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Rural HIGHLIGHTS

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GobNob wind turbine dedicated

RECC's GobNob wind turbine was praised by Governor Pat Quinn as a needed source of clean, American-made energy at a dedication ceremony on April 20. The Governor was one of several special guests on hand, with plenty of media and co-op members who gathered to watch the proceedings.

Gov. Quinn introduced representatives of the many organizations that helped make the project possible, from providing funding to the location of the turbine itself.

"This is the first wind turbine in Illinois on public land, and we need more of this," he said of the former coal mine waste pile that's now owned by the Department of Natural Resources. The land, once known as the Crown I coal mine, is now part of Sangchris Lake State Park.

DNR Director Marc Miller acknowledged the praise from the governor, and credited Deputy Director Leslie Sgro for being an early proponent of using the coal mine site. She worked with Carolyn Brown Hodge, in the office of then-Lt. Gov. Quinn to get the approvals for this innovative approach. Carolyn is now the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff.

In his speech, Gov. Quinn said "the rural electric co-ops and the people that comprise them deserve a lot of credit, because they can see here, in the 21st century, the importance of renewable



Co-op and state officials cheer after cutting the ceremonial ribbon at Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative's GobNob wind turbine Dedication on April 20. From left are Marc Miller, Director of the Department of Natural Resources; Jimmy Ayers, RECC Board Chairman; David Stuva, RECC President/CEO; Senator Deanna Demuzio of Carlinville; Governor Pat Quinn; and Representative Betsy Hannig of Litchfield.

energy, to be good stewards of God's earth." Gesturing to the tower looming behind him, he said "You're looking at the wave of the future, and the folks in the rural electric co-op should take pride that you're in the forefront of this excellent movement."

State Senator Deanna Demuzio and Representative Betsy Hannig, who represent the Farmersville area, also congratulated RECC for its accomplishment in getting the wind

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Dana Smith, *editor*



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Board report

Regular Board meeting March 23, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative Co. was held at the IMEA headquarters in Springfield at 6 p.m. on March 23, with all members present. Also present were President/CEO David Stuva; Manager of Office Services Dean Fuchs; Director of Member and Public Relations, Dana Smith; Manager of Operations and Maintenance, Lou DeLaby; Field Engineer/Purchasing Agent, Martin Hinton; Administrative & IT Specialist, Sandy Lex; and Attorney Jerry Tice.

* The minutes of the Feb. 23 regular board meeting were approved as presented.

* CEO Stuva introduced Drew Davis and Kelly Shores of Davis Financial Group. Drew Davis presented an update on health care insurance coverage in general and the status of the Medicare Advantage Program previously proposed for RECC members.

* CEO Stuva and Martin Hinton presented an update on the startup process at the GobNob wind turbine, which is producing electricity. An Open House is planned in April.

* CEO Stuva and Dana Smith reported on a presentation they attended on broadband-over-powerline (BPL) Internet systems, and one firm's proposal to request federal stimulus money to install BPL equipment on co-ops' systems. Pilot programs are still ongoing at a few co-ops in other states, and problems are still being worked out, Stuva noted.

* There was no IMEA report, as there was no IMEA board meeting since the last RECC board meeting

* Chairman Ayers presented the AIEC report. He reviewed the executive summary of the March 2009 AIEC board meeting.

* The attorney's report was given by Attorney Tice.

* Attorney Tice reviewed the nominating committee meeting held March 5.

President/CEO's Report

CEO Stuva reviewed the following reports which had either been mailed or distributed to all directors and attorney: Member and Public Relations, Job Training and Safety, Meters and Outages, Operations and Maintenance, Engineering and Construction, Cash Disbursements Summary, and Check Listing. The board accepted the reports. Financial and statistical reports for February 2009 were reviewed and accepted.

CEO Stuva also:

* Reviewed the tornado and windstorm damage that occurred on March 8, in the Loami and Kincaid-Taylorville areas.

* Reviewed a proposed survey to be sent to members as a billing insert, regarding global warming and legislative debate in Washington, D.C.

* Reviewed plans for upcoming meetings.

Board Action

The board acted on the following:

* Approved the application for, or reinstatement of, membership and electric service for 11 persons.

* Voted not to pursue installation of broadband-over power line equipment on the cooperative's distribution facilities at this time.

* Approved the final annual financial report for 2008 to USDA/RDUP.

* Approved a Resolution to amend the RDUP loan application for the Construction Work Plan, from a hardship loan to guaranteed FFB loan.

* Approved the renewal of the co-op's dental and medical insurance coverage policies for employees.

* Gave formal approval to the franchise signing on Feb. 5 with the City of Taylorville.

* Agreed to send Attorney Kevin Tippey to the NRECA Legal Seminar in June.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

GobNob dedication (cont.)

project built. “Who would have thought that you could take a gob pile, and have a dedication with a wind turbine?” asked Sen. Demuzio.

Of course, funding was vital to making the project happen, and several agencies provided help in this area. Jonathan Feipel represented the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, which provided a \$225,000 grant for the project, and Molly Hammond spoke for the USDA Rural Development program, which paid a grant of \$375,000. The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation contributed \$150,000, and foundation president Phil Novak added his congratulations to the co-op.

The remaining \$1.2 million of the project cost was financed at zero-interest, through the Clean Renewable Energy Bonds program. The loan was written through CoBank, and their Vice President of Electric Distribution, Seth Hart, was encouraged by the Governor to “keep the capital flowing” to renewable energy projects.

The 900-Kilowatt turbine churned in the gusting wind as the ceremonial ribbon was cut by the Governor and assembled officials. The ceremony was held at the bottom of the hill, looking up at the spinning turbine, due to the muddy ground around the tower itself. After the formalities ended, visitors were shuttled to the top of the hill for a closer look at the huge structure. The generator was near full capacity in the strong winds. The turbine has already produced over 370,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity, according to RECC President/CEO David Stuva. The turbine is expected to produce about 2.5 million kilowatt-hours annually, averaging about 33 percent of its maximum capacity.

Open House held April 25



About 650 visitors came to see the GobNob wind turbine at an Open House on April 25. Director David White, who lives just three miles from the turbine site, gave an introduction to the project as people waited in line. Employee Martin Hinton spent the day inside the turbine tower, explaining the control system that operates the turbine and generator automatically.



RECC provided shuttle vans from the bottom of the hill to the top, but many people chose to take the scenic route on foot. The reclaimed “gob pile,” owned by the Department of Natural Resources, provides cover for small game and deer.

“Our members have voiced great support for this renewable energy project,” said Stuva. “We want to do our part to promote the technology and show that wind power can work in this part of the state, even though it provides just a small part

of our energy needs. Every bit is important, though, and the GobNob turbine will continue to benefit our members and the entire state for many years to come.”

Rural Electric Youth Day at State Capitol

Part of the goal of the Rural Electric/Rural Telephone Cooperative Youth Day is to show high school students how our government works. This year's event, held on April 1, was a perfect opportunity to see legislators in action, as students were able to watch from the galleries while the Illinois Senate debated and voted on several bills.

RECC's group of four students was able to meet with Representative Jim Watson from Jacksonville, who talked about the important budget decisions that the legislators must make this spring. He reminded the young people that today's decisions would affect them for many years with the debts that must be repaid by the state.

The RECC students attending the 2009 Youth Day were Julie Dennis of Modesto, Elizabeth Edwards of Loami, Anne Moose of Auburn, and Aaron Mulvey of Rochester.

The Youth Day program started with breakfast at the Prairie Capital Convention Center. After visiting the Capitol the students returned for lunch and fun co-op activities, and then walked to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and the Old State Capitol. Both of these popular attractions are tributes to our 16th president, whose 200th birthday is being celebrated this year.



Representative Jim Watson met with students representing RECC during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, April 1, in Springfield. Front row from left are: Aaron Mulvey of Rochester, Anne Moose of Auburn, Julie Dennis of Modesto, and Elizabeth Edwards of Loami. In back are Dana Smith, Director of Member and Public Relations for RECC, and Rep. Watson.

After the day's tours, individual interviews were held to select two winners for the Youth To Washington trip in June. The Illinois participants will travel by bus from Springfield in one of the best-recognized youth programs in the nation's capital.

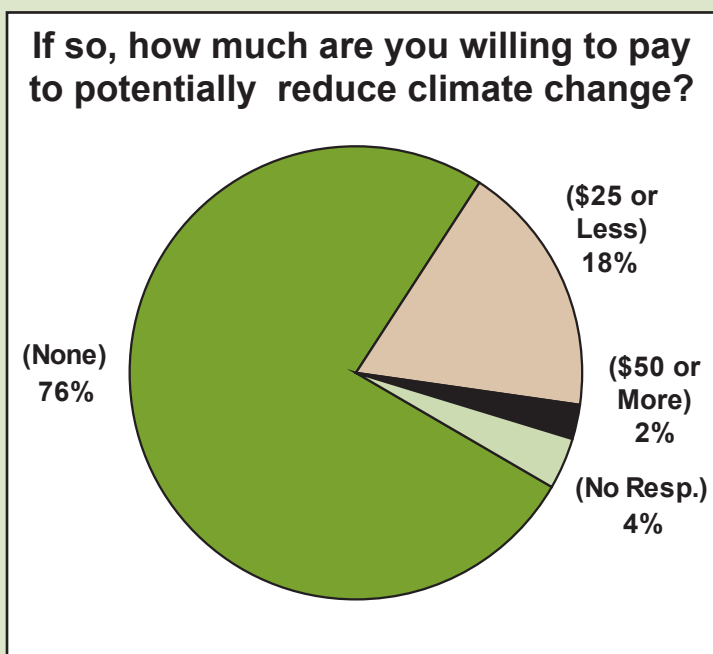
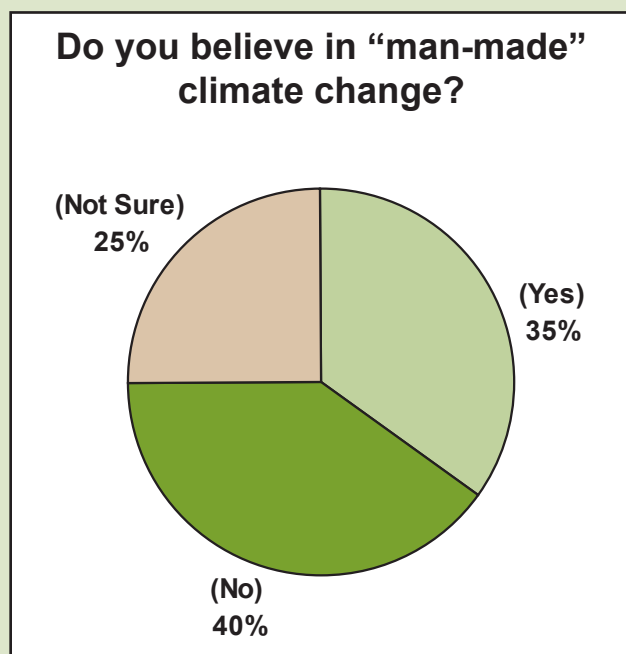
Selected to represent RECC on the Washington trip were Anne Moose and Aaron Mulvey. Watch the Rural Highlights for news on their trip this summer!



**Our office will be closed, Monday, May 25,
for Memorial Day.**

Thanks for your opinion!

Member survey on climate change draws 1,001 responses



Last month’s billing statements included a Member Survey asking your opinion on the “global warming” issue and potential costs to reduce emissions that may affect the climate. We had a very good response of 1,001 surveys returned, with some interesting results.

Some of the legislative proposals under consideration in Washington put at risk the current system that gives nearly every American access to dependable electricity. While our demand for electricity is increasing, some legislative leaders want to make it more difficult to use our most abundant, affordable fuel – coal. **IF** we can mine and burn the coal within our borders, they would add carbon taxes or place arbitrary, unrealistic emissions targets to drive up the cost of electricity.

Recent bills introduced in Congress would set up a “cap and trade” system to force reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. These programs would add anywhere from 1 to 10 cents per kwh to consumers’ electric bills (for a typical 1,000

kWh consumption level). The increases would hit hardest in the Midwest, which relies heavily on coal for electric power production.

Our survey first asked, “Do you believe in “man made” climate change?” The results were varied, with 348 members answering “yes,” 398 saying “no,” and 251 who were “not sure.” On a scale of 1(low) to 10 (high), the level of concern with climate change issues averaged 6.

In the important issue of cost of reducing emissions, a big majority of 759 members said the extra cost they were willing to pay was “none.” There were 182 members willing to pay up to an extra \$25/month, 16 said up to \$50/month, and 8 said \$100 or more.

These results were shared with Illinois Congressmen at the NRECA Legislative Conference May 4-6, where co-op leaders pointed out that significant reductions in carbon emissions over the long term will not happen without the same kind of massive – and expensive – investment in

research and development that got Americans to the moon in 1969. So far, that kind of investment is not included in the climate legislation. You’ll be hearing more about the legislative proposals at the RECC Annual Meeting on June 11, and we need your help in making sure Congress strikes a balance in their efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

Survey Drawing Winners

Ten members who completed surveys by April 30 were drawn for a \$25 credit on their next electric bill. The ten winners were: **Mary Burris** (Loami); **Herman Goetsch** (Farmersville); **Michael Hemberger** (Auburn); **Donnie Peden** (Edinburg); **Scott Shoup** (Rochester); **Bruce Shutt** (Glenarm); **Tom Sloman** (Morrisonville); **Phil Southwick** (Pawnee); **James Turner** (Girard); and **Grace Wisniewski** (Chatham).

News & Notes

The first electric company

Next month will mark the 130th anniversary of the first electric company organized to produce and sell electricity. George H. Roe incorporated the California Electric Light Company on June 30, 1879 in San Francisco. For a fee of \$10 per lamp per week, customers were promised service from sunset to midnight, excluding Sundays and holidays. In 1888, the company – which by then was providing most of San Francisco's electric lights – opened a generating plant at 178 Townsend Street. That brick building still stands in San Francisco today!

Worn drive belts cost money

A worn-down drive belt on a ventilation fan (or other motor-driven equipment) can go unnoticed for months, and cause wasted electricity. The problem occurs slowly as friction wears the rubber away on v-belts. Soon the belt starts to slip. As slippage continues, the belt-driven equipment will turn at a slower speed than the motor shaft.

The best example is a ventilation fan, found not only in livestock barns, but also greenhouses, industrial buildings, warehouses and other commercial structures. Slipping fan belts are easily overlooked, because at a glance the blades are turning, so the operator assumes everything is all right. But a belt that is worn causes slippage on the fan shaft, so it's turning at a slower speed than the motor shaft. This slower blade speed means lower output of air from the fan, even though the motor is consuming the same amount of energy.

John Shimkus visits GobNob

U.S. Representative John Shimkus, from Collinsville, got a close-up look at the co-op's GobNob wind turbine that most folks won't see. He came to Farmersville on April 14, and was allowed to climb the 230-foot tower to the inside of the generator hub. He was assisted by RECC lineman Tim Hemberger (right in photo), who was trained by manufacturing company technicians to help maintain the generating system. Rep Shimkus was instrumental in helping RECC get the USDA grant for \$375,000 that helped get the project started.



Sandy Lex completes training

Sandy Lex, Administrative Assistant/IT Specialist at RECC, attended the New Communicator Orientation class in March at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). About 50 co-op representatives from across the country gathered in Washington, D.C. to learn about the cooperative system, electric industry issues and communications challenges with today's rural electric membership. One of the co-op leaders addressing the group was Glenn English (pictured with Sandy), CEO of the NRECA.



MEMBER RESPONSE PAGE

Please send me information on services from RECC:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peak Switch | <input type="checkbox"/> New Home Energy Guidelines | <input type="checkbox"/> Marathon Lifetime-Warranty Water Heaters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dual Meter Heating Rate | <input type="checkbox"/> Surge Suppressor Lease | <input type="checkbox"/> Long Distance Saving Rates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Security Light Rental | <input type="checkbox"/> Co-op Power Plus™ Visa | <input type="checkbox"/> AT&T Wireless Cellular Phone Savings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Convectair Heaters | <input type="checkbox"/> DTN Wireless Internet | |

Electric heating equipment rebates

An electric heat rebate form must be completed. Minimum system sizes apply.

- Geothermal System – \$500/home
- Air Source Heat Pumps – \$500/home (with electric back-up)
- Air Source Heat Pumps – \$200/home (with gas back-up)

Electric equipment rebate request

Please include a copy of your sales receipt for your new electric equipment, purchased and installed within the past 12 months.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothes Dryer, Electric Replacement – \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Heater, Standard Warranty – \$200 (less than 10-yr warranty) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothes Dryer, New Home or Gas Conversion – \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Heater, Life-long Warranty – \$250 (10-yr or longer warranty) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Range, Electric Replacement – \$25 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Range, New Home or Gas Conversion – \$25 | |
| | This water heater is for: <input type="checkbox"/> New Home |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Gas Conversion |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Electric Replacement |

Member Name _____ Account No. _____

Mailing Address _____

Town _____ Phone _____

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