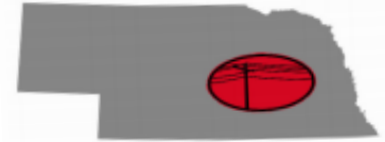


POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

‘The Livewire’

“Committed to enhancing the lives of our customers by providing safe, reliable and economical energy through excellence in customer service and innovation”



February 2023

Board of Director Changes for 2023

By Wade Rahn

Public Power Districts in Nebraska are governed by the elected Board of Directors, who serve six-year terms with no term limits. PCRPPD has three subdistricts for Directors inside the service territory with terms staggered, so no more than three Director positions are up for election during one election cycle. To run for a director position, you must reside within the Director subdistrict, file for election, and win the general vote of those living in the Director subdistrict during the General Election.

With PCRPPD being a Public Power District, we are governed and guided by those who are your friends, neighbors, family, or acquaintances. These people are your local voice and share the same desires you have to ensure that electricity is affordable, reliable, and safe for everyone to use.

Bill Kropatsch - District 2

Born, raised, and currently living in rural Osceola, Kropatsch joins the board with a focus on affordable rates and keeping the District healthy. Bill became interested in a position on the Board when he was approached by a customer and started looking into what the board does. His decision to run was apparent after evaluating the duties as it affects his business and the daily life of all customers of the District. He successfully defeated his opponent in the General Election in November 2022.

Kropatsch has been involved in farming his entire life as his farming operation started with Bill's great-grandfather, which was passed along to his grandfather and then his father. Over thirty years ago, his parents added an irrigation shop into the operation, which was recently sold. Currently, Bill and his brother Ryan farm together in Polk County, with his brother also raising cattle.

When asked about his goals of being on the board, Kropatsch replied, “Being a farmer that uses electricity in all aspects of my business, I want to make sure the company is sustainable in the future, but at the same time make sure the rates are low for all the customers.” While farming keeps Bill busy, he also serves on the Polk County Planning & Zoning Committee.

Bill and his wife Nicci have two children, Tanner, who attends Belmont University in Nashville, TN, and Eastyn, a sophomore at Osceola High School.

Ryan Twogood - District 1

Ryan, a rural resident of Stromsburg, is excited to come on the Board, which in his words, has a reputation for being a meaningful board and provides a service that he and his family use daily. Ryan brings talents to the board



Pictured (L) Bill Kropatsch & (R) Ryan Twogood

through his work experience as the owner of his Independent Investment Advisory Firm and his farming operation, which he described as two full-time jobs. Ryan is familiar with analyzing balance sheets, spreadsheets, and company finances and looks forward to helping the board with these skills. Additionally, his

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Watt Matters

By Barb Fowler - General Manager

Toast (Overly) Explained.

Punching down two pieces of bread in the toaster is easy, but getting electricity to the toaster is anything but. Electricity is simply the energy created from the movement of electrons as they jump from atom to atom. Some atoms let the energy flow easily (conductors), while some atoms don't (insulators).

Electricity is produced using forces (mechanical, magnetic, heat, or light) and various resources (coal, natural gas, sunlight, wind, water, biofuel, or nuclear) to convert the energy to electric current (the movement of electrons). Generating and delivering electricity is a 24-7-365 process that must constantly remain in a give (production) and take (consumption) balance. Some resources are most efficient when run continuously (base

load generation), while others have the ability to ramp up or down fairly quickly (peaking generation) accordingly as needed. Renewables (intermittent generation) produce energy only when there is a sufficient supply of resources (sun, wind, water flow, etc.). A balanced combination of generation is essential for reliability, affordability, and sustainability.

From generation, electricity travels down various-sized highways (the grid) to reach its destination, your home. Along the way, it is transformed by many pieces of equipment to various voltages (think of pressure) that are needed for each part of the journey. Higher voltage (transmission) helps the electricity travel longer distances, but lower voltage (distribution) is required to power your home or farm.



Electricity travels in closed circuits and must have a complete circuit before the electrons can move through it to provide power. When you punch down those two pieces of bread, you are closing a circuit in the toaster so the heating elements can consume the power. When the toast is ready, the toaster opens the circuit, the elements stop heating, and up pops two delicious pieces of toast.

Reminder

**DO NOT BURN TREE PILES
UNDER POWER LINES**

**DAMAGE CAN OCCUR AND YOU ARE
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPAIRS**

Board Changes 2023

(Continued from Page 1)

farming operation consists of typical crops, some of which are organic, and cattle which he raises for grass-fed/finished beef. Ryan also has solar generation on his farm. Ryan said, "I love the way it works. It's quiet, easy, and generates electricity. However, you have to pay attention to the cost and size in order to have a positive return on investment."

Twogood has served on various boards, including; Stromsburg Baptist Church, Nebraska Christian Schools, Midwest Covenant Home, and Polk County Extension Board. As for goals, initially, he wants to become

more familiar with the power industry, learning how the board works, and keeping rates affordable.

Ryan and his wife Rachel have four children; Samuel, Jake, William, and Whitney, who with her husband Joshua Frank have given the Twogood's their first grandchild Severn.

Twogood comes onto the board in a non-traditional manner. Director Mardell Johnson's position was vacated after his passing in 2022, and no one filed to run for the open position in the election. Since the seat was not filled during the General Election, the PCRPPD Board of

Directors has the authority to appoint someone to fill the vacant position. The process of appointing someone to fill the seat was for interested candidates, residing in District 1, to submit a letter of interest along with a resume, then an interview to select the new Director. By a unanimous vote at the December 2022 meeting, Ryan Twogood was appointed. While the term for this position is 2023-2028, when a Director is appointed, they must file and run for re-election for the remainder of the term at the next Public Power District Director election, which will be in 2024 during the General Election.

Prairie Wind Blows Into Another Year

By Wade Rahn

December 16, 2022, Prairie Wind Turbine crossed the fourth anniversary of being put in service.

During the 2022 year of production, the turbine posted impressive numbers by producing 12,950,660 kWh, with 100% of the output used by all of the District's customers. In addition, Prairie Wind lowered the demand charges on PCRPPD's wholesale power bill by producing during peak times. When all billing factors were combined, Prairie Wind had a net savings of \$336,982.12 for PCRPPD and its customers.

Randy Reese, PCRPPD's Operations Manager, said, "It's been impressive to see it in operation. The integration has been seamless into our system, and it has exceeded our expectations on every level."



Photo Credit - Jennie Bartling / Frontier COOP

The turbine produced electricity 87% of the time, with the remaining 13% being from lack of wind or maintenance being performed. Taking into account the unit being offline for maintenance and the wind not always being at an optimal level or blowing at all, the total generation capacity factor was 59.25%. This capacity factor

impressively exceeds the national average of 40%.

"Prairie Wind's production has exceeded our expectations and has become a familiar Polk County landmark that continues to benefit our customer-owners," said Barb Fowler, PCRPPD's General Manager.

A graphic with a clock face on the left and text on the right. The clock face is blue with white numbers and hands. The text is white on a blue background.

UPDATED
Office Hours
8am–4pm
Effective
March 1, 2023

Lease Payments & Gross Revenue Paid Out

Historically we have received many questions annually about Lease Payments, which are a component on the monthly bill for electric accounts in the communities of Clarks, Osceola, Shelby, or Silver Creek. The Lease Payment collects 12% of electric, demand, and customer charges on the monthly billing and is returned quarterly to the town where your electric account is located.

The Lease Payment is a component of our Professional Retail Operations Agreement (PRO) with the City or Village that owns the electric distribution system for the community. The PRO Agreement allows PCRPPD to operate the community's system.

Per the PRO Agreement, PCRPPD improves and maintains the electric distribution system at no cost to the City or Village. PCRPPD returns 100% of the lease payments collected to the City or Village to be used at their discretion.

Also, per State Statute, PCRPPD collects a 5% Gross Revenue Tax that is returned to the county in lieu of a property tax on the electric distribution system for the City or Village. The 5% Gross Revenue Tax is calculated from the total of the electric, demand, customer, and lease agreement charges. This tax is paid annually to the County Treasurer and redistributed proportionally based on the mill levy of the taxing authorities.

Lease Payment 2022 Total

Clarks	\$80,445.86
Osceola	\$177,824.41
Shelby	\$118,805.40
Silver Creek	\$70,868.10

Gross Revenue Tax 2022 Total

Polk County	\$121,999.26
Merrick County	\$52,707.94

POLK COUNTY RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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Board President Term Expires
Vernon Kuhnel - District 2 2024

Vice President
Jeff Scow - District 3 2024

Treasurer
Robert Lindburg - District 1 2028

Secretary
Mark Wyman - District 3 2026

Directors
Bill Kropatsch - District 2 2028
Judy Rieken - District 2 2026
Ryan Twogood - District 1 2024

General Manager
Barb Fowler

Staff
Randy Reese-Operations Manager
Megan Klein-Finance Manager
Wade Rahn-Customer Service/IT Manager
Justin Sunday-Engineering/Safety Manager
Andy Roberts-Foreman
DJ Crowell-Purchasing & Warehouse Coordinator

