

**CONTACT US**

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**WEBSITE**

[www.mcremc.coop](http://www.mcremc.coop)

**EMAIL**

[mcremc@mcremc.coop](mailto:mcremc@mcremc.coop)

**OFFICE HOURS**

7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday

**STREET ADDRESS**

3086 W. 100 N.  
Peru, IN 46970

**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 168  
Peru, IN 46970

**POWER OUTAGES**

To report a power outage, call 844-473-6668. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dennis "Jim" Savage, *President*

Todd Smith, *Vice President*

Cindy Scott, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Tony Caldwell

Mark B. Hahn

Scott Marschand

Donald E. Willson

**STAFF**

Robert Schwartz  
*CEO*

Brandon Williams  
*Director of Operations*

Matt Mavrick  
*Director of Information Technology*

Kim Burton  
*Director of Member Services*

Stephanie Ziems  
*Director of Finance and Accounting*



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# Let's CONNECT



When we say that we live in a "connected" world, most of us think about technology, like smartphones and other devices and gadgets. But

when you're a member of an electric co-op (that's you!), there's so much more to being part of our connected co-op community.

We greatly value our connection to you, the members we serve. And we'd like to help you maximize the value you can get from Miami-Cass REMC through a variety of programs, products and services that we offer our members. For example, we can help you save on your energy bill through our free energy audits and rebates on heat pump water heaters and LED lighting. When you download our Smart Hub app, you can monitor and manage your home energy use, pay your bill online and access a menu of additional options for potential savings and more.

When you follow Miami-Cass REMC on social media, you can stay up to date on power restoration efforts, tree trimming planning, co-op director elections, giveaways and more. You'll also see photos of our line crews in

action and our employees helping with community service projects — and who doesn't enjoy seeing good things happening in our community?

Miami-Cass REMC relies on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, and up-to-date contact information from our members helps ensure that we can provide the highest level of service that you expect and deserve.

We hope you will connect with us whenever and wherever you can — whether that means attending our annual meeting, providing feedback on a recent visit or call with our employees, or simply downloading our app.

Miami-Cass REMC exists to serve our members, and when we're better connected to you and our local community, we're better prepared to answer the call.

To update your contact information or to learn more about co-op products and services that can help you save, visit [www.mcremc.coop](http://www.mcremc.coop), call 765-473-6668, or stop by our office at 3086 W. 100 N. in Peru.

We look forward to connecting with you!

**ROB SCHWARTZ**  
CEO



## What's new with broadband

Miami-Cass REMC announced in March that the co-op had purchased Broadway Broadband in late January. The company provided fiber and wireless internet to local communities. This purchase was made with two goals in mind: increasing our communication between our electric grid and meters and getting fast, reliable internet to our underserved members and community.

The underconstruction fiber ring around our service area will increase current meter readings from every 15 minutes to every second. This allows for auto switching to happen at our substations in the event power is lost to a home. Where a member currently experiences a power outage, with this new technology, he/she may only notice a blink.

When the REMC purchased Broadway Broadband, it had eight employees and served approximately 1,100 customers. We are now up to 11 employees and serve almost 1,400 customers, most of which are wireless users.

Construction for the almost 150-mile ring began in April and is estimated to take between 18 to 24 months to complete. To date, approximately one third of the ring has been completed,

Approximately 1,000 to 1,100 homes will be passed during the construction of the ring, and the REMC hopes to begin offering internet services to some of these homes as early as the first quarter of this year. At the completion of the ring, it will include the areas of Eagles Point, Denver, Chili, Macy/Gilead, New Waverly, Bunker Hill, Onward, Miami, Lewisburg and Mexico.

There is a waiting list for this exciting new service to members. If you wish to have your name added to the waiting list, please email us at [mcremc@mcremc](mailto:mcremc@mcremc). coop or call us at 765-473-6668. We will be contacting homes that are in the areas where we are working as we build the ring out. Current pricing for the 150 Mbps package is \$58.85 and the 300 Mbps package is \$85.60. Commercial/business packages will be priced on a case-by-case basis.

Miami-Cass REMC is excited to make high-speed internet available to our members who are in areas that otherwise wouldn't be able to receive this service. We began as a company in 1939 to provide electricity to the underserved, and it is now our turn to provide reliable and high-speed internet to those in same areas.

## Board meets in November

1. Counted seven board members attending via teleconference. Attorney Jeremy Fetty also attended via teleconference.
2. WVPA board report was given by Jim Savage.
3. Rob Schwartz presented the monthly CEO report.
4. Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved.
5. Partial financial report given by Schwartz. October financials to be presented in December.
6. October monthly operating, member services and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
7. Set the next board meeting for Thursday, Dec. 17, at 6 p.m. Meeting will be held virtually.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

— U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (ENERGY.GOV)



# POWER MOVES

Energy-Smart Solutions from  
Your Local Electric Cooperative



## THE COOL WAY TO GET HOT WATER

**SAVE BIG MONEY – AND ENERGY – WITH A HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER.**

Water heaters are the second highest source of energy use in most homes. But an ENERGY STAR-certified heat pump water heater is an energy efficient alternative to typical electric or gas water heaters – and Miami-Cass REMC is here to help you save big with rebates on installation costs. You can also save up to \$3,500 over the lifetime of the equipment – we think that’s pretty cool.

Visit [PowerMoves.com/water-heater](http://PowerMoves.com/water-heater) to learn more.

**miami-cass remc**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



### Trimming Future Problems

At Miami-Cass REMC, we're committed to providing you with reliable power. There are some things we can't stop — high winds, thunderstorms, ice storms — but we do what we can to prevent the main outage culprit: trees, shrubs and brush that grow too close to power lines and distribution equipment.

To “cut back” on potential tree-related problems, we operate an aggressive vegetation management/right-of-way maintenance program. We currently keep a rotating cycle. We will keep you updated on any work in your area. Miami-Cass REMC has a utility easement on each side of the pole so we can trim properly.

Our crew will trim foliage growing under lines, overhanging branches and trees that could grow into lines. We will also remove trees directly under the lines. We pay special attention to dying, dead, diseased or other types of “danger” trees that could pull down on power lines if they fall. If you have trees on your property that need to be trimmed or taken out due to these concerns, you will be contacted with a bright green door hanger.

Keep in mind, the following year we come back and spray the undergrowth with an environmentally conscious herbicide that is not harmful to humans or animals.

To keep a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of power flowing to your home or business, we need your help. Let us know if you notice trees, especially dead trees or branches that might pose a risk to our power lines. Thank you for your understanding as we work to make our system reliable for our members.



## How much is that space heater really costing you?

Many electric space heaters advertise they can slash your electric bill. What they don't advertise is that they can also cause that bill to increase significantly.

Whether it's a standard electric space heater you can buy at a store or a “ruby quartz” or “infrared” souped-up model advertised in a newspaper or on a billboard, the thing you need to be concerned about is simply how much power the unit consumes. This is most commonly given in watts. Check the box or the unit itself for this information.

Many electric space heaters are rated at 1,500 watts. This rating is how much power the heater uses. You are billed for each kilowatt-hour of electricity you consume. A thousand watts is equal to one kilowatt, so 1,500 watts is equal to 1.5 kilowatts. This means for each hour the space heater is running it consumes 1.5 kilowatt-hours of electricity, which costs about 16 cents.

Doesn't sound like much does it? But running that heater nonstop is a surefire way to increase your bill. If you ran one 1,500-watt space heater for 18 hours a day for a single month it would cost about \$86. That's on top of your normal bill.

So where are the savings that are often touted on such items? An electric space heater can save you money, but only if you reduce the running time of your electric furnace or other primary heating system.

A space heater could reduce your electric bill, for instance, if you lowered the thermostat on your electric furnace from 72 F to 66 F and used the space heater to heat a single occupied room up to a comfortable temperature. If, however, you're using the space heater to heat an area of your home normally not heated, like an enclosed porch, then the space heater is simply an additional cost to your electric bill.

Also, keep in mind that if you're using an electric space heater to supplement a propane furnace, then you may see a drop in the amount of propane you use, but your electric bill will still increase because of the addition of the heater.

Electric space heaters can provide an effective and simple means of heating that cold, unconditioned tool shed, bedroom or other relatively small space, but you should always follow safety precautions to prevent injuries and fires.