



## Fiber Updates

# SPLICING AND CLEANUP

**Y**ou have probably seen that Michels construction has returned to the Island and is working diligently to get more fiber installed. As noted in the previous issue of these pages, there is a whole lot to do. In addition to hanging fiber, they are also assisting us in cleaning up some of the leftovers from what's already installed. You have probably noted that we have excess, or "slack," in various locations that include splice locations. Michels is installing "H-frames" to store and clean up this slack and you should see these locations slowly being cleaned up.

Michels is working significantly faster than Quantum can splice, so remember, just because you have a drop at your meter does not mean that your connection is imminent. It is significantly closer, but Mary or I will

contact you to schedule installation once the splicing that gets light to your home is complete.



On that note, and we have asked numerous times before, we need accurate phone and email information. If your information changes, please ensure that we have the up-to-date information. We have called to schedule installations to find phones have been disconnected or email addresses have been changed.

It is important that we get this up-to-date information as it will not only help us with scheduling, but we intend, in the future, to set up a notification system for outages and other important cooperative-related information.



"H-frame" installation cleans up slack spans and splice locations of the fiber project.

# LINE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

**Y**ou will note numerous locations where we have reinforced poles. We are doing some of this necessary work under the grant projects for the fiber even though we would have

eventually had to reinforce or replace the poles anyway. To illustrate how important the inspection process and subsequent replacement or reinforcement are, this photo shows the condition

of one such pole, on Washington Harbor Road, that we were replacing due to inspection and clearance. We took an outage and cut the lines and found the pole was deteriorated to a point that there was not much pole underneath the ground anymore. The pole simply fell over once the lines were no longer supporting it. Certainly, this is a good example of role reversal, but also of why we do some of the things we do. This pole, and the ones on either side of it, were installed in 1949. The other poles were just fine.

This is also a prime example of how the fiber project and the equipment procured for it have made life easier even outside the project. In the cobblestone here, it would have taken hours to dig the hole required to replace the pole using simply the digger derrick, but the mini excavator made quick work of it.



The importance of our pole inspection process and replacement/reinforcement of poles that don't pass the test!



# BEEP BEEP!

We think they dress up the roads a bit and do make visitors feel welcomed when they come.

In order to increase their longevity, we take the banners down each fall and replace them with some general, seasonally appropriate banners in the downtown area.

As a side note, during the development of these banners, we regained the artwork for the Island Flag for the Lions Club. Along the same lines, we also put up the Christmas decorations on the poles each winter and we hope that people enjoy them.

## Lighting Up the Community

We maintain all the town streetlights and have replaced the vast majority of them with “night sky compliant” LED models. We built and installed the light at the town’s boat launch and, during the Lobdell Point underground project, ran power underground in order to service it. Prior to this, we built and installed the solar light that was at the end of the dock. Due to changing water levels and battery longevity, this installation outlived its usefulness and now there is a reliable dock light at the location.

We assist in the parking lot lights at other facilities, such as the Trueblood Theater, Town and both churches. We have had numerous broken flagpole ropes that have been replaced both at public facilities and for private individuals.

We have upgraded the lighting in almost every town facility and the school to more efficient fixtures and will be specifying and providing LED fixtures for the Mosling Recreation Center.

## Supporting the School

We own and maintain the solar installation at the school and installed it as an education and demonstration project. The inverters for the installation are installed right in the classroom, and we provided the school with a curriculum that was developed by Wisconsin Public Service called “Solarwise.”

We have also provided scholarships for graduating seniors here for many, many years.

Quite often someone will see us doing something and look surprised and say, “I didn’t know you did that!” Honestly, that is exactly the way we like it. Quiet contribution is generally more meaningful and we are not really looking to toot our own horn.

However, since we have had comments like this quite a bit this summer and since October is National Co-op Month, we thought members perhaps would like to know some of the more notable behind-the-scenes things that we do beyond keeping the lights on and connecting members to fiber.

## Banners and Decorations

The welcome banners that you see around the community, which are based on the Washington Island Flag, are procured by the cooperative and hung on brackets that we fabricated in our shop. This was initially meant to be a community project and we received contributions towards the cost of the banners from various organizations and the town. The banners do not last forever and we are currently on our second round of replacements which, after the first round, the cooperative has paid for.



**Washington Island welcome banners are procured, installed, and maintained by the cooperative.**



The cooperative installed lights at the Little League field, which are used primarily for softball games and the skating rink.

### Little League Lights

Together with the Lion’s Club and several local businesses, we installed the lights at the Little League field. While these lights have not been necessary for many of the Little League games, they have been utilized extensively for softball and for the Lion’s Club skating rink. Together with Lion’s volunteers, we recently “re-aimed” the lights to improve the area lighting.

### Spreading the Word

We maintain a bulletin board that is one of the public posting places for the town and school to post meetings and important public information. While there is not enough space for it to be used by the general public, it is available to view meeting postings, etc., in our front entrance.

We maintain the facility and hang the banners for service organizations and public events on the poles installed at the shop parking area of the property. This facility is located just south of the Fire Department Cistern that we have located on cooperative property.

### Temporary Services

We built and make available temporary services for events such as the Lion’s Club Fair, Fly-In Fishboil, and for the Death’s Door Barbecue. We also make these temporary services available for wedding receptions. If the couple or their immediate family is a member of the cooperative, this is done at no charge and is the cooperative’s wedding gift to the couple. If there is no direct connection to a member, we still provide the service at a nominal charge.

Don “cooking lunch” at a safety demonstration.

We also provide these temporary services during the construction of a new home. There are no other utilities that do this and while it is not our responsibility, if the services are available, we set them up.

### Financial and Labor Contributions

We support numerous Island events with either monetary donations or with labor to help with setup. We built a number of benches during a bit of winter slow time and these benches are used at events such as the fair, fly-in, and barbecue. Two of the benches are currently located at the Legion Hall to be used for folks who wish to use the public WiFi “Honor Our Veterans” that we set up there.

### Safety Demonstrations

We put on line safety demonstrations for the school, general public, and also for the emergency services/town. In the case of the latter, we have had our safety instructor put on a presentation as sometimes the information has more impact coming from someone you don’t know!

Continued on the following page



# OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

# OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH

## Community Collaborations

We have a reciprocal agreement with the town and you will often see our two crews working together. This serves both cooperative members and taxpayers (who are really one and the same) well.

We also have done numerous projects for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service on Plum Island, although after granting us permission to cross the Island, these projects are small items in comparison.

We allow the public to park on cooperative property during the fireworks. While this might not seem like a big deal, it usually results in several buckets full of trash picked up and the occasional sign getting run over.

## Fiber Feats

We are facilitating (and pushing a bit) the installation of small cells at various locations on the Island with Nsight. This will improve (we hope dramatically) the cell service coverage for everyone.

As part of the fiber project, we not only wired public buildings and churches (anchor institutions), and are providing public WiFi at various locations, but we also procured (through Quantum Technologies efforts) smart boards that have been installed at the school, the Rutledge Room, the Fire Department, and the Art and Nature Center.

Our fiber project has had a direct impact on other communities as well, but most notably Liberty Grove where not only are they able to take advantage of the fiber we ran with Nsight, but we also sent our bucket truck over to assist with running the first drops for their pilot project.



**Merril and Donna Lundberg donated a log cabin to the Farm Museum and we ensured that it would not snag overhead lines during its move by Martin Andersen across the Island.**

## Moving Along

This may be mostly self-preservation, but when there are oversized loads such as building moves or boat moves, we go along with the move and ensure that our lines do not get snagged.

## A Grave Matter

And last but not least, on a number of occasions, we have assisted the Town in digging graves. No, really! While it has not happened in a while, our digger derrick was effective in breaking through heavy frost in order for the town to be able to use their backhoe.

This is by no means an all-inclusive list, and some service projects happen more often than others, but now that we have pointed a few things out, we will go back to our quiet driving and stop honking that damned horn.

## Robert Cornell, Manager

1157 Main Road, Washington Island, WI 54246

920-847-2541

info@wiecoop.com

Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

