

June 2021

Newsline

BOARD MEETINGS June 29 ■ July 27

Wright Substation taken by @pdeca1230



A Tequesta Energy Cooperative

Energy that Powers Our Lives

IN THIS ISSUE

- Co-op Culture for All
- Meter Removal Notice
- Capital Credit Allocations
- Pole Testing Underway

We're ready for storm season. Are you?

Now that summer is in full swing, like many of you, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather.

The summer months make conditions right for dangerous storms and longer outages. These weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but I want you to know that Lake Country Power's crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur.



By Derek HOWE
Chief Operating Officer

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars,

peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water, and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).

- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.

- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.

- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

Additional Tips

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you



will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check LCP's Facebook page or website for power restoration updates.

Be Safe

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs, including on your property.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies

can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings, and follow our Facebook page to stay abreast of power restoration efforts and other important co-op news and information.

I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict the future. We recommend that you act today because there is power in planning. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer. ■

HOLIDAY OBSERVED

All LCP offices will be closed July 5 for Independence Day. If you experience a power outage, use SmartHub to report the outage. Register for SmartHub at lakecountrypower.coop. Or call 800-421-9959, press 1.

Committed to a co-op culture for all

Lake Country Power is different because it is a cooperative. The business model sets cooperatives apart from other utilities because co-ops adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness, and service to the greater good of the community.

Electric co-ops have a unique and storied place in our country's history. They democratized the American dream by bringing electricity to rural areas when for-profit electric companies determined the effort too costly. Back then, cities were electrified, and rural areas were not, creating the original rural-urban divide. Newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in rural areas. Today, that spirit of equity and inclusion is a vital part of the co-op DNA.

Equal access for all

When your electric co-op was founded, each member contributed an equal share in order to gain access to electricity that benefited individual families as well as the larger local community. Each member had an equal vote in co-op matters. That sense of equity and inclusion is still how co-ops operate today. LCP was built by and belongs to the diverse communities and consumer-members they serve. Membership is open to everyone, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

By virtue of paying your electric bill each month,

you're a member of the co-op, and every member has an equal voice and vote when it comes to co-op governance. This ties back to the guiding principles of equitable economic participation and democratic control of the co-op.

We encourage all members to vote in LCP's director elections every spring, and the board invites all members to participate in co-op meetings to weigh in on discussions that set co-op policies and priorities.

The members of our community have different needs and perspectives, and the board welcomes diverse views on all issues under consideration by the co-op. The more viewpoints we hear, the better we are able to

reflect the needs of all corners of our community.

Inclusion

While the co-op's top priority is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, LCP also wants to be a catalyst for good in our communities. Because LCP is your local electric cooperative, co-op revenues stay right here in our communities. In turn, LCP invests in our diverse community base through scholarship programs, charitable giving, educational programs and more.

While today's world is radically different than it was when co-ops were founded 80 years ago, cooperative values have stood the test of time and remain just as relevant today. ■

Dan Kingsley was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 6. He can be reached at 218-697-2628 or dkingsley@lcp.coop.



By Daniel
KINGSLEY
District 6 Director

Meter Removal Notice

Please be aware that if you plan to remove your meter from the socket for any reason, you must first notify Lake Country Power by calling 800-421-9959.

1. Members who need to remove their meter from the socket are required to notify the co-op before a licensed electrician can perform the task.
2. If members do not hire a licensed electrician, they must call LCP first so a co-op employee can safely de-energize the meter base before the member removes it themselves. This is a standard safety measure that is meant to protect members, employees and the general public from electrical contact.
3. Should LCP crews respond to an unreported meter removal, the member will be charged at the rates set forth by Finance and Administration Policy 417.



► Meet your Lake Country Power board of directors. Seated (left to right): Larry Anderson, Esko, District 9; Jason Long, Cook, District 1; and Craig Olson, Culver, District 7.

Standing (left to right): Robert Bruckbauer, Remer, District 5; Mike Forsman, Ely, District 2; Steve Raukar, Hibbing, District 3; Craig Carlson, Grand Rapids, District 4; Dan Kingsley, Hill City, District 6; and Jim Huhta, Cromwell, District 8.

Contact information is available on the last page of this newsletter and online at www.lakecountrypower.coop/directors-districts.

People Powering You

This is the first in a regular series of employee spotlights where you'll get to know the people behind your power.



Sandy Crowe

Executive Assistant

Years served: Employed 45 years (in June)

Brief overview of my job: Administration support for the LCP board and management; attend meetings and prepare minutes of all board meetings; assist with administration functions of LCP's Operation Round Up® program; keep and maintain corporate files of cooperative meeting minutes, cooperative policies, electric rates, etc.

Why I enjoy working at LCP: I was able to stay and work in the area I was born and raised – I like the smaller town, rural setting. This is my family away from home. It gives me satisfaction to work for a cooperative – we provide a very essential and needed service to the members.

Family: Family is very important to me. I am married and have three step-daughters. My mother and my siblings including 1 brother and 4 sisters all live in the Grand Rapids area. I am blessed and thankful.

Community Involvement: I sing in my church choir and community choir; member of Grand Rapids Kiwanis Daybreakers; Lunch Buddy mentor.

Hobbies: Fishing and going to our cabin; I enjoy being outside and enjoying all of nature and creation. Hunting – whitetail in Minnesota and wild turkey and antelope in Wyoming. Gardening both flowers and vegetables. I love the beautiful flowers and seeing the plants sprout and grow. There's nothing better than fresh vegetables so we do some canning also.

One random fact of interest about yourself: My husband and I go to Wyoming each year (provided we get a license) to hunt turkey and antelope.

Before I worked for the co-op? Chores at home, babysitting and worked as a waitress.

Education/training/background: Graduated from Greenway High School in 1975; started secretarial program at Itasca Community College fall of 1975 and graduated in the spring of 1976; started working at Dairyland Electric Co-op., Inc. (one of the former predecessor cooperatives) on June 24, 1976. The cooperative has been my "work home" my entire life!

Capital Credit Allocation for all members

This month, the co-op's board approved to allocate more than \$3.8 million of the Lake Country Power and Great River Energy 2020 margins into long-term member capital credit accounts.

Because Lake Country Power and Great River Energy are not-for-profit cooperatives, all margins (revenues minus expenses) are allocated back to member-owners in the form of capital credits. The allocation represents your share of "ownership" in the co-op and is paid back to you – over time – as financial conditions allow.

Allocation notices are being mailed

in June. To keep you informed about your capital credit account, the line items recorded on your 2020 "Notice of Capital Credit Allocation" mailer represent the amount of the 2020 margin that was allocated to your personal capital credit membership account.

How Allocations Work

Allocations are based on patronage and your proportionate share of the cooperative's revenue. Until capital credits are returned through a board approved general retirement, your allocation is invested to improve the reliability and service of your cooperative.

Think of your allocation as a membership investment that will be paid out to you over a period of time.

In the meantime, your capital credit membership account represents your share of ownership in the co-op. Lake Country Power uses the capital investment to reduce the amount of bank financing for equipment like electric lines, utility poles, substations, transformers and trucks. Visit www.lakecountrypower.coop for more information about allocations and capital credits. ■

Final Reminder: Calendar contest

Time is closing in on the deadline for photography entries – Monday, August 2. Winners will receive a \$25 credit on their electric bill and will be

notified in October.

To participate in the 2021 co-op calendar contest, please follow the guidelines closely.

Photo Contest Guidelines

1. Dimensions must be 3600 x 2400 = 12" x 8" high-res print photo, or 5400 x 3600 = 18" x 12" high-res photo. Adjust your camera settings to ensure these high-quality dimensions. Cell phone photos are often not acceptable quality for print. A quality digital camera is best for good photography.
2. Photos must be 300dpi (dots per inch). Photos under 1 MB will be labeled as KB, and are too small for print application and should not be entered.
3. Separate e-mails are required per entry. Attach the photo file to your e-mail, include a photo description for the entry, and remember to include your name and the phone number on your account as well.
4. Horizontal/landscape photos only; no vertical shots for design reasons.
5. Only Lake Country Power members may enter the contest. (LCP employees and their immediate families and spouses are not eligible to enter the contest.)
6. Hard copy photos cannot be accepted; only electronic files please.
7. Photos should capture the beauty of northern Minnesota. You may submit photos taken in spring, summer, fall and/or winter. All photos must be taken by you, not someone else.
8. One membership (household) may submit up to 10 photos and will be limited to one winning entry per membership.
9. Please do not submit close-ups of people.
10. Winning photographers automatically give Lake Country Power permission to use winning photos in the calendar, in other publications, member presentations or electronically online.
11. Photos must be e-mailed to tzaun@lcp.coop. All entries must be received by August 2, 2021.

Pole testing for safety and reliability

In the interest of public safety and service reliability, Lake Country Power has hired Ram and Osmose Utilities to conduct a ground line pole inspection on the distribution poles in the northern part of LCP's service territory. The testing will begin in June and will continue through August.

The goal of this routine inspection is to identify poles that may no longer be useful for service and will be scheduled for future replacement. Crews will be accessing the distribution power lines with pickups, four-wheelers, or on foot. Some poles may require hand excavation to a depth of 18 inches below ground; these will be filled by the end of each day. There will be no interruption of electric service.

Pole testing will take place on three LCP substations:



▶ This pole is in rough shape and may be on the fringe of rejection.

Meadowbrook (serves west of Cook around Meadowbrook and Nett Lake), Winton B (serves north of Ely), and Pike River (serves the Britt area and north of Virginia).

Lake Country Power maintains more than 132,000 poles on its system. A standard pole typically costs \$380. Of the 13,086 poles inspected last year, 267 were rejected.

RECIPE CORNER CHICKEN CHILI

From the Kitchen of:
Carolyn Lehiikoinen,
Cloquet

INGREDIENTS

- 2 T. olive oil
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 15 oz. cans black beans (rinsed and drained)
- 2 15oz. cans diced zesty chili-style tomatoes
- 2 cans chunk chicken breast (undrained)
- 2 pkgs. Chili seasoning mix
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

Heat the olive oil in a large pot, medium heat. Stir in onion, black beans, tomatoes, chicken, chili seasoning, cumin, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes. Makes 6 servings. Optional: Top with shredded cheddar cheese, tortilla chips or crushed corn chips.

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn. Editor, 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset MN 55721, or e-mail tzaun@lcp.coop. If your entry is printed in Newsline, you'll receive a \$5 credit on your electric bill. Entries must include name, address and phone number on a court.



smart hub Tip

Q: Leaving home for an extended period of time, or do you have a seasonal property on our lines? If so, you'll appreciate Auto Pay.

A: Once you've set up your SmartHub account, set up your Auto Pay account. To do this, log into your SmartHub account and then from the tool bar at the top go to Billing & Payments, and then Auto Pay Program. You can use either your checking information or your debit/credit card. This information can be updated anytime.

Before taking the plunge, electricity can seep into the water

Just what is electric shock drowning, or ESD?

An unfamiliar term to many, ESD means that someone is being exposed to stray electrical current in the water, usually from faulty wiring – a danger you cannot see or detect just by looking. Many people have never heard of ESD or don't even know it's a possibility when swimming, wading, boating or hot-tubbing.

While stray electricity may not lurk in every body of water, it is important to be aware water can become electrified and that electric shock drowning can occur.

Dangerous water that has electrical current running through it can paralyze muscles, leaving a swimmer unable to move or stay afloat. Stray electricity could be found in the water:

- Near a dock that uses electricity (usually in fresh water as opposed to salt water)
- Near a marina (never swim there)
- Surrounding a yacht or boat capable of generating electricity
- In a pool or hot tub (electricity often runs the lights and motors)
- In a wading pool, kiddie pool, lazy river or water amusement feature that uses electricity

This is not an exhaustive list; in fact, current could leak into any water source with electricity running to it – for example, a lighted fountain.

Depending on the magnitude of the current, sometimes a person can detect stray electricity in the water by the sensations they feel, such as prickly

or tingly sensations. If that happens, pull your legs up close to your body and swim away from the source of electricity (e.g., a dock, boat or light post on shore). Yell to someone on land or

the dock to cut the power. Again, do not swim toward the electrical source.

If you suspect someone is experiencing electrical shock while in the water, do not jump in to help. Instead, call

9-1-1, throw a life ring or lifesaver and, if you can, shut off the power source.

For more information about electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org. ■

POWER RESTORATION FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

When the power goes out, line crews work hard to restore service as quickly and safely as possible. Complete the fill-in-the-blank activity below to learn about the steps of power restoration. Use the word bank if you need help, and check your work in the answer key.



Word Bank:

distribution
pads

transformer
substations

transmission



1. High-voltage _____ lines are the large towers and cables that supply power to the greatest number of consumer-members. They rarely fail, but if they do, they have to be repaired first.

2. Next, crews inspect distribution _____ for damage. They determine if the problem stems from the lines feeding into the equipment itself, or if the problem is further down the line.



3. If the problem still can't be pinpointed, _____ power lines are inspected. These are the lines you typically see on the side of the road that deliver power to communities.

4. If the power outage persists, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers that are either mounted on poles or placed on _____ for underground electric service.



5. If your home remains without power, the service line between the _____ and your home may need repairs.

Answer Key: 1) transmission 2) substations 3) distribution 4) pads 5) transformer

Condensed Board Minutes

March 30, 2021 • Regular Monthly Meeting

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Olson reported that he virtually attended the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association PowerXChange meeting. He also attended the Minnesota Rural Electric Association annual meeting. Olson stated he talked with Manager Bakk about LCP's annual meeting and also reported about several phone calls from members.

Auditor Matt Laughlin with Brady Martz reported to the board about the financial audit that his firm conducted of Lake Country Power's 2020 operations. The firm provided a "clean" opinion of the audit work.

General Manager Bakk reported about the March Great River Energy member manager

meeting, GRE power contracts with fixed members, GRE's power cost adjustment charges, capital credits received from GRE, Northland Connect, LCP's COVID-19 update, LCP annual meeting plans, and the Paycheck Protection Program, etc.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Approved to file the 2020 LCP Cogeneration/Distributed Energy Report.

Approved to accept the 2020 audit report. ■

Editor's Note: These board minutes have been condensed. A full copy of the board minutes can be read at www.lakecountrypower.coop under "My Cooperative." You'll need to sign up for access if you haven't already. Or call 800-421-9959 for a printed copy.



► This picture earned a spot in the co-op calendar for June. Bonnie Nygaard of Aurora took this picture on Loon Lake in Palo where a mother and her babe enjoyed the beautiful calm water.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

Source: www.energy.gov

Co-op Contacts

Mark Bakk, 800-421-9959
General Manager mbakk@lcp.coop

Jason Long, 218-240-9611
District 1 jlong@lcp.coop

Michael Forsman, 218-365-5789
District 2 mforsman@lcp.coop

Steve Raukar, 218-966-0298
District 3 sraukar@lcp.coop

Craig Carlson, 218-999-7175
District 4 ccarlson@lcp.coop

Robert Bruckbauer, 218-566-2436
District 5 rbruckbauer@lcp.coop

Daniel Kingsley, 218-697-2628
District 6 dkingsley@lcp.coop

Craig Olson, 218-393-2276
District 7 colson@lcp.coop

Jim Huhta, 218-644-3997
District 8 jhuhta@lcp.coop

Larry Anderson, 218-428-2722
District 9 landerson@lcp.coop

Directors are members of the cooperative and are elected to act in the best interests of the co-op with the same care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.

Directors set policy, approve strategy and are charged with fiduciary responsibility of the cooperative. Directors do not oversee day-to-day LCP operations. Administration of maintenance, electric service and operations are the responsibility of employees and staff.

Members with questions or concerns about service, billing, outages or other service-related matters should call 1-800-421-9959.

Newsline

Published monthly by Lake Country Power
26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55721
Editor: Tami Zaun • tzaun@lcp.coop
Lake Country Power Service Centers:
Cohasset • Kettle River • Mountain Iron
800-421-9959 • www.lakecountrypower.coop
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date – March 2021

	2021	2020
Electric Operating Revenue	\$ 26,574,442	\$ 25,500,240
Cost of Purchased Power	14,924,107	13,045,672
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	3,124,280	3,223,094
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	981,003	1,009,867
Administrative and General Expense	1,910,083	1,880,914
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	4,357,853	4,202,522
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	25,297,326	23,362,069
Net Electric Operating Margins	1,277,116	2,138,171
Non-Operating Margins	685,633	506,818
Total Margins before Subsidiaries	1,962,748	2,644,989
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	1,028,276	(229,873)
TOTAL MARGINS	\$ 2,991,024	\$ 2,415,116
TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	193,412,494	188,876,383

Editor's Note: These financials are condensed. A complete set of financials can be viewed at www.lakecountrypower.coop under "My Cooperative." You'll need to sign up for access if you haven't already. Or call 800-421-9959 for a copy.