



May 2021

Newsline

BOARD MEETINGS May 25 ■ June 29



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Beneficial electrification is a win-win for consumers and environment

If you're like most people, you want to save money on energy costs and do your part to help the environment. But wouldn't it be great if you could do both? Well, you can! It's through a concept called "beneficial electrification." This utility industry term means the innovations in energy technologies are creating new ways to use electricity instead of on-site fossil fuels, such as propane, natural gas and fuel oil, in a way that reduces overall emissions and energy costs.



By Barbara SCHMIT
Manager of Member Service

as your water heater, electric home heating (air or ground source heat pumps, and electric thermal storage heating systems), clothes dryer, oven and even your lawn care equipment have the potential to become greener. When cooperatives take advantage of advances in technology and the market at the generation point (how the electricity is produced), it means those efficiencies are passed along to you and me, the co-op member.

Household electricity is getting cleaner

Because large household appliances have a typical lifespan of about 10 years, it means that you are able to benefit from the flexibility of the grid in addition to the increased efficiency of the particular appliance. In other words, the high efficiency electric oven you have today could be powered by renewable sources in the near future. This would not be the case with gas appliances where you are essentially

locked into the technology of that gas appliance for the 10-year lifespan. When shopping for electric appliances, look for the Energy Star rating.

As Lake Country Power is able to tap into more renewable options in the future, your electric appliance has the potential to become greener and more energy efficient. The only way you would be able to benefit from this trend is through an electric appliance.

Helping the environment

For consumers and homeowners looking for more environmentally-friendly options, choosing electric appliances, water heaters, electric home heating, tools and cars over those powered by fossil fuels is an obvious solution. Whether through electric lawn mowers, blowers and weed whackers (plug-in or rechargeable) or through electric water heaters and other appliances, beneficial electrification is a means to reduce greenhouse gases and help our environment.

It can also translate into a better quality of life. For example, when you can trade the loud rumble of a gas-



powered mower or blower for the quiet efficiency of electric versions, you eliminate the exhaust emissions and the unpleasant noise.

Lake Country Power encourages members to use energy wisely and efficiently. The co-op's Energy Wise® programs and rebate incentives are a great way to do that. SmartHub is another option, which allows members to manage and monitor their energy use – even by the hour. ■

HOLIDAY OBSERVED
All LCP offices will be closed May 31 for Memorial 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.

Cooperatives unite when challenges arise

Electric cooperatives were formed when neighbors banded together approximately 80 years ago with a shared goal to bring electricity to their community. That same spirit of partnership exists today.

Co-ops routinely team up with each other to face shared challenges. They are also willing to lend a hand when a fellow cooperative is in crisis. They even team up with their neighbors to work more efficiently or offer new services.

Electric cooperatives are groups of people with a common purpose – to serve their community with

reliable energy. Lake Country Power serves its member-owners every day, but they are willing to step up when another membership is in need.

If a damaging storm causes widespread outages, it's not uncommon to see co-ops from across Minnesota helping out. Other cooperatives will often offer equipment, supplies – even workers – to restore power as safely and quickly as possible.

Lake Country Power's subsidiaries help in times



By Jim
HUHTA
District 8 Director

of trouble, too. Lake States Tree Service and Lake States Construction have been valuable to Lake Country Power to assist with the co-op's power restoration work. They've even made trips as far south as Georgia to help restore power in the aftermath of devastating hurricanes.

A cooperative principle

This willingness to help others is no accident. It's ingrained into the values that guide all cooperatives as the sixth cooperative principle "cooperation among

cooperatives."

This principle states that electric cooperatives don't just serve their own member-owners, they work collaboratively with other cooperatives. When one community is in need, all cooperatives help to make sure their needs are met.

Co-ops call themselves the 'cooperative family.' As solid as each cooperative is, it is their collective strength that truly sets them apart from other energy providers. ■

Jim Huhta was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 8. He can be reached at 218-644-3997 or jhuhta@lcp.coop.

Co-op community connects online for Lake Country Power Annual Meeting

A community of cooperative members "plugged in" for the LCP virtual annual meeting held via Zoom video conference on Thursday evening, April 15. Members heard about working through the pandemic, favorable achievements in 2020, and the co-op's commitment to manage member resources wisely.

General Manager Mark Bakk reported about the cooperative's achievements and milestones during the past year. In 2020, Lake Country Power completed all planned work on time and under budget during the pandemic. The co-op also achieved its best-ever reliability score and completed its first full seven-year cycle of integrated vegetation management.

He added that Lake Country

Power finished deploying the final stretch of nearly 70,000 new meters with advanced metering infrastructure for members.

Bakk also reported about the new lineworkers who were recently hired to focus on large-scale construction projects and age-related line replacements. These line crews will save the cooperative money that was normally paid to contractors and will enable Lake Country Power to replace 75 miles of aged line every year to maintain reliable service.

"I'd like to thank our members for their understanding and support during this most challenging year," said Bakk. "Rest assured that I will always lead this cooperative with your best interests in mind."

Additional reports were given by the board, staff and Great River Energy.

Director election results were announced. Candidates ran unopposed in Districts 1 and 5.

District 1:

Jason Long, Cook
723 votes

District 3:

LaTisha Gietzen, Mt. Iron
351 votes
Steve Raukar, Hibbing
494 votes

District 5:

Robert Bruckbauer, Remer
468 votes

District 9:

Larry Anderson, Esko
423 votes
Paul Horgen, Sturgeon Lake
246 votes
Kevin Maki, Saginaw
313 votes



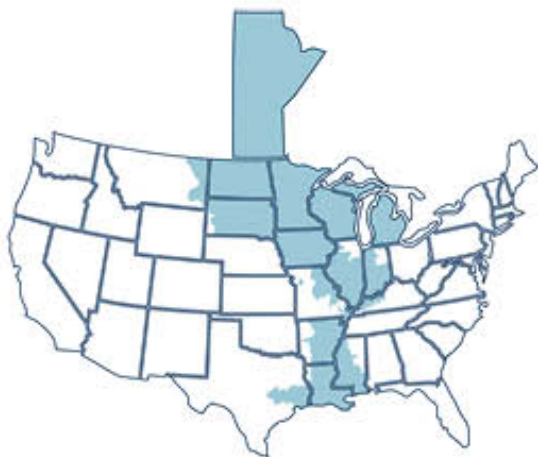
Immediately following the adjournment of the annual meeting, the board of directors held a re-organizational meeting. Board officers are: Craig Olson from District 7, President; Daniel Kingsley from District 6, Vice President; Mike Forsman from District 2, Secretary; and Jason Long from District 1, Treasurer. ■

As renewable energy expands, reliability remains paramount

As Minnesota relies more on renewable forms of energy such as wind and solar, some cooperative members are wondering: Will my power stay reliable?

“Our members depend on electricity around the clock, which is why we need access to diverse power sources at all times,” said Jake Chrzanowski, LCP senior distribution engineer.

Lake Country Power is a member-owner of Great River Energy. In addition to a portfolio that includes 10 power plants and hundreds of wind turbines, Great River Energy is a member of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO). MISO coordinates a massive energy market covering 15 states with hundreds of energy sources connected by thousands of



► MISO is the grid operator for 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. It oversees the operation of the bulk power transmission system, facilitates an energy market, and has responsibility, along with its members, for maintaining electric reliability across its system.

miles of transmission. MISO members must follow strict rules to ensure electricity remains reliable.

“Every electric utility in MISO must have the capacity to supply electricity for the periods of highest demand – plus reserves in case of contingencies,” said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke. “Being a member of MISO benefits our cooperative members by providing access to a vast pool of resources that help maintain reliability.”

As the electric system evolves and renewable energy expands, MISO continues to update its reliability requirements. Great River Energy advocates on behalf of cooperative members in MISO’s studies and as the requirements change. ■

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.

WARNING

4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



RECIPE CORNER HAM BALLS

From the Kitchen of:
Jan Wical,
Grundy Center, Iowa

INGREDIENTS

- 2 lb. cured ham (ground)
- 2 lb. ground beef
- 3 eggs
- 3 cups graham crackers, crushed (2 sleeves)
- 2 cups milk



DIRECTIONS

Combine all of the above and form into small balls – golf-ball sized. Arrange meatballs closely into greased 9x13 pan.

Sauce: 2 cans tomato soup, 2 cups brown sugar, 1/4 cup vinegar (garlic-infused is good) and 2 T dry mustard. Cover ham balls with sauce. Bake 1 hour at 350 degrees. Can freeze up to 3 months.

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn: Editor, 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cobasset, MN 55721, or e-mail tzaun@lcpcoop. 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 account.

There is help out there for your energy bills

More Minnesotans than ever are having difficulty paying their heating and electricity bills amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The Minnesota Department of Commerce has funds available for Energy Assistance, and the recently approved federal stimulus includes over \$100 million for Minnesota's Energy Assistance Program, nearly doubling the amount of support.

If you qualify, you could

receive assistance to help pay your energy bills. Eligible applicants receive an initial grant for energy expenses and may be eligible for up to \$1,200 more to help pay overdue bills, avoid a utility shut off, or get a fuel delivery.

Eligibility is based on the last three months of income. Individuals need to have earned less than \$8,479 in the past three months to qualify, while families of four can earn up to \$16,307



during that time. Renters and homeowners are eligible, and assets such as the home are not considered in determining eligibility.

You can learn more and apply at <https://mn.gov/commerce/eap.jsp> or call the Minnesota Department of Commerce at 1-800-657-3710.

Lake Country Power exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the members and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill and do not qualify for either of these programs, please call 800-421-9959 (press 5) to set up a payment plan. ■



We work hard to keep your coffee hot, your milk cold, your batteries charged and your home warm.

The Value of Electricity

– Energy that Powers our Lives



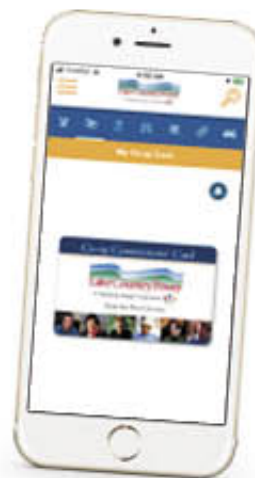
Q: Want to go paperless and save time?

A: Once you've created your SmartHub account, follow these steps: Go to 'My Profile,' 'My Information,' and then 'Update My Paperless Settings.' All you need to do is switch your paperless setting bar to ON. While you're in 'My Information,' you can also update your other account and contact information with the simple click of a button.

Save money with Co-op Connections®

Thank you to the following businesses for joining Lake Country Power's Co-op Connections® program.

You'll receive these discounts when you show your Co-op Connections® Card or the app you can download onto your smart device. For a full listing of enrolled businesses or assistance to download the App, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop > My Cooperative. Additional offers can be found at www.connections.coop.



- 1. Timberlake Lodge,** Grand Rapids: Open swim plus buy one swim wristband, get one free.
- 2. Timberlake Restaurant,** Grand Rapids: Free glass of house wine with entrée purchase (dine-in only); and buy one dessert, get one dessert free (dine-in or pickup).
- 3. The Card Shop,** Virginia: \$3 off with a purchase of 5 or more greeting cards.
- 4. Horseshoe Bay Lodge,** Walker: \$5 off any purchase of \$25 or more for both the resort and restaurant. One discount per member per visit.

- 5. Material Girl,** Virginia: 10% off entire purchase (some exclusions may apply).
- 6. American Toner and Ink,** Grand Rapids: 10% off website pricing, excludes special order items.
- 7. CF Designs,** Duluth: 15% off hourly consulting for full architectural services.

For a full listing of business participants or assistance to download the App, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop (My Cooperative > Community > Co-op Connections Card – <https://www.lakecountrypower.coop/co-op-connections-card>). ■

Annual Cogeneration Notification to Membership

In compliance with Cooperative adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, Lake Country Power is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers who satisfy the conditions as the qualifying facility. Lake Country Power is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the Cooperative. Interested members should contact Lake Country Power, 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55721, or call 800-421-9959.



Crews work quickly, safely in outage response

When the lights go out, Lake Country Power crews spring to action. Some outages are very brief, but when severe weather leaves widespread damage, outages can last longer. At the same time lineworkers are dispatched to restore power as quickly as possible.

To prepare for a power outage:

- Create an emergency kit with food, supplies and flashlights
- Have a place to store food safely
- Know how to check breakers and fuses

- Test your generator

Safety is always the top priority when restoring power. Crews give immediate attention to dangerous situations, such as downed power lines on roadways or streets.

"It's important to stay away from downed power lines, and to treat all downed power lines as though they are energized," said Bill Bussey, director of safety and risk management. "If you drive into a downed power



line, stay in your vehicle and call 911."

Lake Country Power regularly updates its emergency response plans to prepare

for outages. Employees train for major events and understand their role in the power restoration process. When needed, LCP calls on neighboring utilities to assist when major weather events and outages happen.

Learn more about outage preparation and



restoration work at www.lakecountypower.coop/outage-center. ■

Electrifying your lawn care

When it comes time to buying a lawn mower, there are several reasons to opt for an electric version as opposed to the gas-powered option. Not only are battery-powered lawn mowers more environmentally friendly, but they require less maintenance and are quieter during operation.

Electric push mowers tend to weigh much less than their gas-powered counterparts, making them easier to transport and use. Another advantage is their push-button start and no pollution.

Benefits of all-electric riding mowers:

- **Less yearly maintenance costs.** You can forget about changing the oil, oil filter, spark plugs, belts, and air filters. Just change or sharpen the mower blades and check the tire pressure as needed.
- **Less expensive to operate.** Filling your tank with electricity versus gas or diesel will save you fuel costs. According to the Electric Mower Report, a half-acre lawn mowed with a gas-powered lawn mower will cost approximately \$1.50 per half acre mowed, while an electric lawn mower will cost \$0.10 per half acre mowed. Yearly costs, if you mow approximately 20 times, translates to \$31.50 for gas and \$2.10 for electric.
- **Less expensive to own.** An electric riding mower powered by Lithium-Ion batteries and brushless motors will pay for itself and save you money over the life of the mower compared to a gas-powered one.
- **Quieter to operate:** You can mow without the loud roar of a lawn tractor engine.

Electric models may be more expensive upfront, but require less upkeep, maintenance costs, electricity and fuel costs. When you take in all factors, electric lawn mowers on average will result in a 35% savings over gas-powered mowers. ■



Generate Safely.

Never use a portable generator indoors.

Do not plug generators into standard electrical outlets.

Use heavy-duty extension cords to connect appliances into the generator.

Start the generator before connecting appliances.

Condensed Board Minutes

February 23, 2021 • Regular Monthly Meeting

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Olson reported that he and LCP directors virtually attended Great River Energy's regional meeting in February. Olson received several phone calls from members about control times of their dual fuel system and water heating. The frequency and control was due to the extreme weather of the 2021 polar vortex.

General Manager Bakk reported about the February GRE member manager meeting, GRE's power cost adjustment charges, update about Coal Creek Station, Northland Connect, LCP COVID-19 update, LCP annual meeting plans and a virtual meeting to discuss the current legislative session and priorities.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Approved the ballot format for the 2021 director elections in Districts 1, 3, 5 and 9.

Approved a resolution that approves the

2020 Long Range Load Forecast.

Approved the job title revisions in Policy 305 Personnel.

Approved to elect Robert Bruckbauer and Craig Olson as nominees for election as a director of Great River Energy for a one-year term beginning April 7, 2021.

Approved that Craig Olson be reappointed as LCP's GRE voting delegate and Craig Carlson be reappointed as LCP's GRE voting alternate.

Approved to authorize the President of Lake Country Power Holdings, Inc., to sign a document. ■

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 May. Barney Chamberlin of Virginia has a beautiful Crabtree in her yard where the bumblebees flock each spring for healthy nutrition and energy.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: www.energy.gov

Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date – February 2021

	2021	2020
Electric Operating Revenue	\$ 18,934,340	\$ 17,732,664
Cost of Purchased Power	11,091,165	9,681,178
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	1,980,331	1,940,731
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	637,558	681,472
Administrative and General Expense	1,279,939	1,274,330
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	2,241,252	2,182,614
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	17,230,244	15,760,326
Net Electric Operating Margins	1,704,096	1,972,338
Non-Operating Margins	(3,828)	192,534
Total Margins before Subsidiaries	1,700,268	2,164,872
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	-	-
TOTAL MARGINS	\$1,700,268	\$2,164,872
TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	142,764,934	134,587,958

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.

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Jim Huhta, District 8	218-644-3997 jhuhta@lcp.coop
Larry Anderson, District 9	218-428-2722 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
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