

Rock Rapids Municipal Utilities

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"Change is the only constant in life, and the seasons have their own unique way of reminding us of that."

— Author Unknown

It's hard to believe I've already been at RRMU for a full year! Not only was it a career shift, but the year brought many changes to RRMU. Flooding, new construction, new community loans, staff and board changes, and moving forward with a new wastewater treatment facility. Just to scratch the surface of all the different things that have happened here over the last year!

Probably the largest change has been working with the Board of Trustees on a new wastewater treatment facility. This is a major investment in the community, and works towards the goals of providing safe and reliable utilities for the community. While also providing room to keep our community growing.

Change is not always easy, but with the community support and excellent staff it has made my career change a wonderful one. I look forward to continuing to serve you in the coming years.

- Jennifer Wippert

General Manager



Summer Utility Reminders!

- * Conserve water—limit watering lawns, gardens or filling pools to the off peak hours (8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.) Due to drought conditions, we anticipate needing to enact watering restrictions soon.
- * Call 811 or access www.iowaonecall.com at least 48 hours before you plan to dig on your yard. The service is free and helps to avoid costly damages.
- * Utility projects are in full force! Please slow down and give the workers space in work zones.
- * Commercial and residential rebates are available for new energy efficient equipment. Check out the rebate page on our website www.rockrapids.net to see if your next project qualifies for a rebate.
- * Our latest water quality report is available on our website: www.rockrapids.net.

New Sewer Rates



In the last newsletter, it was mentioned that RRMU has been looking into different ways to treat wastewater in our community. Check out our website at www.rockrapids.net to see the new page added showing the updates to this project!

The need to move forward with this project has led the Board to pass a Resolution at the April meeting to raise the wastewater minimum charge from **\$25.00 to \$45.00**. The Resolution also raises the charge per 1,000 gallons of water used from **\$2.50 to \$4.50**. The new rate will take effect July 1, and will be seen on your bill in August. The new wastewater facility will allow the community to meet EPA and DNR regulations while also providing room for growth in the community.

The chart below shows the increase for the average family using 4,000 gallons a month:

	Current Rate	New Rate
	\$2.50 per 1,000 gal	\$4.50 per 1,000 gal
Minimum Charge	\$25.00	\$45.00
4,000 gallons	\$35.00	\$63.00

The August 2023 newsletter discussed investing in additional power generation for the community. Over the last month, the Board has reviewed bids for a new 3.0 megawatt generator and approved a bid for a new Caterpillar generator. The new generator should be delivered in late 2027.

Missouri River Energy Services, our wholesale power supplier, will be providing monthly payments to RRMU until at least 2052. The rest of the cost will be made up in rate increases. During the April meeting, the Board voted to increase electric rates 4% for all users. This will be effective July 1, and will show on your August bill.

Recently heavy winter storms, severe summer temps and storms with an overall increase in energy demands have threatened electric reliability. This new generator will provide reliability in extreme weather events and will make the community better equipped to handle higher energy demands.

Investing in Reliability



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