

Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

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January 2026

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant."

— Anne Bradstreet

New year, new projects! 2026 looks to be a busy year at RRMU as we look at the projects planned for this year and the years to come. If you read these newsletters, or follow along on our website, you will know that we are scheduled to begin construction of the new wastewater treatment plant! This is a major infrastructure investment that will serve the community for many years to come. Other projects include a new water line and planning for a new generator. We are also looking into water and gas improvements in the next 5-10 years to maintain reliable service in the future.

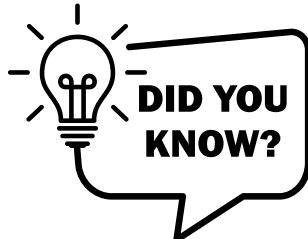
If you are planning to upgrade any of your utility services, or build a new house or business, please reach out to our office so that we are able to plan ahead to serve you.

- Jennifer Wippert

General Manager

Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities offers **Average Monthly Payments (AMP)**. This is a set monthly payment based on your last 12 months of utility usage. Payment amounts are adjusted as needed, but reviewed annually in April.

The goal of the AMP program is to provide customers with consistent payments to assist with budgeting. To have your AMP calculated in April, please reach out the Utility Office.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees that governs the Utilities has undergone several changes in recent months. **George Schneidermann** retired after serving 16 years on the Board. George has been an excellent public power representative in the community, serving as a MRES Ambassador and receiving the MRES Community Leader Award in 2023.

The Board then reorganized and now **Rhonda Menning** serves as the Chairperson, with **Brendan Metzger** and **Sam Halse** also serving on the Board.

At the November 10, 2025 City Council meeting, **Dr. Ryan Ackerman** was approved to serve as the ex-office Board Member. Dr. Ackerman runs Rock River Eye Care and lives here with his wife, Amber, and their two children.



Dr. Ryan Ackerman

Scholarships Available for Local High School Seniors

Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) and its 61 member communities, including Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities are pleased to announce the 2026 scholarship applications are open for high school seniors.

Each year, MRES and its member communities provide scholarship opportunities designed to help students pursue higher education at accredited two or four year colleges, universities or technical institutions. The program includes a renewable general scholarship and a one-time powerline scholarship for students pursuing technical training related to the powerline field.

Five high school graduates receive a \$1,000 general scholarship to attend an accredited two or four year college or technical school in fall 2026. These scholarships are renewable for up to three additional years, based on academic performance and other criteria, for a potential total value of \$4,000. Applicants for this scholarship must reside in a home receiving power from Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities.

Additionally, seven one-time \$2,000 scholarships are available to students enrolling in a powerline-related program at an eligible technical college. Those technical colleges include Bismarck State College – Bismarck, North Dakota; Dakota County Technical College – Rosemount, Minnesota; Minnesota State Community and Technical College – Wadena, Minnesota; Minnesota West Community and Technical College – Granite Falls, Minnesota; Minnesota West Community and Technical College – Jackson, Minnesota; Mitchell Technical College – Mitchell, South Dakota; and Northwest Iowa Community College – Sheldon, Iowa. Applicants for this scholarship do not need to reside in a household receiving power from an MRES member utility.

The scholarship program reflects Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities continued investment in the community and the next generation of leaders. The application deadline is **March 13, 2026**. Find full program details and scholarship applications at <https://www.mrenergy.com/services/scholarships>. For more information, please contact MRES Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer Alex Abplanalp or info@mrenergy.com



Utility Coordinator **Tanner Vogl** and Lineman **Kris Krull** have successfully completed one of the most comprehensive training programs for power line personnel. The Merchant Job Training and Safety Program is administered to line personnel in 40 states throughout the United States. This four-year program combines testing and real-world lineman experience. This program was accomplished by the hard work of Tanner and Kris and a partnership with Missouri River Energy Services (MRES). MRES provided one of their employees, Jeff Bechthold, to serve as a Training Coordinator who assisted Tanner and Kris by administering closed book testing. Jeff would come to RRMU for a half a day each month to help give the test and help with advice on projects if needed. Jeff and the whole RRMU staff (including the water, wastewater and gas crews) built a great relationship over the years. RRMU is proud of its employees and thankful for the relationship with Jeff Bechthold and MRES.

RRMU Employees Complete Lineman Training



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

To view the full USDA Nondiscrimination statement, visit www.rockrapids.net.