlatch. His technical expertise and dedication to quality work make him a great addition to our operations team. Please join us in welcoming Dwight to Beltrami Electric!

### RICH HARRIS ACCEPTS NEW ROLE AT BELTRAMI ELECTRIC



We are pleased to announce that **Rich Harris** has accepted a new position as **staking technician**. In this role, Rich is responsible for planning and staking projects related to system construction, maintenance, and improvements – including new services, relocations and installations across our distribution system. Rich has been with Beltrami Electric since June 1996, starting as a journeyman lineworker after moving from Illinois. His dedication to learning and growing in his field led to his transition to OCR/regulator technician in 2010. We congratulate Rich on his continued career growth and thank him for his commitment to serving our members!

### LOGAN MISTIC STEPS INTO NEW ROLE AT BELTRAMI ELECTRIC



We are excited to share that **Logan Mistic** has taken on a new role as an **OCR/regulator technician**. In this position, Logan plays a key role in maintaining the reliability of our electrical system. His responsibilities include servicing reclosers and voltage regulators, collecting oil samples from salvage transformers and keeping critical maintenance records up to date. He will also conduct recloser replacements, control testing and programming in substations, along with scheduled inspections throughout the year to ensure system performance and safety. Logan joined Beltrami Electric in January 2017 as an apprentice lineworker and became a journeyman in August 2019. His dedication to professional growth and operational excellence continues to strengthen our team. Congratulations, Logan, on this well-earned opportunity!



# Classifieds

## Classified ads rules

- Ads are due by the following dates:
  - o **JULY ISSUE:** Submit by June 5.
  - o **AUGUST ISSUE:** Submit between June 5 and June 23.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at [www.beltramiellectric.com](http://www.beltramiellectric.com). (preferred)
- NO real estate, rental, personal or commercial ads will be accepted.
- All ads must be 50 words or less and typed or printed clearly.
- Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- Members may only submit one for sale and one wanted or free ad per issue.
- Ads are published at no charge as space permits on a first-received, first-printed basis, **with no guarantee your ad will appear.**
- Ads are only allowed to be repeated for **three consecutive months** and must be resubmitted each month.
- Include name and Beltrami Electric account number on all submissions.

## For Sale:

Golden Doodle – Angel is a friendly, curious, beautiful one-year-old female Golden Doodle needing a new forever home. Contact Patti at 218-760-3095.

28-foot ERCOA pontoon boat, 115 hp 4-stroke Mercury motor \$9,500. 17 caliber Hornet center fire rifle. Benelli M2 Shotgun 12 gauge 3 in. Magnum. Call 701-739-6042.

Plano Airliner fishing rod case. Holds rods 7 ft. long. Collapses to 4 ft. and is adjustable in length. Perfect for fly-in fishing trips where stuff is crammed in. Holds 6 rods. \$40. 218-751-6870.

Sears Kenmore model 1601 sewing machine, \$75. 218-751-7693.

Approximately 15 cords of mixed firewood in various lengths. Easy to access near the road, 2 miles west of Tenstrike. Great wood for an outdoor wood boiler. Asking \$250. 320-249-4647.

Men's Ariat sz12D leather boots dark brown foot/light brown shaft – \$75. Lg women's Madewell/Dickies overalls 30-in inseam – \$65. Both very new condition. 218-368-8511.

Gas powered tools and equipment: 1964 international utility tractor with front loader, Hudson 36" portable sawmill, Husqvarna 55 Rancher chainsaw, Toro snowblower, Generac 3500XL portable generator, early 1950's Evinrude 5 horse boat motor, StrikeMaster gas ice auger, Toro leaf blower/vacuum. Text or leave a message at 928-503-1806.

2012 full-size pickup camper, top of the line, excellent condition, used once. 218-751-4929.

10 inch Vevor bandsaw new never used, three blades. 110 volt \$225 firm. Call Mike (landline – no text). 218-444-4767.

1997 Mariah 198SE Shabah. Open bow. 5.7 liter Mercruiser. 19.5 ft. 10 person boat. Well equipped. \$7,950. Call Phil 319-651-7390 or e-mail, [plenzen58@gmail.com](mailto:plenzen58@gmail.com).

Metal toddler bed with mattress still in package: \$75. New, never used biothane team pony harnesses, 13" collars. Black with red trim. Set of two harnesses: \$1,100. 218-759-7730.

Military guns: \$600 each – 1911 M96 Swedish Mauser VG, matching; 1893 model 1891 Argentine Mauser VG, Matching; 1936 & 1994 Tula model 1895 Nagant revolvers, VG; 1933 hex Mosin Nagant, VG, matching; 1940 model Mosin Nagant, VG, matching (except floor plate); \$650 – pristine Yugo M59/66 SKS. Call 608-519-6478.

Pontoon – 17 ft. 6 in. – 1992 – Misty Harbor, Pursuit model-engine runs but needs work – trailer included – \$5,000/obo. Call 218-751-4194.

Two office chairs: \$20 each. Husqvarna gas backpack blower \$65. Selling my flyfishing rods and reels. Contact me if interested. 218-368-1931.

Pottery Barn daybed \$95, daybed mattress \$45, both hardly ever used. Call 218-368-4923.

2002 20 ft Elite pontoon, 40 hp Mercury "Big Foot" \$2,700. 218-224-8801.

Grass mulcher for John Deere X350 tractor with 42 in. Accel Deep mower deck; Nordic Ware portable kettle style gas grill model 72100; pop-up screen enclosure 6'x6'; 6 green

glass pint size drinking jars/mugs. 218-547-1836.

20 hp Honda gasoline engine. Runs great. Mounted on a John Deere 400 tractor which has died. Tractor is free if you want it or can remove the engine (easy to do). Asking \$295. Call 847-404-6318.

Clean 5 gal pail, \$5. 4 gallons, \$3. Golf ladies low profile irons 3i to PW, \$40. Shag balls 10ct. Shirt bonanza: polos – \$5 Tees – \$3. Magazines American Hunter, 33 issues, 1999 complete, Random issues, 1994-2000, \$10. 218-586-2884.

1997 Tuffy Osprey 1760, 100 hp Mariner 2 stroke. Shoreland'r trailer. Minn Kota Terova with footpad and remote control, onboard charger, console, rod storage, live well, 4 seats, Humminbird 5 on the console. One owner. \$4,900. 218-760-3956.

BSR AD140 Heathkit McDonald Turntable Decormatic customizable features \$50/obo. 218-854-7333.

53 Ford Jubilee tractor, very good working tractor, \$3,500. 14½ ft Alumacraft Lunker flat bottom boat, live well, 25H Evinrude EL, newer trailer, \$2,400. Call 218-368-2058 or 218-243-2958.

2014 Mustang GT 18K miles, \$19,900. 2009 Swisher 28-ton log splitter, \$750. 218-243-2497.

Used beekeeping equipment. Deep, medium and shallow hiveboxes. Medium and shallow frames. Inside and outside covers and screened hive bottoms. Smoker, gloves protective veil and coveralls. 20-frame Maxant radial honey

extractor. New honey containers, various sizes. Call for complete list with prices. 218-243-3330.

2018 Airstream 25-ft travel trailer, outstanding condition. Call 218-368-5676 for more info.

2001 Ranger 17½-ft Fisherman boat, 2002 Honda 130-hp 4-stroke motor. Call 218-368-9533 for more info.

## Wanted:

Join the annual Downtown Dash 5K on Saturday, July 5, in downtown Bemidji. 8:30 a.m. race | 7:00 a.m. registration \$35 preregistration | \$40 race day. First 150 runners get a T-shirt! FREE kids ½ mile run at 9:15 a.m. Proceeds support BHS Cross Country Team. Register: <https://runsignup.com/race/mn/bemidji/bemidjiddowntowndash>.

Someone to remove scrap iron from my property near Laporte. Consists of an old pull-type binder (lots of iron) and an old metal truck box. Call for information and pictures. 608-519-6478.

## Free:

I have the missing pendulum, weight and small wood piece for the 1900-1910 Cuckoo clock you bought at the Beltrami Electric indoor garage sale. 218-647-9476.

If you bought the TV/VCR/DVD player at the BEC garage sale fundraiser, we have the remote control for it. Call Amy at 218-444-3634.

## JUNE READER'S CONTEST

For your chance to be entered in a drawing to **win a \$10 credit** on your bill, correctly answer the questions and include with your payment or mail to: BEC, P.O. Box 488, Bemidji, MN 56619. Or email answers to [info@beltramiellectric.com](mailto:info@beltramiellectric.com) with the subject line "Reader's Contest." Be sure to include your name and BEC account number. **Entries must be received by June 25.**

1. Beltrami Electric's 2025 District Meetings will be held in districts \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The talented \_\_\_\_\_ will be performing at Beltrami Electric's Annual Meeting /Night at the Fair with a free concert in the grandstand on Aug. 6.
3. Beltrami Electric's Energy Resources Tour is planned for July \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

Member Name:

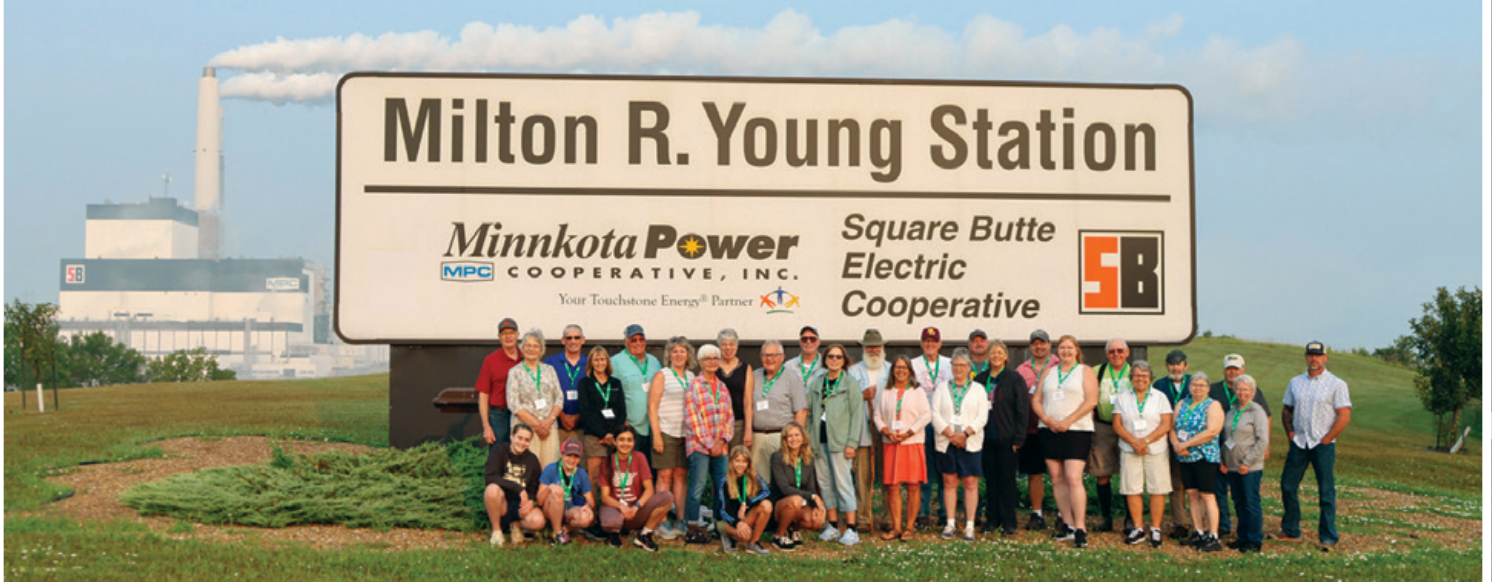
BEC Account Number:

Phone/Email address:

*Congratulations to our April contest winner: Duane & Peggy Lindsey*

# EXPLORE THE ENERGY BEHIND YOUR POWER

Join us for the 2025 Energy Resources Tour – July 15-17



Beltrami Electric Cooperative invites members to join us this summer for a behind-the-scenes look at where your electricity begins. Our Energy Resources Tour, happening July 15–17, is a unique opportunity to see firsthand how power is generated and delivered to your home. Travel in comfort aboard a charter bus from Bemidji Bus Line, with a two-night stay at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Mandan, North Dakota.

#### This three-day tour will include visits to:

- Minnkota Power Cooperative headquarters in Grand Forks, North Dakota.
- Milton R. Young Station near Center, North Dakota
- Open-pit lignite coal mines (*weather permitting*)
- Oliver III Wind Energy Center
- A tentative stop at Garrison Dam

#### Who can attend?

- Beltrami Electric Cooperative members who haven't taken this trip before are encouraged to sign up.
- Ages 12 and up are welcome (*children 12+ attend free with a parent or guardian*).

#### Cost:

- \$125 per person
- \$200 per couple (*double occupancy*) – includes transportation, lodging, meals and all tour stops.

#### How to register:

Complete the registration form and return it with payment – or stop by our office to sign up in person. Space is limited and fills quickly! If you need to cancel, please notify us at least two business days in advance to receive a refund. *Note: Members who have taken the tour before will be placed on a standby list, with priority given to first-time attendees.* **Don't miss this informative and eye-opening experience – reserve your seat today!**

## 2025 ENERGY RESOURCES TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

Please print names of participants the way you would like them to appear on your name tags. We will send confirmation upon receipt of this form. Further details and itinerary will be sent two weeks prior to departure. Mail this form with check to: **Beltrami Electric Cooperative, Attn: Energy Resources Tour, P.O. Box 488, Bemidji, MN 56619**

Name of participant(s): (*note age if under 18*) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

BEC Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ Dietary Needs (*Ex. gluten free*): \_\_\_\_\_



# NORTHERN

L I G H T S

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## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**Chair** ..... John Lund, *DISTRICT 7*

**Vice Chair** ..... Sue Kringen, *DISTRICT 8*

**Secretary** ..... Murl Nord, *DISTRICT 1*

**Treasurer** ..... Sharon Lembke, *DISTRICT 9*

**Directors:** Charlie Perkins, *DISTRICT 2*; Kevin Geerdes, *DISTRICT 3*; Craig Gaasvig, *DISTRICT 4*; Robert Wallner, *DISTRICT 5*; Rick Coe, *DISTRICT 6*

**President and CEO** ..... Jared Echternach

**Editor** ..... Angela Lyseng

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**Email:** [info@beltramelectric.com](mailto:info@beltramelectric.com)

## MN STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Find service territories for electrical inspectors here: <https://workplace.doli.state.mn.us/jurisdiction/>

## BELTRAMI & HUBBARD COUNTIES:

Wade Koons | 218-580-8589  
[wade.koons@state.mn.us](mailto:wade.koons@state.mn.us)

## CASS & HUBBARD COUNTIES:

Tony Kohrs | 218-616-1554  
[tony.kohrs@state.mn.us](mailto:tony.kohrs@state.mn.us)

## GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

1-800-252-1166 or 811

[www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org)



Anyone who plans to dig is required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in advance. All digging requires a 48-hour notification so that buried telephone lines, TV cable, pipelines, and utility electric lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*To provide excellent value to our members through the safe delivery of reliable electric service, excellent member service and innovative energy solutions at fair and reasonable prices.*

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



**Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

*Connecting Communities.  
Powering Life.*

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

### Member survey begins this summer



At Beltrami Electric Cooperative, you – our members – are at the heart of everything we do. To ensure we're meeting your needs and delivering the service you expect, we'll be conducting a member satisfaction survey beginning in June. The survey will be conducted by Cooperative Insights/Bellomy Research on our behalf and will take no more than 15 minutes to complete. A random selection of members will be invited to participate via email or telephone during June and July.

If you receive an invitation, we hope you'll take a few moments to share your thoughts. Your input is vital in helping us:

- Evaluate how we're doing
- Improve the way we serve you
- Guide future decisions that impact your cooperative

As a member-owned cooperative, your voice matters. Thank you for your continued support – and for helping us power a stronger cooperative, together.

## A SEVERE STORM IS BREWING — ARE YOU READY?

### BEFORE THE STORM

- ✓ **Unplug sensitive equipment** like computers and gaming stations. They could be damaged by surges from lightning or power restoration.
- ✓ **Have a power outage kit ready** to go with essentials like flashlights, battery packs for charging a smartphone, and water. Depending on storm damage, it could take a while for your co-op to restore power.

### AFTER THE STORM

- ✓ **If your basement has flooded, do not step into it** if there is a possibility of submerged cords or outlets – the water could be energized. Also, don't touch any cords or appliances if you are standing in water.
- ✓ **If you are driving and come across a downed line, stay far away from it.** Power could still be flowing through it. Downed lines could also be hidden in tree debris. Call your electric co-op or 9-1-1 immediately if you see any line or pole damage.