

Driving Energy for Life



WELCOME TO
OUR ANNUAL MEETING

April 27, 2022

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

SCOTT COMMUNITY BUILDING
600 FAIRGROUND ROAD
SCOTT CITY, KANSAS



Meeting Agenda

11:30 A.M. Invocation & Lunch

Annual Meeting Call to Order

WILLIAM BARNES PRESIDENT

Posting the Colors

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

Recognition of Trustees

WILLIAM BARNES PRESIDENT

Recognition of Special Guests

BRUCE W. MUELLER CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Declaration of Quorum

WILLIAM BARNES PRESIDENT

Official Notice/Affidavit of Mailing

JIM MCVAY GENERAL COUNSEL/
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Financial Report

VIDEO PRESENTATION

TRACI GODDARD DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Annual Summary VIDEO PRESENTATION

Scholarship Awards

ALLI CONINE DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES &
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Service Awards

WILLIAM BARNES PRESIDENT

Old Business

WILLIAM BARNES PRESIDENT

New Business

WILLIAM BARNES PRESIDENT

JIM MCVAY GENERAL COUNSEL/
ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Grand Prize Drawing

WILLIAM BARNES PRESIDENT

Adjournment

Retiring the Colors

To Our Members

At Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WEC) we're **CHARGING** forward — in powerful and innovative ways.

Since 1948, when nine **VISIONARY** western Kansans decided to take matters into their own hands after being left behind by big for-profit power companies, we've been paving the way for innovation in the electric industry. In 1950, through grit, sweat, and determination, these founding members welcomed 2,246 additional members to our electric cooperative.

Today, 74 years later, we serve over 21,000 homes and businesses, across 17 Kansas and Colorado counties, to **DELIVER ENERGY FOR LIFE** through 4,600-plus miles of line. And throughout our lifetime we've grown, we've changed, and we continue to adapt to our co-op members' ever-evolving energy needs.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Over the past decade, the energy industry has undergone a dramatic **TRANSFORMATION** as consumer demand for renewable energy sources grows and innovations and technologies advance exponentially. Some of you might be witnessing this **ENERGY EVOLUTION** firsthand, such as when you drive past fields of solar panels on our rural highways or read major news headlines about car makers' plans to go **ALL ELECTRIC** in the coming years.

That's why, in 2022, we're here to not only **DELIVER** energy for life — we're here to **DRIVE** it. What that means is that our commitment to you, our members, doesn't end at your electric meter and it certainly doesn't begin at your local substation, which feeds power to your community. Our **RELATIONSHIP** and our **RESPONSIBILITY** extend beyond that — to your needs, your principles, and your everyday life.

NEW IN 2022

In light of that commitment and our desire to be **FUTURE-FOCUSED**, we're introducing three new programs in 2022: services to advance electric vehicle adoption; services to connect you with local, trusted electricians; and services to provide back-up generation so that life without power is a thing of the past.

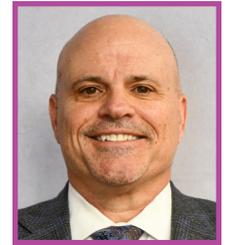
I'm excited to share that WEC has purchased its first 100% **ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV)** — a 2021 Hyundai Kona Electric — for our fleet. Our Kona Electric has traveled with us to public events across southwest and central Kansas, where we've been able to share firsthand with members like you the **POWER** of driving electric.

In this new era, we're here to be your first point of contact for EV news and information. We've installed our very first public EV charging stations at our Garden City and Great Bend office locations, which are available for anyone to use and put us on a rapidly growing map of public EV infrastructure across the nation.

Moving forward, we're developing programs and incentives to help you purchase and install EV charging equipment in your home, where most EV charging happens. As there are multiple facets to our EV program and other new programs and services, I encourage you to read about them in detail in **NEW FOR YOU IN 2022 ON PAGE 14**.

GREEN FOR GOOD

As we prepare for the future ahead, I'm also proud to share the things we've been



BRUCE W. MUELLER
CEO/General Manager

doing in 2021 to make small changes to invest in a **GREENER** and more **RENEWABLE** world. A small but significant project for our co-op has been the cultivation of a pollinator garden for monarch butterflies and honeybees at our Garden City office.

We started this multi-year project last spring, readying the ground and planting native grasses and flowers that small **POLLINATORS** depend on as a food source. And we depend on those pollinators for one out of every three bites of our food. As we continue to maintain and cultivate this small but substantial space, we're hopeful to establish a flower garden that pollinators can continue to rely on for decades to come and strengthen our role in this delicate **ECOSYSTEM** at the same time. Please read more about our efforts on **PAGE 17**.

In addition to educating our members in the powers and possibilities of renewable energy, our new Great Bend building, which opened last fall, boasts a public **GREEN SPACE**. The small park showcases both **SOLAR AND WIND** power capabilities with battery storage, which supply electrical power for accent lighting at the site. Please read more about what our new building and the green space have to offer our membership on **PAGE 7**.

Your annual meeting gift this year reflects our desire to build a greener and better world, including **SUSTAINABLE** and **ECO-FRIENDLY** products which you can read more about on **PAGE 7**.

PUTTING 2021 IN THE REARVIEW

In addition to these environmental-friendly initiatives, our cooperative has a lot to be proud about from the past year.

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY is one of our Seven Cooperative Principles. For the eighth consecutive year, our **CRAM THE VAN** food drive has resulted in a record-breaking collection: 44,576 pounds of food in 2021.

This brings our total pounds of food collected since 2014 to 172,309 pounds, or over **86 TONS OF FOOD**, a feat that could not be accomplished without the assistance of our generous member communities, local schools, non-profit partners, and more. We delivered last fall's cash and can donations ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday to 12 local food banks that our communities rely on. As always, all donations were delivered to the communities in which they were collected; members helping members in true cooperative spirit.

Last December, we also handed over the reigns of our broadband division to S&T Telephone Cooperative Association, which is planning to make upgrades to fixed-wireless radio transmitters and major

improvements to fiber connection across western Kansas.

As a result of this move, effective Jan. 1, all 3,500 Wheatland Broadband customers are now receiving their internet services from S&T Communications, an S&T subsidiary. We understand how important **RELIABILITY** and **CONNECTIVITY** are in our rural territory. And we're grateful for the opportunity to entrust our broadband customers to another Kansas cooperative who shares this mission.

At WEC, we have always put the good of our community first. While our primary function is to provide services that are **SAFE, RELIABLE, AND COMPETITIVELY PRICED**, we are more than an electric provider. As a cooperative, **OUR MISSION** is to enhance the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of the communities we serve. We want to become your energy experts! By being future-focused, we feel we are doing both, to prepare ourselves and members like you for what's on the road ahead.

Thank you for attending today's annual meeting. I look forward to our continued conversations.

UNTIL NEXT TIME, TAKE CARE.

BRUCE W. MUELLER, CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Service Awards

5 YEARS

Brock Brazeal
Maria Carrasco
Adam Parker
Aaron Wright
Diane Fisher
Nicole Semenko
Rosalva Godinez
*Mark Arnold
*Stacey Addison-Howland
*John Kleysteuber
*Mike Thon

10 YEARS

Heather Rufenacht
Nathan Schrock
Cody Ellis
Beth Nelson
Brandon Barrett
Bruce W. Mueller
Jordan Habiger
15 YEARS
Quinten Wheeler
Joe Thomeczek
Brad Thyne
Jake Jones
Pam Brungardt
Shawn Ryan

20 YEARS

Tuan Herrell
Tyson Ryff
Andy Pivonka

25 YEARS

*Wes Campbell

30 YEARS

Mark Kircher

35 YEARS

Eilene Jacobs

40 YEARS

Terry Rebel

*indicates board member

Trustee Nominees

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 at right would serve their third three-year term of six available terms. For more information about Wheatland's trustees, visit www.weci.net/board-trustees.

These members have been nominated by the nominating committee for the position of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. Trustee.

Nominating Committee

District 1

ED CUPP

1305 Antelope
Scott City, KS 67871-1902

District 2

MILAN D. REIMER

1294 W. County Road P
Leoti, KS 67861-6247

District 3

DALE WETZEL

P.O. Box 331
Tribune, KS 67879-0331

District 4

PAT RILEY

P.O. Box 925
Syracuse, KS 67878-0925

District 5

JASON DOUGHERTY

111 Cambridge Court
Garden City, KS 67846-9662

District 6

MATT HOISINGTON

3616 17th St.
Great Bend, KS 67530-7513

District 7

TROY DIERKING

118 S. Osage
Caldwell, KS 67022-1645

DISTRICT 5

Wes Campbell

WES CAMPBELL, a Finney County resident who represents District 5 comprising of his home county, eastern Kearny County, and Gray 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, competitively-priced 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 in it, with regard 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, Patsy, have raised two sons and operated 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 make 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, Kingman and Sedgwick 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.



Property Taxes

Wheatland Electric will pay a total of **\$4,320,316 IN PROPERTY TAXES** for 2021. These amounts were assessed against assets such as electric lines, poles, buildings, trucks and water, and broadband-related equipment owned by Wheatland. As a not-for-profit cooperative, Wheatland is exempt from income tax. The following is a listing of property taxes assessed by county for 2021.

COUNTY	AMOUNT
Finney	1,473,007
Barton	493,953
Harper	433,471
Scott	331,834
Kearny	319,941
Hamilton	295,401
Sumner	284,758
Greeley	259,300
Wichita	213,771
Kingman	133,665
Gray	66,824
Wallace	4,710
Reno	4,399
Logan	2,138
Sedgwick	1,469
Haskell	1,223
Seward	292
Lane	160

**Total 2021
Property Taxes Paid
(18 counties) \$4,320,316**

2021 Financials

Operating Statement

FOR YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 2021 (UNAUDITED)

INCOME	
Electric Revenues	118,226,002 *
Water and Broadband Revenues	5,277,009
Interest Income	450,600
Capital Credits from Other Cooperatives	8,297,369 **
Non-Operating Income (Other)	1,936,553
TOTAL INCOME	134,187,533
EXPENSES	
Purchased Power/Cost of Sales	69,461,980
Operations & Maintenance	10,267,376
Administrative & General	9,111,954
Depreciation	12,382,430
Interest	8,414,595
Taxes	4,988,690
Other	40,693
TOTAL EXPENSES	114,667,718
TOTAL MARGINS	19,519,815

* Includes Winter Weather Event Uri's impact of \$17M

** Of this amount \$7,368,120 is a non-cash allocation of margins from Sunflower Electric Power Corporation for the year of 2021. This amount will be available to be paid out to members at such time when Sunflower makes cash distributions to Wheatland for that year.

Balance Sheet

AS OF DEC. 31, 2021 (UNAUDITED)

ASSETS	
Cash & Short-Term Investments	7,196,599
Memberships and Other Investments	93,734,165
Notes Receivable	3,541,032
Accounts Receivable	17,858,186
Materials and Supplies	3,248,886
Other Current and Accrued Assets	173,771
Deferred Charges	3,368,502
Plant Assets (All Operations)	374,635,898
Accumulated Depreciation	(109,187,606)
TOTAL ASSETS	394,569,434
LIABILITIES	
Principal Owed on Long-Term Debt	207,988,140
Interest Payable on Long-Term Debt (in 2022)	638,315
Notes Payable	32,665,979
Accounts Payable	6,325,158
Property Taxes Payable (due in 2022)	1,732,698
Consumer Deposits	1,388,076
Other Liabilities/Deferred Credits	3,099,075
TOTAL LIABILITIES	253,837,441
EQUITIES	
2021 Operating Margin	(1,563,874)
2021 Non-Operating Margin	21,083,689
Prior Years Margins	121,033,210
Other Equities	178,969
TOTAL EQUITY	140,731,993
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	394,569,434

Going Green in Our New Great Bend Home

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 building at 200 10th Street in the fall of 2020 to combine operations and better serve our membership in our central Kansas district. Previously, our administrative and warehouse operations were housed separately within city limits.

The 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 irrigation by a water 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 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 these features are explained in signage for visitors to learn from. We're also excited to share that just outside our new Great Bend



An outdoor green space adjacent to our new Great Bend office features off-grid solar panels, a corrugated steel rainwater tank, and an air turbine that provides up to 30 kWh of electricity per month to assist with the space's outdoor lighting.

facility is a publicly available electric vehicle charging station. Powered by ChargePoint, this station can simultaneously charge two vehicles at Level 2 fast-charging. The station is available to any electric vehicle driver — local or out of town — and can be accessed using the ChargePoint app in their vehicle, on a smart phone or other mobile device.



In October 2021, we held a grand opening for members in Great Bend to celebrate our new building, warehouse and green space. Mark Kircher (left), staking technician, can be seen here inside our warehouse giving a tour to members who attended our special event.

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.





Minutes of Annual Meeting

WHEATLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. APRIL 14, 2021

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Members of Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Wheatland or Cooperative) was held on April 14, 2021, at the Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th St, Great Bend, Kansas, at 11:30 a.m. CDT. The meeting was held pursuant to notice provided to each member of Wheatland. Board President William “Woody” Barnes announced that the annual meeting of the members was being simulcast at Wheatland’s seven offices in its territory. Chairman Barnes discussed the extra precautions taken in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, pursuant to Wheatland policy, every meeting starts with a safety tip. President Barnes warned all members that ticks can carry potentially life-threatening infectious disease. They are most active during warmer months and reside in grassy areas. This puts outdoor workers at risk for exposure. The luncheon began at 11:30 a.m. and Charles Ayers, former Board of Trustees member, provided an invocation.

President Barnes served as chairman throughout the meeting. The Chairman called to order the 73rd Annual Meeting and welcomed all members and guests. Cub Scout Pack 7184 posted the national and state colors, and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance. The Great Bend High School Madrigal Pop Singers sang the national anthem. Chairman Barnes introduced the trustees of the cooperative and their spouses. Bruce W. Mueller, Wheatland’s CEO and general manager, introduced the executive staff of Wheatland and special guests in attendance which included Stuart Lowry, president and CEO of Sunflower Electric

Power Corporation; Larry Detwiler, director of loss control, safety and compliance at Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.; Bob Epperson and Pete Hisel of Eby Construction.

Chairman Barnes announced there were 193 members present in person at the meeting and 25 members present by proxy. Those members present by proxy were reported and posted to the members by the Wheatland staff. The cooperative membership exceeds 1,000 members and, therefore, 50 members or more constitutes a quorum. A quorum was announced by Chairman Barnes.

The chairman again presented that the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting, the Affidavit of Mailing, and the Certificate of Membership would be read to the members verbatim. However, upon motion made by the members from the floor and seconded, it was passed by unanimous vote to waive the formal reading of the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting, the Affidavit of Mailing and the Certificate of Membership. Jim McVay, general counsel for Wheatland, summarized the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting, the Affidavit of Mailing, and the Certificate of Membership.

The 2020 Annual Meeting minutes were provided to the membership when registering at the meeting. Chairman Barnes presented that the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes would be read to the membership. However, upon motion made by the members from the floor and seconded, it was passed by unanimous vote to dispense with the reading of the 2020 minutes. There

were no additions or corrections to the official minutes, and they were approved and adopted by unanimous vote.

Thereafter, a video presentation was made to the members by Radona Smythe, director of finance for Wheatland. She presented the financial report, which was also published in the April issue of the *Kansas Country Living* magazine and was mailed to each of the members, along with the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting. Once Smythe finished her report, the chairman asked the members if there were questions relative to her report. The chairman announced that he would entertain a motion to accept the report as mailed to each member of the cooperative. Upon motion made, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote, the financial report was approved and adopted.

Mueller began a video presentation to the members and stated that all area Wheatland offices were participating in the annual meeting by video conference. All Wheatland members attending the concurrent annual meeting at each district office were permitted to vote and participate fully. Mueller presented on Wheatland’s response to the February 2021 winter weather event that caused a sharp increase in the power cost adjustment. This additional cost was put into a Winter Weather Event Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) line item on each bill. Mueller discussed Wheatland’s online presence and all actions taken to keep the membership informed at the time and after the event. Mueller lauded the decision of the Wheatland Board to allow the members



to pay their bills over a 12-month period. Mueller closed by informing the members that Wheatland once again plans on retiring \$1 million in capital credits during 2021, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

Rick Klaus, director of operations for Wheatland, then discussed Wheatland's efforts to enhance construction, safety and reliability in District 6. These efforts included the building of new facilities, upgrading outdated facilities, and replacing a large quantity of power poles. Alli Conine, manager of member services, provided the members with a summary of all Wheatland's efforts to stay connected and communicate with its members during the February 2021 Winter Weather Event. She also discussed Wheatland's local donation programs and the Cram the Van actions in 2020.

At the close of the video presentation, Mueller called for any questions from the members. One member inquired about the timetable for the new Great Bend facility. Mueller provided a detailed answer and there were no other questions.

Trey Grebe, Wheatland's assistant general manager, announced the cooperative's winners for the KEY Leadership Conference in place of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The leadership conference winners were Judson Hibbs of Norwich High School and Tamara Rodriguez of Scott Community High School.

Wheatland also sponsors the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. COVID-19 restrictions canceled this event in 2020 and 2021.

Grebe then presented the annual Wheatland scholarship awards. \$14,000 in scholarships are provided to high school (HS) seniors who plan to pursue post-secondary education from the 13 schools

in the Wheatland territory and one at-large member. The recipients are:

1. Savannah Shively — Argonia HS
2. Alexa Lightner — At-Large (Ingalls HS)
3. Kari Dvorak — Caldwell HS
4. Kamon Haydock — Chaparral HS
5. Owen Balman — Conway Springs HS
6. Maria Ramirez — Deerfield HS
7. Cal Dunekack — Great Bend HS
8. Macie Lehman — Greeley County HS
9. Zaccerie Penka — Holcomb HS
10. Brittany Gosch — Norwich HS
11. Paige Vulgamore — Scott Community HS
12. Madison Smith — South Haven HS
13. Gunnar Upson — Syracuse HS
14. Cambree Koehn — Wichita County HS

The service awards were also then announced by the chairman to Wheatland employees as follows:

- ▶ 40 Years — Denzil Reed
- ▶ 30 Years — Walt Lovins, Curtis Lamb and Kelley Burch
- ▶ 25 Years — Dax Walk
- ▶ 20 Years — Matt Scheeter
- ▶ 15 Years — Barbara Kirk, Mark Dinkel, Luke West, Francis Lobmeyer and Matt Hosler
- ▶ 10 Years — Derek Callaway
- ▶ 5 Years — Julie Stoss, Corbin Spellman, Rochelle Irwin, Michael Doyle, Kris Lehmann, Traci Goddard, Devan York and Jesus Villegas

Chairman Barnes then inquired of the members whether there was any old business to come before the meeting. There was no old business to come before the meeting. He then asked if there was any new business; there was none.

The chairman announced one item of new business. There were three Wheatland districts up for trustee elections. Jim McVay read the Nomination Committee Affidavit. The Nominating Committee was

composed of Ed Cupp, Milan D. Reimer, Dale Wetzels, Pat Riley, Jason Dougherty, Matt Hoisington and Kim Miller. The Nominating Committee placed into nomination and selected the following candidates: Mike Thon, District 3; Dan Bonine, District 6; and Mark Arnold, District 7. McVay presented that all nominations were made by motion, seconded and passed by unanimous vote. The members were once again told that trustee candidates could be nominated from the floor. The qualifications for the office of trustee were read to the membership verbatim from the Wheatland bylaws.

Thereafter, the chairman asked for nominations from the floor. At the end of the 60-second waiting period and awaiting any response from the remote locations, there were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made from the floor, seconded and passed by unanimous vote of the members to accept the slate of candidates from the Nominating Committee for Districts 3, 6 and 7. Therefore, Mike Thon, District 3; Dan Bonine, District 6; and Mark Arnold, District 7; were elected to three-year terms as Wheatland trustees.

After the new business results were announced, Chairman Barnes called for the retirement of the colors. Cub Scout Pack 7184 retired the colors.

Thereafter, Chairman Barnes announced that Crissy Charles was the winner of the grand prize Traeger grill.

The chairman also asked for and found that there was no additional new business to be presented at the meeting. Chairman Barnes ordered that the meeting be adjourned by motion made, seconded and carried at 2:03 p.m. CDT.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

JAMES M. MCVAY, GENERAL COUNSEL



A Story as Sweet as Honey



Sharon and Jim Rowan, who have raised honeybees for most of their lives, pose with a frame of honeycomb inside Rowan's Honey Shop in Norwich, Kansas.

When **JIM ROWAN** purchased his very first box of bees, he was only 10 years old.

Beekeeping wasn't a part of his family's upbringing, nor did any teacher or other mentor in his life instill in him a love for the unusual hobby.

Instead, while working on a school assignment, the now-retired insurance agent and banker from Sumner County stumbled onto an encyclopedia entry while searching for a topic to write about.

The backstory of the busy and industrious honeybee fascinated the young boy, and he went in search to learn more about these curious creatures.

Less than an hour's drive away in Wichita, Jim found a local beekeeper with honeybees and supplies for sale to start his first colony.

At that time, he purchased two brood chambers (a single-level box that contains the queen and all the eggs she will lay), two honey supers (a box placed on top of the hive that is used to collect honey), and a package of busy bees, for only \$10 a piece.

"Those same two hives today would have been \$400," Jim explained.

Jim's wife and small business partner, Sharon, interjected.

"This was 66 years ago," she said.

Her response must have stung.

"She loves telling my age," Jim replied with a laugh.

A Buzzworthy Backstory

Jim and Sharon have operated their unique storefront, Rowan's Honey Shop, in Norwich for nearly two decades. However, their love and devotion for the honeybee spans many years before that.

"I tell everyone she married me for my bees," Jim said, lovingly.

It's true, Sharon admits. After the couple married in 1967, Sharon, who grew up in Hutchinson and met Jim through her college roommate from Norwich, came on board to the beekeeping business.

Jim taught his "city girl" everything she now knows about the honeybee: how to start

new colonies each spring, how to care for the creatures, how to build new hives from existing colonies, how to extract their sweet fluid, and more. As they started a family and raised three children together, she took it upon herself to come up with clever and delicious ways to utilize Mother Nature's sweet syrup in the kitchen, too.

Inside their quaint mom-and-pop shop at 218 N. Main is a homegrown set of products that share a single trait: everything sold inside either contains honey or boasts ingredients belonging to the honey-making process: beeswax in the shoe polish, dried pollen sold in jars and used for allergy relief, and natural honeycombs for spreading on breakfast toast and chewing like gum once all the honey's gone.

Alongside these goods are the everyday edibles their neighbors across central Kansas and other out-of-town fans come back for: honey apple salsa, honey barbecue sauce, honey horseradish mustard, spun (or creamed) honey infused with a variety of flavors, and — of course — jars and bear-shaped bottles of the sweet, sticky substance that has been so carefully and lovingly extracted from their bees.

Always meant as a hobby, the retired couple (him from finance and her from teaching) now spend most days minding around 200 beehives, working in the kitchen in the back of their shop to craft their concoctions, and

teaching people from all walks of life how to start their very own bee operation.

While they're only advertised as open on Fridays and Saturday mornings, they don't want to miss any budding bee enthusiasts. That's why the couple tries to make themselves available almost every day of the week.

"We have so many out-of-towners. If someone drives all that way, I want them to be able to contact us," Sharon said, adding that their phone number is on the front door.

"We're here almost every day working, maybe not all day, but part of the day. And anytime we're here, we're open," she added.

What All the Buzz is About

An apiary, a place where bees are kept for their honey, generally consists of several hives.

The Rowans' 200 or so hives are spread out across at least four Kansas counties: Sumner, Kingman, Harper and Sedgwick. A good hive will often house between 80,000 to 100,000 honeybees, putting the number of creatures under their care in the tens of millions in the spring and summer.

Oftentimes, the couple will even transport their well-populated hives to areas where farmers or large-scale gardeners want to capitalize on the precious pollination process.

Apple orchards, for example, are 100% dependent on bees to produce high yields, according to Jim. So it's worth the orchardist's time and money to bring the bees close to

his or her apple blossoms, even if for a short period of time.

It's a labor-intensive job, one the Rowans charge for when heavy boxes of hives must be loaded and unloaded repeatedly. However, it's necessary because there aren't enough honeybees in the wild.

Many decades of using pesticides, loss of habitat, climate change and disease have all contributed to the rapid decline of these natural pollinators — not only honeybees but also butterflies, beetles, bats and birds. That's bad news for the planet and its biodiversity, but worse news for our food supply, according to the Rowans.

"Most people don't realize that one out of every three bites of food you take is thanks to a honeybee," Sharon said. "But now, there's been a lot more publicity about bees being in danger, so people are becoming a lot more aware of it."

A national movement about the dangers our pollinator pals face is growing. That's why pollinator gardens that are lush with nectar- and pollen-rich flowers and plants are becoming more commonplace in community parks, gardens and backyards. Growing interest in beekeeping classes, which are taught by the Rowans at both their shop in Norwich and at Wichita State University, is also at an all-time high.

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RIGHT: Jim and Sharon Rowan assemble some of the edible products on the shelves of their store, including honey barbecue sauce, honey horseradish mustard, jellies and jams.

FAR RIGHT: Though the store is only advertised as open on Fridays and Saturdays, the shop is always open when Sharon and Jim are working inside on weekdays. Their Norwich storefront was once the local post office but now boasts their honey products, edibles and beekeeping supplies.



Your Annual Meeting Gifts



Thank you for attending the 74th Wheatland Electric Annual Meeting! You'll notice your member gift this year includes a **12 OZ. BOTTLE OF LOCALLY-SOURCED**

HONEY FROM ROWAN'S HONEY SHOP in Norwich.

In the spirit of this year's meeting, we've featured sustainable and eco-friendly products. This includes a **PACKAGE OF WILDFLOWER SEEDS** that you can plant outside your home or place of business. This is an easy way to help precious pollinators like honeybees and butterflies fulfill Mother Nature's role by providing them with the precious pollen and nectar they need to complete the pollination process. In addition, we've added two Friendsheep Honeybee **ECO DRYER BALLS**. This sustainable alternative to dryer sheets and liquid fabric softener, can help reduce drying time by 20-40%. These items are packaged together in a **COMPOSTABLE BAG**.

Instead of our usual plastic bag you're receiving a **REUSABLE GROCERY TOTE** made from recycled materials. This bag houses your **2021 ANNUAL REPORT**, a **COMPLIMENTARY PEN** and your **VOTING BALLOT**.

Thank you again for attending this year's meeting, and we hope you enjoy your member gift. Here's to a sweet and sustainable future!

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In fact, their students come from all socioeconomic backgrounds — doctors, lawyers, teachers and more. Their continuing education classes are taught in the early spring, when the business of beekeeping begins, and all the supplies needed to start and maintain a hive can be found right inside Rowan's Honey Shop.

"And we have every age — from young kids to retired folks like us," Sharon added.

Sticky Business

When Jim brought home his first set of beekeeping supplies as a young boy, he observed his bees every single day with only a makeshift veil, he said.

When the honey came that first year, he cut it out of the combs, collected it in a large bowl, and went to work with a potato masher. A novice beekeeper, Jim used cheesecloth to strain the golden liquid. It was a learning experience for the young boy, who eventually ended up with honey all over his mother's kitchen.

"She said you can't do that ever again," Jim said. "Everything you touch in here is sticky!"

The next year, as Jim's knowledge in his newfound activity grew, he collected discarded bottles around his neighborhood for 3 cents a piece. He purchased a package of bees that came in the mail — \$25 from the Sears Roebuck catalog — and with another \$5, a used honey extractor, a device to collect honey using centrifugal force.

It's the same tool that beekeepers use today, albeit smaller and less modern, to extract the honey without destroying the honeycomb. Of course, even with today's modern tools and supplies, the business of beekeeping can still be "pretty sticky."

"We tell beginning beekeepers, you've got

to remember, a drop of honey will cover an entire kitchen," Sharon added and laughed.

Busy, Busy Bees

Today, the Rowans order their young bees close to the start of each year. They come on a semi-truck from California and are sold in packages. Each 3 pound package costs somewhere between \$150 and \$170 and contains enough bees to start a colony that will survive, multiply and flourish.

Every bee — male or female — has a very specific role, according to the experts. Working together, the colony builds and maintains hives, reproduces and raises young, regulates the inside temperature, and collects and stores food in the form of honey.

Only one queen per hive can exist, and she lays over 2,000 eggs a day, actively selecting which will be male and which female.

"A drone is a male bee — he has no stinger. He has one purpose and one purpose only — to mate with the queen in midair. This rips him wrong side out, and he falls to earth — dead," Jim explained.

Unlike the short and tragic life of the male drone, the females — primarily worker bees — run themselves to death, often in as little as two to three weeks in the summer.

The bees come and go from the hives as they please to fulfill Mother Nature's primary function. That is, pollination is needed for plants to reproduce and the bees also benefit, using nectar and pollen for their own food source.

After being carried back to the hive, the pollen and nectar is broken down into simple sugars and stored inside the honeycombs. Only the bees know when their honey is ready, capping each individual comb with beeswax that is secreted from their abdomens.

This also tells humans that the honey is "cured" or ready to be consumed, normally

during the hotter months of July and August, according to the Rowans. Honey extracted prior to being capped is “green” and would make us very sick if consumed.

“Man can’t make honey because they don’t know when to put that wax cap on. We melt that beeswax down, and it’s worth even more than the honey,” Jim explained, adding that it takes 10 pounds of honey to make a pound of wax.

In fact, pure beeswax has many uses including strengthening sewing thread, lubricating wood furniture and tools, and is mixed with additional ingredients to make some of the other items sold in their store: shoe polish, lip balm, soap and other products.

Alongside these items is the pure golden syrup that wouldn’t be possible without the heavy lifting performed by honeybees, primarily by the working females inside each colony.

“Remember, a male can’t feed himself, he can’t sting you, and he can’t gather nectar,” Sharon said. “I always tell the schoolkids that the (male) drones are the cheerleaders. They sit in their chair all summer and say ‘Girls, you’re doing a great job — keep up the good work!’”

Meant to Bee

Until about a decade ago, the shop where the Rowans now sell their honey used to be the post office in Norwich, a community of about 500.

Prior to that, starting in 1980, the couple sold honey out of the back door of their home. Despite demand for their product, they took a long break from the business starting in 1982 to raise their three children and focus on their full-time jobs, only fully returning to the honey hustle again in the early 2000s.

Today, their knowledge and expertise are well known in their quad-county area.

For example, when folks see bee swarms



LEFT: Jim and Sharon Rowan maintain beehives, like those pictured, in Sumner, Kingman, Harper and Sedgwick counties. They are often near large gardens and fruit-producing farms that will benefit from the honeybees’ pollinating process.

RIGHT: Beeswax, a natural byproduct of the honey-making process and more valuable than honey itself, has many household, cosmetic and even cooking uses.



in their local area, their first call is to the Rowans. Swarming is a colony’s natural means of reproduction — when a single colony splits into two or more — and can most often be seen in large clusters on tree branches.

A photograph of one of the largest swarms the couple has ever been called to — on Main Street in Harper — hangs on the back wall of their shop.

“That was an exceptionally big one. We caught it, put it in a hive, and took it home,” Jim said, explaining that all he had to do to get the bees to cooperate was shake the tree branch, which allowed him to dump the bees into a bucket before pouring them into an empty hive.

“(Sharon) says when I catch swarms, I make it look too easy,” Jim added, joking.

Believe it or not, when bees are swarming, they are often more docile than normal because their primary motive is finding a new home as opposed to protecting their young or defending their honey stores, according to the bee experts.

On the very same wall inside their honey

shop hangs another photograph, this one a portrait of their daughter, Jackie, wearing her 2003 Kansas Honey Queen crown.

The youngest of their three adult children, the Kansas State University graduate and student of bakery science has often helped her parents develop new ideas and products for the family business.

In fact, the Rowans have even discussed handing over the keys to their three children, two sons who live out of state and their daughter who lives closer to home.

Between their children and many grandchildren, the Rowans are hopeful that they’ll be able to pass on their love for honeybees and the creatures’ golden gift to their community for generations to come.

“(Jackie) was only three years old when she was running the mixer at home. As a kid, you think she’d pull it up and splatter, but she never did,” Jim said, referring to his grown daughter. “Her daughter, our granddaughter Elizabeth — she’s only three — and she’s the same way. She loves to help grandma cook — and grandma loves it, too.”



New for You in 2022

Throughout 2021, we dedicated considerable time and energy toward the development of three new programs that launched in 2022. These initiatives will both enhance our member experience and propel us into the future as a comprehensive electric cooperative, thinking outside the box and providing essential services that will remain relevant in an evolving landscape.

Wheatland Electric is your trusted resource for electricity needs. By expanding our offerings with these new programs, we are the one-stop shop our members need for answers, advice and service! And this is exactly the type of innovation that will keep Wheatland Electric on course toward a viable future for generations to come, driving the electric industry forward — for life.

STANDBY GENERATOR PROGRAM



It's no secret that weather in Kansas can be unpredictable. When disaster strikes, our cooperative does its best to restore power promptly because we know how disruptive it can be to our membership. Nonetheless, in the event of unprecedented weather, it can sometimes take hours or even days to restore power. That's why Wheatland has invested in an automatic standby generator program, to keep our members' homes or businesses powered through unplanned outages. These systems are customer-friendly, reliable and affordable, especially when financed through Wheatland's generator loan program.

Wheatland Electric has partnered with Generac to provide our members with the No. 1 name in backup generators in an affordable way. Wheatland members can install a generator in their home or business and make monthly payments directly to their local Wheatland office along with their monthly electric bill. Our cooperative has partnered with local electricians across our service territory to provide the assessment and installation of generators, ensuring local customer service and annual maintenance availability. If you're interested in purchasing or financing a backup generator, call your local Wheatland office today!

... Wheatland has invested in an automatic standby generator program, to keep our members' homes or businesses powered through unplanned outages.





DRIVING ENERGY FOR LIFE: Electric Vehicle Adoption and Charging

The national upward trend toward all-electric vehicles (EVs) and the demand for convenient charging are driving local electric co-ops in new directions. Market analysts predict that by 2030 half of all vehicle sales in the U.S. will be electric vehicles. Big-name auto manufacturers, like GM, have already announced their plan to offer 30 different EV models within the next three years. The multiple benefits of electric vehicles are rapidly moving this industry forward. EVs are environmentally friendly with no tailpipe emissions, yet they provide stronger acceleration than gas-powered engines. They also require less maintenance and cost less to operate. On a full charge, an average EV can drive between 250 and 400 miles, saving the average commuter three to five times the amount of gasoline cost per year.

At-Home Charging

While we aren't considering the business of selling electric cars, we are prepared to equip our members with access to at-home EV charging infrastructure and installation.

Because all-electric vehicles do not require gasoline, they can be charged right at home with the standard 120-volt outlet — which you may already have installed in your garage or outside your home. However, many EV owners are opting to install a 240-volt level 2 charger due to its faster charging capability. It's more efficient for home use, taking, on average, only eight hours (or overnight) to reach a full charge.

We've reached agreements with local electricians across our service territory to facilitate the purchase and installation of the best at-home chargers on the market today. We are working with Sunflower Electric, our power supplier, to establish time-of-use rates for residential EV chargers.



Wheatland members will be able to install a residential charging station and make monthly payments directly to your local Wheatland office in addition to your monthly electric bill.

Public Charging

Our cooperative has utilized ChargePoint, a well-known industry leader, to also grow our public charging infrastructure in the Wheatland service territory. We have installed two ChargePoint Level 2 EV charging stations at two of our facilities: in Garden City and Great Bend. These commercial charging stations are available to the public and utilize the ChargePoint app.

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New for You in 2022

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Stay Current with Wheatland

We know there is a lot of information surrounding EVs, so Wheatland is here to be your first point of contact for EV news and knowledge — giving you tailored data that is easy to digest. We've partnered with ChooseEV, a digital toolkit, to create a comprehensive guide to all things EV, now available on our website at www.weci.net/electric-vehicle. From finding an electric vehicle model that fits your needs, to calculating your average savings potential, our online EV guide makes the FAQ F-U-N!

Local Hands-On Learning

We have even incorporated an all-electric vehicle into our fleet — a 2021 Hyundai Kona Electric. This helps us learn about EVs, promote our new program, and give our members an opportunity to test-drive a 100% electric vehicle for themselves. Follow our print and digital publications to learn about upcoming Ride+Drive events near you where you can test-drive our EV or contact your local Wheatland office for more information about installing an EV charger in your home.



ELECTRICIAN SERVICES



Wheatland Electric is here to serve our members. By partnering with trusted, local electricians in our service territory to provide our new electric vehicle charger and standby generator programs, we discovered the opportunity to provide our members with any electrician services they may need.

Our local electrician partners will be available to our members when facilitated by Wheatland Electric, whether it's installing an EV charger, a Generac generator, or other large- or small-scale electrical job.

... We discovered the opportunity to provide our members with any electrician services they may need.



Powering Our Pollinators

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.

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



LEFT: 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.)



RIGHT: 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.)

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 Finney County office location, 2005 W. Fulton Street in Garden City.

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!

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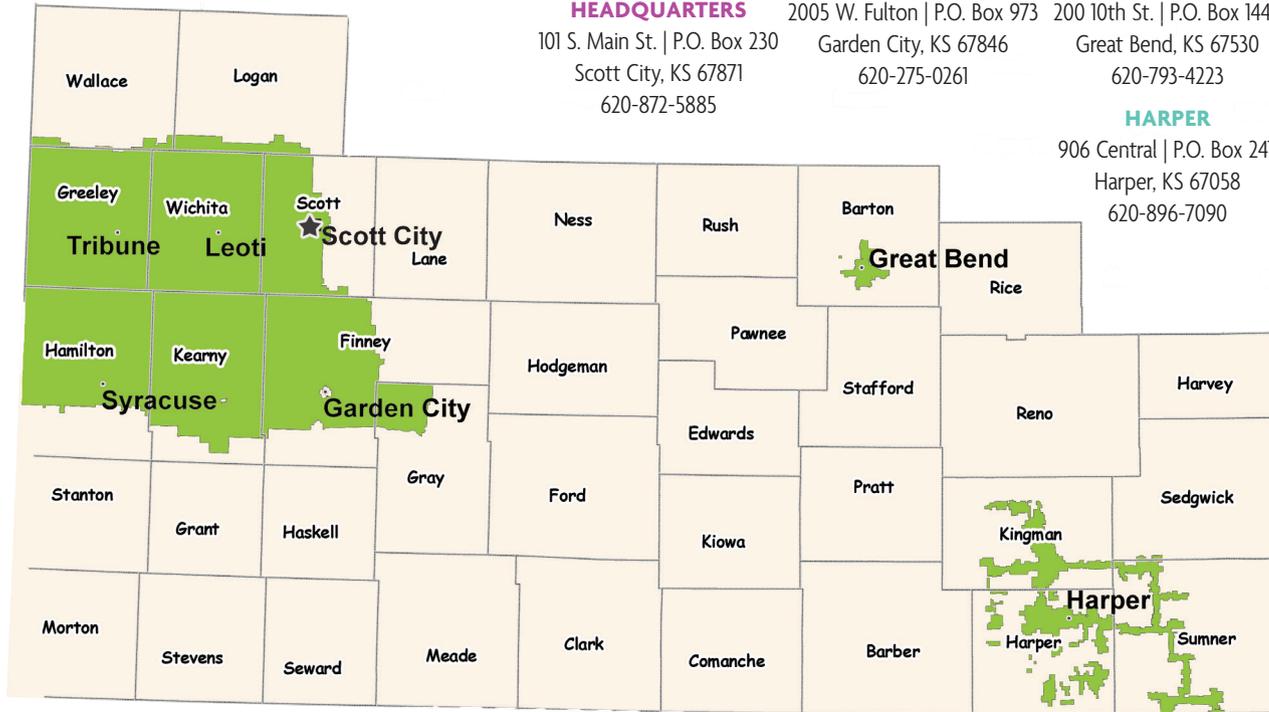


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7 Co-op Principles

- 1 Voluntary & Open Membership
- 2 Democratic Member Control
- 3 Members' Economic Participation
- 4 Autonomy & Independence
- 5 Education, Training & Information
- 6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- 7 Concern for Community

Our Mission

Delivering Energy for Life

Our Vision

Wheatland Electric Cooperative will provide essential services that are safe, reliable, and competitively priced to enhance the lives of our members.