

# Connect to MEC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## 77th Annual Meeting Saturday, June 7th

### Want to be a director?

#### *Nominating petitions due soon for Board of Directors*

**P**etitions are available now at the office for directors in districts 3, 7 and 8 on the Board of Directors of Menard Electric Cooperative.

Petitions must be signed by no less than 10 members and must be submitted to the co-op's office by 4:30 p.m. on April 23.

One co-op member will be elected from each district to serve a three-year term. Seeking re-election are incumbent directors Jodine Tate of Virginia, District 3; Michael Patrick of New Holland, District 7; and Warren Goetsch of Williamsville, District 8.

#### *A good director must:*

- Receive electric service from the co-op at their primary residence within the district, be a member in good standing, and not have conflicting business interests. (They pay the same rates for service and follow the same policies as all other members.)
- Be able to spend adequate time

on board work and attend most regular board meetings held the fourth Tuesday evening of each month for several hours at the co-op office.

- Attend our annual meeting each year and other special board meetings, committee meetings, director's conferences and educational seminars as necessary.
- Be accessible to members within the district and willing to represent all members of the co-op.
- Acquire knowledge about the electric utility including finances, management and public issues. (It takes time to learn the system and for that reason our directors have made long-term commitments to serving the co-op.)
- Establish policies and employ a General Manager who is responsible for all operational details.

*Additional details can be found in our Bylaws.*



**Jodine Tate**  
Virginia  
District 3



**Michael Patrick**  
New Holland  
District 7



**Warren Goetsch**  
Williamsville  
District 8

# New tool shows you how you use electricity

**H**ow much electricity do you use when you're at work versus when you're home?

Did that recent drop in temperature make your usage go up?

How much power are the college kids using when they come home on the weekends?

The answers to these questions and more are now at your fingertips thanks to our new SmartHub application that allows you to check your monthly, daily or even hourly usage online at your convenience.

"We are really excited to offer our members this new feature. It's a great way to see how changes in your lifestyle or in the weather affect your energy usage. Gaining a better understanding over how daily habits affect usage can lead

members to make changes," says General Manager Lynn Frasco.

Readings are updated daily so you can check your usage while any lifestyle or weather changes are still fresh in your mind.

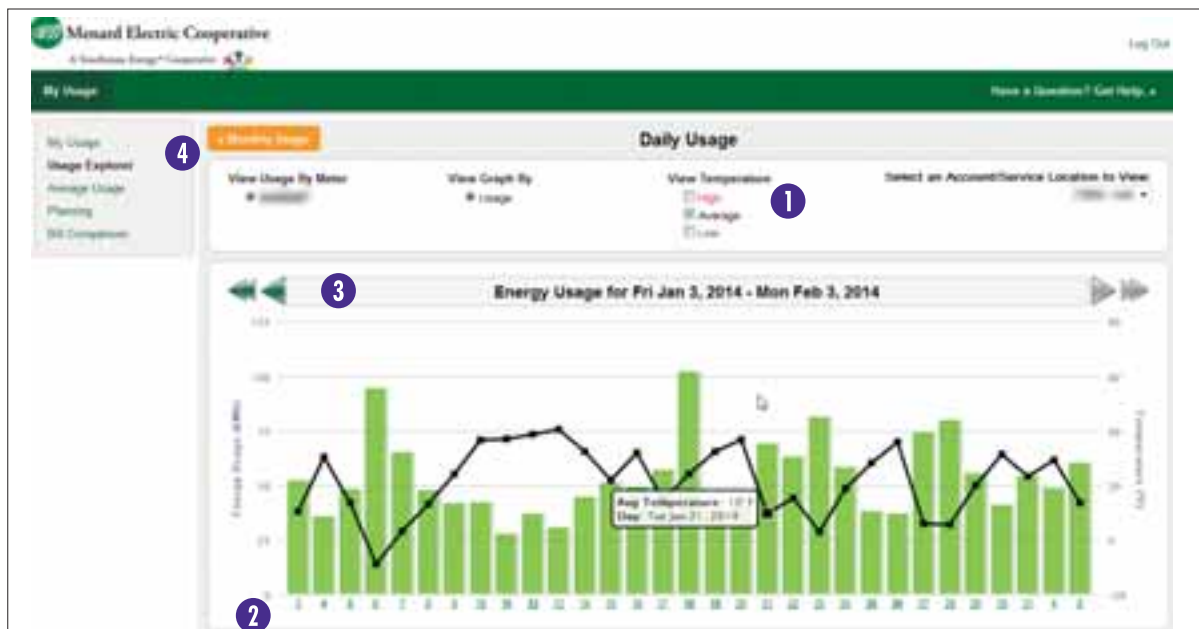
You can access this new information through our online bill pay portal. If you've already signed up for the online bill pay simply log on and click on Billing History (on the left side of the page), then select the blue SmartHub link on the right hand side of the screen next to the month you want to see. Once you're in the SmartHub program, you can click on the days of the month to see more details.

Haven't registered for online bill pay? It's easy to do. Visit our website at [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com). Click on Online Bill Pay.

Click on Register. You'll need your account number, which can be found on a recent bill, an email address, and the social security number associated with the account. You don't have to pay your bill online, but this portal will allow you to see the SmartHub information.

If you have any problems registering or in navigating the SmartHub information just give us a call at the office at 800-872-1203.

All this being said, we know not everyone likes the digital world; and as always, you can call in to the office to speak with someone about your electric usage.



1. Click here to see the high, low or average temperature readings for the month or day.
2. Click on the day to view hourly usage.
3. Click on these arrows to move ahead or back through months, days or hours.
4. Click here to move between Usage Explorer (shown here) to other features. Bill Comparison allows you to compare two months, such as last January to this January or December to January. Average Usage could give you an idea what day of the week or time of the day you typically use the most energy.

## How the water flows

At Menard Electric we provide a service that no one really thinks about beyond paying their bill once a month, unless of course you experience an outage. When you flip the switch and the lights don't come on—then you think about electricity and perhaps how it gets to your home.

Water is much the same way. You turn on the kitchen faucet and expect water that is safe to use to come pouring out. But many of our members on wells know what it's like for that faucet to be dry. And they've likely relied on some source of bulk water from a local city water plant. Other members are served directly by city water.

Here's a brief behind the scenes look at what happens to get water from the ground to the customer at the City of Petersburg's Water Treatment Plant, served by Menard Electric.

Water Superintendent Dave Troxell says the plant serves 1,800 customers an average of 350,000 gallons of water a day. One of those customers is the Menard Rural Water Department—serving its Atterberry and Oakford customers.

"We have two wells here by the plant that are 165 feet deep and have a pump at the bottom of each. They are on the Mahomet aquifer; this area is just at the tip of the aquifer," says Dave, who adds that during the recent drought they were able to provide bulk water and serve their customers without issue thanks to the wells' location. Since May 2012 they've sold over 6 million gallons of water from the bulk supply.

The water is pumped from the wells into the plant and into a large rock and

green sand filter. "This filtration takes most of the iron out," says Dave. "Then the water goes above our heads here and some goes to the zeolite water softener.

"When it comes out of the softener here it is at zero hardness. You can't use it that way because it will eat your pipes. Some of the filtered water remains in the pipe and we mix it with the softened water to come out where we need it to be."

The system is completely controlled from a touch screen computer system on the wall but the valves can all be opened by hand as well.

Next the water is treated. "We add chlorine and potassium and by law we have to add fluoride," says Dave. "The water is tested daily by us and then once a month samples are taken from eight separate locations and sent to the EPA lab. They check for things like radiation, inorganic and organic materials. The Department of Public Health checks the fluoride levels too."

The water then travels by pipe to one of the three water towers in town. "We have about 750,000 gallons in the air," Dave says. From the towers it goes by pipe to each customer.

The plant was built in 2007 and contains a lot of duplicity. There are two filters, two water softeners and two pumps for each chemical. The items all run simultaneously. Having two allows for the plant to remain operational even if one piece of equipment is down for maintenance or an unscheduled issue. The plant even has



*Water Superintendent Dave Troxell checks a gauge at one of the Petersburg Water Treatment Plant's filters, also shown below.*

a backup pipe system to the water towers that could be used.

Menard Electric aided the plant in receiving a grant of over \$25,000 from Geo Alliance in 2006 to help purchase the five geothermal heat pumps it uses. An office still bears the large cardboard check used in the presentation.

Four additional employees work for the water department and someone is working seven days a week. They are in the background keeping the water flowing so that each time a customer turns on the tap or pulls up to the bulk water, they receive the water they expect.



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# Board Meeting Report

For full minutes please visit our website at [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com) or contact our office.

Present were Manager Lynn Frasco, Manager of Accounting and Information Systems Chris Hinton, Attorney Charles Smith and Directors Gary Martin, Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Donald McMillan, Roy Seaney, Jodine Tate, and Steven Worner. Directors Jerry Brooks and Michael Patrick were absent.

2014 Financial Budget approved as presented by and after discussing with Frasco and Hinton.

Frasco and Hinton discussed the PPI 2013 Revenue Deferral Plan and Resolution was adopted.

Frasco presented review of irrigation systems and advised there were applications for 31 new systems, 10 of which were diesel conversions; the other 21 were new systems.

Frasco advised AIEC member survey was in the final stages of completion.

Approved Physical Inventory Adjustment for 2013, which was a positive \$1,438.09.

Frasco advised the fiber optic installation to the Co-op headquarters was in process.

Reviewed 2013 Worker's Compensation Summary; co-op had an excellent rating as a result of no claims.

Martin discussed the Prairie Power Inc. White Paper on proposed changes to participation credit and equity distribution.

Adopted revisions to Sick Leave Bonus Plan Section V as presented by Frasco.

Adopted changes to Surge Protection Program as Frasco presented.

November year to date margins were \$2,597,085 compared to \$1,450,955 a year earlier. Equity as of the end of November was 36.35% and the number of members served was 10,727 compared to 10,548 a year ago. Net Utility Plant at the end of November was \$41,154,684 compared to \$38,716,130 last year. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of the RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.

## Did you know?



An easy way to tell if a power outage to your home is caused by something on your home's side is to look at your meter. If you see numbers then the meter is receiving power from the co-op. No numbers indicates you're not receiving power and you need to call in the outage to us.

## Tip of the Month

Are you a spring cleaner? Add your dryer to your list to stay safe and increase efficiency—check for lint build up in the trap and inside the tube leading outdoors; also make sure the tube is straight and the flap outside closes correctly.