

WRT annual meeting

The sun was shining, and members were smiling as they celebrated WRT's 74th annual membership meeting on Friday, June 5, 2026, in Hazen. The annual event also marked the mailing of WRT Co-op Cashback checks. More than 15,700 capital credit checks, averaging \$838, were mailed to current and former WRT members during the week leading up to the meeting.

Nearly 400 people went through the registration and food line as members participated in the cooperative's annual membership meeting.

This year's meeting focused on the importance of secure connections, cooperative principles and strong margins. WRT board President Matt Erhardt Jr. welcomed those in attendance and introduced the two directors appointed since last year's meeting: District 4 Director Jon Engelstad of New Salem and District 5 Director Joseph Luger of Fort Yates. As noted in his written report, both directors were appointed to fill the unexpired terms of their predecessors, with Engelstad's term up this year and Luger's term running through 2027.

Members in attendance, as well as those who participated online or by absentee ballot, were able to vote for District 4 and District 7 directors, both contested elections. Final records confirmed that 842 members participated in this year's election. Valerie Schaaf of Glen Ullin defeated current director Jon Engelstad 413-333 to represent WRT District 4, which includes parts of Morton and Stark counties in North Dakota, including the portions of the St. Anthony, Flasher, New Salem, Glen Ullin, and Hebron exchanges lying within those counties south of Interstate 94. Two candidates from Hazen, incumbent Gene Wolf and local cooperative advocate Paul Doll, vied for the district 7 position, with Doll winning

513-282. WRT District 7 includes parts of Mercer County, including portions of the Hazen, Stanton, Pick City, and Center exchanges lying within Mercer County.

Independent auditing firm Baker Tilly US LLP reviewed WRT's financial statements, operations, and cash flows. In its recap to the membership, the firm said the WRT board of directors hired the auditing firm, which is independent of the cooperative, and that it provided a clean, unmodified audit with no internal control issues to report. Highlights included WRT's operating margins of \$7.8 million, or 19% of revenue, for 2025, comparable to the previous year. WRT's nonoperating margins reached \$43.8 million, or 107%. That puts WRT in a unique position compared with most cooperatives across the nation, which average 8%. On the balance sheet, total assets of \$358 million surpassed last year's record by \$27 million, with virtually no debt.

WRT CEO and General Manager Troy Schilling explained WRT's commitment to the seven cooperative principles and how several were on display that day: voluntary and open membership, democratic member control, and member economic participation. The latter was reflected in members electing directors, who in turn help determine the surplus distribution, or cashback, to members. The fourth principle, autonomy and independence, again underscored the importance of members representing members through WRT's bylaws and policies. WRT employees and leadership also focus heavily on the fifth principle, education, training, and information, from educating members on streaming TV, cyber threats, and scams to ensuring employees are well-trained and equipped to serve the membership. Schilling also discussed cooperation among cooperatives

and the importance of those connections while reviewing the sixth cooperative principle. The final principle, concern for community, is evident in donations made to organizations across WRT's service area, which includes 26 exchanges in North Dakota and South Dakota. WRT prides itself on being a community partner, carrying out the seven cooperative principles and serving members as its priority. Schilling added that the WRT board of directors approved the retirement of \$24 million to members, with \$13 million mailed the previous week.

Schilling attributed WRT's continued success to cooperative members, WRT leadership, and dedicated employees. Employees recognized at the meeting included Jody Murschel, 30 years; Aaron Wick, 25 years; Marty Stambach and Jesse Wetzell, both 15 years; Cole Grinsteiner, 10 years; Austin Roth, Terry Dschaak, Andrea Scharbach, Dylan Zahn, Nicholas Dwarf, Lindsay Sandquist, Jessica Borlaug, Michelle Cole, and Nichole Doll, all with five years of service. In addition, Schilling was recognized for 10 years as WRT CEO and general manager.

The 74th annual membership meeting concluded with the grand prize cash drawing, won by Sandy Wiebe of Beulah. The cooperative will celebrate its 75th anniversary on June 4, 2027.

WRT is a member-owned telecommunications cooperative offering internet broadband speeds up to 10 gigabits through its fiber network. The cooperative provides service to more than 13,000 members in central North Dakota and South Dakota. For more information, visit WRT's website at www.westriv.com or follow WRT on Facebook at www.facebook.com/myWRT.

New Salem Park Board Proceedings

NEW SALEM PARK BOARD MEETING APRIL 15, 2026

Call to Order – meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Roll Call
Present: Rob Boehm, Andrea Mathern, Lori Goetzfridt, Blaise Olson, Steve Kleinjan, Cadee Goetzfridt
Guests: Chad Goetzfridt, Richard Mendoza

Approval of Minutes – Minutes from previous meeting were presented. Motion to approve by Steve, seconded by Blaise – approved

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer's report of income and expenditures for the month of March were presented. Cadee made a motion to approve. Second by Andrea – approved

Golf Course
–Security First Bank notified us that the line of credit for Red Trail Links has expired since they had not used it. With their upcoming water project, they would like to be able to draw on that if needed. An approval from the board is needed as well as signatures on the line of credit to be able to reinstate it. Steve makes a motion to reopen the Line of Credit for the Golf account. Second by Cadee – all approved.

North Park
–The sign at the park with the rules, by the Historical Society, was hit by a vehicle a couple months ago and was destroyed. Rob will order a new sign and get it replaced.

–Water is on and Spiffy Biffs was called to open the toilets

Downtown Park
–The band stand was being vandalized by some kids, but they were told to stop by an adult. The camera feed was looked at and will try and figure out who it was.

–The water meter was put in so billing should start again in April.

Baseball
–Steve will get in touch with BSN to order new shirts with numbers on them as well as order more hats. We'll keep the same design and color.

–Equipment (baseball hats, catcher's gear and bag for gear) was ordered. The total was around \$800.

–Steve will work on getting the storage room cleaned up and organized after last season and football.

Swimming Pool
–Rates and hours will be kept the same.

–Rob signed the agreement for the Engineering plan. Meetings will be scheduled each week on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

–The platform of the life-guard stand needs to be fixed/replaced.

Groundskeeper
–Another interest letter for mowing was received. Rob will be in touch with them as to a schedule.

Rud Park
–There is a curb stop on the property already and would like to get a sprinkler system hooked up. Rob will talk to a contractor about getting an estimate to put the unit in.

Mann Park
–Sand volleyball requests are coming into Cadee who found someone to help this season.

–There is a request for more balls, a scorekeeper, and sand rakes.

–The maintenance crew will work on getting the weeds sprayed as needed around the perimeter of the court.

–If the weather holds up, ice rink walls and such will get put away this Saturday.

Walking Path
–Still working on getting a plan for future expansion.

–Andrea will pinpoint with the contractor how often maintenance is done and if we can get on a schedule.

New Business
–The elementary PTO asked if the Park would donate a pool pass for their upcoming spring concert silent auction. It was approved to donate a single pass.

–Civic Club asked if they could put on the Cow Town Hoe Down schedule a free swim day. Since we've done it in the past, all agreed to free swim.

Next regular scheduled meeting to be held on May 13th (different than normal Tues due to scheduling conflict) at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Boehm adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Lori Goetzfridt

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New Salem Park Board Proceedings

NEW SALEM PARK BOARD MEETING MAY 13, 2026

Call to Order – meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call
Present: Rob Boehm, Andrea Mathern, Lori Goetzfridt, Blaise Olson, Steve Kleinjan, Cadee Goetzfridt

Guest: Trevor – The Origin, Richard Mendoza, Kami Olson, Aashur Olson
Golf Course Rep: Don Kautzman

Approval of Minutes – Minutes from previous meeting were presented. Motion to approve by Cadee, seconded by Steve – approved

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer's report of income and expenditures for the month of April were presented. Andrea made a motion to approve. Second by Steve – approved

Golf Course
–Four golf carts were purchased.

–Bills were submitted for payment.

–Still waiting for the water project to start up again.

North Park
–Campers have been steady.

–A replacement sign still needs to be ordered.

Downtown Park

–Rob directed staff to post a message on the New Salem Park Facebook page to raise awareness about ongoing vandalism to the park's rock structure, as well as reports of children being disrespectful to other children and adults and using inappropriate language. The post generated significant feedback and discussion from community members. In response, Cadee spoke with her 4th and 5th grade classes about the importance of respecting property and treating others respectfully. Since those conversations took place, there has been a noticeable decrease in negative activity at the park. The board will

continue to monitor the situation and review camera footage as needed.

Baseball
–Registration started tonight and found that more shirts need to be ordered. Steve will get in touch with BSN Sports for that.

–Mosbrucker requested approval to hire two high school students to assist with practices and games due to the large number of participants (more than 60 kids). He asked whether the Park Board would be willing to cover the cost of their time.

Steve made a motion to pay up to two student assistants \$20 per day, with a maximum reimbursement of \$600 total. The motion was discussed and approved by the board.

–Andrea makes a motion to pay the coach a \$6500 salary. Second by Blaise. All approved.

Swimming Pool

–Aashur inquired about serving as Head Lifeguard and whether he could assist with scheduling. Due to the increased level of responsibility associated with the position, the board discussed adjusting his pay rate. Rob suggested a wage increase of \$1.50 per hour to reflect the additional duties.

–Harper Elijah will start as a new lifeguard as well as Jessica Sloan.

–The board discussed business passes and agreed to explore offering them only to licensed daycare providers. Children would be permitted to use the facility only when accompanied by their daycare provider. Additional details and eligibility requirements will be reviewed before implementation.

–Lori will order new whistles and long sleeve UV shirts for each of the guards.

–Lori discussed holding an orientation night for all lifeguards prior to the pool opening. The purpose would be to review expectations, procedures, and responsibilities to ensure staff are prepared for the season and

to help facilitate a smooth opening of the pool.

Mann Park
–MDU has been called to meter and hook up gas all the way.

–A Google Form was used to gauge interest and gather team registrations. At this time, only two teams have signed up. Wednesday evenings are being considered as a potential day for league play.

–Cadee reported that she is looking into purchasing additional equipment for the upcoming sand volleyball season, including rakes for court maintenance and a flip-style scoreboard to assist with scorekeeping during games.

Walking Path
–The board discussed the need to spray weeds along the walking path. A boom sprayer is available for use with the side-by-side; however, spraying has been delayed due to windy conditions. The work will be completed when weather conditions are suitable.

–Andrea has not been able to connect with the contractor on plans for maintenance.

Old Business
–Tables have been built; they just need to be delivered to where they need to go.

New Business
–A request was received from the Michael Heid Benefit Committee for a donation of a single pool pass to be used as part of the benefit fundraiser. Lori will print the donation form and provide it to Jess Heid before June 13.

Next regular scheduled meeting to be held on June 9th (2nd Tues of every month) at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Boehm adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Lori Goetzfridt

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