



MOR-GRAN-SOU
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Serving Morton, Grant and Sioux counties

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JUNE
2026

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

From seed to stem: Heart River Garden Co.

North Dakota summers bring the opportunity to dig in the soil and tend to something beautiful through gardening. Some gardens are full of fruits and vegetables, while others feature flourishing flowers. Along the banks of the Heart River, Taylor Skretteberg has grown her joy of gardening into Heart River Garden Co.

Heart River Garden Co. meshes a few of Skretteberg's passions – gardening and teaching others how to have success in the garden.

Cultivating a passion

Skretteberg grew up on a cattle ranch north of Carson, where she now lives with her husband, Joesph, and daughter, Elizabeth.

As the crops and fields grew around Taylor, so did her passion and deep-rooted connection to the land, ultimately guiding her toward participation in FFA contests and eventually attending North Dakota State University to pursue learning about agronomy and horticulture.

"I took every plant class I could," Taylor says. "I couldn't get enough. I wanted more and more."

But another experience during college led Taylor to discover something else she enjoyed: teaching.

"I worked at Lowe's in the garden center and working around plants and talking to people about plants made me realize what I want to do," she says.

Taylor and Joesph did not find themselves back to their Carson roots until 2025, which allowed Taylor additional time to connect with people in the garden center while at the same time experimenting on her own in her backyard in Fargo.

"I started with potted vegetables on my patio in college and then turned our entire backyard into a garden," Taylor says.

The backyard had everything from flowers to vegetables in a limited space. Taylor notes some plants grew well with each other and some didn't, which further led her down the path of experimenting and educating others.

Heart River Garden Co. blossoms

In 2025, the couple moved back to the ranch north



Taylor Skretteberg and her family have blossomed after moving back to the family ranch near Carson.

of Carson after welcoming their first baby in the fall of 2024. The opening of a new chapter inspired Taylor to pursue her dream of opening her own business.

"I thought, 'May as well start now,'" she says.

And that is what she did. Connecting gardening and education, Taylor founded Heart River Garden Co.

During the first year, she grew flowers in a small garden space and sold bouquets on Facebook. She

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A few of the colorful bouquets that Taylor grew.

also planted a pumpkin patch and sold pumpkins during the fall.

“I grew every color of pumpkin I could find a seed for,” Taylor says.

But with her background working at Lowe’s, she knew she wanted to add a greenhouse to her business so she could expand into hanging plants and hand plants.

Expanding with a greenhouse allows her to grow annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs for sale in the spring. In the fall of 2025, she further expanded by tilling a 3,000-square-foot area for more space to plant. Taylor fills the space with shrubs, perennials, tulips and other cut flowers.

Everything at Heart River Garden Co. is grown from seed, which is part of the process Taylor enjoys most. She says planting a tiny seed, watching it grow and being able to harvest from a handful to dozens of times is amazing.

“I’ve grown a ton of different flowers,” Taylor says reflecting on her sixth summer growing flowers. “They are all so cool.”

Taylor sells her flowers and plants through Facebook, which is where most up-to-date information about potential events or specials can be found as well.

Helping others flourish

The growing passion of the educational aspect of gardening is rooted in Taylor’s time at Lowe’s. She enjoys teaching others what she knows and hearing about their experiences. She wants everyone to

be successful at gardening, which she encourages through a carefully curated seed selection of hand plants.

She has been exploring heirloom seed varieties in her greenhouse, purchasing from a North Dakota seed company so customers can grow heartier plants to withstand North Dakota’s climate.

As we continue into the gardening season, Taylor reminds gardeners to try something new.

“Don’t be afraid to try something new that you’ve ever grown before,” Taylor says. “That’s when you find something you enjoy.”

She recalls growing a Japanese eggplant, which she now prefers over a regular eggplant. She notes the texture is better in the Japanese variety, which she wouldn’t have discovered without trying something new.

Taylor also notes it’s OK to overfill your garden.

“It’s OK to overstuff your garden with plants, because they end up helping each other out,” she says. “Like tomatoes and basil. Basil helps with pest and tomatoes provide shade.”

As for Taylor’s gardening season, she will have cut flowers available in June and may have some special events featuring them. August is sweet corn time, followed by pumpkins, garden mums, broom corn and other fall favorites in September.

Heart River Garden Co. can be found on Facebook, where Taylor shares products and potential events. 

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Understanding your capital credit allocation



Jason Bentz

Co-General Manager/CEO

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative operates differently than investor-owned utilities. Instead of generating profits for shareholders, we return the margins to you, our members, through capital credits. It's one of the many ways your ownership in Mor-Gran-Sou Electric truly matters.

Each time you use electricity and pay your bill, you're helping to cover the cost of providing reliable electric services. After

the cooperative pays all operating expenses, any remaining margins are allocated to members based on how much electricity they use during the year. This allocation is your share of the co-op's financial success.

In July, we'll be making capital credit allocations, and we want to highlight what that means.

Allocations are not immediate cash payments, but

rather a record of your equity in the cooperative. These funds are reinvested into our system to support the maintenance, upgrades and expansion of the infrastructure that keeps your lights on.

When financial conditions are strong, and the board of directors determines it's appropriate, a portion of those capital credits are retired, meaning they're paid to members in the form of checks or bill credits.

This process allows us to maintain a strong financial foundation while returning value directly to you.

If you have any questions about how capital credits work or what your allocation means, our team is here to help.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership. We're proud to serve you. 



HOW CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATION WORKS



Co-op Earns a Margin (Profit)

At the end of a fiscal year, the co-op calculates its revenues minus expenses. If there's a surplus, it's not called a "profit," but a margin.



Board Approves Allocation

The board of directors decides how much of the margin to allocate back to members as capital credits, and how much to retain for operating reserves.



Credits Are Allocated

Allocated capital credits are recorded in the member's name, but not immediately paid out. Typically this occurs annually, mid-year.



Credits Are Retired Over Time

Over time (usually a 20 + year cycle), the co-op retires (pays out) these credits to members, typically delivered by check.



MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES: Join us at your Annual Meeting



Julie Armijo

*Chief of Staff/Member
Services Manager*

We look forward to seeing you at your Annual Meeting on June 11 in Mandan at our Mandan Service Center. Registration for the meeting will be from 4-4:45 p.m. CT, with the business meeting starting promptly at 5 p.m. A meal provided by Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative will be served upon adjournment of the business meeting. Whether you've attended in the past or are considering joining us for the first time, here is what you


should know.

The Annual Meeting is a special time for co-op members to gather, hear from co-op leadership and, perhaps most importantly, vote to elect your new directors.

This year, members will elect directors for Grant County, Mandan Area and Morton County. We encourage you to attend and exercise the many rights you have as a member of an electric cooperative.

Various booths will share information about cooperative programs and updates. Members will have the opportunity to visit with directors, CEOs and employees.

Not only will you gain a better understanding of what is happening at your cooperative (and maybe win a prize!), but you will feel good knowing you had a voice in important decisions that impact one of our most vital resources, electricity.

More information about the director candidates can be found in the annual report, which you received in the mail in May. Further information about this year's director candidates can be found on the Annual Meeting page on our website by scanning the QR code. 

**COME SEE US ON JUNE 11
AT OUR
MANDAN SERVICE CENTER**

2719 34TH ST. NW, MANDAN



**Scan the QR code to
meet the 2026 director
candidates as well as
RSVP for the Annual
Meeting!**



MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: Projects to continue reliability



Gary Fitterer

Manager of Operations

Summer is a busy time for your cooperative, as projects across the service area progress. Each year, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's operations department works with a team of engineers at Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative to diligently plan construction projects for the year.

Planning these projects allows Mor-Gran-Sou Electric to obtain easements, gather materials and allot the appropriate amount of time to complete the projects.

You may have seen crews in your area conducting maintenance or installing new equipment on a power line near you. These are all part of the projects scheduled for the summer.

Technology upgrades

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric is working to install technology to enhance reliability for our members. This includes installing supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) technology, which acts as a remote data monitoring and control system. SCADA allows us to have real-time data at the cooperative's fingertips to assist in more efficient load switching, outage restoration and safety.


SCADA technology was recently installed in the McLaughlin, Solen and Lark substations. The cooperative plans to install SCADA equipment in the northwest Mandan switchyard, and Rough Rider, Sitting Bull, New Salem and Grant substations.

Substation updates

Various projects focusing on security and reliability in our system's substations are on the docket over the next few months. Installation of underground cable helps add reliability to the system by reducing exposure of power lines to weather conditions, animals and other factors that may cause electric service disruptions. Along with upgrading infrastructure, the cooperative is taking steps to upgrade security at all substations.

- **North Almont Substation** – 2 miles of new underground distribution cable will be installed, allowing for 2 miles of overhead power line to be retired. A 1.25-mile tie line will be installed west of the substation to allow for an additional 3 miles of overhead line to be retired.

- **Sioux Substation to Sitting Bull Substation** – 7.5 miles of overhead line will be replaced with underground cable once easements have been obtained.
- **Cannon Substation** – 3.5 miles of overhead line will be replaced with underground cable.
- **DeVaul Substation** – 5 miles of overhead line will be replaced with underground cable.
- **Plainsview Substation** – A circuit line will be rerouted, allowing for 1 mile of overhead power line to be replaced with underground.

While our crews remain busy throughout the coming months, we know our members are hard at work as well. We remind members to be aware of power lines and electrical equipment. Whether you are baling and stacking hay, spraying fields or enjoying time in your yard, take a moment to look around and stay aware of your surroundings to help prevent accidents. Safety remains a priority for you, our members. 





SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Protect yourself against utility scams



Patty Kluge

Member Services
Representative II

As your electric cooperative, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative knows the importance of communicating with you. Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's priority is ensuring you receive timely information from us through various channels, such as social media, our e-newsletter, text messages and phone calls. But with the increase in scams targeting utility companies, everyone needs to be aware and take extra precautions when sharing information online and over the phone.

We are committed to the safety of the cooperative and member information, and encourage you to do the same.

Scammers are developing new tactics every day, and they are targeting everyone.

The "past due" scam is unfortunately a familiar occurrence that goes something like this: A customer gets a call from an 800-number that looks like a valid utility company phone number. Widely available spoofing software allows scammers to display what


appears to be an official number on caller IDs. The scammer threatens to cut off power if the customer doesn't pay.

But here's the giveaway: The scammers will demand payment via a prepaid debit card or money order. In addition, they will ask for it within a specified timeframe, often in an hour or less.

Scammers might direct the customer to a specific store nearby that sells the prepaid cards and instruct the customer to put money on the card and provide the card number to the scammer.

But here's the reality about Mor-Gran-Sou Electric. We will never ask for immediate payment over the phone or in the form of prepaid or gift cards. We offer safe and secure ways for members to pay their energy bill online, over the phone or in person.


If something sounds or looks like a scam, it probably is. Refrain from clicking links in emails or text messages that look unusual or unexpected. If you receive a call from a number posing to be Mor-Gran-Sou Electric and it sounds suspicious, hang up and call us at 701-663-0297, 701-597-3301 or 800-750-8212.

We value your trust and work hard to ensure your information stays safe with us, but everyone has a responsibility when it comes to staying vigilant about scams. 

Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships available



At Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting in Mandan June 11, two \$500 Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarship awards will be drawn. If you are a graduating high school senior who is a dependent of a Mor-Gran-Sou Electric member and were not chosen for a scholarship, we invite you to join us at our Annual Meeting for additional scholarship opportunities.

Students are asked to RSVP by scanning the QR code or by visiting our website to register for the scholarships. Additionally, students must attend the Annual Meeting with a parent or guardian. To learn more, visit our website at morgransou.com. 



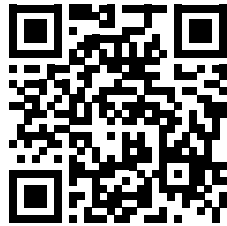
Thank you for attending!

Thank you for joining us at our membership appreciation events in April! It was a wonderful time to connect with many of you and listen to your thoughts! You, our members, are an integral part of our successful events. We look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting on June 11, and at various community parades and events this summer.

We value your input! If you attended a member appreciation event, we want to hear what you thought, so we can plan for future events. Scan the QR code with your smartphone to complete a short survey.



Scan for survey! >



Discounts offered for Medora vacation

Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative is able to offer its members a discount by being a Touchstone Energy® member. Simply call 1-800-MEDORA-1 and give the discount code of "TOUCH2026" for a 15% discount on all of the following during any night of the season.

- Medora Musical
- Pitchfork steak fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Gospel Bruch tickets
- Old Town Hall Theater shows

LODGING AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel
- Hotel 1883

The code is good for reservations over the phone, online or in person. A green fees discount will be applied at check-in for a tee time at the golf course.



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MOR-GRAN-SOU ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS March 25

The board of directors meeting of Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative was held March 25 at the Mandan Service Center. Chair Steve Tomac called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m. CT. A quorum was present. Also present were Mor-Gran-Sou Electric's co-General Managers/CEOs Jason Bentz and Travis Kupper, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Chief of Staff/Member Services Manager Julie Armijo, Operations Manager Gary Fitterer, Interim General Counsel Andrew Fergel and Executive Assistant Connie Hill. Lance Rambousek with Brady Martz joined a portion of the meeting.


Consent agenda: Amendments were proposed to the agenda. The consent agenda was approved as amended.

Strategic items: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's PowerXchange meeting and breakout sessions they attended. The managers also discussed National Information Solutions Cooperative call to order applications, a North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives manager meeting and other items. Several additional Basin Electric Power Cooperative reports and board documents were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report, which included the balance sheet and income statement. Fitterer provided an operations report outlining progress across maintenance, safety, trainings and construction initiatives. Armijo provided a member services report addressing 2026 member appreciation events and the 2026 annual meeting. She also updated the board on member surveys and youth programs. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided the board with a written report. Fergel provided a general counsel report covering legal topics and ongoing projects, including regulatory matters, service rules and regulations, along with other items.

Action items: The board discussed CoBank's customer meeting, overhead percentages, county commission meetings, succession planning and other items. Rambousek with Brady Martz provided an annual audit report.

The meeting concluded with adjournment. Secretary-Treasurer Pam Geiger certified the accuracy of the minutes.

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 9:30 a.m. CT on June 24 in Mandan. 



The original
HIGHWAY 21 TREASURE HUNT
June 19-20 8 a.m.-5 p.m. MT

This way to treasures and fun!

For more information, call 701-584-2172 or visit the Highway 21 Treasure Hunt Facebook page.



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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Chair.....Steve Tomac
Vice Chair.....Chad Harrison
Secretary-Treasurer..... Pam Geiger
Directors.....Mark Doll, Rodney Froelich,
Bob J. Leingang, Ryan Petrick,
Kathy Tokach, Casey Wells

MANAGEMENT

Co-GM/CEOTravis Kupper
Co-GM/CEO Jason Bentz

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