



**MAY 2025**

## LCP Partners with Rock Ridge for Hands-On Career Exploration

Lake Country Power hosted four Rock Ridge High School students during a job shadow program in late March for juniors and seniors.

LCP was one of 40 businesses that participated in the inaugural job shadow week, and more than 130 Rock Ridge students participated in the opportunity to learn more about their potential careers.

“This was not required, but what a fantastic turnout by our students,” said Willie Spelts, director of school to work engagement at Rock Ridge. “And just as important by our businesses, companies and corporations.”

LCP was approached with an opportunity by Career Counselor Jill Oja as part of the Rock Ridge career academy curriculum model, which focuses on skills-based learning and helping students toward real-life job experiences before graduating. The career academies were built into the new Rock Ridge High School that opened in 2023.

“It’s been a board priority that we get more involved with the local high schools,” said Becky Seeley, human resources director at LCP. “We had the opportunity to do this, and thought it was a good place to start, so we jumped at it.”

Rock Ridge students joined lineworkers, tree crews, a member service technician and purchasing manager at Lake Country Power during the week of March 24-28. They joined co-op employees in the field to gain first-hand knowledge of their jobs and the environment.

Spelts said the district hopes to continue to expand the program in future years as the academic model evolves. Through the program, Rock Ridge also aims to keep students working in their local community after college or trade school by establishing these connections early. The idea being they will stay or return to the northeastern Minnesota region to build the workforce base and grow their families here.

Those goals also align with Lake Country Power’s focus of giving back to our communities and investing in the future of our young students.

“It’s great to see local schools investing in opportunities like this, and we’re proud to partner with them,” said Brian Grondahl, area supervisor for LCP in Mountain Iron. “There’s a real need for more people in the trades, and programs like these help spark interest in our industry.”

# Lineworkers are Wired for Service

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, lineworkers begin their day, always wearing flame-resistant clothing, safety glasses, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form and I want to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers battle inclement weather, troubleshoot technical problems and navigate the heights and terrain of our region. Lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

Lake Country Power crews travel across the cooperative's 10,872 square mile service territory building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible — a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment keeps our lives moving as if nothing happened.

Lake Country Power lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. These crews travel to fellow co-ops when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of the co-op's seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

Last month, on April 14, we celebrated Lineworker Appreciation Day. Let's continue to celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power every day of the year, and recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible: Lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.

*Larry Anderson was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 9. He can be reached at 218-428-2722 or landerson@lcp.coop.*



**Sincerely,**  
Larry Anderson  
District 9 Director

## Board Meeting Highlights: January 28, 2025

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

#### The Following Reports Were Given:

President Olson reported that he had the opportunity to meet with Minnesota 8th District Congressman Pete Stauber. He also signed the collective bargaining agreement with Lake County Power and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 31.

General Manager Bakk reported on Great River Energy's January board meeting

and a meeting with GRE leadership to discuss the year ahead. He also provided an update on the federal pause in the New ERA Grant funding.

#### The Following Actions Were Taken:

Awarded a total of \$400,000 in Education Improvement Program grants to: Hermantown Schools, Ely Public Schools, Floodwood School District, Nashwauk-Keewatin, Moose Lake, Mountain Iron-Buhl, Northeast Range, Proctor, Hill City and McGregor Schools. These funds

come from the co-op's unclaimed capital resources, which can only be used for nonprofit purposes.

Approved changes to Policy 419 - Charges for Custom Work, which include updated charges LCP will bill for custom work for a member, non-member or another electrical cooperative.

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

**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS: MAY 20 | JUNE 24** (9:30am at the Cohasset Service Center, Members Welcome)

## DID YOU KNOW?

Lake Country Power has 8,432 miles of distribution line: 6,112 overhead and 2,323 underground.



## LCP Director Sheldon Earns CCD Designation



Lake Country Power Director Jeff Sheldon recently received the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. Lake Country Power has a commitment to work through the NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative consumer-owners.

The NRECA CCD program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses:

- Director Duties and Liabilities
- Understanding the Electric Business
- Board Operations and Process
- Strategic Planning
- Financial Decision Making

## Great River Energy: Powering What's Possible

**Great River Energy is a wholesale electric cooperative owned by 26 member-owner cooperatives, including Lake Country Power.**

Great River Energy provides wholesale electric service to Minnesota electric cooperatives with an eye toward its triple bottom line of rates, reliability and environmental stewardship.

Great River Energy's wholesale electric rates stand approximately 20% below the weighted regional average cost of electricity. Its reliability scores remain strong, and the cooperative is testing leading-edge technologies to make the electric system even more robust and resilient.

Because of strategic, forward-thinking business decisions made over the last decade, Great River Energy has seen its greenhouse gases emissions fall and renewable energy resources grow, putting the cooperative in a strong position to achieve Minnesota's carbon-free standard by 2040.

### Building a Better Grid

A historic buildout of transmission infrastructure is underway in the Midwest, and Great River Energy is developing critical pathways and making strategic investments.

Great River Energy and Minnesota Power have made progress on the first project of the planned grid expansion. The Northland Reliability Project is a 180-mile, double-circuit 345-kilovolt transmission line extending from northern to central Minnesota.

Great River Energy will also be involved in three upcoming projects, including two 345-kilovolt transmission lines in northern Minnesota and a new 765-kilovolt transmission backbone that will start in South Dakota, traverse across southern Minnesota and into Wisconsin and Iowa.

### Electricity is Evolving

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission unanimously accepted Great River Energy's integrated resource plan, which outlines the cooperative's expectations for member load growth and new generation resources.

Under the plan, Great River Energy anticipates procuring or constructing more than 1,200 megawatts of wind power, 200 megawatts of energy storage and 200 megawatts of solar power by 2037.

### Membership Pays

Cooperatives are not-for-profit organizations that are owned by the members they serve with services provided at cost. They only collect enough revenue to run the business and meet financial obligations.

In 2024, Great River Energy's board of directors approved the payment of \$15 million to member-owners through its 2024 patronage capital return.

This is the sixth consecutive year that Great River Energy has issued a patronage capital return to its member-owners.

## Pole Testing Continues for Safety and Reliability

In the interest of public safety and service reliability, Lake Country Power has hired Exo to complete a ground line pole inspection on our distribution lines in the Brandon, Grand Lake, Side Lake, Frazer Bay, Bena and Arbo areas.

The goal of the inspection is to identify poles and service equipment which may no longer be fit for service or which may require maintenance in the interest of safety and service reliability. Crews will be accessing the distribution power lines with pickups, 4-wheelers, boat, 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.

# LCP to Sponsor Tegan Fordahl on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

Lake Country Power will sponsor Tegan Fordahl of Cotton, Minn., to attend what has been called a “trip of a lifetime” to Washington, D.C., on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. She will travel in June with nearly 40 Minnesota students where she’ll join 1,500 high school students from across the country. Fordahl will be a junior this fall at South Ridge High School.

Fordahl aspires to be a government lawyer. “Ever since I was little, I’ve loved history,” she said in her application. “It has fascinated me for years and it still does. That’s one of the reasons I have decided to pursue law. Not only will I get to help people, but I will get to do so within historical context.”

Each summer, the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) organizes and leads Minnesota’s student delegation to Washington, D.C., with local electric cooperatives like Lake Country Power sponsoring the students on tour.

Students will spend one full day on Capitol Hill, meet with legislators, tour the Capitol, and visit the Library of Congress. They’ll take a class about electric cooperatives, taught by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Students will also learn about American history as they tour the Potomac Park monuments, Arlington Cemetery, Iwo Jima Memorial, Mount Vernon, Old Town Alexandria, Holocaust Museum, Smithsonian Institutions, Washington Monument, World War II Memorial, Air Force Memorial, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, National Archives, and the National Mall.



“The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is a great way to jumpstart your national network at a young age and make valuable connections that will last a lifetime,” said Tami Zaun, public relations coordinator and 2015 youth tour chaperone. “This is an opportunity of a lifetime.”

Since 1958, the nation’s electric cooperatives have sponsored more than 58,000 high school students on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour – a joint effort between the NRECA, statewide electric cooperative associations like MREA and local electric cooperatives.

For more information, visit [www.electric.coop/our-organization/youth-programs](http://www.electric.coop/our-organization/youth-programs), [www.mrea.org/programs-1/](http://www.mrea.org/programs-1/) and [www.lakecountrypower.coop/youth-tour](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop/youth-tour).

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year—and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it’s designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.



## PUT SOME SPRING INTO YOUR SAVINGS

**Celebrate more showers and flowers with 25% off all Niagara Conservation® indoor and outdoor water-saving products until June 30. Plus, orders totaling \$35 or more receive free shipping.**

We’re also excited to welcome you to the freshly revamped market place; the first 100 visitors to spend \$35 or more will walk away with a cool *Pollinator Strong* tote bag.

**[WWW.ENERGYWISEMN.COM](http://WWW.ENERGYWISEMN.COM)**

\*Niagara Conservation offers valid through June 30, 2025. While supplies last. Discount, taxes and shipping applied at checkout. No coupon code needed. Limits and additional terms apply. See website for full details.



# Move Over to Keep Utility Workers Safe

Electric utility employees at Lake Country Power work on overhead and underground power lines, perform work at electric substations, use heavy equipment and check electric meters every day. Electricity can be extremely dangerous and is one of the biggest hazards that our employees encounter. But another big threat is traffic.

Ofentimes, utility employees must park alongside a road, turn on flashing lights and place traffic cones in the roadway as an indication to passing motorists that work is being done. Doing so creates a work zone. It's important to move over when you see flashing lights to keep our co-op workers safe. Failing to do so endangers the lives of utility workers and other emergency responders.

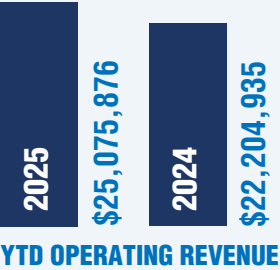
Minnesota's Ted Foss Move Over Law states that when traveling on a road with two or more lanes, drivers must move one full lane away from stopped emergency vehicles with their flashing lights activated. Most drivers are aware of this law as it applies to police officers, firefighters and ambulances but it also applies to utility, maintenance and construction vehicles.

Working along roadways can be dangerous and moving over is the law. If it's not possible to move over one full lane, drivers are required to reduce their speed until their vehicle has completely passed the parked or stopped vehicle.

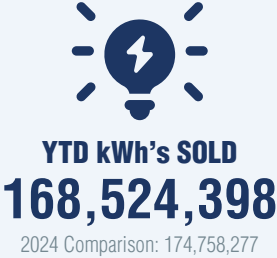
Lake Country Power employees are working to ensure that our communities have reliable electric service. Please follow safe driving practices when you see them and move over so that everyone can go home safely at the end of each day.

## By The Numbers | February 2025

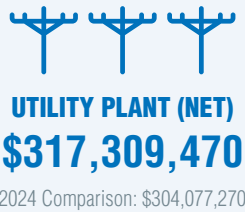
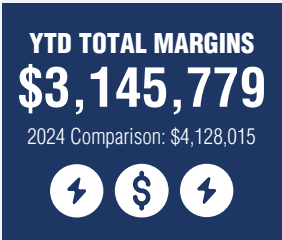
Lake Country Power is committed to responsibly managing resources to maintain the Cooperative's financial stability. Below is a snapshot of the year-to-date unaudited financial report. A complete set of financial statements can be viewed at [www.lakecountrypower.coop](http://www.lakecountrypower.coop) under "My Cooperative."



	2025	2024
Cost of Purchased Power	\$14,283,951	\$11,489,638
Other Operating Expenses	\$7,675,854	\$6,663,080
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$21,959,805	\$18,152,718



	2025	2024
Operating Margins	\$3,116,071	\$4,052,216
Non-Operating Margins	\$29,708	\$75,799



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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

Published monthly by Lake Country Power  
8535 Park Ridge Drive, Mountain Iron, MN, 55768  
Editor: Jerry Burnes | jburnes@lcp.coop  
Contract Designer: Fuller Creative, LLC

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# Lake Country Power

*An equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## HOW TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



If you suspect you're dealing with a utility scam, it's crucial to slow down and take your time before taking any action. Scammers will often pressure you to make quick decisions or immediate payments. Instead, take the time to verify the legitimacy of the communication by contacting your utility directly. Use a phone number from a reliable source, such as your bill or the utility's website. Taking this simple step can help protect you from falling victim to utility scams.

*Source: Utilities United Against Scams*

## Annual Member Cogeneration Notice

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.

## Easy Pineapple Cherry Crisp

**Submitted By: Linda Nordsstrom - Woodbury, MN**

20 oz can crushed pineapple  
21 oz can cherry pie filling  
1 package yellow cake mix

1 cup chopped nuts  
½ cup margarine/butter,  
cut into small pieces

### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 13 x 9-inch baking pan. Pour crushed pineapple into the pan, spread evenly. Spread cherry pie filling on top. Sprinkle cake mix over cherry pie filling. Sprinkle nuts over cake mix. Top with small pieces of butter/margarine. Bake for one hour.

*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.*