

JULY 2025

LCP Supports Local Tourism by Powering Local Lake Resorts

Rural electric cooperatives support local tourism by powering many of Minnesota's iconic lake resorts, which are the heartbeat of our communities.

Behind the picturesque scenery and guest experiences lies a crucial backbone: reliable electricity and modern infrastructure. Rural electric cooperatives like Lake Country Power provide the essential energy solutions that keep these resorts running, ensuring their success in even the most remote areas.

This tourism spending supports the interconnected web of small-town commerce. By providing reliable electricity, these cooperatives help resorts maintain uninterrupted operations, especially during peak tourist seasons when demand for power surges.

Lake Country Power serves some of Minnesota's largest lake communities. These regions are magnets for tourism, attracting visitors who support a wide array of local businesses. Resorts in these areas create demand for dock manufacturing, boat and ATV sales and marine mechanics, which stimulates economic activity.

The cooperative's economic development financing programs have been crucial in strengthening resort infrastructure. North of North Resort & Outfitters, for example, received a \$100,000

low-interest loan to develop a fully electric resort, complete with high-efficiency appliances, electric boilers and air-source heat pumps. Lake Country Power also assisted in promoting the resort's development, enhancing its visibility as a top destination for lake-resort enthusiasts.

Another recipient of a \$100,000 Revolving Loan Fund, Handberg's Marina, helped support its expansion to build a new repair and retail marine store in Crane Lake, Minnesota.

"Honestly, we couldn't have done the project without Lake Country Power's help," said Lori Sanborn, co-owner of Handberg's Marina, with her husband, Jeff. "Lake Country Power was such a fun piece of our expansion project. The funding helped bridge the gap between what the bank provided and what we were able to provide."

Additionally, the cooperative supports resorts through its Member Made initiative, a marketing program designed to boost visibility for locally owned businesses. Recognizing that many rural resorts lack extensive marketing resources, Lake Country Power helps promote these essential tourism hubs.

Source: Great River Energy

A Shared Responsibility in Protecting Grid Reliability

As we head into the summer months, Lake Country Power is paying close attention to recent findings from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), which released its 2025 Summer Reliability Assessment.

This report highlights a growing concern for our region — an elevated risk of operating reserve shortfalls during periods of high electricity demand — which could arrive in August.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA), of which Lake Country Power is a member, is helping raise awareness about the report's implications. One of the key takeaways is that parts of the Midwest, including Minnesota, could face electricity supply challenges during extreme heat events.

It should be stressed these are rare situations, but come from a combination of higher demand, reduced availability of always-on resources like coal and natural gas, and limited output from intermittent sources like wind and solar when the grid needs them most.

As Darrick Moe, MREA President and CEO, put it: "This report is like your car's dash lights coming on. If you keep operating with the warning lights flashing, problems are sure to come." That's a helpful analogy for understanding the importance of early signs and reinforcing reliability now, before it becomes a crisis.

At Lake Country Power, reliability is not just a goal. It's a responsibility.

We work closely with Great River Energy, our wholesale power provider, to maintain a resilient system. That includes regular

system maintenance, grid modernization efforts, and disaster response planning.

In rare situations, such as prolonged heat waves when demand significantly exceeds supply, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) may call for emergency conservation efforts or, as a last resort, temporary outages to protect the larger grid. While temperatures remain fairly moderate during Minnesota summers, the MISO region covers numerous states that face much warmer weather this time of year and put strain on the grid from heaving cooling loads.

Should periodic power outages happen that impact your service, Lake Country Power will keep you fully informed every step of the way. I encourage all our members to stay informed and engaged. To read NERC's full 2025 Summer Reliability Assessment, visit www.nerc.com.

In the meantime, thank you for doing your part, whether that's conserving energy on peak days, staying updated through our communications, or simply understanding the challenges we all face together. Reliability is a shared commitment, and we are proud to serve you with that mission in mind.



Sincerely,
Mark Bakk,
General Manager

Board Meeting Highlights: March 25, 2025

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Following Reports Were Given:

President Olson reported on being contacted by Brady Martz about LCP's 2024 audit. He also spoke with a member about their electric bill and programs through the cooperative. Olson said he attended the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Power Xchange conference in Atlanta.

General Manager Bakk reported numerous topics around Great River Energy (GRE).

He noted proposed Canadian tariffs were not expected to have a significant impact on wholesale electricity prices, but steel and aluminum tariffs could impact materials. Bakk also said staff would begin discussing dates and location for LCP's strategic planning session.

The Following Actions Were Taken:

Approved Robert Bruckbauer and Craig Olson as nominees for election as directors of GRE for a one-year term beginning June 4, 2025.

Approved Olson as LCP's GRE voting delegate. An alternate voting delegate was not elected at this time.

Following discussion on director hotel reimbursement for the annual meeting on April 24, the board approved reimbursing mileage instead of paying hotel expenses, in accordance with Board Policy 107.

Editor's Note: These board minutes have been condensed. To view a complete copy, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop under "My Cooperative." A SmartHub account is required. To request a printed copy, call (800) 421-9959.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS: JULY 29 | AUGUST 26 (9:30 am at the Cohasset Service Center, Members Welcome)

DID YOU KNOW?

Lake Country Power formed in January 1997 as the consolidation of Carlton County Cooperative Power Association, Dairyland Electric Cooperative and Northern Electric Cooperative Association.



Bruckbauer, Olson Elected to GRE Board of Directors

Representatives from the member-owners of Great River Energy met June 4 to perform their annual review of the board of directors and elect leadership for the year ahead.

These annual meetings are an essential component of the cooperative business model. Cooperatives are governed by directors who are elected from among the membership. This annual process ensures the board upholds its purpose and consists of a fair representation of the member-owners.

Great River Energy directors are assigned to committees representing key functions of the cooperative, such as transmission, power supply and finance.

At the 2025 annual meeting, Lake Country Power had two directors elected to the GRE board: District 5 Director Robert Bruckbauer and District 7 Director Craig Olson.

In addition, Mike Brasel (Lake Region Electric Cooperative, Pelican Rapids) was elected chair; Randy Hlavka (McLeod Cooperative Power Association, Glencoe) was elected vice chair; Mike Littfin (Arrowhead Cooperative, Inc., Lutsen) was re-elected secretary; and Nancy Utke (Itasca-Mantrap Cooperative Electrical Association, Park Rapids) was elected treasurer.

Big League Fun for Local Kids

For the second straight year, Lake Country Power partnered with the Minnesota Twins to hold one of the team's community baseball clinics in Cohasset on May 30. Clinics were free to attend for kids aged 6-12 and made possible through funding from the Twins Community Fund and Great River Energy.



30 High School Students Earn Scholarships from Lake Country Power

Lake Country Power is pleased to announce 30 local high school seniors were awarded the Lake Country Power 2025 Les Beach Memorial Scholarship. The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship honors a former co-op employee and recognizes student commitment and contribution to local communities.

The \$4,000 scholarships, issued at \$1,000 per year for four years, will help the following graduating seniors pursue their college plans and career dreams:

- Bryce Ferguson: Barnum School
- Arryelle White: Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School
- Anna Jude: Cherry School
- Jacob Halverson: Chisholm School
- Gage Allen: Cloquet School
- Siiena Anderson: Cromwell-Wright School
- Alecianna Brown: Deer River School
- Carena DeBeltz: Ely Memorial Secondary School
- Ben Schramm: Esko School
- Larson Curnow, Alfred Necas, Rebekah Peterson and William Skaudis: Grand Rapids High School
- Cheyenne Seeley: Greenway-Coleraine School
- Broden Bruhjell and Megan Gunderson: Hermantown School
- Brooke Siekkinen: Hibbing School
- Kaija Neary: Hill City School
- Morgan Creswell-Pierce: McGregor Secondary School
- Alex Leete: Mesabi East School
- Olivia Jutila: Moose Lake School



- Alixandra Olin: Mountain Iron-Buhl School
- Alex Burckhardt and Aidan Hartway: North Woods School
- Noah Backe: Northeast Range School
- Reagan Paszak: Proctor School
- Alden Knudson: Rock Ridge High School
- Colin Prachar: Willow River High School
- Grace Matvey and Kaylin Rivard: At Large category

The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship is available to local students from more than 35 area high schools. Qualified students must be co-op members through their parents or legal guardians who receive electric services from Lake Country Power.

The Les Beach Memorial Scholarship is made possible through abandoned and unclaimed capital from previous members who can no longer be located.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

BE PREPARED
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Simple Steps to Avoid Extreme Bills During Extreme Heat

When outdoor temperatures soar, our electricity use increases. That’s because our air conditioners are running longer and more often to counteract sweltering outdoor temperatures. Factor in that we all tend to use electricity at the same time — in the morning and early evenings — and that equals a lot of strain on our electric grid.

At Lake Country Power, we work closely with Great River Energy, our local generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative in resource and infrastructure planning to ensure you have the power you need whenever you flip a switch, but the electric grid is much larger than your local co-op and G&T, and it takes everyone to keep the grid reliable.

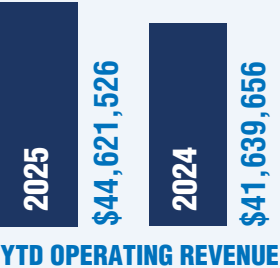
To help keep the air conditioner running for you, your family and neighbors, here are a few things you can do to relieve pressure on the grid during times of extreme summer heat:

- Select the highest comfortable thermostat setting and turn it up several degrees whenever possible. Your cooling system must run longer to make up the difference between the thermostat temp and the outdoor temp.
- Use smaller appliances, such as slow cookers, air fryers and toaster ovens to cook meals.
- Use ceiling fans to make yourself feel a few degrees cooler. Remember, ceiling fans cool people (not rooms), so turn them off in unoccupied rooms.
- Close blinds, curtains and shades during the hottest part of the day to block unwanted heat gain from sunlight.
- Run major appliances such as dishwashers, ovens and dryers during off-peak hours when the demand for electricity is lower.

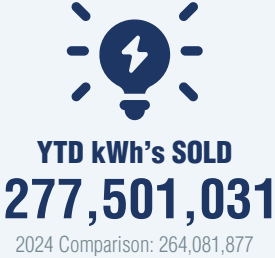
By The Numbers | April 2025

Lake Country Power is committed to responsibly managing resources to maintain the Cooperative’s financial stability. Below is a snapshot of the year-to-date unaudited financial report. A complete set of financial statements can be viewed at www.lakecountrypower.coop under “My Cooperative.”

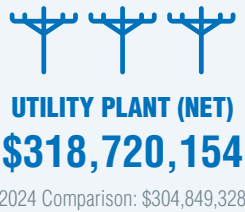
Please Note: The financials published in the June edition of Newsline were incorrectly labeled as February 2025; the figures actually reflect March 2025.



	2025	2024
Cost of Purchased Power	\$23,289,146	\$20,596,364
Other Operating Expenses	\$16,600,392	\$15,493,406
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$39,889,538	\$36,089,770



	2025	2024
Operating Margins	\$4,731,989	\$5,549,887
Non-Operating Margins	\$652,309	\$810,173



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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 services, billing, outages or other service-related matters should call 1-800-421-9959.

Newsline

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HOW TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Always be cautious of unsolicited calls (or in-person visits) to your home from companies claiming to conduct energy audits. These are typically telemarketing firms that claim to be a third-party company or pose as a representative from your electric utility to gain access to homes and sell services with the promise of government rebates. Many electric utilities provide energy audit services, but they are typically scheduled at the customer's request.

Source: Better Business Bureau



Rhubarb Cake

Submitted By: Mary Augustyn, Bovey

Cake:

1 ½ cups brown sugar
½ cup butter, softened
1 egg
1 cup sour milk*
1 tablespoon vinegar (to mix with milk)
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 ½ cups chopped rhubarb

Topping:

1/3 cup brown sugar
1/3 cup chopped nuts (your choice)

**To make sour milk: combine 1 cup milk with 1 tablespoon vinegar and let sit for 5 minutes.*

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat your oven to 350°F. In a large bowl, mix the brown sugar and softened butter by hand until smooth. Add the egg and sour milk (prepared by mixing 1 tablespoon of vinegar into 1 cup of milk), and stir until combined. Add the flour, baking soda, and vanilla extract, and stir until just incorporated. Fold in the chopped rhubarb. Pour the batter into a greased 9x13-inch baking dish. In a small bowl, mix the topping ingredients—the brown sugar and chopped nuts—and sprinkle evenly over the top of the batter. Bake for 45 to 55 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Allow to cool slightly before serving.

Submit your recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn. Editor, 8535 Park Ridge Drive, Mountain Iron, MN 55768, or email jburnes@lcp.coop. If your entry is printed in the Newsline, you'll receive a \$5 credit on your electric bill. Entries must include name, address, and phone number of your account.

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