



YEAR IN REVIEW  
2022



# HOMETOWN PRIDE



## A LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



I'm excited to be writing my first year-in-review letter as ERMU's new General Manager. I joined ERMU last July, just after the Sherburne County Fair parade, after nearly 30 years of public service in the military and public works fields. I was immediately impressed by how many of our staff volunteered to march in the parade. I knew I was joining an organization that was excited to get out into the community, but I was pleasantly surprised by how much our staff enjoyed getting involved. In the last six months of 2022, ERMU has participated in the Summer Safety Camp at Fire Station #2, Day of the Dozers, Downtown Elk River Trick-or-Treat, and mock interviews at the high school, just to name a few (check out the back cover for lots of fun photos).

As a publicly-owned company, I believe it's incredibly important that we are out in the community we serve. After all, we are YOUR utility company. ERMU is here to provide hometown services, build on hometown strengths, and offer hometown solutions to meet your utility needs. Our mission is to provide our customers with safe, reliable, and cost-effective utility services in an environmentally responsible manner. Our goal, however, is to accomplish our mission by truly serving our customers through effective community outreach, focused public education, and transparent multimedia communication. To that end, please let us know how we can better serve you in our operational, outreach, or customer service efforts.

Lastly, in 2023 we'll be hosting an open house at our new Field Services Building. More information is forthcoming, but we're excited to see you there!

- Mark Hanson, General Manager



## FIELD SERVICES FACILITY NEARS COMPLETION

In the fall of 2022, after over a year of construction, crews moved into our new Field Services Building. The expansion and upgrade to ERMU's field services facility near the Lake Orono Dam is designed to improve operations, allowing us to better serve the community. ERMU took advantage of what experts called a 50-year low in bonding interest rates to accommodate the much-needed growth. The new facility will offer secure storage for ERMU vehicles and materials, improving their longevity and reducing replacement costs.



October 2020



November 2022



# HOMETOWN SERVICE



## MUTUAL AID

Our community depends on us to provide exceptional service every day. Being part of a national public utility network means our crews also answer the call from other communities in times of crisis. As part of American Public Power Association's (APPA) Mutual Aid effort, a team from ERMU joined a nationwide mobilization to restore power to Florida residents impacted by the devastation brought on by Hurricane Ian in the fall of 2022.



*ERMU team prepares to leave for Florida with APPA's mutual aid effort in response to Hurricane Ian.*



*ERMU regularly monitors mineral levels in the water, removes potentially harmful elements, and treats the water to ensure quality and safety.*



## WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN

ERMU implements best practices to keep our community safe and works to ensure high-quality drinking water is there when you need it. The Wellhead Protection (WHP) plan helps protect your drinking water from pollution by managing potential sources of contamination. Updates to a WHP plan are made every 10 years. ERMU's plan updates were completed in 2022 as part of the scheduled 2023 amendment, which is submitted to the Minnesota Department of Health.



## LANDFILL GAS PLANT

The Landfill Gas Plant has been operating since 2002, when Elk River Municipal Utilities (ERMU) and Elk River Landfill (ERL) entered into a 20-year agreement to convert the methane gas from the landfill into energy. ERL and ERMU worked well together over the term of this agreement, benefiting the community with local generation, educational opportunities, and reduced gas flaring during this partnership. Over its 20-year life, the project netted \$1.5 million, which aided in ERMU's ongoing goal to provide affordable energy.



*At 10:32 a.m. on October 31, 2022, the final engine was turned off as the agreement came to an end.*





## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Throughout the year, ERMU participated in a number of local events and outreach efforts. As a community-owned municipal utility, we value these opportunities to interact with the people we serve, give back to both our local and global communities, and inspire a new generation to learn more about the many benefits of hometown public power.



*Summer Safety Camp*



*Sherburne County Fair Parade*



*Night to Unite*



*Day of the Dozers*



*Downtown Elk River Trick-or-Treat*



*Feed My Starving Children*