



November 2025



Powering Our Customers' Lives

What It Means for Wheat Belt and Our Irrigation Customers

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At Wheat Belt Public Power District, our vision statement, “Powering our customers’ lives”, is more than just words. It’s the heart of everything we do, especially for our irrigation customers who keep Nebraska’s fields thriving.

Powering More Than Pumps

For many in our service territory, irrigation is more than a job, it’s a way of life. The hum of a pivot in motion signals more than electricity at work; it represents growth, family livelihoods, and the backbone of local economies. Each season, our team takes pride in delivering reliable power that keeps these systems running efficiently, helping farmers make the most of every drop of water and every acre of land.



Reliability When It Matters Most

When summer heat bears down and every minute of pumping counts, dependability matters. Wheat Belt’s crews work around the clock to ensure our system remains strong and responsive. From preventative maintenance on lines and substations to quick restoration efforts during storms, our commitment to reliability helps our customers focus on their operations, not on whether the power will hold.

Efficiency and Innovation in the Field

Powering our customers’ lives also means helping them do more with less. Through programs that promote energy efficiency, load management, and technology upgrades, we partner with irrigators to lower operating costs and increase productivity. Whether it’s rebates for irrigation motors, pivot monitoring systems, or participating in our irrigation time-of-use program, we’re always looking for ways to help customers save energy and dollars.

A Partnership Rooted in Community

From one end of our district to the other, Wheat Belt’s team is part of the same rural communities we serve. We understand that when our customers succeed, our region thrives. Every kilowatt we deliver to a well, a barn, or a home contributes to the strength and sustainability of western Nebraska.

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SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING UPDATE



- The board reviewed and amended Policy: F-2, Finance and Budget, to eliminate the maximum rate increase percentage that could be imposed per this policy. The amendment also included changing the Budget Hearing to October instead of November.
- John Krajewski of JK Energy Consulting, LLC, was present to discuss the findings from the Cost-of-Service Study. The board approved the proposal for rates from the study to move forward to the budget meeting next month.
- Per Policy C-11, an irrigation demand was approved to be written off in the amount of \$272.35.
- Jones reviewed the financial statements and large item budget with the board in preparation for the Budget Hearing next month.
- Wheat Belt has completed and filed the paperwork for the emergent phase with FEMA for the April 2024 storm. We are currently waiting for the approval of the funds from FEMA.
- The board held a discussion regarding our options for future wholesale power supply. This will be an ongoing discussion as Wheat Belts evaluates options to change power supply companies.
- A strategic plan initiative update was presented to the board regarding; Strengthen customer Relationships. (See update on page 3-C)



LUCKY DRAWING



Congratulations to Gene and Brenda Tophoj our September "Lucky Draw Winner"!

Gene and Brenda have four children: Cherry Cooper, DNP-FNP-RN at Morrill County Hospital Clinic; Paula Houston, RN at Community Hospital in Torrington, Wyoming; Morgan Houston, Highway Maintenance Worker with NDOT in Bridgeport; and Brady Tophoj, Trooper with the Nebraska State Patrol, Troop D. They are proud grandparents to ten grandchildren: Max, Chance, and Aaron Cooper; Aubrey, Hadley, Bailey, Logan, and Cadence Markowski; and Trinity and Gaby Flores, as well as great-grandparents to one, Oakley Sarabia.

The Tophoj's have been together for 30 years and recently celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary. They make their home in rural Garden County near Lewellen and have been loyal Wheat Belt customers since 1994. Gene works for Union Pacific Railroad, while Brenda serves as a Parish Ministry Associate (PMA) with Messiah Lutheran Church in Broadwater. Together, they also farm and ranch, raising both corn and cattle.

In their spare time, Gene and Brenda love the outdoors, camping, fishing, and hunting whenever they can. They also enjoy searching for arrowheads, taking scenic drives to watch wildlife, and spending quality time with their children and grandchildren.

The Tophoj's received a \$50 credit on their account for their prompt payment. If you would like to be included in our next drawing, and avoid a \$5 delinquent fee, please send your payment before the 16th of the month.

For your convenience, we offer several payment options. Please give us a call at 308-254-5871, or visit wheatbelt.com, and select the Customer Engagement page for more information.



HOURS

**MONDAY - FRIDAY
7:30 AM - 4:00 PM**

Powering the Future Together

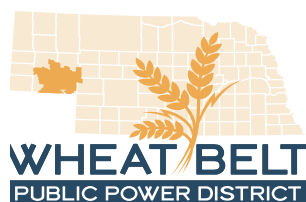
"Powering our customers' lives" means standing beside our irrigation customers season after season with dependable service, innovative solutions, and a shared commitment to growth. Whether you're watering corn outside Bridgeport or tending to sunflowers near Big Springs, Wheat Belt is proud to provide the power that keeps your operation and our communities growing strong.



Local Control in Public Power

In Nebraska, public power means local control. Electric utilities are owned by the people they serve, not private investors. Each public power district is governed by a board of directors elected by its customers, ensuring that decisions reflect the needs and priorities of the communities they represent. Customers have direct access to their board members, giving them a voice in how their utility operates.

For Wheat Belt Public Power District, local control is at the heart of everything we do. Because our board members live and work right here in our service area, they understand the challenges and opportunities our customers face. This local decision-making keeps our focus where it belongs, on providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity while reinvesting in system improvements and community growth. At Wheat Belt, local control means our customers truly have a say in how we power their lives.



STRATEGIC PLAN



LEVERAGE FINANCIAL STRENGTH

- Consider and analyze various power supply options
- Adopt a financial planning process
- Develop long-term rate strategy



STRENGTHEN GOVERNANCE

- Identify educational opportunities for board members
- Consider options for board assessment and continuous improvement
- Develop succession planning structures and practices



STRENGTHEN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

- Implement a work plan to modernize infrastructure
- Keep up with the pace of technology
- Complete 2024 storm conductor damage work



STRENGTHEN CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIPS

- Increase customer involvement
- Explore grant opportunities available



STRENGTHEN SAFETY CULTURE

- Build a culture of safety awareness and continuous improvement
- Strengthen safety programs



Strategic Plan Update

1

Increase Customer Involvement



Progress is underway to strengthen customer engagement and communication. Recent efforts include featuring employee spotlights in the company magazine, incorporating Wheat Belt's brand and vision statement, "Powering our customers' lives", into communications to create a more relatable connection, and increasing community presence through fairs, parades, and local events. Upcoming priorities include collecting customer email addresses, implementing text and email outage notifications, and expanding PCS notifications for delinquent accounts, scheduled payments, and declined payments. Plans also include hosting customer roundtables and "Coffee Shop Talk" sessions to encourage open dialogue and defining communication venues and messaging. Progress has been slowed somewhat by potential software provider changes, which may impact notification process development.

2

Explore Grant Opportunities



Efforts to pursue grant funding are in the early stages. The next steps include identifying potential projects suitable for grant support, collaborating with NEMA to secure available funding, and gaining a deeper understanding of the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program to explore its implementation at Wheat Belt.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: energy.gov

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Scammers will try anything to pressure customers into providing their personal information. If you are ever asked to pay your utility bill through a third-party transaction app, such as Cash App or Venmo, it's a scam. Remember, utilities will never request a payment through a third-party app. Always use authorized payment methods when paying your utility bills.

Source: *Utilities United Against Scams*



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Tim Jones

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Rollie Waite

TECHNOLOGY & SYSTEMS DESIGN MANAGER

Jim Weeda

CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Kelli Chaon

OFFICE HOURS:

M-TH 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Our Mission

Deliver electricity safely, reliably and
efficiently.