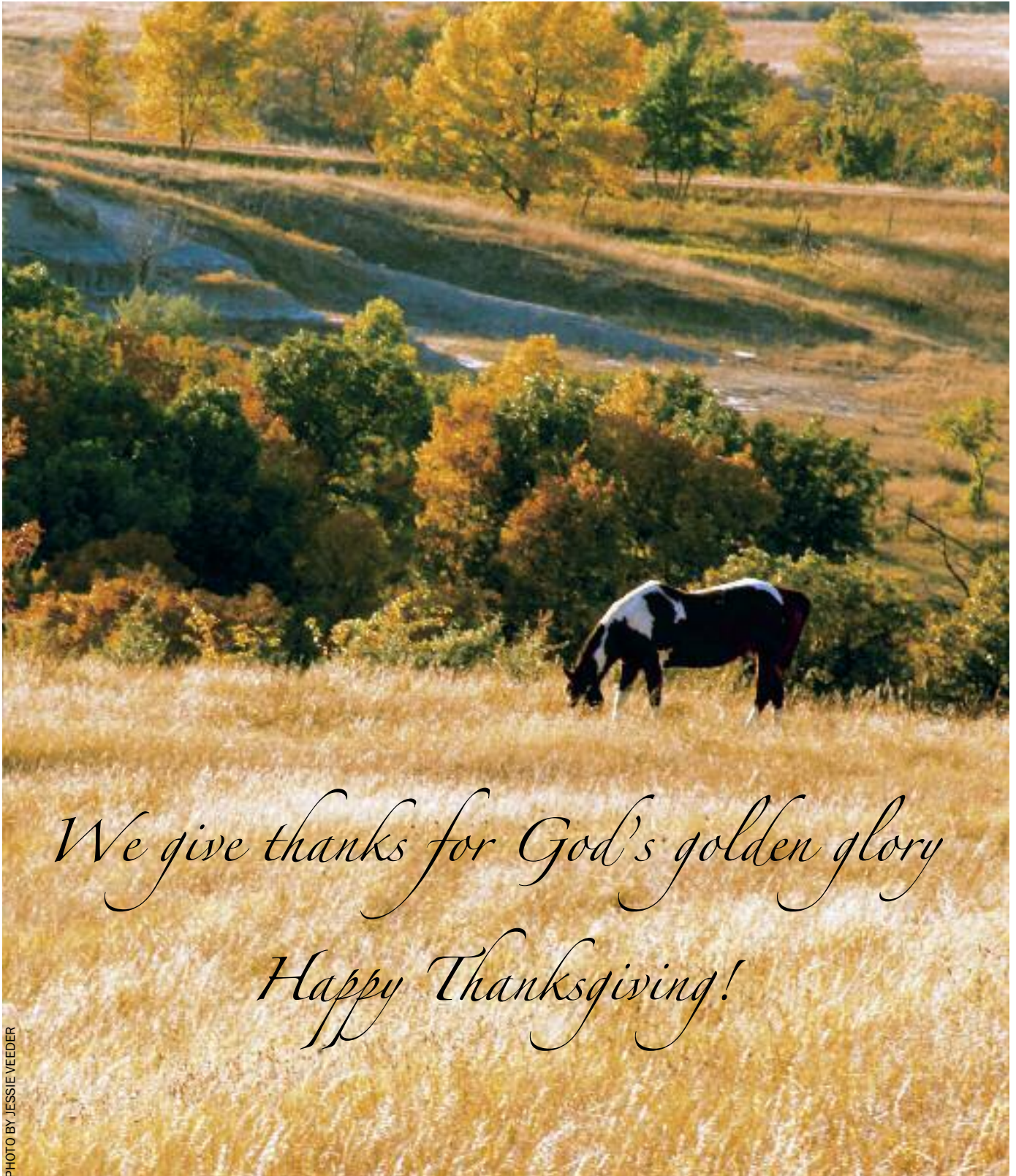




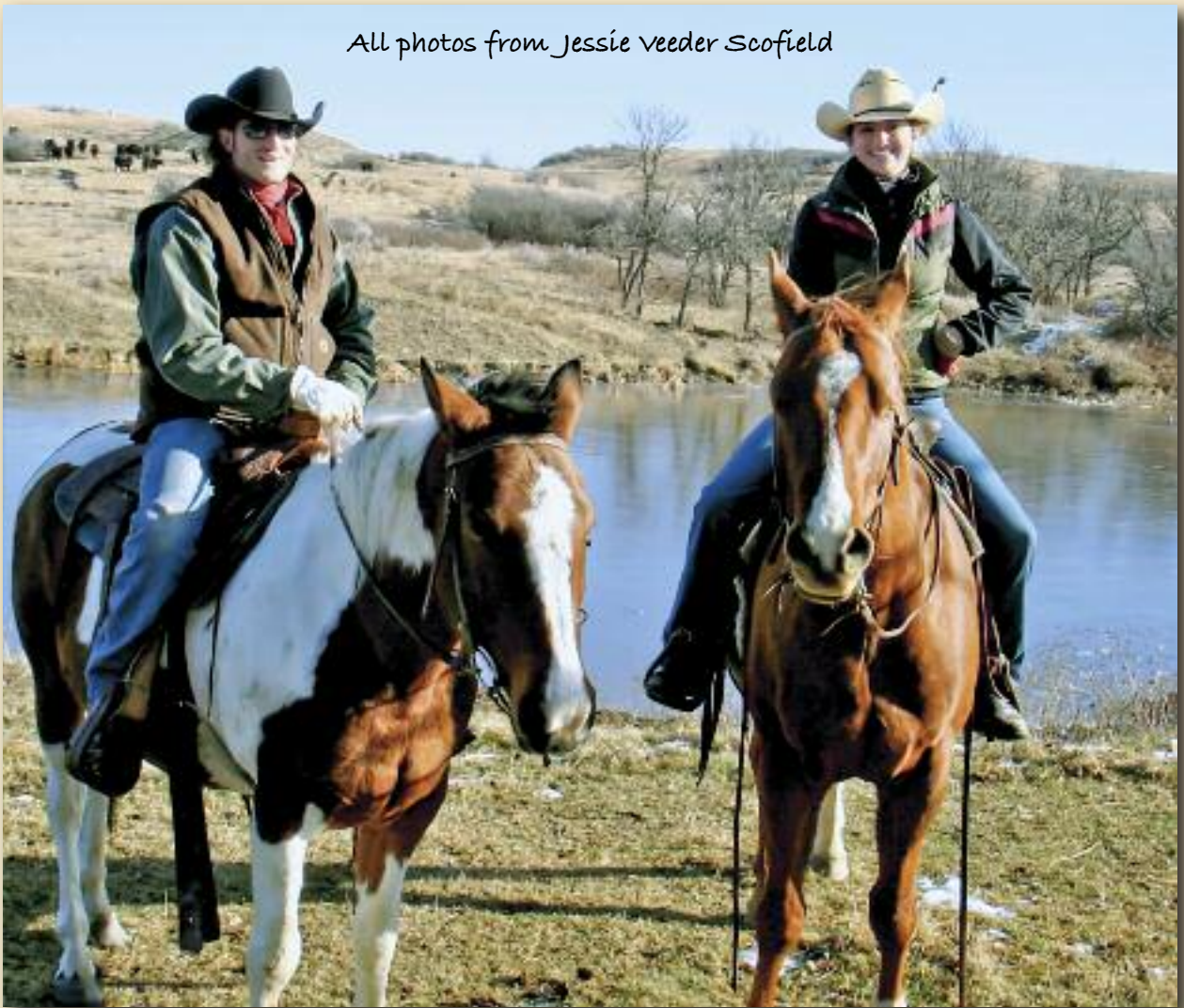
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*We give thanks for God's golden glory
Happy Thanksgiving!*

PHOTO BY JESSIE VEEDER

All photos from Jessie Veeder Scofield



Jessie and Chad Scofield returned to the Veeder Ranch in June 2010.

A picture is worth a thousand words at least

Christmas is just around the corner! And if you're thinking about finding the right presents, we are happy to help our members with a chance to find some great gifts from the Badlands.

Jessie Veeder Scofield and Megan Pennington will be displaying their photographs and unique western North Dakota homemade gifts at the Long X visitor center Friday, Nov. 25, the day after Thanksgiving.

The display will be part of a Pride of Dakota sampling and tasting event. The Pride of Dakota section will begin at 4 p.m., while Jessie and Megan will have their work on display and for sale throughout the afternoon and evening. After the Parade of Lights, Jessie will showcase her better-known talent by singing at the visitor center.

Jessie Veeder Scofield has been drawing her inspiration for her creative and talented spirit from the beautiful

Badlands and prairies she calls home all her life - first in her music, then in her writing and now in her photography and jewelry.

Best known for her accomplishments as a singer/songwriter, Jessie began singing alongside her father, Gene Veeder, at the age of 10 and penning and performing original compositions by the age of 12. She released her first album, "This Road" at only 16 years old. With lyrics that swell with references to her life experiences growing up on a working cattle ranch, Jessie moved across the state to earn her communications degree at the University of North Dakota. While at college, she took some photography and graphic design classes as part of her communications major. But her heart was in music.

Jessie's fame spread beyond North Dakota and grabbed the attention of a booking agency in Nashville and she finished her college career as a touring musician performing

at college and coffee-houses across the country. During that time, Jessie released her second album, "A Place to Belong" and was signed to a local record label, Barking Dogs Records. Jessie also released a live album with her father's band, Lonesome Willie, in 2006.

After touring and promoting her music professionally for nearly five years, Jessie switched gears and worked in fund-raising and development for the University of Montana Foundation in Missoula, Mont., and then at Dickinson State University. But no matter where she was or what she was doing, Jessie continued to write and perform her music.

Jessie and her husband, Chad Scofield, moved back to the ranch where she grew up, 30 miles southeast of Watford City in June 2010. Jessie and Chad have a dream of opening a ranch vacation property where guests can enjoy horseback riding, hiking, biking, exploring nature trails, photography and of course, music.

To get the word out Jessie began chronicling her everyday experiences in her blog, "Meanwhile, back at the ranch...." In just a few short months, her writing and photography attracted local and international attention for her positive outlook and stories about the realities and humor of rural living.

After winning the North Dakota Governor's Photo Contest with a picture of her cowboy husband, Jessie used the prize money to buy a more professional camera. Jessie



Moving cattle at sunset.

gives credit to her older sister for teaching her how to focus on what makes a picture special.

"I learned by watching Lindsay and emulating her," Jessie said. And more people began to ask for her pictures. Jessie responded by having her husband, Chad, build frames from old barn wood. She

has recently begun making jewelry using her photos and bits of nature. "This is another way to display and enjoy the beauty we live with out here every day," she said.

Jessie's blog has led her to become a regular commentator for Prairie Public Radio as well as leading photography and writing workshops. She and Chad are busy building a new home this winter and have plans for renovating Jessie's grandmother's home, where they have been living, for guests coming this next summer. Jessie also works as a consultant for the Small Business Development Center and as a project coordinator for McKenzie County.

No matter how busy Jessie finds her life, she always finds time to see and appreciate the beauty of her home in western North Dakota. She continues to share that love through her jewelry, photos, writing, and singing with everyone she meets.

If you can't make it into the Long X Visitor Center to see Jessie's work in person, contact her at www.veeder-ranch.com or shop at www.etsy.com/shop/veederranch



Jewelry is available in a variety of sizes and shapes and features original photography from the veeder ranch.



Jessie singing with her dad, Gene veeder.

More photos on next page

Photo gallery of Jessie veeder Scofield



Winter horses.



The tiger lilies, Jessie's favorite flower, were found on the veeder ranch last summer.



This solid oak frame is hand adorned with birch bark from the beautiful trees of the the veeder ranch in western North Dakota. This repurposed frame has been given new life with the organic and unique colors and textures of the bark. Each piece of bark has been hand-picked, placed and thoughtfully secured to this frame.



Above: This print of the North Dakota badlands in the early spring is printed on cotton canvas, and stretched over a strong antiwarping wooden frame.



This eight- by 10-inch metallic print of a wild sunflower against the backdrop of a blue sky is showcased in a unique and rustic frame handmade from barn wood found on the nearly 100-year-old ranch.



Right: "Oil derrick" is also available in a stretched canvas print.



Fall is filled with beauty, but...



As Thanksgiving approaches, I am truly thankful for so many things – family, friends, freedom and the wonderful world around us. God has created an amazing world for us. I look around at nature in all the seasons and I see so much to appreciate. There is so much diversity in nature, and in that diversity, there is such great beauty. But it is in the fall that nature demands our full attention.

The trees dress themselves in their most brilliant finery. The sky wears the deepest hue of blue to serve as an appropriate background for the riot of golds, reds and browns. Nature insists that we take notice and stop in our tracks to appreciate the wonder and the glory.

I'll admit that there are parts of nature that I'd rather appreciate from a distance. In the spring, there is nothing cuter than newborn calves wobbling around on unsteady legs. And the devoted attention the great lumbering cows give lends them an endearing quality. This, of course, is unless you have to be the diversion for the cow while your rancher husband tags the calf. The whole scene loses its charm when it becomes an action movie.

I know many of the creatures we call varmints have a purpose, but when the dog corners a skunk in the culvert directly upwind from the house and refuses to quit annoying it, it is hard to remember that skunks kill mice. It is even harder to remember how cute Flower was in the story of Bambi. Animated skunks may be cuddly and sweet. Live skunks who come equipped with spray simply stink.

But it is in the fall that the creature that puzzles me the most makes its appearance. I can understand a mother cow trying to trample me to protect her young. I understand why God gave them that instinct. I can even understand the skunk's need to fend off an enemy. But I don't understand the rea-

son for box elder bugs.

I think of myself as having a reasonably strong faith. I don't question the lack of rain or the excess of rain or the wind blowing when I want a quiet day and it not blowing when I need a breeze. I don't expect God to order the universe just for my needs and wants. I understand there are creatures that make me jump and squeal, like moths that have a purpose in God's great picture. But what is the good of a box elder bug?

They don't seem to pollinate anything. They only arrive late in the fall when all the leaves are falling. They don't even serve as food. By the time they show up, all the birds have headed south. Their only purpose seems to fly aimlessly into doors, windows and people.

Maybe they are magical. They seem to be able to crawl through solid glass and wood. They thrive on all types of bug spray and they live forever. I have seen box elder bugs crawling around the walls and windows, both inside and out, on a sunny day in late February.

I don't know why these relatively harmless creatures bring out the worst in me. They don't appear to eat anything. Unlike mice and flies, they don't leave their little trails behind them. But they are still the greatest annoyance in the world. I beg Ron to spray layer after layer of insecticide on the south side of the house.

They come in droves. If they are dying from the spray, they must be dying happily and spreading the word.

Frankly, box elder bugs bug me! I've faced snakes in the house and not insisted that we move to a new location. I've had a bat keep me out of my bedroom by hanging on the wall over the door one night when Ron was gone. I don't have nightmares over that. I've thrown out more full mousetraps than I care to remember without a quiver, but I still get the willies when I remember unrolling the woven wooden blinds on

the south-facing patio doors and discovering clusters of hundreds of box elder bugs hiding there. The blinds were taken down, but I still approach that door with the memory.

Box elder bugs don't bite or sting. They just blunder blindly into any and all objects, usually me. And then they don't have the good sense to scurry, scuttle or fly away when they do land on you. Even worse, they land everywhere. I have found them in the melted wax of a candle, floating in my coffee cup and even awoken to them sauntering across my face.

On a good box elder year, there are only a few of the bugs and they quickly disappear. On a horrible year, they blanket the south side of the house and ooze into each and every room. They finally disappear when the weather turns cold for good, only to re-emerge on any and all warm and sunny days.

The only way to handle box elder bugs on that type of year is to give in and try to live together. Sooner or later, they will blunder into the fireplace or down the sink and take care of themselves. The ones that are left can be sprayed with glitter to act as moving ornaments at Christmas time.

But if the only part of God's creation that can drive me up the wall is the relatively harmless box elder bug, I guess I have nothing to complain about. At least they only come once a year, even if they do stay for several months. After awhile, you just get used to them.

Maybe that's why they are here on earth – just to remind us that God has a sense of humor. He can create the most awe-inspiring sunrises and the most fearsome lightning storms, and yet he can also take time to create the goofy clown of the insect world. This stumbling, stumbling red and black bug maybe is just that a joke on us. I guess I'll just laugh at them from now on. Nothing else works!

We are introducing a new feature in McKenzie Memos this month. Everybody loves a new or even a traditional recipe, so we are asking you to share your recipes with us. Each month, we'll feature a couple of recipes from you, our members. Please include a picture with the recipe if you wish. This month, we are celebrating Thanksgiving with a couple of recipes we hope you will enjoy!

The following recipes were taken from the McKenzie Electric cookbook, "Recipes That Light Up Your Kitchen," printed in 1995.

Send us your recipe!

Have a favorite recipe? Why not share it? Recipes chosen will be published with the member's name and city location.

To submit your recipe, e-mail to brendab@mckenzieelectric.com or mail to: McKenzie Electric Cooperative, ATTN: Brenda Berquist, P.O. Box 649, Watford City, ND 58854

Cranberry Salad

submitted by Myra Anderson

- 1 bag cranberries
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 can crushed pineapple
- 1 lb. marshmallows
- 1 cup whipping cream

Grind the cranberries and add sugar. Drain the pineapple and add fruit to cranberries and sugar. Stir. Melt marshmallows and stir then into the mixture. Whip cream and stir into the rest. Pour into a bowl and chill to set. This salad doesn't work in a mold.

PUMPKIN DESSERT

submitted by Julie Wisness

- 2-1/4 cup graham crackers
- 3/8 cup sugar
- 2-3/8 cup melted butter
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. cloves
- 2-1/4 cup pumpkin
- 1/4 tsp. ginger
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 quart vanilla ice cream

Mix together crackers, sugar and butter. Pat in a 9- by 13-inch cake pan. Add remaining ingredients together and fold in 1 quart softened vanilla ice cream. Pour over crust, then freeze.

NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR

High School Juniors and Seniors...

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

JUNE 16 to 22,
2012

And an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

- ▶ To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a junior or senior in high school in the fall of 2012.
- ▶ You and your parents or guardian must be served by McKenzie Electric Cooperative.
- ▶ Essay is not to exceed two standard 8½- by 11-inch typewritten, double-spaced pages on this topic: **What would your day be like without electricity?**
- ▶ Submit your essay in hard copy or electronic format to McKenzie Electric. Electronic submissions should conform to the two-page, double-spaced guideline described above. Include a cover page with your name, date of birth, school and grade in 2012, parent or guardian's name, address and telephone number.
- ▶ The deadline is **January 30, 2012**. E-mailed entries should be directed to Brenda Berquist at brendab@mckenzieelectric.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, McKenzie Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 649, Watford City, ND 58854-0649.
- ▶ If you have a question, contact Brenda Berquist, McKenzie Electric, at the address listed above, or call (701) 444-9288 during regular business hours.



TOP 3 REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of McKenzie Electric Cooperative.
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MCKENZIE ELECTRIC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board report

Sept. 28, 2011

The regular meeting of the McKenzie Electric Board of Directors was held at the Headquarters Building in Watford City, North Dakota. Directors present were: Ray Tescher Donald Link, Travis Thompson, Rondee Hanna, Dennis Johnson, Tim Wasem, Clayton Mosen, Glenn Aamodt and Glen Houghton. Also present were Cooperative General Manager/CEO John Skurupey, Cooperative Attorney Dennis Edward Johnson and several staff members.

PRELIMINARIES. The agenda for the meeting was approved by the board of directors. Minutes of the previous board meeting and minutes of the Reorganizational Meeting were approved. The Board approved director expenses as submitted.

POWER SUPPLY REPORTS. Attendance at the upcoming Basin Electric annual meeting was discussed. The Basin Electric video report was viewed by the Directors. Director Travis Thompson reported on the recent Upper Missouri G&T board meeting. Several issues were discussed in regard to Upper Missouri including policy issues, wind generation and the cost of service rate.

ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS. Director Donald Link gave a brief report on events that are occurring at Statewide. Chairperson Ray Tescher and Director Glen Houghton reported on the recent NRECA Region VI meeting they attended. The board selected Clayton Mosen as delegate and Travis Thompson as alternate delegate to the Midwest Annual Meeting.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT. Attorney Johnson gave a progress report on the title examination work he is conducting. Disconnection issues were also discussed.

COST OF SERVICE STUDY & RATE REVIEW. Kirk Dewey, HDR Engineers Inc., reviewed with the board the results of the recent cost of service study. There was a review of each rate class in regards to the costs to serve and the revenue received from individual rate classes. Recommendations from Mr. Dewey were considered along with rate comparisons of traditional loads from other utilities. One issue in regards to the cost to serve is the wholesale power increase from Basin Electric to McKenzie Electric that begins October 1, 2011. After considerable discussion and deliberation, the board approved revisions to Policy 100 that include rate adjustments as recommended in the cost of service study.

OFFICE REPORT. Financial and statistical reports for August were reviewed with the board along with the comparison of actual-to-budget expenses. Sales of electricity are continuing to increase as new loads are connected. The board approved special capital credit retirements.

ENGINEERING REPORT. The Engineering Department Report was reviewed by the Board. Requests for new power continue to come into McKenzie Electric at a staggering rate. Demonstrations of "StakeOut" software have been held and the software appears to meet the requirements sought after by the staking engineers.

OPERATIONS REPORT. The Operations Department Report was reviewed. An update on projects currently being built by contractors was given: Oster Brothers Construction is building line in the Killdeer Mountain and Little Knife areas; 4T Construction has been working in the Watford City, Alexander and Arnegard areas; Badlands Electric has been installing underground power line in the Watford City and Alexander areas; Aevenia is constructing the Blue Buttes to Moccasin Creek transmission line; Hamlin Construction is constructing the Mountain to Figure 4 transmission line; Probst Electric is working on the transmission line from Swenson to Blue Buttes. MEC crews continue with outages, maintenance, service upgrades, man camps, camper spots and new single family housing. Garden Creek/Fancy Buttes and Swenson Substations have been energized. MEC has experienced two outages from WAPA on the transmission system; however, MEC has been able to backfeed power from other directions to minimize the outage time for consumers.

MEMBER SERVICE REPORT. The written Member Services report was reviewed by the board. RTC and MEC teamed up for Co-op Month again this year with a free soup and sandwich dinner on Wednesday, October 5. The 2012 Youth Tour Essay contest will be promoted during October/November/December; students submitting an essay will answer the following question: "What would your day be like without electricity?"

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO REPORT. General Manager/CEO John Skurupey reported the Upper Missouri Managers group will be reviewing Upper Missouri's proposed 2012 rates/cost of service. Due to the fact that the easement issues have been resolved with Tribal officials, MEC will be contracting services for right-of-way and line staking for the main lines that will be constructed on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

NEXT MEETING DATE. The next meeting date was set for October 26, 2011, at the Watford City Headquarters building.

ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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- Ray Tescher, Chairperson
 - Director, District 3A, Beach565-2342
- Donald Link, Vice Chairperson
 - NRECA Director, Statewide Director
 - Director, District 2A, Alexander828-3427
 - Rondee Hanna, Sec.-Treas.
 - Director, District 2C, Watford City675-2516
 - Travis Thompson, Director-At-Large
 - Director, District 1C, Charlson675-2373
 - Upper Missouri G&T Director
 - Glenn Aamodt
 - Director, District 1A, Alexander572-3066
 - Dennis Johnson, Alternate Statewide Director
 - Director, District 1B, Watford City842-2055
 - Clayton Mosen
 - Director, District 2B Arnegard586-3336
 - Glen Houghton
 - Director, District 3B, Grassy Butte863-6606
 - Tim Wasem,
 - Director, District 3C, Halliday938-4376

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John Skurupey
(701) 842-4848



MEMBER SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

Brenda Berquist, Member Services
Coordinator444-4033
Myra Anderson, Contributing Editor675-2267



**MEC will be closed Nov. 11
and Nov. 24 in observance of
Veterans Day and
Thanksgiving.**



Tescher



Link



Hanna



Thompson



Aamodt



Johnson



Mosen



Houghton



Wasem