MiEnergy Cooperative Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

The 2nd Annual Meeting of the Members of MiEnergy Cooperative will be held at the Mabel Community Center, 201 South Main Street, Mabel, Minnesota, beginning at 7 p.m., on April 18, 2018, to take action upon the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors, and committees.
2. Any other business which may legally come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

Consistent with the terms of the Plan of Merger approved by the Members in April of 2016, there will be no election of directors at this meeting. Absent a resignation, retirement, or other event causing a vacancy on the Board, the existing directors will continue to serve until the initial post-merger election, which will occur at the Annual Meeting to be held in 2020.

You are urged to attend the meeting, hear the reports of the officers and transact such other business as may come before the meeting.

Dated April 1, 2018

Dennis Ptacek, Secretary
Making Investments
As your cooperative’s stewards, we have the important responsibility to deliver reliable electric service to your home, farm or business 24 hours a day - seven days a week. We are living up to the mission through our staff of talented and dedicated employees that take great pride in meeting our members’ needs. We also meet this responsibility through consistent planned investments in our electric distribution infrastructure.

Rural infrastructure is a key topic of discussion at our state capitals in St. Paul and Des Moines. It is also a topic of major discussion in Washington, D.C. We regularly hear about the dire need for repair and replacement of our nation’s roads and bridges, yet funding is limited for these critical needs. We classify our electric distribution system as another key part of our rural infrastructure in northeastern Iowa and southeastern Minnesota. We are equally proud that our planning, budgeting and investing over the last decade have rewarded us with the ability to operate a solid and modern electric distribution system. This all translates to increased power reliability for our members.

One Powerful Future
It is important to note that the choices you make, have a direct impact on your cooperative and the decisions we make for our future operation. For example, a member’s decision to purchase an electric vehicle or a solar distributed-generation system, install a wi-fi thermostat or purchase smart appliances all can, and will, impact the operation of your electric cooperative in the future.

Therefore, we must provide the retail electric rate to incentivize electric vehicle charging during the off-peak hours. We must establish policies and procedures to eliminate cross subsidization of rate classes and fairly compensate and reward member-owned generation. We must also aggregate the member investments in distributed generation, technology and smart appliances to reward not only the cooperative for avoided power costs, but the participating members for their participation.

Our future success depends upon our partnership with our membership to not only offer the rates and programs desired by our members, but using these resources to continue to expand energy efficiency, conservation and cost reductions.

A Look Into 2018
In the coming months, we look forward to providing member outage reporting via texting with optional outage restoral texts. Our outage map already displays power outages across the MiEnergy Cooperative system. Our second generation AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) deployment is progressing and we are nearly 50 percent completed. The new metering infrastructure will allow more retail rate options for members, in addition to power quality and outage analysis reporting.

We are in the process of upgrading our meter data management program in 2018 that will populate our SmarHub member access portal/app to provide even greater detail to members on their electric use and help to identify opportunities for energy efficiency savings.

The 2018 operating budget included over $2 million in vegetation management right-of-way clearing and treatment. Trees consistently are the leading cause of power outages all across our system. Combined with continued investment in our electric infrastructure, system reliability is expected to continue to improve.

Cooperative Support
We express our ongoing appreciation to the members of MiEnergy Cooperative for the opportunity to combine, create and build the electric cooperative of the future and to better serve the membership in the many years to come. It is the power of one.

Cooperatively,

Brian Krambeer
President/CEO

Dean Nierling
Board Chair

Providing electric service 24/7 to your home, farm or business since 1936
Dairyland Power Cooperative, MiEnergy’s wholesale power provider, continues to implement a long-term plan that includes diversified generation resources and that aligns with the strategic guidance of the board and member cooperatives. Here are highlights from 2017:

• Fifteen solar projects came online in 2017 throughout the Dairyland system totaling 20 megawatts (MW) and producing enough renewable energy to power over 3,000 homes.
• Dairyland entered power purchase agreements with EDP Renewables for the output of the Quilt Block 98 MW wind power project near Platteville, WI and 80 MW of renewable energy from the Barton Wind Farm in Kensett, Iowa. These two resources power more than 44,000 households.
• Dairyland and Minnesota Power/ALLETE (Duluth, Minn.) announced plans for a 525-550 MW combined cycle natural gas facility near Superior, Wis. The Nemadji Trail Energy Center is considered to be renewable-enabling by providing power when the sun doesn’t shine or the wind doesn’t blow. It will be an economic and efficient long-term resource and compliments renewable resources.
• Efficiency improvements and wise management of controllable costs and risks are priorities. Dairyland is investing in prudent transmission opportunities that improve reliability and add value for members. Dairyland is an 11 percent owner of the CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV line, which was completed in 2016. Dairyland is also participating in two additional regional 345 kV transmission projects: five percent ownership in a portion of the Badger-Coules Project (La Crosse to Madison), scheduled to be in service in 2018 and nine percent ownership in the Cardinal-Hickory Creek project (Madison to Dubuque), which is going through the permitting process, with anticipated decisions from regulators in 2019-2020.
• Dairyland is working with members to support economic development opportunities that will help communities grow by adding businesses and jobs that benefit the entire system.
• Ensuring rates and services are competitive is critical to the economic well-being of the region. The board approved an increase of two percent on the average wholesale rate in Dairyland’s 2018 budget, competitive with other wholesale generation and transmission cooperatives in the region.

TECHNOLOGY
Providing members tools for managing their energy use and keeping employees safe & efficient while on the job.
• Automated metering infrastructure
• SmartHub
• Online outage maps
• Job briefing safety app

GRASSROOTS
Lobbying on behalf of members for reliable, affordable electricity.
We don’t just choose republicans or democrats, we work with all our elected officials for you.

LOCAL PARTNER
Educating and supporting the local communities we serve.

Added 216 MW of renewable energy
(Enough to power 47,000 homes!)
The 1st annual meeting of the members of MiEnergy Cooperative was held at the Community Center in Mabel, Minnesota, at 7 p.m. on the 19th day of April, 2017.

Prior to the meeting a video was shown with a theme of “A New Legacy.”

The meeting was called to order by Dean Nielson, chair, who presided, and Dennis Paseck, secretary, acted as secretary of the meeting and kept the minutes thereof.

Nielson welcomed the members and special guests in attendance. He noted that the meeting would be conducted pursuant to the “Modern Rules of Order” and indicated that it would be an opportunity for members to ask questions following the CEO report.

An introduction was made by Vice Chair Ronald Stevens. Nielson then led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nielson introduced Paseck, who noted that the notice of annual meeting had been mailed to all members and was printed in the Annual Meeting program. He read the Affidavit of Mailing of the Notice.

Nielson reported that the members present in person are a sufficient number of members to constitute a quorum.

Nielson introduced the board members, CEO Krambeer, Assistant Board Secretary Heather Laxon, and Secretary Dennis Puckett.

Nierling reported that the members present in person are a sufficient number of members to constitute a quorum.

Director Jenny Scharmer was introduced and she introduced guests who were in attendance, including Energy Cooperative and key local business leaders.

Nielson noted that the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Members of Hawkeye REC and Tri-County Electric Cooperative held April 9, 2016, and the annual meetings of said entities held July 13 and 19, 2016, were mailed to all members and included in the annual meeting booklet. He recommended that the reading of these items be waived, and they be accepted as printed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to waive the reading of these items.

He recommended that the reading of these items be waived, and they be accepted as printed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to waive the reading of the minutes of the Special and Annual meetings held in 2016 and the same were approved as distributed.

Nielson introduced Board Treasurer Don Petersen who reviewed the financial statements for Hawkeye REC and Tri-County Electric Cooperative for 2016. The annual meeting booklet included a summary statement of revenue and expense and balance sheet information for both parties. He noted that the new combined set of financial statements are being maintained as of January 1, 2017.

He noted that the cooperative had adopted a best practices philosophy, adopting the best practices of the merged entities. He noted Operation Round-Up and the RECare program and encouraged the members to participate in those worthy programs. He provided information about the inter-office data connectivity and data center virtualization, as well as the new phone system and other technology improvements.

CEO Krambeer reported that the work plans for MiEnergy included funding for over $36 million in system improvements. He provided information about rates; Dairyland Power Cooperative; the Clean Power Plan and EPA changes; the addition of members through Southern Minnesota Electric Cooperative; the Clean Power Plan and EPA changes; the addition of members through Southern Minnesota Electric Cooperative; and the cooperative’s receipt of a national award. CEO Krambeer recognized the employees for all their hard work and dedication, as well as the board for its support. He then offered an opportunity for member questions and addressed questions about nuclear power; small scale solar and wind generation; the potential of expansion of services to include nuclear power; small scale solar and wind generation; the potential of expansion of services to include internet; community solar projects; and preparedness for a disaster such as an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack. Following the questions, he thanked the members for attending the meeting and participating in the cooperative.

Nielson noted next that there was no unfinished business from last year’s meeting. He then moved to consider any new business, and there was none. There being no further business to come before the meeting, Nieriing declared the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

A drawing was held for door prizes and the members in attendance were provided an attendance gift as they left the meeting. The members who participated in Operation Round Up grants to local worthy causes by participating members.
Bring this registration card to the annual meeting

See you at the Mabel Community Center on Wednesday, April 18.

Card must be turned in by 7 p.m. to be eligible for the prize drawing. Must be present to win.

The backside of this card will serve as admission for you to the 2nd Annual Meeting of MiEnergy Cooperative on Wednesday, April 18. The one-hour business meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Mabel Community Center, 201 South Main Street, Mabel, Minn. The official order of business for the meeting is listed below.

Order of business

Call to Order and Meeting Rules ................................. Dean Nierling, board chair
Innovation .......................................................... Jenny Scharmer, board director
Invocation ............................................................

Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting Notice and Proof of Mailing ....................... Dennis Placek, board secretary
Announcement of Quorum ......................................

Nierling

Introduction of Board, CEO & Attorneys ...................... Nierling
Introduction of Guests ............................................ Ron Stevens, vice chair

Nierling

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes ...................... Nierling

Treasurer’s Report (Audit) ....................................... Don Petersen, board treasurer
President/CEO Report .......................................... Brian Krambeer, president/CEO

Nierling

Questions from the Membership ............................... Krambeer

Unfinished Business ............................................. Nierling

New Business ....................................................... Nierling

Adjourn .............................................................. Nierling

Drawing for Prizes ............................................... Ted Kjos, vice president marketing & external relations

Learn more about Operation Round Up by visiting our booth at the annual meeting!

See our booths at the annual meeting for information on medical, security and video surveillance systems for your home, farm or business.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT
Power of One

MiEnergy Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

IOWA PO Box 90, Cresco, IA 52136
MINNESOTA PO Box 626, Rushford, MN 55971

Bring this registration card to the annual meeting for your chance to win a prize.

Mabel Community Center
Wednesday, April 18

Card must be turned in by 7 p.m. to be eligible for the prize drawing. Must be present to win.

Visit our booth at the MiEnergy Annual Meeting to learn how local organizations are benefitting from Operation Round Up and how members can help.