

HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

CONTENTS



Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



www.jocarroll.com

Growth through Beneficial Electrification

Growth is one of three strategic objectives your board has directed me with as a means to help stabilize rates. One way to achieve that for our electric division is to explore new ways to use electricity.

“Beneficial electrification” is an industry term that means advances in energy technologies that are creating new ways to use electricity in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs. New uses for electricity also enhance cooperative value to our members - another of your cooperative's strategic objectives.

One example is electric vehicles. You may have read the article(s) in the February issue about co-ops, including Jo-Carroll Energy, partnering with other Midwest electric co-ops in developing an electric vehicle (EV) charging network starting in the Midwest. Electric co-ops are planning for future growth in EVs and want to alleviate concerns about traveling in an EV without a place to charge their vehicle. The group is also developing educational material and considering options for home chargers.

In essence, by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. As Jo-Carroll Energy and other utilities shift to more options that include renewable energy sources to make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity will require less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced.



CEO'S REPORT
by Mike Casper

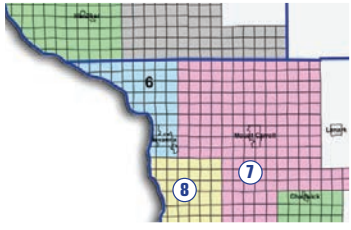
Electricity is getting cleaner

So, here's how this concept might impact you. As more electricity is generated by renewable sources, it means that electric equipment or devices such as your water heater, vehicle, HVAC system, and even your lawn care equipment have the potential to become greener. As Jo-Carroll Energy continues to tap into additional economical renewable options in the future, your electric devices have the potential to become greener and more energy efficient.

Small steps to help the environment

For consumers and homeowners looking for more environmentally-friendly options, choosing electric devices, tools and cars over those powered by fossil fuels is one option. Whether through electric lawn mowers, blowers and weed whackers (plug-in or rechargeable) or through electric water heaters, beneficial electrification is a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping our environment. It can also translate into a better quality of life. For example, when you can trade the loud rumble of a gas-powered mower or blower for the quiet efficiency of electric versions, you eliminate the exhaust

▶ Continued on 20E



20C

Board of directors

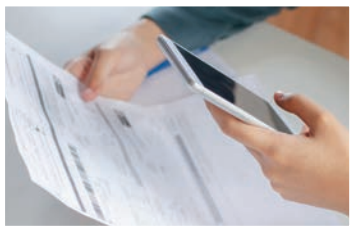
Nominations open in four director districts



20D

Efficiency

Kitchen appliances that save time and energy



20F

Rates

Two-part rate increases go into effect

For your information

Your Board of Directors:

David Senn
Chairman
District 7

Russell Holesinger
Vice Chairman
District 8

Marcia Stanger
Secretary
District 3

Martin Werner
District 1

Joseph Mattingley
District 2

Dan Tindell
District 4

Patricia Smith
District 5

Thomas Lundy
District 6

Larry Carroll
District 9

Robert Kuhns
Treasurer
District 10

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday

Elizabeth
793 U.S. Route 20 West
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Savanna
103 Chicago Ave.
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1:30 to 4 p.m.

Geneseo
1004 S. Chicago St.
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1:30 to 4 p.m.

Services and Billing Questions:

(800) 858-5522
www.jocarroll.com

For emergencies and outages call:

(800) 858-5522

Jo-Carroll Energy board meeting minutes summary

Board Meeting Minutes Summary - December 2, 2020

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held via video phone conference on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 at 9 a.m.

A Safety Moment was provided by Director Russ Holesinger.

Board Policy Update – Chris Allendorf, V.P. of External Relations and General Counsel provided an update on Administrative Policy 240, which coordinates with Board Policy 140/Fraud. Board Policy 142/Social Media was also discussed. Director Tindell requested that the Governance Committee re-visit the compliance portion of the social media policy.

Board Issues and Action Items

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the authorized representative for the USDA's Community Connect Program.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the retainer agreement with John Cox.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the Anonymous Fraud Hotline.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve two scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each in lieu of the canceled Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve a donation in the amount of \$1,000 to the NRECA General International Campaign.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried with a vote of 9-1 to approve the proposed Director Per-Diem.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the proposed 2021 board meeting dates, with a request to change the proposed Dec. 1 meeting to Dec. 2.

Attendees were selected for the 2021 Power Exchange Virtual Meeting.

Director Smith and Director Kuhns were selected as the NRECA Power Exchange voting delegate/alternate for the NRECA Power Exchange Virtual Meeting.

Director Senn and Director Kuhns were selected as the voting delegate/alternate delegate for the NRTC meeting.

Legislative Update – V.P. of External Relations and General Counsel Chris Allendorf provided a summary of the most recent general assembly session and discussed potential bills that would result from the session. President and CEO

Casper added that Jo-Carroll Energy is working closely with the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative (AIEC) on fiber easements.

American Public Gas Association (APGA) Report – Director Carroll discussed the latest topics within the gas industry, noting that the APGA continues to meet virtually with a series of online virtual conferences.

Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) – Director Mattingley provided highlights from the DPC Report and positively commented on the leadership at DPC, noting their commitment to strategic planning.

Prairie Power Incorporated (PPI) Report – Director Kuhns provided a summary of the most recent generation numbers and discussed a board resolution amending their rate schedule.

CEO Report – President and CEO Mike Casper provided information on the power cost adjustment (PCA). Jennifer Meyer, V.P. of Member Services explained the billing cycle. Casper also provided information on the potential investment in a regional charging network for electric vehicles.

Financial Operating Report – CFO Woods provided a summary of the financial operating report through October. YTD revenue is approximately \$48.9 million vs. a budgeted amount of \$49.4 million and is approximately \$520,000 under budget. Total Operations and Maintenance expenses were approximately \$591,000 over budget of \$41.5 million due primarily to the cost of purchased power. All other O&M expenses are under budget by (\$331,264). These expenses are expected to catch up by year end. YTD margins are approximately \$614,498 vs. a budgeted amount of \$832,057, which amounts to (\$218K) under budget. By general consent, the board moved to file the financial operating report with the auditor.

Operations Update – Kyle Buros, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer provided an operations update. Fiber installs continue to rise. Jo-Carroll Energy (JCE) continues to prepare for fiber grant areas recently awarded. Community Solar projects in Apple Canyon and in Mt. Carroll are close to being energized. JCE has also connected additional natural gas services. JCE has performed well through COVID-19 by continuing to follow health and safety protocols that JCE has put in place.

Action Resulting from Executive Session – None.

Other Business – None.

Adjournment

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Budget Meeting Minutes Summary

Dec. 10, 2020

The regular board meeting of Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP) was held by Zoom conference on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020 at 9 a.m.

A Safety Moment was provided by President and CEO Mike Casper.

Presentation – Board members from the Galena Territory Association (GTA) were present to discuss the continued need for fiber within the Galena Territory. Board Member Gary Binder thanked the Jo-Carroll Energy (JCE) team for their commitment to the project and

requested that JCE continue their efforts of expanding fiber into the GTA. Gary emphasized the importance of continuing the fiber buildout in the GTA remarking that, because of the availability of fiber, more people are able to work and school from home. President and CEO Casper also commented on the fiber grants that JCE were awarded, remarking on the success of the entire JCE team and organization.

Board Issues and Action Items

A motion was made, seconded, and

carried unanimously to approve the 2021 Budget as presented.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to approve the authorized representative for the USDA's Community Connect Program.

Action Resulting from Executive Session

– None.

Other Business – None.

Adjournment

Chairman Senn adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Board nominations open in four districts

Nomination petitions are now available for members seeking election to serve their districts on the Jo-Carroll Energy board of directors in districts 5, 7, 8 and 10. Directors serve three-year terms.

Who can run

Any member, including the incumbent directors, whose primary residence is in one of the districts up for election may petition for nomination.

Not sure of your district number? You can find it on your bill from the co-op or call us at 800-858-5522 for assistance.

How to run

Download a nomination petition from our website at jocarroll.com. Petition forms and additional information are available on the Director Elections page on our website. You may also call the co-op and ask that a petition be mailed to you.

Collect at least 25 signatures from members residing in your district.

File the petition at co-op headquarters in Elizabeth no earlier than March 8 and no later than June 4.

Complete an orientation process with the co-op's attorney. Candidates will be contacted after petitions are filed. During this session, you'll review the expectations and responsibilities of directors.

Provide a short biographical sketch and photo to be used in candidate profiles.

Complete details on director qualifications and the nomination procedure can be found in the cooperative's bylaws posted at jocarroll.com.

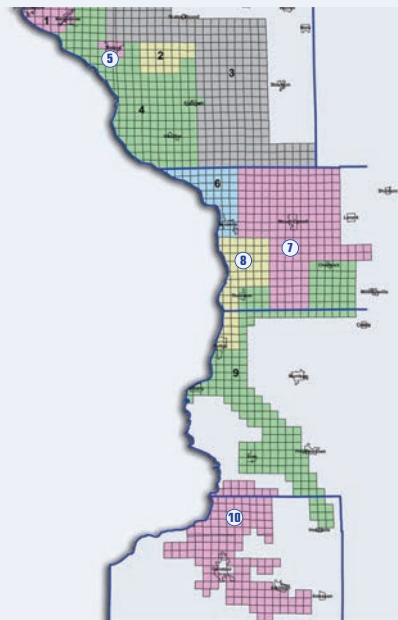
Elections

All eligible candidates will be listed on jocarroll.com and in a future issue of Hi-Lines.

If two or more candidates file in a district, ballots

and voting instructions are mailed to members in that district. A member votes for one candidate either by mail or through a special election website.

If only one candidate files, no ballots are mailed. Election is by vote of acclamation at the annual meeting.



Three electrifying kitchen appliances to save time and energy

By Abby Berry, NRECA

Whether your oven and stove top are powered by gas or electricity, it's no secret that they consume more energy than smaller countertop appliances, like slow cookers and toaster ovens. In addition to efficiency, smaller kitchen appliances can provide faster cooking times and less hassle with cleanup.

If you're looking for convenient cooking methods with the added bonus of energy efficiency, here are three electrifying appliances for your kitchen:

Air fryers are becoming increasingly popular, and consumers have a lot of good things to say about these handy little appliances. Air fryers use convection to circulate hot air and cook the food—this means little to no oil is required, resulting in healthier meals than those from

traditional fryers. Air fryers are fairly small, so they won't take up much of your counter space, and with everything cooked in the fryer, cleanup will be a breeze. Air fryers are available in a variety of sizes, and prices range from \$40 to \$200+.

Electric griddles have certainly been around for a while, and they offer several benefits for any home chef (beyond bacon and eggs!). Griddles are convenient because you can cook everything at once—like a “one-pan” meal, and the possibilities are endless. From fajitas to sandwiches to French toast, griddles can help satisfy any taste buds. They consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times, so your energy bill will thank you. Prices and sizes for griddles vary, but you can typically find one for about \$30 at your

local retail stores.

Pizza brings people together, so why not consider a pizza maker for your kitchen? These compact, countertop machines are an inexpensive alternative to a costly brick oven, and they use less energy than your traditional oven. Choose your own fresh ingredients to whip up a faster, healthier pizza at home. Plus, most pizza makers are multifunctional and can be used to cook flatbreads, frittatas, quesadillas and more. You can purchase a pizza maker for about \$30 to \$150+ online or at your local retailer.

These are just a few electrifying appliance options for your kitchen. Remember, when you're cooking a smaller meal, countertop appliances can save time and energy. To learn about additional ways to save energy at home, visit jocarroll.com.



Air fryers circulate hot air (convection) to cook the food. This means little to no oil is required, resulting in healthier meals than those from traditional fryers.
Photo Credit: Hamilton Beach



Electric griddles consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times, so your energy bill will thank you.
Photo Credit: Hamilton Beach



Pizza makers are compact and inexpensive, and they use less energy than your traditional oven.
Photo Credit: Hamilton Beach

► Continued from 20A

emissions and the unpleasant noise. Robert Wyatt

How we're doing our part to help the environment

As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, Jo-Carroll Energy is striving to take advantage of advances in technology as we continue to bring safe, reliable and affordable energy options to our community.

We also promote energy efficiency through programs

like the Energy Detective home energy audits and free home walk-through assessments. To save you money, we also offer incentives for appliances, geothermal and air-source heat pumps, LED lighting, insulation & air-sealing projects, etc.

We care about our community because we live here too. I hope you'll reach out to Jo-Carroll Energy, your trusted energy partner, to discuss available renewable energy

options and to learn about more ways to reduce your energy use. Because when you participate in the energy efficiency programs and incentives we offer, you're doing your part to save energy and better our environment. While each member's reduction might be small, together, they can lead to significant savings of money and emissions. And that means a brighter future for all of us.



WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Let's Keep Small Businesses Thriving.

It's time to power a Small Business Comeback across America.

Co-op Connections is a free member benefit program brought to you by **JO-CARROLL ENERGY**. Download the free app to find discounts from your local merchants. Now you can save money while you support your community's business owners.

Find all the ways to save locally with Co-op Connections!

Visit SmallBusinessComeback.coop for more information.

#POWERON



Jo-Carroll Energy

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Reader prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll Energy member who is eligible to win a monthly \$25 readership prize. If your name is printed in this month's edition, and not a part of any article, contact Jo-Carroll Energy.

Two-part rate increases go into effect this month

New rates approved by the Jo-Carroll Energy board of directors go into effect this month. The new rates will be reflected on the bills you receive after April 7.

Making up the increase are an average 3 percent increase included in the 2021 budget and an average 2.5 percent increase deferred in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, originally approved as part of the 2020 budget.

The changes instituted will help recover expected inflation-driven cost increases from suppliers and to maintain adequate financial ratios with the cooperative's lenders.

Included in the revised rates is a \$2 increase in the monthly facility charge for residential electric service (single phase) and natural gas rate 42, along with an increase on the delivery charge for electric and natural gas rates.

By increasing our facility charge, the cooperative can recover fixed costs in a more stable method and from each member more fairly.

The facility charge ensures that expectations for reliable, continuous energy are met. It allocates each member a fair and equal share of the cooperative's monthly operation and maintenance expenses no matter how much energy is sold. It provides the necessary funds that must be invested to build and maintain power and pipelines, substations and other infrastructure, and right-of-way maintenance, as well as overall operating expenses.

The delivery charge, which increases 1 cent for electric service, 2 cents for natural gas rate 42, and 4 cents for natural

gas rates 43 and 44. The delivery charge is a per kWh or therm charge that covers the cost of delivering energy to your home and maintaining the equipment that carries the electricity or natural gas. The charge covers the rest of the fixed costs not recovered through the facility charge and stays with your cooperative.

The accompanying charts illustrate the changes for the single-phase electric rate, which includes most residential members, and the farm and residential natural gas rate. For other rate classes, please visit jocarroll.com.

The charts reference the charges found on your bill including:

The member service charge is a flat service fee covering administrative and account management costs including billing,

postage, facilities, software systems and other overheads.

The energy charge is the base cost to produce your energy. It is a per kWh or therm charge for the energy used during the service period.

The generation charge is the base cost to produce your energy and the costs of the physical infrastructure needed to produce the energy.

The transmission charge covers the cost to transmit energy from the generation supplier to Jo-Carroll.

The PCA is a monthly adjustment that we can use to recover changes when these costs fluctuate from the base cost. As the cost goes up or down, the PCA allows the co-op to flow through any increases or decreases as soon as practical.

Single Phase Electric Rate

Rate	Current	Revised	Change
Facility Charge	\$30 per month	\$32 per month	Increase \$2 per month
Member Service Charge	\$5.00 per month	\$5.00 per month	No Change
Delivery Charge	\$0.02750 per kWh	\$0.03750 per kWh	\$0.01
Energy Charge	\$0.03500 per kWh	\$0.03500 per kWh	No Change
Generation Charge ≤ 1500 kWh	\$0.04500 per kWh	\$0.04500 per kWh	No Change
Generation Charge > 1500 kWh	\$0.01800 per kWh	\$0.01800 per kWh	No Change
Transmission Charge	\$0.01750 per kWh	\$0.01750 per kWh	No Change
Power Cost Adjustment	\$0.00306 per kWh	\$0.00306 per kWh	(can fluctuate up or down)

Green = Distribution • Orange = Purchased Energy

Natural Gas Rate 42

Rate	Current	Revised	Change
Facility Charge	\$17 per month	\$19.00 per month	\$2
Member Service Charge	\$5.00 per month	\$5.00 per month	No Change
Delivery Charge	\$0.36 per therm	\$0.38 per therm	\$0.02 per therm
Energy Charge	Varies Monthly	Varies Monthly	

Green = Distribution • Orange = Power Supply



NEVER ENTER FLOOD WATERS

When floods happen, news reports often show homeowners and reporters standing in or rowing through flood waters.

This is a **BAD IDEA**. Flood waters can cover downed power lines or other electrical hazards, and the combination of water and electricity can cause shock or electrocution.

Here are some safety reminders:

- Never enter flood waters; this includes on foot or by any other means such as a boat or canoe.
- Electrical hazards such as downed power lines could be lurking underneath the standing water.
- Do not enter a flooded basement if water could be covering outlets, appliances, or electrical cords.
- Do not touch electrical equipment such as wires, switches or fuses if you are wet or standing in water or on a damp surface.

Cleaning up can also be dangerous:

- Downed and deadly power lines can be hiding under branches and debris.
- Do not use electric yard tools if it is raining or the ground is wet.
- Replace water-damaged electronics and equipment.
- Always be aware of power line locations when using or carrying ladders, poles, or any other extendable or long tools.
- Be aware of power line locations each time you are elevated, for example: on a ladder, rooftop, or boom lift.

Learn more at:



SAND PRAIRIE FIBER INTERNET UPDATE

Imagine what you can do...

Sand Prairie Fiber Neighborhoods

Sand Prairie fiber internet service is available in 23 different fiber neighborhoods. If you live in one of these areas, simply visit connectSP.com or call us a 800-855-5522 to have service installed:

- ▶ Apple Canyon Lake (CYN 1, 5, 6, 7)
- ▶ Elizabeth (ELZ1-6, 8-10)
- ▶ East Dubuque (ED1)
- ▶ Galena (G0, 8, 15,17)
- ▶ Chestnut (CHT1)
- ▶ The Galena Territory (GT10, 14)
- ▶ Scales Mound (SM1)
- ▶ Sinsinawa (MEN4)

Fiber internet packages start at 25 Mbps for \$59.99 per month. Upgrade to 10x more speeds at 250 Mbps for just \$74.99 per month! Looking for even higher speeds? Upgrade to 1 Gig (1000 Mbps) for \$99.99 or our maximum speeds of 2 Gig (2000 Mbps) for \$299.99 per month.

Under Construction

Thirty-two additional areas are in construction, pre-construction or scheduling (as of press time):

Pre-Construction

- ▶ Apple Canyon Lake (CYN2)
- ▶ Casper Ridge (CPR1)
- ▶ Chadwick (CDW1-3)
- ▶ Elizabeth (ELZ11)
- ▶ Fenton (FTN1)
- ▶ Galena (G13, 18, 19, 20, 21)
- ▶ The Galena Territory (GT6, 13, 15)
- ▶ Hanover (HAN1, 2)
- ▶ Menominee (MEN2, 3)
- ▶ Mount Carroll (MCS1)
- ▶ Nora (NOR1)
- ▶ Palisades (PAL1, 2)
- ▶ Sand Ridge (SR1, 2)
- ▶ Woodbine (WBN1)

Construction

- ▶ Apple Canyon Lake (CYN3, 4)
- ▶ Chestnut (CHT2)
- ▶ Galena (G16)
- ▶ The Galena Territory (GT5)

Scheduling

- ▶ Savanna (SAV11)
- ▶ York (YRK1)

Sign-Up Open!

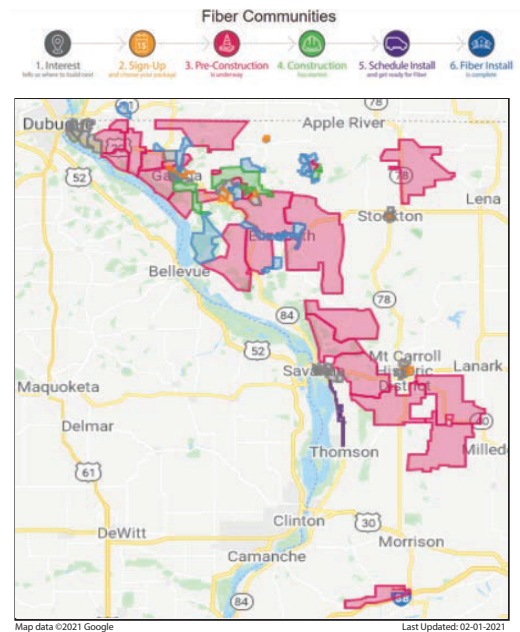
Several other fiber neighborhoods have reached the level of interest so that we can complete engineering and members can select a package and sign up for service.

- ▶ Galena (G22, 23)
- ▶ The Galena Territory (GT9, 11)
- ▶ Mount Carroll (MTC4, 7)
- ▶ Scales Mound (SM2, 3)
- ▶ Stockton (STK6)



Track our Progress!

Visit connectSP.com/fiber/communities to find your neighborhood and see if service is available in your area.



Want fiber internet in your neighborhood?

You can tell us you want fiber in your neighborhood by completing the short and simple interest form at connectSP.com/iwantfiber.

AND, you can encourage your neighbors to submit interest also. This helps us determine where to build fiber next.



800-855-5522 connectSP.com 793 US 20 West, Elizabeth, IL 61028