

**WHEATLAND
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS



Wheatland Electric Co-op Inc.

Board of Trustees

William Barnes
President
Katie Eisenhour
Vice President
Mark Arnold
Treasurer
Stacey Addison-Howland
Secretary
Wes Campbell
Trustee
Bob Hiss
Trustee
John Kleysteuber
Trustee
John Sullivan
Trustee
Mike Thon
Trustee
Josh Young
Trustee

District Offices

Garden City — 620-275-0261
2005 W. Fulton, P.O. Box 973
Garden City, KS 67846
Great Bend — 620-793-4223
200 10th St., P.O. Box 1446
Great Bend, KS 67530
Harper — 620-896-7090
906 Central, P.O. Box 247
Harper, KS 67058
Leoti — 620-375-2632
101 W. F St., P.O. Box 966
Leoti, KS 67861
Scott City-Main — 620-872-5885
101 S. Main St., P.O. Box 230
Scott City, KS 67871
Syracuse — 620-384-5171
206 N. Main
P.O. Box 1010
Syracuse, KS 67878
Tribune — 620-376-4231
310 Broadway
P.O. Box 490
Tribune, KS 67879

FROM THE MANAGER

Join Us for our 74th Annual Meeting



Bruce W. Mueller

I'd like to cordially invite you to Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s 74th Annual Meeting on April 27, 2022, at the Scott Community

Building, 600 Fairground Road, in Scott City, Kansas. We look forward to visiting with you, the membership, and enjoying good fellowship. We will also take the opportunity to share Wheatland's accomplishments from the past year and plans for the upcoming year and beyond.

Wheatland will announce and present 13 winners with \$1,000 scholarships through our scholarship program. The scholarship recipients are the children of Wheatland Electric members.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Wheatland Electric is awarding four \$1,000 scholarships in place of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

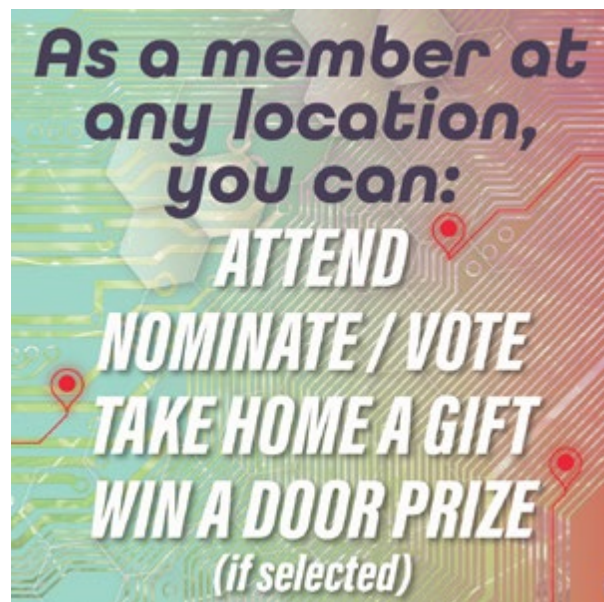
The annual meeting is the opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of Wheatland Electric,

by voting for the upcoming board of trustees.

Wheatland Electric is not owned by far away investors. It's run by a democratically elected board of trustees, a board given the privilege to serve because of your vote. Our trustees are members of your community. They are concerned with the issues you face everyday because they face them too.

As mentioned in last month's article, on the same day and time as we are having the annual meeting in Scott

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Join Us for our 74th Annual Meeting *Continued from page 12A* ▶

City, we will be having **CONCURRENT ANNUAL MEETINGS** in all the communities we have area offices or service locations: Leoti, Tribune, Syracuse, Garden City, Great Bend, Harper and Caldwell. See a full list of meeting address locations on Page 12H.

Lunch will be provided at each location, concurrent annual meetings included.

In addition, as a member at any location, you will be able to:

- ▶ Attend
- ▶ Nominate/Vote
- ▶ Take home a gift
- ▶ Win a door prize (if selected)

I hope you make it a point to attend Wheatland Electric's 74th Annual Meeting at any of the locations and exercise your right as a member of the cooperative and vote.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.



SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Shifting from winter to spring driving actually causes many accidents and not just because of the changing weather. The U.S. Department of Transportation has found that most people drive more cautiously on snow and ice. Rainfall and oil slicks combined with the warm sun can make road conditions equally dangerous. Approach these springtime hazards with the caution they deserve.

2021 Financial Statements

Operating Statement <i>for year ended 12/31/2021 (Unaudited)</i>	
Revenues	
Electric Operating Revenue*	118,226,002
Expenses	
Cost of Power*	69,461,980
Operations & Maintenance	7,821,741
Administrative & General	9,515,976
Depreciation	10,656,965
Interest	6,987,840
Taxes	4,474,185
Other	40,216
Total Expenses	108,958,904
Operating Margins	9,267,098
Non-Operating Items	
Interest Income	447,816
Loss from Subsidiaries ¹	(1,682,660)
Other Capital Credits	754,120
Margins Without Sunflower Capital Credits	12,151,694
Sunflower Capital Credits ²	7,368,120
Total Margins	19,519,815

* Includes Winter Weather Event Uri's impact of \$17M
¹ Water and Broadband operations.
² This amount is Wheatland's share of 2021 earnings of Sunflower Electric Power Corp. This allocation is not in cash and will be available to Wheatland's members at such time as it is paid out by Sunflower.

Balance Sheet <i>as of 12/31/2021 (Unaudited)</i>	
Assets	
Electric Plant	324,806,335
Non-Electric Assets	49,829,563
Less: Depreciation	(109,187,606)
Net Plant	265,448,293
Investments	97,275,197
Cash & Short-Term Investments	7,196,599
Receivables	17,858,186
Materials & Supplies	3,248,886
Prepayments & Other	173,771
Other Current Assets & Deferred	3,368,502
Total Assets	394,569,434
Liabilities	
Long-Term Debt	207,988,140
Payables	38,991,137
Other Liabilities	6,858,164
Total Liabilities	253,837,441
Equities	
Patronage Capital	140,553,025
Other Capital	178,969
Total Equities	140,731,993
Total Liabilities and Equity	394,569,434

Operating Statistics (Electric)	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Operating Revenue (Electric) (x 1000)	\$95,901	\$97,823	\$90,617	\$87,945	\$118,226
Energy Sales (kWh) (x 1000)	791,074	817,355	789,928	794,698	788,260
Average Revenue (\$/kWh)	\$0.1212	\$0.1197	\$0.1147	\$0.1107	\$0.1500
Cost of Power (x1000)	\$56,464	\$58,249	\$51,049	\$49,493	\$69,462
Total Purchases (kWh) (x 1000)	829,031	854,876	827,035	832,992	827,135
Average Cost of Power (\$/kWh)	\$0.0681	\$0.0681	\$0.0617	\$0.0594	\$0.0840
Other Operations & Maintenance (x 1000)	\$16,041	\$17,526	\$17,222	\$14,639	\$17,378
Total Operations & Maintenance (x 1000)	\$72,505	\$75,775	\$68,271	\$64,132	\$86,840
Gross Operating Margin (x 1000)	\$23,396	\$22,048	\$22,346	\$23,813	\$31,386
Gross Operating Margin (\$/kWh)	\$0.0296	\$0.0270	\$0.0283	\$0.0300	\$0.0398
Depreciation Expense (x 1000)	\$8,805	\$8,987	\$9,759	\$9,923	\$10,657
Property Taxes (x 1000)	\$3,470	\$3,416	\$3,767	\$3,819	\$3,451
Other Taxes (x 1000)	\$971	\$943	\$959	\$974	\$1,023
Interest Expense (x 1000)	\$6,708	\$7,315	\$7,752	\$6,828	\$6,988
Operating Margin (x 1000)	\$3,442	\$1,387	\$109	\$2,269	\$9,267

Help Us Celebrate LINEWORKER Appreciation Day!

From left: Kreyton Demel and Brandon Ritchie, both journeyman linemen, and Dax Walk, line foreman, install an electric pole at a new residential site in Great Bend.

Our lineworkers are the heart of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. That's why on National Lineworker Appreciation Day — April 11, 2022 — we take the opportunity to thank these individuals for the work they do, often in hazardous conditions and away from their families.

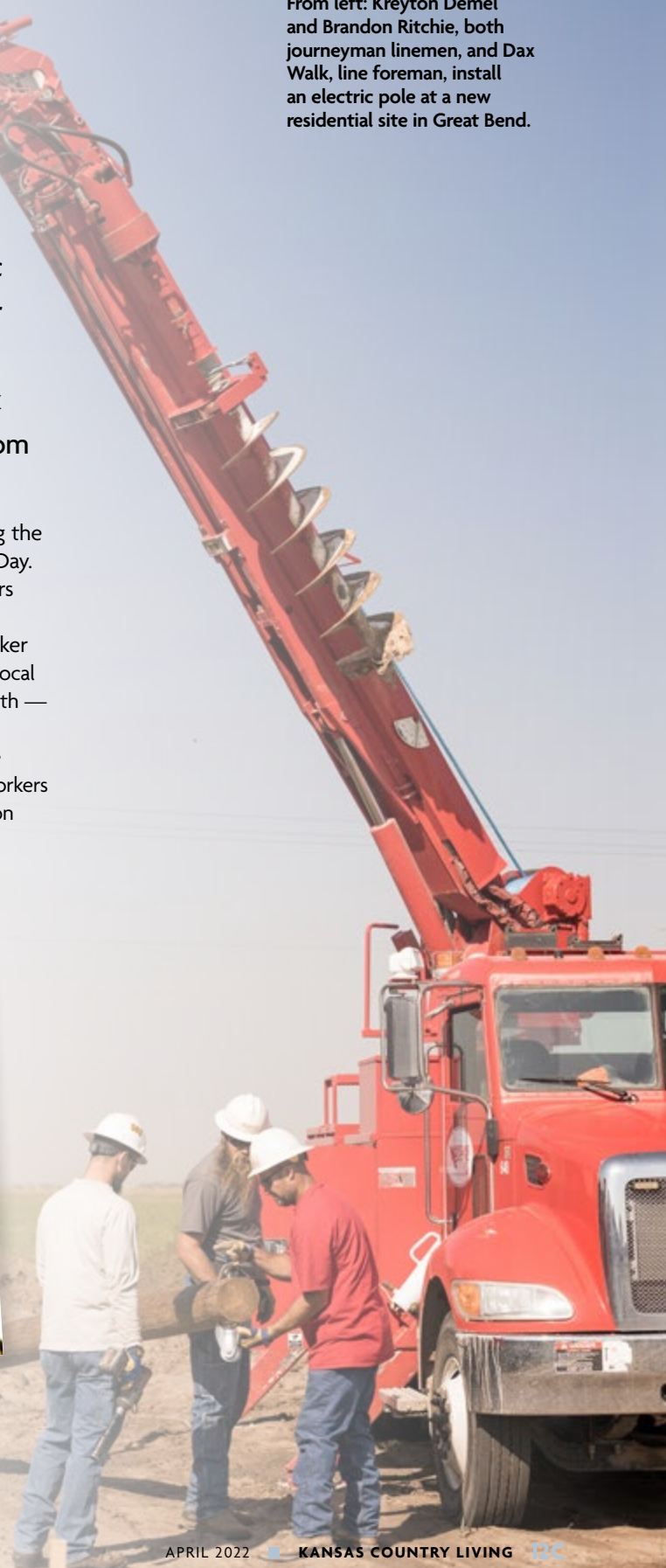
In 2014, the NRECA board voted to adopt a resolution recognizing the second Monday of each April as National Lineworker Appreciation Day.

To spread awareness about lineworker safety, reinforce the dangers of playing around power lines, and engage our youngest members, every second-grader in our service territory received interactive sticker sheets and were encouraged to write a letter of appreciation for a local lineworker. We'll be sharing these letters on social media later this month — so stay tuned!

Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or repairing the critical infrastructure that powers our homes and businesses, our lineworkers are the at the heart of everything we do. Help us #ThankALineworker on social media all month long!



These fun sticker sheets were provided to second graders in our service territory. They are also available for pick up at any of our Wheatland offices through the end of April, while supplies last.



Board of Trustees Elections

Democratic elections are held each year for trustee positions during the Wheatland Electric Annual Meeting. Candidates must be active Wheatland Electric account holders. A bylaw change beginning in 2016 limits board members to six, three-year terms. If elected this April, all three candidates named below, would serve their third three-year term of six available terms. For more information about Wheatland's trustees, visit weci.net/board-trustees.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF

Annual Meeting for Wheatland Members

The 74th Annual Meeting of the Members of Wheatland Electric will be held Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at the Scott Community Building, 600 Fairground Road, in Scott City, Kansas.

Registration opens at 11 a.m. CT, and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. The business meeting will convene at noon. The following matters will be addressed:

- ▶ Reports of officers, trustees, committees and employees.
- ▶ Election of trustees of the cooperative.
- ▶ Any other business which may come before the meeting.
- ▶ Adjournment.

The 2022 nominating committee consisted of the following members:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ▶ District 1
ED CUPP | ▶ District 5
JASON DOUGHERTY |
| ▶ District 2
MILAN D. REIMER | ▶ District 6
MATT HOISINGTON |
| ▶ District 3
DALE WETZEL | ▶ District 7
TROY DIERKING |
| ▶ District 4
PAT RILEY | |

The following trustees have been nominated by the nominating committee for the position of trustee:

- ▶ District 5 **WES CAMPBELL**
106 Diamond Hill Drive, Garden City, KS
- ▶ District 6 **BOB HISS**
2001 Broadway Ave., Great Bend, KS
- ▶ District 7 **WOODY BARNES**
719 S. Market St., Caldwell, KS

Additional nominations may be made from the floor during the meeting.

DISTRICT 5

Wes Campbell

WES CAMPBELL, a Finney County resident who represents District 5 comprising of his home county and eastern Kearny County, is seeking election to the Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees.

Campbell said he firmly believes in the member-owned and controlled electric cooperative business model and its seven guiding principles.



"I have had the opportunity to serve as a trustee for the last several years in an effort to guide policy decisions that deliver affordable and reliable power to our members, provide effective use of capital and resources, and invest in and give back to our communities to help ensure the vitality of our territory," Campbell said. "I strongly desire to continue serving on the board and believe my experiences serving on both the Wheatland Electric and Sunflower Electric boards can help our cooperative and its members prepare for the fundamental changes the electric industry will encounter over the next five years, which will have a significant impact on rural America."

Campbell, who grew up on a farm near Friend, Kansas, (located between Garden City and Scott City) is a longtime farmer and owner of a Finney County cattle grow yard. He has been integrally involved in many aspects of the agricultural industry, which represents a significant portion of Wheatland's membership base and represents "the heartbeat of southwest Kansas," according to Campbell.

"I understand just how important stable, low cost and reliable electricity is to all of the members we serve. I also understand and have experience in risk management through my business, which I utilize trying to manage risk at Wheatland Electric," he said. "Finally, I have and continue to serve on other professional boards, including a bank board, which has given me experience in good governance practices, risk management and effective policy decisions."

First appointed to fill a vacated position on the Wheatland board in 1997, Campbell serves as president of the Sunflower Electric Power Corporation Board of Directors. Sunflower is Wheatland's generation and transmission power supplier.

After graduating from Scott Community High School, Campbell attended the University of Kansas where he earned his bachelor's degree in personnel administration. He currently serves as a community bank director and has earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD) from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Campbell and his wife, Debbie, have three daughters and two grandchildren. They enjoy spending as much time as possible with family. In his spare time, he likes to travel, read, fish and follow KU sports.

DISTRICT 6

Bob Hiss

BOB HISS, a senior partner at Hiss Sherman Wealth Management based in Great Bend, is seeking election to the Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees.

First elected in 2008, Hiss joined as a trustee shortly after the Aquila acquisition that brought Great Bend (District 6) into the Wheatland Electric Cooperative family.

Hiss said part of his motivations for returning to the board are due to his strong belief in the cooperative business model and seven guiding cooperative principles shared by co-ops around the world.

"I'd like to help more members understand that they are not just customers of Wheatland Electric but are member-owners," Hiss said. "I also believe we're at a critical time in both the electric industry and the co-op's role within it, with regards to issues like renewables, power sources, grid issues, aging infrastructure, and a host of other issues. The decisions that we make in the next few years could be generational decisions."

A lifelong resident of his district, Hiss and wife, Patty, have raised two sons and operate a dairy farm in Great Bend. He attended Kansas State University where he received his bachelor's degree in agricultural business.

In 2003, after nearly two decades in financial investment and management, Hiss went into private practice, opening Hiss Sherman Wealth Management Group. In 2015, he grew the Great Bend business further by adding CenterPointe Wealth Management to the firm.

Hiss said he enjoys serving on the Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees because of the new challenges that continually arise. It's also a way for him to serve the co-op membership and give something back to his community.

"I believe that my professional role as a financial adviser and planner benefits my role as a trustee in being able to understand and evaluate the cooperative's financials and in helping to making long-term business decisions," he added.

Hiss and his wife now enjoy spending time with their sons and their four grandsons. In the past, he has been involved as a scoutmaster for Boy Scouts of America, a member of the USD 428 Foundation Board and has served in a multitude of positions for the First Christian Church of Great Bend.

In his free time, Hiss enjoys hunting and fishing, attending football games, and is an instrument-rated private pilot.



DISTRICT 7

Woody Barnes

WILLIAM "WOODY" BARNES, from Caldwell, is seeking election to the Wheatland Electric Board of Trustees for a seat representing our cooperative's easternmost district.

The owner of a small construction management business said his motivations for returning to his role on the board where he currently serves as president have to do with his sense of duty to the cooperative and its membership.

"The industry is in precarious and unprecedented times as we try to adapt and operate in uncertain political, environmental, regulatory, and economic times," Barnes said. "I've developed a strong understanding of our distribution and generation cooperatives, and I feel that I can provide effective and knowledgeable leadership to continue improving Wheatland's overall service and performance."

Barnes was first elected to the board in 2008 when District 7 was acquired through the Aquila purchase in 2007. District 7 represents a region of south-central Kansas that includes communities across Sumner, Harper and Kingman counties.

Born and raised in Sedan, he has been a district resident since 2005 and earned his bachelor's degree from Kansas State University in 1988 in construction science and management.

He spent the first 10 years of his career as a project supervisor, estimator and manager for several large construction firms and moved into residential construction in 1998. In 2005, upon moving to Caldwell, Barnes started his own business building and remodeling homes and small businesses in south central Kansas and north central Oklahoma.

"I grew up in small-town rural Kansas and came back to small-town rural Kansas to raise my family," he said. "I see the value of our rural communities and want to advocate for not just the Wheatland membership but all of the rural areas served by the cooperative system."

If he retains his seat, Barnes said he intends to advocate for greater economic development efforts that would bring in larger industrial and commercial loads to the Wheatland service territory.

"The more 'high-volume' demand we have for electricity, the better wholesale rate we receive from our generation system, which in turn could help us to maintain or improve our overall electric rates and bring new jobs to help stabilize our communities," Barnes said.

As a Wheatland trustee, Barnes has completed several courses through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), including the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD), Board Leadership Certification, and the Director Gold Credential. He has also accumulated 36 continuing education credits that typically involve six hours of classwork per credit and currently serves as an alternate board member for Wheatland's generation and transmission power supplier, Sunflower Electric Power Corporation.



Why We Go Green

At Wheatland Electric, we're constantly balancing environmental protection with the need to provide reliable and competitively-priced electricity. From big changes, like diversifying our electric generation portfolio, to smaller ones, such as installing wildlife-friendly infrastructure, we're committed to promoting ecological development and conservation in cost-effective ways.

In celebration of Earth Day on April 22, we'd like to share two of our latest environmentally-friendly projects with you, one in Garden City and the other in Great Bend. As an electric cooperative built on the ideals of concern, cooperation and open membership, "going green" in ways that contribute to community prosperity is a natural extension of our mission: Delivering Energy for Life.

We're excited to share that in addition to these projects, both our office locations in Great Bend and Garden City also now feature publicly available electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.

Powered by ChargePoint, each station can simultaneously charge EVs at Level 2 fast-charging. The EV stations are available to any driver — local or out of town — and can be accessed using the ChargePoint app on a smart phone or other mobile device.

Happy Earth Day 2022! Thank you for taking the time to learn about the ways your cooperative is "going green" for the good of our communities here at home and for our planet at large!

Going Green in Great Bend

In 2021, we reached an incredible milestone in Great Bend with the opening of our new building, warehouse facility and innovative outdoor green space!

Wheatland Electric broke ground on the new 30,000 square-foot building at 200 10th Street in the fall of 2020. Previously, our administrative and warehouse operations were housed separately within city limits.

Today, our state-of-the-art facility allows us to consolidate these operations and better serve our membership in our central Kansas district. The brick building features both a walk-in member-service lobby and drive-up window to assist our Great Bend members with payment and other needs.

Even more exciting is the outdoor green space with working fossil-free energy sources — a wind generator, a solar generator and battery storage — and a rainwater recovery system.

This green space is our opportunity to inform visitors about the Earth's precious resources and engage with our cooperative members about why going green can be beneficial to our communities, our country and our planet.

In western and central Kansas, we all know rain is a precious resource. That's why the RainFlo 3400 corrugated steel rainwater tank in our green space can harvest more than 3,000 gallons of rainwater and is currently being used to irrigate these grounds in conjunction with a built-in well system.

At the center of the green space is an AIR 30 Turbine that provides 30 kWh



Great Bend's outdoor green space features off-grid solar panels, a corrugated steel rainwater tank, and an air turbine.

of electricity or more per month. This electricity travels as direct current (DC) at 12 volts into our facility and is converted to alternating current (AC) at 120 volts using a power inverter.

The power inverter and two batteries are stored inside our facility. This electricity is used in tandem with the electricity captured by four, off-grid Solarland 12-volt panels to provide accent lighting and fulfill any other electrical needs in our green space.

All of these features are explained in bright and vibrant signage featuring simple, geometric shapes and earth tones for visitors to enjoy.

This construction project was completed by Wichita-based GLMV Architecture during the design and development phase and Eby Construction, also from Wichita, during the construction phase. Local subcontractors included Hammeke Electric, Stone Sand Co., Comfort Pro, Inc., Golden Belt Roofing & Exteriors, Inc., Jimlo Glass Center, Inc. — all from Great Bend — and Joiner Construction Inc., from Ellinwood.

REEN

Powering Our Pollinators in Garden City

A nearly invisible ecosystem — one of the most precious systems on our planet — is increasingly in danger.

We're talking about the birds, bats, bees, butterflies, beetles and other small insects and mammals that pollinate plants and are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of our food, according to pollination experts.

These pollinating animals travel from plant to plant carrying pollen on their bodies in a vital interaction that allows the transfer of genetic material critical to the reproductive system of most flowering plants. In fact, these are the same plants that bring us fruits, vegetables and nuts, supply half of the world's fibers, oils, and other raw materials, prevent soil erosion, and increase the Earth's ability to sequester carbon.

But what can a small electric co-op in Kansas do in the wake of such a global problem? At Wheatland, we believe every journey begins with one step, and in that spirit, we began planting a small, experimental test habitat for butterflies, bees, and other pollinators last spring (2021) at our Garden City office, 2005 W. Fulton Street.

The habitat did not look like much last year, but in a single growing season, we've seen a variety of wildflowers and grasses sprout to attract native pollinators that migrate across our region, including the monarch butterfly! Some of these wildflowers include the common milkweed, purple prairie clover, brown- and black-eyed Susan, and many more.

Along with the desired blooms are the not-so-desired weeds — kochia, pigweed and nutsedge, to name a few — that must constantly be plucked and sprayed to make room for the pollinating plants.

Why all the trouble for a small plot and the few pollinators it will serve? For one, our efforts are part of a larger movement of pollinator gardens across North America to serve the migrations of insects and other wildlife.

Second, as a cooperative, concern for community — including our natural world — is one of our guiding principles. Planting pollinator gardens like this can make a significant contribution to restoring habitat for these special creatures that help keep our food web intact, sustain our ecosystems, and assist in the production of our natural resources.

Though our habitat is still in its very early stages — the plot may take three to four years to reach its full potential — its development is ahead of the growth curve.

As we continue to plant, pluck, cultivate, and burn (an important piece of the growth cycle that allows for new and existing growth), we look forward to sharing our progress with you! Follow us on social media, visit our website, and read our monthly *Kansas Country Living* for continued updates and progress.



The experimental habitat at our Garden City office features a multitude of native blooms and grasses to support and encourage pollinators like butterflies and bees. (Photo taken July 2021.)



Employees of the cooperative help weed unwanted plants at our pollinator habitat during the first stages of growth in June 2021.



Black-eyed Susans are just one of the many wildflowers the pollinator habitat supports. Others include the common milkweed and the purple prairie clover. (Photo taken July 2021.)

Wheatland Electric 74th Annual Meeting



April 27, 2022
Scott Community Building,
600 Fairground Road, Scott City, KS

Registration
11:00 AM CT
Luncheon
11:30 AM CT
Business Meeting
12:00 PM CT

Driving Energy for Life

Join us as we put 2021 in the rearview and lay the road map for what's ahead with your local electric cooperative!

Join us in Scott City or a remote location near you!

District 2 - Leoti
Wheatland Electric Warehouse, 103 West F

District 3 - Tribune
Wheatland Electric Warehouse, 310 Broadway Ave

District 4 - Syracuse
VFW Building, 609 N. Main Street

District 5 - Garden City
Wheatland Electric Office, 2005 W. Fulton

District 6 - Great Bend
Wheatland Electric Office, 200 10th Street

District 7 - Harper
Wheatland Electric Warehouse, 302 W. 6th Street

District 7 - Caldwell
Caldwell Community Building, 119 E. First Street

Ride+Drive

100% ELECTRIC
100% POWERED BY
YOUR CO-OP



Come TEST DRIVE our ALL-ELECTRIC VEHICLE at our spring events!



04.07.22 SCOTT CITY

Sunflower Electric Electrorally

Spencer Flight+Education Center, 300 Mesquite Rd. (10 AM- 1 PM)



04.27.22 SCOTT CITY

74th Annual Meeting

Scott Community Building, 600 Fairground Rd. (10:30-11:30 AM & 1:30-2:30 PM)

Visit www.weci.net/electric-vehicle for all the latest EV info, and stay tuned for more Ride+Drive events this summer!