



MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

REFLECTING ON THE PAST, SOLIDIFYING THE FUTURE



Terry Stout
CEO/General Manager

With 2017 clearly wrapped up, we are now looking forward to solidifying long- and short-term plans to make Harrison Rural Electric Cooperative more effective and more efficient. As always, there are various hurdles that must be overcome in order to be successful in these goals.

We have been particularly pleased with the progress made through our vegetation management plan and pole inspection program. Other projects have moved forward, too, but just not to the same level of accomplishment. Our biggest financial goal has been to reduce long-term debt, and we are pleased to be on schedule with that project. Working to get everything moving forward takes a considerable amount of time and effort from everyone. While there are times that it seems as though we are overwhelmed by the enormity of what we want to accomplish, we still have a sound basis coupled with a desire to see things get better. That is always the positive of a new year.

Our vegetation management program is slightly ahead of schedule. By taking advantage of some opportunities that presented themselves, we should be able to reduce our cycle by at least another year to a standard six-year cycle, which is four years less than the previous goal. Our expectation is the second cycle will give us the opportunity to either complete the same mileage for less cost or complete more mileage for the same cost. Add in the fact that other changes we have made now provide much better assurance that we are not forgetting or missing certain sections, and we believe that at the end of this coming year, our rights-of-way will be in the best shape they have been in for many, many years. In addition, we have added our own

tree crew not only to work on new services, but also to address the plethora of ash trees damaged by the invasive Emerald Ash Borer.

The pole inspection program is right on schedule, and much like the vegetation management program, it has improved in making sure all areas are covered within the designated time frame. Unfortunately, that has not always been the case, as past management did not always plan well, preferring a shoot-from-the-hip style. Of course, with the implementation of our GIS (geographical information systems), we have tools available to us that make planning and tracking progress much better than we could have dreamed. We are changing contractors for the upcoming year, as competition has moved into the area. While this competition has led to better pricing, we will need to ensure that the quality of work does not diminish.

Other areas where we have focused considerable energy are employee training, standard procedures, information accessibility, and internal communication. All of these saw some improvement but are going to take additional efforts in order to meet the expected level of performance. By remaining focused on these areas in the early part of 2018, we had better meet or exceed expectations very soon.

Information accessibility took a giant step forward with the implementation of the SmartHub program. The options available for bill pay and usage are already in place, and work continues on mapping, outage notifications, service notifications, etc. Make sure your contact information is up to date if you want to participate in these programs.



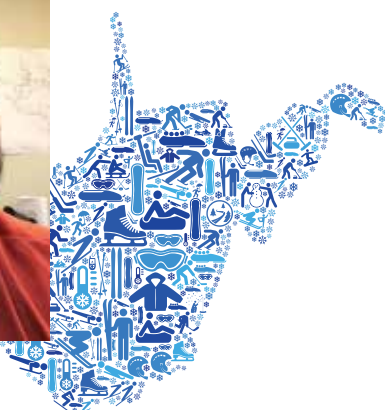
MAPPING MINUTE

BY MICHAEL GRIFFITH

THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SNOW BUSINESS



Michael Griffith
GIS Specialist



I hope you are well and keeping warm. For me, February is the start to the uphill climb to spring (as in it can't get much worse than this). During this time, I'm usually hibernating near home during the weekends because of the cold temperatures. However, my kids are getting to the age where they like to play outside in the snow, which gives me an idea for a winter weekend getaway.

We all know that our West Virginia mountains are beautiful year-round, but there is something majestic and peaceful about them when they are covered in a white winter blanket. Also, it's prime ski season, so combine the smooth, rolling mountains of West Virginia with winter sports, and you have a match better than peanut butter and huckleberry jam. If you are the outdoorsy type who doesn't mind a cold nose, here are a few places to get your snow day fix!

SHOWSHOE RESORT — Snowshoe is probably the most well-known ski resort in our state. Almost everyone has heard of it. With its 59 trails and 13 lifts, I'm sure there is a trail for you. There is also shopping, lodging, and a slew of other activities to enjoy while you are there. Check out www.snowshoemtn.com.

CANAAN VALLEY RESORT — Located in Davis, this resort is on the highest mountain valley east of the Rocky Mountains. Skiers and riders have access to 47 trails, 850 feet of vertical drop, and an average of 180 inches of snow per year. You can also go cross-country skiing, ice skating, snowshoeing, or snow tubing. See www.canaanresort.com for more information.

TIMBERLINE RESORT — Located close to Canaan Valley in Davis, Timberline usually has similar conditions. Timberline boasts 40 trails of varying levels to give you a great experience. Check out their 2-plus-mile-long Salamander run if you have the chance! Visit www.timberlineresort.com for details.

WINTERPLACE RESORT – This resort, found in Ghent, contains 27 slopes, two terrain parks, a snow tubing park, and a kids' snow tube park. With a pretty even spread of slope difficulty and 10 lifts, you are sure to have a great time shredding some powder or sipping hot cocoa in the resort center. Check out www.winterplace.com.

BLACKWATER FALLS SLED PARK – If skiing isn't your thing, visit this sled park in Davis. Here, you can take the kids sledding on the one-fourth-mile-long slope with a magic carpet conveyor that pulls you through the woods back to the top. Afterward, you can hit the town for some great local food before heading back home. See www.canaanvalley.org for pricing.

Take in the beauty that nature provides and enjoy yourself. Just because it's cold and snowy doesn't mean you can't have fun and explore! So get out there and ski, snow board, or sled those winter blues away. This has been your mapping minute.

MICHAEL GRIFFITH is the geographic information systems (GIS) specialist at Harrison REA. He writes monthly on geography, mapping, and environmental topics.





HOW TO INSULATE AN ATTIC ACCESS COVER



(Top to bottom)

This close-up view of the cardboard box shows how well it seals against the attic floor to block air leakage.

Source: Battic Door

When the attic entrance cover is zipped closed, it seals very well. Notice the extra-thick insulation in the attic with just standard insulation immediately around the entrance.

Source: Attic Tent

The zippered cover provides easy access to the attic. Notice how well it is attached to the attic floor.

Source: Attic Tent

This lightweight foam (similar to a cooler) attic entrance cover insulates and reduces air leakage.

Source: Atticap

In a well-insulated house, even a few square feet of uninsulated floor — like the attic access cover — can lose a considerable amount of heat. Builders don't always insulate and seal the attic access opening cover, but it certainly should be added for energy savings. Most often, just a scrap piece of plywood or drywall is cut somewhat close to the correct size and placed in the opening, resting on a strip of molding. That type of cover's insulation value is less than R-1, and it leaks air like a sieve.

Because the attic access is often in the ceiling of a bedroom closet or a hallway, the air leakage and heat loss/gain are seldom noticeable. During summer, attic temperatures can get extremely high with humid air, so you don't want it in your living space. During winter, the heated air in the house, because it is less dense, tends to leak up and out.

The simplest fix is to attach insulation to the top of the cover and weatherstripping underneath where it rests on the lip of the opening. Measure the cover to make sure it fits the opening, with the cover overlapping the molding lip so the weatherstripping seals well. If you have to make a new one, a piece of 1/2-inch drywall works well and is fire resistant. The insulation on the top of the cover should be up to the recommended code ceiling R-value for your area — find out what that is at www.energystar.gov. (Adding more insulation above this level will not help.)

Before you add weatherstripping to the molding lip, place the cover over it and check whether it's even. The lip often consists of pieces nailed to the sides of the opening that aren't level. You may have to pry a side or two loose and reattach it. If it's very uneven, it will be difficult to get a good seal under the cover.

The next step is to attach adhesive-backed foam weatherstripping to the top edge of the lip around the opening. Use a thick foam to accommodate any out-of-level edges.

If you plan to go up into your attic often and want to install pull-down stairs or a ladder, or your attic currently has one, buy a special insulated cover for the attic access opening. You could attempt to make one yourself, but its weight may make it hazardous to open and manage when you are on the stairs. One of the least expensive options is basically a three-sided heavy-duty cardboard box. It's easy to open and assemble.

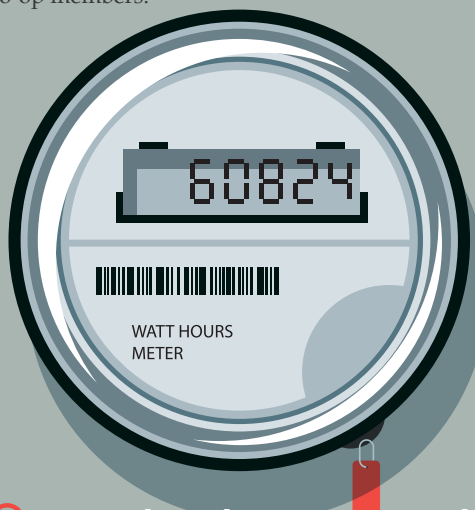
An efficient option is a lightweight, large rigid-foam domed device that covers the folded stairs or ladder from above. Another design uses a flexible, zippered insulated cover permanently attached to the attic floor for a good airtight seal.

TogetherWeSave.com, an energy efficiency website from the nation's electric cooperatives, has two videos on this subject as part of its Watch & Learn series; visit energysavings.togetherwesave.com/watch-and-learn and click on the Sealing & Insulation tab for more information.



DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal, and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.



- ⊘ Never break a meter seal.
- ⊘ Never open a meter base.
- ⊘ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.

If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with their meter, please contact us immediately.



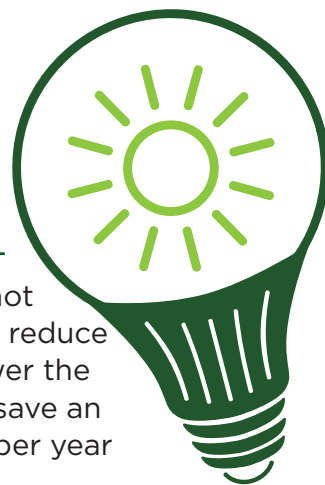
Presidents Day

The office will be closed Monday, Feb. 19, for Presidents Day as we honor those who have given of themselves to lead our nation.

For emergency service, please call 1-800-540-4732.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting, and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating.



Source: energy.gov

HARRISON RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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