

# CURRENT CONNECTION

CROW WING POWER NEWS · SEPTEMBER 2019 · VOLUME 71, NUMBER 5

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections

## Pollinator Projects Bursting with Life >>>

By Char Kinzer

Crow Wing Power's pollinator projects are coming to life and producing beautiful places for butterflies and bees to consume and spread pollen, which ultimately insures the regeneration of more plants to sustain the insects' future.

I made several day trips in a quest to see if our wildflower planting efforts around substations was making headway. Two years ago, we chose four Crow Wing County substations that were suitable for converting perimeter grass areas to wildflower pollinator plants. Year two we were hopeful we would see some blossoms.

I started at the Nokay substation, south of the Crow Wing County fairgrounds. This second year planting, according to projections, should be producing blooming flowers. It was a disappointment – very few flowers and a lot of unwanted weeds greeted me.



Next I drove further south to the Dewing sub.

As I drove down a gravel road in southern Crow Wing County, I could see a golden hue rising from a farm field ahead. I knew that had to be it. Whoever is lucky enough to have to drive by this substation in their neighborhood, has the opportunity to see a multitude of golden black-eyed susans and other flowers surrounding our substation. It was beautiful.



Then, I drove to Pine Center substation, hoping for another burst of color. It also was glowing with color – another successful planting.



The fourth substation we had planted seeds in two years ago was near Crosslake. As I approached the area, once again I could see the ground overcome with flowers – a third success.

Minnesota Native Landscapes out of Otsego is managing the project for a few years to insure its success.

Last fall, we also planted two Morrison County substations and will hopefully see them blooming next summer.

According to Minnesota Native Landscapes, some areas take several years to establish.

Crow Wing Power had determined several years ago that it may be beneficial to plant flowers to help sustain potentially distinct insects rather than spend money mowing grass.



INSIDE

CEO Report .....	2
Director's View .....	2
People's Security .....	3
Military Service Rights .....	3

Substations transform high voltage electricity for use in homes and businesses. Stay well away from fences around substations.

Note: Crow Wing and Morrison County Soil and Water Conservation Districts have both provided matching dollars to help Crow Wing Power with this nature project.

### Co-op Calendar Contest

Once again we are doing a calendar contest. To enter the contest, please submit your scenic photos of Minnesota to us. If your photo is chosen for the 2020 calendar, you will receive a \$25 electric bill credit. We will have a spiral bound calendar produced and available in early December.

For guidelines and to submit photos electronically go to [www.cwpower.com](http://www.cwpower.com), go to News/Events, click on Photo Contest. Deadline for submission(s) is October 1, 2019.

>> James McDermond Spies from MN Native Landscapes identifies "good" pollinator species and bad invasive plants, during a maintenance inspection.



# A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

## Emily Manganese Project Moves One Step Further >>>

It's with great pride that I'm able to share more good news about our important manganese/iron project investment. Cooperative Mineral Resources, the subsidiary the Cooperative formed to develop a rich mineral deposit in Emily, MN, signed an Option Agreement with North Star Manganese Inc (NSM) on August 22.

The Emily Project hosts the richest-known manganese deposit in North America and could help to alleviate the need for our Nation's 100% dependence on foreign imports of this strategic metal. Further, the Emily Project has the advantage of being a manganese/iron metalliferous deposit with no sulfides and this will be important relative to the future permitting of any operations.

Our historic work shows that material extracted and processed from the Emily deposit can produce electrolytic manganese metal (EMM) used in steel and metal manufacturing and electrolytic manganese dioxide (EMD) used in lithium/ion batteries for electric storage and Electric Vehicle batteries.

The agreement with NSM further advances the Emily Project with professionals in the natural resource industry and brings us one step closer toward validating the project's commercial viability.

We have great hopes and expectations that our ownership and NSM partnership in this green energy project will reap great benefits for our members, the communities we serve, the State and our Nation.

### Crow Wing Power's Negative Press

I continue to try to reassure members that the negative opinion articles and movement to discredit Crow Wing Power we've seen lately from a group of people are unfounded.

As disheartening as those opinions and negative press are, I assure you this cooperative management team, Board of Directors and financial records are honest, solid and stand by our strong commitment for the betterment of Crow Wing Power's members.

Continued on Page 4



## Directors View:

## Hands Free and Move Over Law Provide Protection for Utility Workers >>>

By Doris Mezzenga

The new "Hands Free" cell phone law and expanded "Move Over" State legislation passed this year will help protect our line workers.

### Hands-Free

According to the Minnesota Safety Council, distracted driving accounts for one-fourth of all vehicle crashes and one-fifth of all fatalities on the road. To begin to address the issue of distracted driving, the Hands-Free Minnesota law took effect in August. The new law allows the use of a cell phone as long it is done hands-free. Cooperatives throughout the nation have promoted hands free for many years and have helped promote the eventual passage.

### "Move Over" Enhancement

The new "Move Over" ruling that went into effect in early August requires vehicles to use cautionary steps when passing emergency and utility vehicles parked on the side of the road. The "Move Over" legislation strengthened the recent law, expanding it from four-lane to two-lane roads. It originated to help highway patrol and emergency vehicles, but included utility vehicles earlier this year.

According to the legislature, the law now requires drivers to slow down on roads with two lanes of traffic, not just four lanes, when passing emergency vehicles, tow trucks, road maintenance and utility vehicles that are stopped on the side of the roadway with emergency or warning lights activated.

If it's not possible for a driver to move over, drivers are required to reduce their speed until their vehicle has completely passed the parked or stopped vehicle.

My husband, Jan and I, previously worked for Crow Wing County in the Sheriff's Department and know firsthand about dangers on the road. It brings me great satisfaction to see our highway patrol and Crow Wing Power line workers protected from danger.

On a side note . . . It's been disheartening to read occasional negative opinions in the newspaper from a handful of people thinking there are wrongdoings. Opinions need facts, not speculation. I'm proud of our Cooperative and all it does for the members and communities we serve. You should be too, but if you have questions, call and talk to Bruce, our CEO, management team or me for clarification.

## Providing Peace of Mind, Whether Home or Away >>>

It isn't always easy to say goodbye to summer in the Brainerd Lakes Area but fall brings its own loveliness with breathtaking colors and cooler temps. Fall also means the vacating of seasonal cabins and homes as well as back to school. It is this time of year that People's Security Company would like to remind everyone of the many options to help maintain your peace of mind during this change of season.

Many people think that security just means alarms and cameras, but it is so much more. The security industry has grown and

changed with leaps and bounds and some of the advancements are truly exciting. Many security products are designed to make your life easier with these helpful tools:

- Arm or disarm your security system from anywhere using a smartphone, Apple Watch, or tablet;
- Remotely turn lights on or off, lock or unlock doors;
- Adjust thermostat from anywhere and monitor your home's temperature;
- View live video from anywhere and replay recorded video clips and download them;
- Set up and receive notifications about events such as temperature changes, if the system is armed or disarmed, or if the garage door is left open for example;
- Ability to see, hear, speak, arm, disarm, lock, unlock all from the same screen with smart video doorbell.

You no longer need a phone line to have top-notch security solutions. Products now communicate through the use of cellular or internet service.

People's Security Company would love to hear about your challenges and help create a solution for you. They can set up a system that connects you to what matters most – your children arriving home, checking on pet activity or elderly parents, or monitoring your home or lake property.

Contact People's Security Company at 1-800-735-1440 or [PeoplesSecurity.com/sept2019cwp](http://PeoplesSecurity.com/sept2019cwp).



## Notice of Rights for Households of Military Service Personnel >>>

An electric cooperative cannot disconnect a residential customer for nonpayment of electric bills if a member of the household has been issued orders into active duty, for deployment or for a permanent change in duty station during the period of active duty, deployment or for a permanent change in duty station, if such a residential customer meets income criteria specified by law. To receive this protection from disconnection, the residential customer must request and reach agreement with the cooperative on a payment plan. You may contact the cooperative to receive the application form.

Verification of income is required unless the customer is automatically eligible for protection against disconnection as a recipient of any form of public assistance including energy assistance that uses income eligibility in an amount at or below the income eligibility.

The customer has the right to appeal when the utility and residential customer are unable to agree on the establishment, reasonableness or modification of a payment schedule, or timeliness of payments under a payment schedule.

If denied, an appeal must be made within seven working days after the utility has deposited first class mail notice. Service cannot be disconnected during an appeal.

For more information or to apply for shut-off protection, call 1-800-648-9401 or 218-829-2827.

# CURRENT CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections

(ISSN 1068-1949)  
USPS 456-180

Published monthly by  
Crow Wing Power,  
17330 State Hwy. 371  
Brainerd, MN 56401.  
218-829-2827  
800-648-9401  
www.cwpower.com

### Editor: Char Kinzer

Periodical postage paid at  
Brainerd, MN (Postmaster):  
Send change of address form 3579 to:  
Current Connection, Crow Wing  
Power, P.O. Box 507, Brainerd, MN  
56401.

Annual Subscription Rates:  
Members - \$3.00  
Non-Members - \$3.50

Board meetings are normally held the  
third Thursday of each month  
beginning at 9:30. To view board  
meeting minutes, go to  
[cwpower.com/board-and-meetings](http://cwpower.com/board-and-meetings).

## Directors. Here to Help!

Following is a list of directors and their  
telephone numbers:

Bob Kangas .....218-587-4453  
Paul Koering .....218-851-9954  
Ric Larson .....218-546-5781  
Gordon Martin.....218-746-3971  
Bryan McCulloch.....218-820-9708  
Doris Mezzenga .....218-692-1004  
LuAnn Nelson .....612-400-4627  
Gert Roggenkamp .....218-562-4566  
Dwight Thiesse.....218-831-8605

# A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

## Emily Manganese Project Moves One Step Further >>>

### Continued from Page 2

The “group” has contacted the Attorney General’s office for an investigation. We’ve done nothing wrong and have nothing to hide and have cooperated fully with the Attorney General’s office requests.

We live in a democracy – all people are entitled to their opinions, but it’s productive only when people base accusations on fact – not personal vengeance.

We welcome anyone with concerns to call and talk about the issue and be open to honest exchange. In the meantime, rest assured we continue to conduct this Cooperative’s business with the best interest of our members in mind.

I’ll keep you informed,



Bruce L. Kraemer, CEO

In order to communicate more effectively with members, we are changing our publication from a bimonthly newsletter to a monthly newsletter. However, it is our intent to publish the recipe and puzzle every other month starting in October.