

## Denzer named MVEC's interim CEO

The MVEC Board of Directors has named Marvin Denzer as interim Chief Executive Officer of the cooperative. He replaces Ryan Hentges, who has accepted a position with Dakota Electric Association in Farmington, MN.



A graduate of North Dakota State University, Denzer began his MVEC career in 1991 as an engineer. Over his 31 years at the co-op, he has served in many capacities across the organization including

key account executive, Vice President of Energy Services and, most recently, as Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Engineering and Operations.

Some of Denzer's notable accreditations in the electric cooperative field are completion of the Management Internship Program (MIP), a six-week comprehensive program providing an in-depth analysis of the functions and processes of cooperative management.

Denzer also successfully completed the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' Master Class for Strategy Execution, which is a cooperative-based performance management tool focusing on strategic initiatives across the cooperative including financial strength, reliability, member experience with community engagement, and internal culture development.

Most recently, Denzer has been involved with leadership development and completed a

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## Save the date!

### Take part in MVEC's 86th Annual Meeting

Learn more about how your cooperative works and join us at the co-op's 86th Annual Meeting Tuesday, March 28, at Jordan High School. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with the business meeting starting at 7 p.m.

The hour-long business meeting will include various reports from across the cooperative, including an annual recap of 2022, financial updates and the results of the 2023 director elections. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the conclusion of the meeting. MVEC's 2023 scholarship winners and Youth Tour participant will also be introduced.

All three districts have a seat open on the Board of Directors. Running unopposed in District I and District II are incumbents Brent Lawrence of Credit River and Belle Plaine's Michelle Morrison, respectively. Filling in for Fran Barten in District III on the ballot are candidates Anthony Albright of Prior Lake, Julie Bifano of Montgomery and Elizabeth (Liz) Krocak of Montgomery.

Ballots will only be mailed to District III voting members on February 24. Use the postage paid envelope to mail ballots back to MVEC by Tuesday, March 28. Onsite voting is also available at the Annual Meeting. Due to the uncontested Director seats in Districts I and II, ballots will not be sent to members in those districts.

#### 2023 Director Election

Candidates for one 3-year term by district:

##### District I

☐ Brent Lawrence, Credit River (incumbent)

##### District II

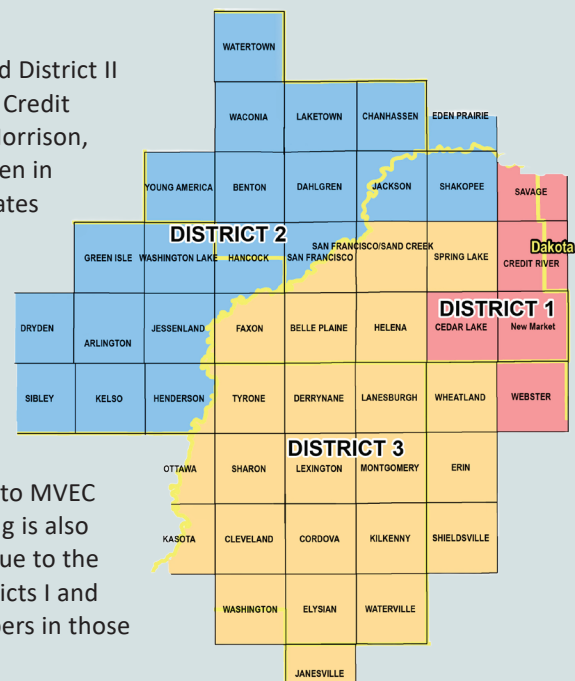
☐ Michelle Morrison, Belle Plaine (incumbent)

##### District III

☐ Anthony Albright, Prior Lake

☐ Julie Bifano, Montgomery

☐ Elizabeth (Liz) Krocak, Montgomery



Additional resources and board meeting highlights available 24/7 at [www.mvec.net](http://www.mvec.net)



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# MVEC

MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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12-month leadership certification immersion program through Think Great's Leadership Link in 2021.

A native of Montgomery, Denzer and his family reside in Waconia where he has been involved in community youth and high school sports programs, as well as the chamber of commerce and other organizations throughout the area.

"Working for our electric cooperative for the past 31 years has given me appreciation of how great, kind-hearted MVEC Team Members and Cooperative Member-Owners can partner together to accomplish forward-thinking projects while enhancing system reliability," said Denzer. "As a servant leader, I look forward to serving

in this new role while always keeping in mind what's best for MVEC."

Board of Director President Brent Lawrence had this to say about the CEO transition: "Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative is fortunate to have a talented and effective leader ready to assume the interim CEO position. Marvin's vast experience at MVEC and his dedication to our members puts us in a great position moving forward."

Hentges became MVEC's CEO in 2016. He had been with the co-op in other positions since 2005. "Marvin has been an integral part of MVEC for years," said Hentges. "The cooperative is in great hands under Marvin's leadership."

Denzer looks forward to presenting the cooperative report at MVEC's 86th Annual Meeting at Jordan High School 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 28.

## Heat pumps prove efficient, effective in cold climates

If you are looking for ways to cut your heating and cooling costs, consider working with MVEC and installing an energy-efficient air-source heat pump.

Heat pumps function as both an **air conditioner and heater**. They use 72 percent less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces by collecting and moving heat instead of generating it. During the cooling season, heat pumps cool the air by pulling heat from the inside of conditioned space and pumping it outside. Alternatively, during the heating season, heat pumps pull heat

from outside air – even in low temps – and pump it inside.

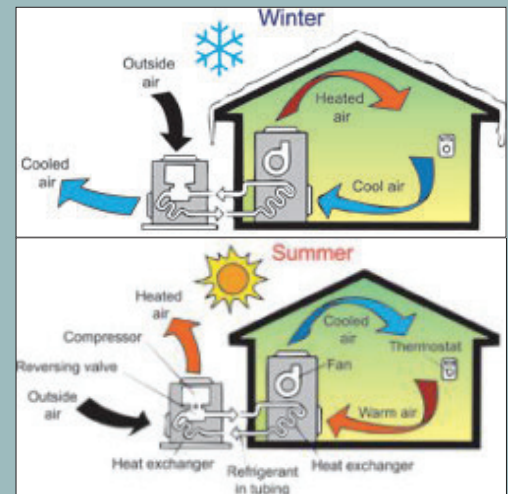
Since heat pumps transfer heat rather than generate it they are one of the most **efficient means of cooling and heating your home**. While heat pumps are common in warmer climates, most people think these appliances will not work in places where temperatures drop below freezing – but this is no longer the case.

When properly installed, many of today's cold-climate air-source heat pumps (ccASHPs) can keep your home warm during the coldest months of the year and use far less energy than other types of heating systems.

The **key feature** in a ccASHP is a variable speed compressor, enabling a single heat pump to work efficiently and effectively. In addition, the variable-speed system holds a steadier temperature than a traditional single-speed heating or AC system.

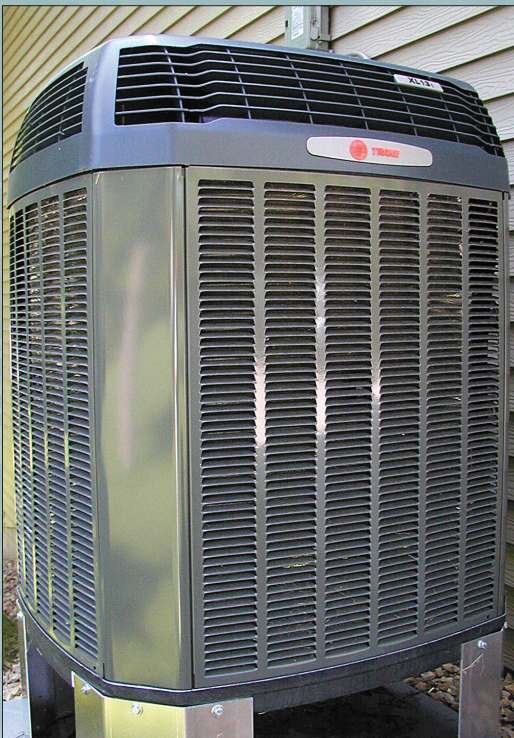
Heat pumps can work in conjunction with the co-op's Energy Wise program, meaning members save by paying lower rates while products are switched to a backup heat source during peak electricity usage times.

In cold-climate applications, ccASHPs typically require a backup system to



provide heat when cold outdoor air temps limit the heat pump capacity. Ducted systems typically use a propane/natural gas furnace as a backup. These backups take over the load of the system at an outdoor air temperature where the capacity of the heat pump is no longer sufficient. Homes with ductless systems typically rely on electric-resistance boards for backup heating.

Though the co-op does not directly sell heat pumps, MVEC can offer further education and understanding on the new technology and partner with local, trusted contractors on installation. Visit [www.mvec.net/energy-wise-heating-programs/](http://www.mvec.net/energy-wise-heating-programs/) to learn more about heat pumps and the rest of MVEC's electric programs.

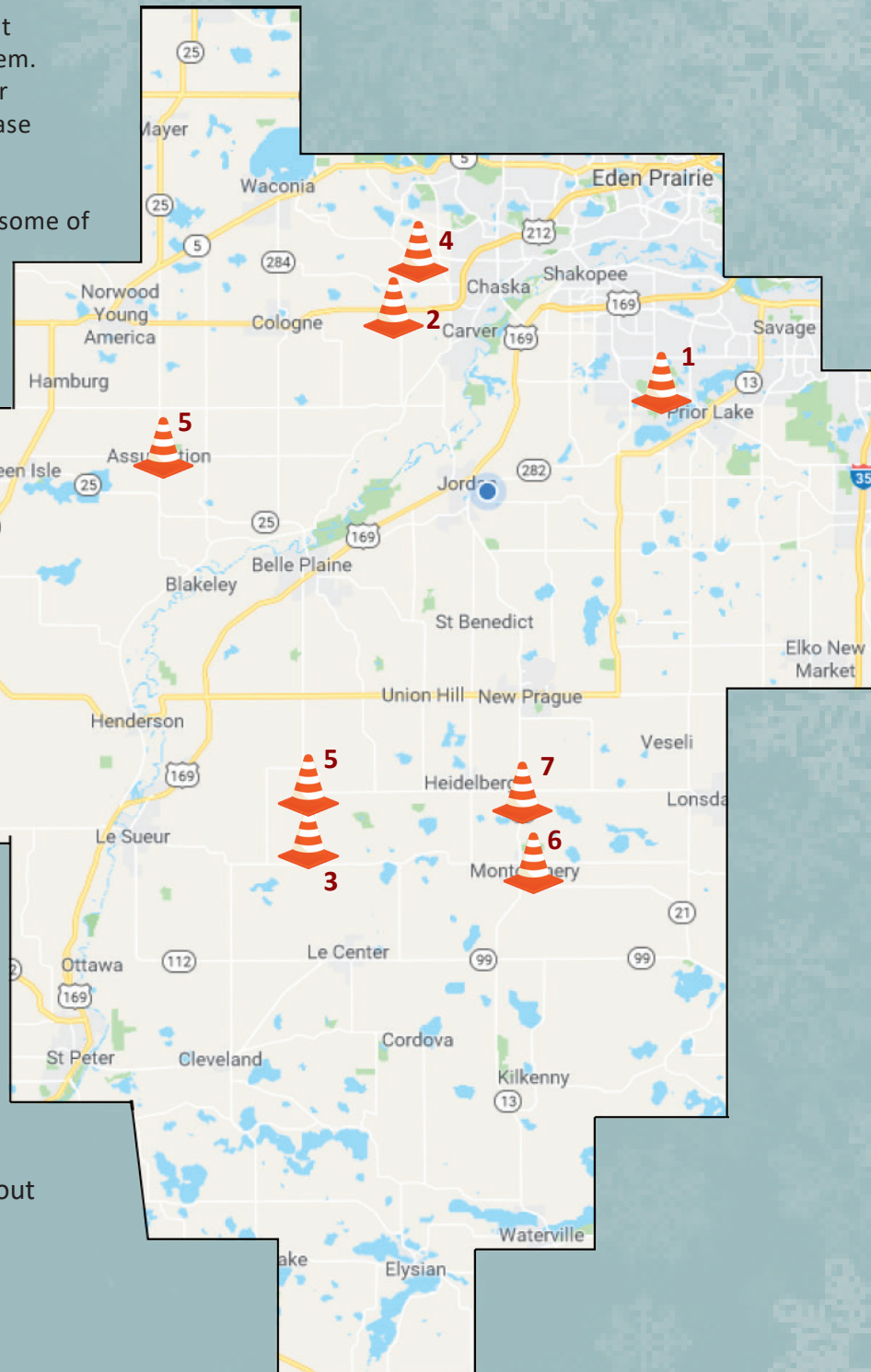




# 2023 Construction Work Plan

In 2023, your cooperative will make an investment of around \$12 million in MVEC's electric grid system. These construction budget dollars are spread over the co-op's 968-square-mile service area to increase reliability and power quality and to provide general maintenance for MVEC's 45,000+ members in portions of nine counties. Below are some of our largest projects once construction season begins.

- 1.** Upgrade 2 1/2 miles of line between Eagle Creek and Spring Lake to improve reliability near wetlands
- 2.** Upgrade 1 1/2 miles of line west of Augusta Substation
- 3.** Upgrade to 3-phase line for safety and reliability south of St. Thomas substation
- 4.** Build new line and update old line for a new feeder near Victoria substation
- 5.** Rebuild high side structures at Assumption and St. Thomas substations due to old switches
- 6.** Move overhead line underground to improve reliability on the north side of Montgomery
- 7.** Rebuild line to accommodate new roundabout between New Prague and Montgomery



## Utility Crew Safety

When you see MVEC or other utility crews working in your neighborhood or along the road, slow down and move over. Minnesota State law says: "When traveling on a road with two or more lanes, drivers must keep over one full lane away from stopped emergency vehicles with flashing lights activated — ambulance, fire, law enforcement, maintenance, construction vehicles and tow trucks."

**MVEC wants everyone to be safe and go home to their families unharmed at the end of the work day.**



# Operation Round Up spreads Holiday cheer

As part of the co-op's 4th Quarter ORU donations, MVEC was able to help out around Christmas time. New Prague Hockey partnered with the LeSueur County Adopt-A-Family to donate over 240 bags of gifts for area families.



To date, MVEC and its members have donated more than \$2 million through Operation Round Up, including over \$41,000 in the last quarter of 2022.

## Operation Round Up seeks volunteer director from District II

MVEC's nine person Operation Round Up Trust Board is seeking a new director to join the group of MVEC members who help decide how to spend Operation Round Up funds. Those interested must attend quarterly evening meetings and have time to research grant requests. For more information, visit

[www.mvec.net/operation-round-up/](http://www.mvec.net/operation-round-up/)



## Reminder: Youth Tour application deadline approaching

**Represent your local and state community** MVEC's representative will travel with 40 other Minnesota students and work alongside 1,500 national delegates representing electric co-ops that help power our nation.

**Experience Washington D.C.** Past trips have included Arlington National Cemetery, Capitol Hill, the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Supreme Court and more.

**Make new friends** Created in 1958, the Youth Tour boasts over 50,000 alumni, with many participants citing lifelong friendships that were built as the best part of the trip.

**Meet elected officials** Spend a day on Capitol Hill with elected officials and learn how government works.

An alternate will also be selected and will receive a \$200 cash prize.

Deadline to apply is Wednesday, March 15, 2023. More information and link to the application can be found at [www.mvec.net/youth-tour](http://www.mvec.net/youth-tour)



Don't just take our word for it, scan the above QR code and check out what previous Youth Tour participants have to say about the trip

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