



Meet Your DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Steve Fuller

Steve and his girlfriend, Denise, reside in Willow Township. He has two daughters, Cassie (19) and Mandi (17). He has served on the REC board of directors since 2011.

Fuller is the co-owner of Fuller's Rustic View Dairy Inc., where there are 70 Holstein dairy and beef. He also raises crops on 400 acres which include beans, corn, and hay. He is a graduate of Ithaca High School and Southwest Technical College night school for agriculture. Fuller is coming up on 35 years of farming full time this year. He was also on the Consumer's Cooperative board of directors for eight years.

In his free time Fuller enjoys spending time with his family. He is an avid hunter and enjoys attending archery shoots. He also enjoys hiking.

When asked why he was interested in serving as an REC directors Fuller replied, "I enjoy meeting with our fellow community members and discussing the business of our local co-op. Being a director also means representing our co-op and its members to the best of my ability by attending meetings, training sessions, and traveling to functions such as NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) events. I am looking forward to gaining further knowledge and spending more time with our local co-op." 



Dean Scoville

Dean and his wife, Rene, currently live on Snow Valley Road in Willow Township. They have four adult children, Sid, Rick, Shawna, and Sabrina. They also have eight grandchildren, three girls and five boys ranging from one to seven years.

Scoville is a graduate of Richland Center High School and owns a farm on his residence. He is currently milking 50 dairy cows and has 15 beef cattle. He also rents numerous farms to raise crops of beans, corn, and hay. Scoville also served as a 4-H leader for many years.

During his free time, you can find Scoville working on old cars, particularly Dodges and Plymouths. However, he said any car will do and that he enjoys working on pretty much anything. Along with working on cars Scoville also plays a fair amount of pool. He does play in numerous tournaments throughout the year and recently played in the state tournament.

When asked why he was interested in serving on the REC Board of Directors he stated, "It would be nice to know more about the co-op. There are many things that happen behind the scenes that I would like to understand and to learn more about." 



WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR YOUR DIRECTOR BALLOTS

Director votes are cast by mail. Ballots are typically mailed to members approximately 21 days prior to the date of the cooperative's annual meeting; this year's that date is **April 7**.



Jim Goplin

Jim and his wife, Bobbie Ann, live in the Basswood area of Eagle Township. They have three adult children, Jesse (Traci), Janelle (Ben), and Jo Ellen. They also have two grandsons, Keegan and Kannon, and two granddaughters, Allie and Ada. Goplin has served on the REC board of directors since 2015.



Goplin currently works for Great Lakes Hybrid as a seed corn dealer and on his farm. He has a small dairy operation, milking up to 40 cows, and he owns 179 acres and rents another 375 for cash cropping. He says the farm has been a great place to raise his family. He is a graduate of Riverdale High School and participated in ag classes through Southwest Technical College for many years.

Goplin has been involved in many civic duties. He has been involved with the Richwood Town Board and Riverdale School Board. He was also a member of the Consumer's Cooperative board and Richland County Board of Adjustments.

"Being involved with these boards has given me a better understanding of how businesses and schools operate daily," Goplin stated.

During his spare time, Goplin enjoys all aspects of hunting, fishing, and being outdoors. He has bowled for many years and still participates in a night league. He has a great passion for golfing and enjoys finding new courses that challenge him to improve his game. But most of all he loves spending time with his family. "Spending time with our grandchildren is the BEST and it is so much fun to watch them grow up," he said.

Goplin stated, "Being a director for the past three years has been a great honor for me. It is great to be a part of a co-op that has such great involvement with the community and our young people. It is important to keep up to date with all the new advances in technology, and I want to help our cooperative continue moving forward with those advances. Keeping electricity affordable for our patrons is something I would like to continue to work on as well as ensure the safety and security for our linemen and REC. The REC office staff and management team work diligently on a daily basis to keep this organization running smoothly and provide quality service to our members. I would like to continue to be a part of this team as an REC director." 

Jeff Monson

Jeff and his wife, Angela, reside in Dayton Township. They have three children in Kayla (16), Ryan (14), and MaKenna (12), who all attend school in the Richland school district. He has served as a director on the REC Board since 2012 and was elected to represent REC on the Dairyland Power Cooperative Board of Directors in October of 2016.



Monson currently crops 100 acres of corn, oats, and hay. He also raises 40 sows of purebred Hampshires, Yorkshires, and Durocs. He is a professional dairy cattle hoof trimmer and serves dairy farmers in the Richland, Dane, and Sauk counties. He graduated from the Dairyland Hoof Care Institute in fall of 2000. Monson is a 1992 graduate of Richland Center High School and a 1993 graduate of Southwest Technical College in the Dairy Herd Management Program. This led him to join Hensen Brothers Dairy in Waunakee as a dairy herd manager from 1995–2000. He also serves on the Richland County Outstanding Young Farmers Board of Directors.

In his very limited spare time, Monson enjoys spending time with his family and watching his kids play sports. He also likes riding mules at state parks on the weekends during the summer months and attending an annual elk hunt in October.

When asked why he was interested in serving another term as an REC director, Monson replied, "I believe in the future of electric co-ops. From the improvements of generation (solar, wind) to the future of battery storage, it is an exciting time. I enjoy representing our members' best interests as a director because I am a member. I would also like to encourage more youth involvement through the programs offered by electric cooperatives. I am proud of the strength Richland Electric Cooperative members gain from its quality employees, its facilities, and our quality of service. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the board of directors, and I wish to do so in the future." 

Please join us for
BUSINESS & BREAKFAST

at the 82nd annual meeting of
Richland Electric Cooperative

Saturday, April 7 • Richland Center High School

Breakfast served beginning at 7 a.m. • Business meeting at 8 a.m.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 15

Richland Electric Cooperative offers scholarships to qualified members or their children who are enrolling in a post-secondary degree program or vocational program. Applications are available at the Richland Electric Cooperative office and from area high school guidance counselors. Completed applications should be returned to the office of Richland Electric Cooperative by March 15. To learn more, please visit www.rec.coop and click on Scholarship under the News and Events tab.





WHEN CITY MEETS COUNTRY

Back in the late 1940s, when I was a kid growing up on a Waushara

County farm, a goodly number of city folk, we called them “city slickers,” moved into our very rural community. We had few conveniences that city folk took for granted. In fact, most of the farmers living in my community didn’t have electricity until the late 1940s. And nobody had indoor plumbing or could think of any reason why anybody would want a toilet in their house. Out in the backyard is where it should be. A goodly distance from the house’s backdoor was the place for such a necessity.

Little did we realize at the time, that when city met country, we would all change. The city folks changed. And, as much as we didn’t sometimes like it, we changed as well.

These are some of the changes:

- Communities with quaint, long-standing names such as Skunk’s Hollow and Pine Snake Hill became Pleasant Valley and Pine Tree Knoll.
- The North Road, so-called for years, now had a sign and a new name, Apache Drive. Apparently, no one bothered to figure out that no Apache Indians had ever set foot in the area.
- Shorty Davis, who cussed regularly, drank too much, and chewed tobacco, was now described as “colorful.”
- Fred Everson, the laziest man in the village, now became “interesting,” as some city folk described him.
- As long as many folks could remember, there had been a stop sign at the corner of Highway 22 and Main Street in the county seat. Now there was a stoplight—the only one in the county. “Them stop lights is for city people,” I heard a neighbor say. I had to remind him that there were a considerable number of city people now living in the country.
- Saturday night was always town night, with stores open until 9. Now the stores closed on Saturdays at 6, and every day was a shopping day, or so it seemed.

- The town chairman began getting comments that farmers who spread manure on their fields created quite a smell. Shorty Davis said, “Too bad these folks didn’t take a whiff of cow manure (he used another word) before they moved here.”
- A new, unspoken rule at the grocery store: Lines at the checkout counter should move right along. No stopping to ask about the clerk’s son who has been sick, or to comment about the weather.
- A new question came up at the township meetings. “When do you plan to widen, blacktop, and have lines painted on these dusty country roads?”
- George Evans, known by all the locals as the biggest liar in town, was now known as a “rural storyteller.”
- A comment overheard at the hardware store in town: Local folks said it was quiet out here in the country, but some animal kept me awake all night.” (Some city folks just don’t appreciate whippoorwills.)
- Several deer, busy mowing off a farmer’s cornfield, and cussed at by the farmer, were described by his new city neighbor as “nature’s creatures” that were merely following their instincts.

Many communities experienced these changes. How about yours?



Go to www.jerryapps.com for more information about Jerry’s writing and television work. Contact Jerry at jerryappsauthor@gmail.com with questions or comments.

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