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OFFICE HOURS

7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday

STREET ADDRESS

3086 W. 100 N.
Peru, IN 46970

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 168
Peru, IN 46970

POWER OUTAGES

To report a power outage, call 844-473-6668. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis "Jim" Savage, *President*

Todd Smith, *Vice President*

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WHAT IS BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION?



If you're like most Americans, you're interested in saving money on energy costs and in doing your part to help the environment.

But wouldn't it be great if you could do both? Well, you can! It's through a concept called "beneficial electrification." This utility industry term means the innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity.

In essence, by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. As Miami-Cass REMC and other utilities shift to more options that include renewable energy sources to make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity will require less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced.

So, here's how this concept impacts you. It means that electric appliances such as your water heater, clothes dryer, oven and even your lawn care equipment have the potential to become greener. When Miami-Cass REMC takes advantage of advances in technology and the market at the generation point (how the electricity is produced), it means those efficiencies are inherently passed along to you, the consumer-member.

SMALL STEPS TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

For consumers and homeowners looking for more environmentally-friendly options, choosing electric appliances, tools and cars over those powered by fossil fuels is an easy solution. Whether through electric

lawn mowers, blowers and weed whackers (plug-in or rechargeable) or through electric water heaters and other appliances, beneficial electrification is a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping our environment. It can also translate into a better quality of life. For example, when you can trade the loud rumble of a gas-powered mower or blower for the quiet efficiency of electric versions, you eliminate the exhaust emissions and the unpleasant noise.

DOING OUR PART TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, Miami-Cass REMC is striving to take advantage of the advances in technology and the opportunities of the market as they become available. This means we can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renewable power selections as we continue to bring safe, reliable and affordable power to our community.

We care about our community because we live here too. I hope you'll reach out to Miami-Cass REMC, your trusted energy partner, to discuss available renewable energy options and to learn about more ways to reduce your energy use. Because when you participate in the energy efficiency programs and incentives we offer, you're doing your part to save energy and better our environment. While each member's reduction might be small, together, they can lead to significant savings of money and emissions. And that means a brighter future for all of us.

ROB SCHWARTZ
CEO



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Board meets in JANUARY

1. Counted seven board members attending via teleconference. Attorney, Jeremy Fetty also attended via teleconference.
2. WVPA board report was given by Jim Savage.
3. Rob Schwartz presented the monthly CEO report.
4. Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved.
5. Financial report given by Schwartz.
6. December monthly operating, member services and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
7. Set the next board meeting for Tues, Feb. 23, at 6 p.m. Meeting will be held virtually.

DIRECTOR PETITIONS AVAILABLE

Interested in serving your community?
Consider running for the board of directors
at Miami-Cass REMC.

Director petitions will be available starting
March 1 at our office at 3086 W. 100
N., Peru. Districts 1, 3, and 4 are up
for election this year. Petitions must be
returned by April 10.

Contact Miami-Cass REMC if you have
any questions regarding the board of
directors or the petition.

COMMON REASONS FOR

power outages

Power outages are never convenient for anyone, but they do occur. Though it's often obvious why there might be an outage, usually because of the weather, sometimes we might be left in the dark, literally and figuratively, while the power's out.

Here are some common reasons.

WEATHER: A heavy build-up of ice and snow on power lines, poles and equipment can bring them down. Wind also causes widespread damage. High winds following a heavy ice storm can be particularly devastating. Lightning strikes can cause major damage to electrical equipment, transmission towers, wires and poles.

TREES: During high winds, snow and ice, tree limbs can snap or entire trees can topple onto power lines.

ACCIDENTS: A vehicle hitting a utility pole can break the pole and knock lines from their overhead perch. Excavation work can disturb buried electric service lines causing an outage. **Always call 811 before any gardening or digging project.**

ANIMALS: Small animals and birds can climb on poles and electrical equipment which may cause a short circuit or equipment to shut down.

VANDALISM: People shooting at insulators and transformers is still a sad cause for power outages in rural areas.

PLANNED OUTAGES: If an electric cooperative is performing maintenance or upgrading its equipment, it may need to temporarily turn off the power. The cooperative will usually try to notify consumers.



EMPLOYEE NEWS

TERESA WILLIAMS RETIRES



Teresa Williams had been a familiar face at Miami-Cass REMC for 21 years. If you ever visited the office, you likely saw her smiling face.

Williams began her career with the cooperative on Feb. 1, 2000, and retired exactly 21 years later on Feb. 1 of this year. During her time at the REMC, she worked as a customer service representative taking care of the members' needs. Williams enjoyed her position and said she will miss talking with the members who would come into the office to pay their bills and spend time chatting. She always appreciated the fact that REMCs are member-owned and are more involved in decisions which affect the members and their community.

Williams shared that one of the biggest lessons she learned from her time at the co-op is that people are all different, so their priorities, reasoning, and methods of learning are different as well. Therefore, it's important to treat everyone with that in mind.

She also shared that one of the biggest changes she saw during her years of service at the REMC was the method by which people pay their bills. At the beginning of her career, all the payments were either mailed in, dropped in a night depository, or paid

in the office. Now people can pay on the REMC website, through Pay Now, SmartHub, and prepaid accounts.

Williams was involved in many projects throughout her career. She is most proud of is being involved in the task of placing all the capital credits information, since the beginning of the REMC in 1939, into a computer system which employees undertook during the last couple of years.

Williams advised any new employees at Miami-Cass REMC should listen carefully to what members are really saying and to do their best to help them while staying within the cooperative's guidelines.

While Williams will miss working with her co-workers and the family environment of the REMC, she has always had a goal of retiring early. She has seen far too many people work late into life and not have an opportunity to enjoy retirement. Her husband, Gary, retired three years ago, and helps their sons farm. The couple had plans to travel after retirement, but have decided to wait until COVID numbers have declined significantly.

The Williamses have a travel trailer and enjoy camping, spending time

with family and farming. She looks forward to being able to do whatever she wants, with no specific schedule. It's not surprising that Williams wants to spend more time with her family, as former co-worker Karen Chester shared, "Teresa is all about family, whether it is hers, yours or someone else's. She was always there to help out whenever you needed it."

Rob Schwartz, Miami-Cass REMC CEO, shared the following about working with Williams. "Teresa was always great at working on special projects. She would put everything she had into ensuring that whatever she was working on was done properly and in a timely fashion. She was also fun to joke with as she is very quick witted. We as an organization were privileged to have her as an employee, and we wish her well in her retirement."

Congratulations on your retirement, Teresa! All of us here at Miami-Cass REMC wish you the best as you undertake the next journey in your life.

Eagles Pointe NEW YEAR, NEW FIBER

Sign up to WIN a PS5*

*Winner announced 3/1/21



**POWER
MOVES**

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Your Local Electric Cooperative

ONE LEAN, GREEN, WATER HEATIN' MACHINE



HOT WATER FOR LESS MONEY

When you switch to an ENERGY STAR® certified heat pump water heater, you'll save up to 50% on your water heating energy costs. That's because a heat pump water heater operates more efficiently than gas alternatives. It has a smaller carbon footprint, too, to the tune of about half the carbon emissions of a propane or natural gas water heater.

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