

Taylor Report



February 2020

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"To move forward, you have to give back." This quote from Oprah Winfrey reflects the special bond and obligation that ties Taylor Electric Cooperative to the community we serve. With Valentine's Day approaching, we can't think of a better time to express how much we love this community and serving you, the members of the co-op.

We know when we helped to bring electricity to rural WI many years ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled, and we have been at the forefront of helping to address some of those issues. We want to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure it continues to thrive – because just like you, we live here too.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the consumer-members (that's you!) that we serve. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. Taylor Electric knows that electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a community.

Over time, our co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. And that can mean many different things. It can mean programs for WI's youth, such as education scholarships or the Youth Leadership Congress (YLC) where students get to spend part of their summer on a college campus and meet kids from all over the state. We are very excited as last year one of Taylor Electric's students, Oliver Robisch, was picked to be on the YLC board and will be going to Washington DC this summer.

For the past 20 years, Taylor Electric has joined with other area cooperatives to help those in need during the holidays through the Christmas Wish Program. Whether the need is monetary, or a simple remembrance gift, we have been here for our community to help them in their time of need. We couldn't do any of this without you, our members.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. We have added the Bright Horizons Solar Array for those members who want to engage in the clean energy movement, but don't necessarily want to install solar at their own homes. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, I'm certain that we can continue to do good things for our community.

—Ken Ceaglske-President/CEO

It is estimated that **11%** of all power outages are caused by our furry friend, the squirrel.

Safe Electricity.org

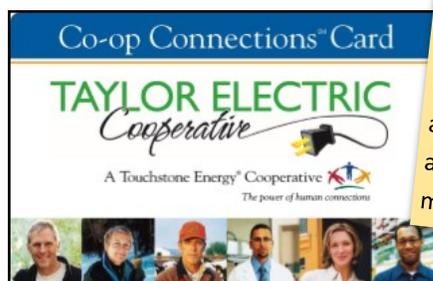
Heating up your February!
Bright Horizon's solar units prices lowered

The price per 350-watt unit of Bright Horizons community solar was reduced to \$755.00 at the December board meeting. Call us today at 715-678-2411 to get your share of locally-produced renewable energy.

Taylor Electric Cooperative's
BRIGHT HORIZONS

Board Report – December 2019

- Approved November disbursements totaling \$570,378.91, accepted 9 new member applications, and October construction in the amount of \$22,172.73.
- Reviewed financial results through November 30, 2019 with \$430,981 Operating Margins and \$530,164 Total Margins year to date.
- There were 9 outages in November and 117 outages for the year to date, with average YTD outage time per member of 2.08 hours.
- Three applications for discounted early retirement of capital credits to estate were approved with total capital credits of \$5,542.95 to be paid out at the net present value of \$2,378.47.
- The price per 350-watt share of Bright Horizons community solar was reduced to \$755.
- Appointed voting delegates and alternates for the 2020 NRECA, CFC, NRTC, and Federated Insurance Annual Meetings.
- Approved attendance for January WECA Education events.
- Approved the 2020 employee sick leave incentive plan.
- Approved the 2020 Energy-Efficiency Incentives program.
- Recommended two used vehicles be listed with RJ Stockwell Auction Company for sale.
- Approved 2020 capital purchase budget of \$37,280 for the Office and \$1.09 Million for the Line Department. The Line budget includes one bucket truck (ordered in 2019 but not yet received or invoiced) in the amount of \$285,000, tools, metering and security improvements of \$105,000, and \$700,000 for line construction and upgrades which includes 9¼ miles of overhead and 1½ miles of underground. A potential purchase of a cable plow and trailer estimated at \$125,000 is also being sought.
- The approved 2020 Operating Budget includes a projected kWh sales decrease of almost 1% from 2019, a 1% increase in total expenses, and yielding an Operating Margin of just under \$200,000.
- The Dairyland 2020 budget meeting report included the average wholesale power cost projected to decrease 1.1% on May 1, 2020 to 7.483¢ per kWh compared to 7.567¢ per kWh for the previous rate year. Taylor's wholesale rate is estimated to decrease from 7.522¢ per kWh to 7.382¢ per kWh for the May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021 rate year or 1.86%. Dairyland's 2020 budget projects Operating Margins of \$13.7 Million, and Total Margins of \$15.3 Million. Dairyland's 2020 Capital additions budget is \$73 Million, compared to \$76.7 Million in the 2019 budget.
- The Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) report by Director Zenner included: a financial review indicating a margin of \$1.8 Million for November, \$0.8 Million more than budget. Year to date Margins are \$18.6 Million compared to \$14.1 Million in 2018 and \$20.8 Million in 2017; the proposed wholesale rate changes for May 1, 2021 were approved including a "super off-peak" nighttime rate; the LACBWR spent nuclear fuel storage site has received proposals for contract services or ownership transfer; the next round of filing under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act will have a court hearing in late 2020; district meetings will be held during the week of February 11-14, 2020; and, CEO Barb Nick has announced her retirement effective sometime summer of 2020.
- 37 delinquent Accounts were processed for collection following the December 20th due date. The total amount owing on these accounts is \$14,405.38. Twenty-three of these accounts have remote disconnect capability.
- CEO Schaefer gave an update on: complaint log listings including: \$70 owed to a member to reimburse for calling an electrician for a co-op outage; no Taylor County Broadband Committee meeting held during December; an update on the promotion of Wade Matyka from Line-man to Line Superintendent effective January 1, 2020; recommendation to not add an opt-out to the health insurance plan at this time; settlement of the generator repair bill with Blue Star Power Systems with Blue Star agreeing to pay; and, thank you notes received.
- Directors Waldhart reviewed the minutes of the WECA Legislative & Regulatory Committee meeting held on December 2, 2019.
- Director Engel announced he will resign from his Board position effective April 4, 2020. It was Board consensus to have his seat placed on the ballot for the 2020 Annual Meeting along with the seats currently held by Directors Waldhart and Zenner.



Don't forget to use your Co-op Connections card at area businesses and start saving money today!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Are you using your fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire, and close the damper when a fire is not burning.

Source: energy.gov

