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System Improvements

BOARD MEETINGS August 27 – 9:30 a.m. at Kettle River Service Center ■ September 24 – 9:30 a.m. at Mountain Iron Service Center

Meter exchanges continue, benefits confirmed

Just like shingles on a rooftop, most everything reaches its end of life and must be replaced. The same concept goes for technology, including meters. You may be aware that Lake Country Power is in the process of exchanging more than 67,000 meters for members across its system.



The work is on schedule as Allegiant Utility Services performs most of the meter exchanges. More than 99 percent of the work is complete for members served by the following substations in the western locations of LCP's service area: Cohasset, Pokegama, Gunn, Arbo, Ball Club, Bena and Shoal Lake.

Members served by the Blackberry, Goodland and Hill City substations will have their meters changed out by September. After this work is finished, Allegiant will start exchanging meters for members in the northern locations of LCP's service area through November.

Meter change-outs will resume in April 2020. All members should have their

new meters in place by November 2020 when the project is fully deployed and completed.

Members who live on islands where crews can only access by water will have their meters exchanged this winter. LCP employees will take advantage of the frozen lakes to change meters at water access sites.

Benefits of new meters

The new Aclara meters are already showing great promises in being reliable to provide daily energy-use readings. This will help reduce the number of estimated bills members receive.

Another benefit members are discovering from the new meters is the hourly usage information that's available through their SmartHub account with LCP. A growing number of members are interested to better understand how their household uses energy – knowing what times of the day energy is most used, etc. The advanced technology that's built into the Aclara meters makes this type of information possible and accessible to members with SmartHub.

The new meters are beginning to show promising



signs in helping with outages as well.

"We've continued to thoroughly investigate and test the outage management capabilities of our new meters," said Sr. Metering & SCADA Engineer, Ryan Ferguson. "And we're really excited to see the potential in the meters being able to detect and tell us when members are out of power."

LCP will continue to monitor the outage detection

benefit and how the meters notify dispatch when a member has lost power. Meanwhile, members are encouraged to report their outages by phone or through SmartHub.

For more information about the co-op's metering project, visit lakecountrypower.coop where you'll find a fact sheet with answers to questions. While online, remember to register for a free SmartHub account. ■

Stay back and stay safe

Distractions are dangerous when doing line work

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. In fact, *USA Today* lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why for Lake Country Power, safety is a core value. Over time, the board has emphasized a culture of putting the crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

LCP's mission is to deliver safe and reliable electric service to its consumer-members. As a board, we want our co-op employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance – and your help.

Distractions can be deadly

While the crews appreciate your kindness and interest in their work, please stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety.

Distractions are also dangerous. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample

room to work. These small accommodations help protect the crews—and you.



By Jason
LONG
District 1 Director

If you have a dog, please try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize LCP employees by the co-op's logo on their clothing and the service trucks with LCP's name and logo on the door. You may also recognize LCP's lineworkers because they live right here in our local communities.

Slow down and move over

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, state law requires that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us. ■

Jason Long was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 1. He can be reached at 218-240-9611 or jasealong@gmail.com.

ONLINE AUCTION

available to members

Retired fleet up for bid



LCP is partnering with North Auctions of Hibbing to hold another online auction on vehicles the co-op is liquidating. It'll be similar to how people submit bids through other online auctions like eBay.

Included in the auction will be half-ton and three-quarter-ton pickups, a mini-van, a 1995 Arctic Cat Bearcat snowmobile and an 8'2" v-plow. The auction, open exclusively for active LCP members, will go from September 9 – 23.

The electronic bidding will be through K-Bid.com. Only winning bidders will be required to pay for the items

they've won. The member who purchases the vehicle must be the same member who picks up the vehicle and signs the title in their name. Winning bidders will pay K-Bid when they come on pick-up day to collect their fleet from LCP's service center in Mountain Iron. ■

Register for a free user account at www.k-bid.com. Once registered, members will be able to view the vehicles, gather more information and place bids.

If questions, please contact North Auctions at 218-969-3834. Visit www.lakecountrypower.coop for instructions on how to register.



► District 4 Director Craig Carlson, Cohasset, Minn., recently achieved the Director Gold Credential education level. Directors reach this level through continued education beyond the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certification, and the Board Leadership Certification (BLC). Congratulations, Craig.

Construction on schedule and on budget

Open house coming up at Cohasset Service Center

Construction on the cooperative's new Cohasset Service Center is going well as planned and is nearly complete.

Members will be invited to an open house in late September or early October when they'll be able to take a tour of the service center, located just off Highway 2 and up the hill in the City of Cohasset's Industrial Park II. Lake Country Power is the first tenant in the park.

Timing of the open house will be after all construction and finishing touches are complete, and before employees move into the space. Announcements of the open house date will be made on LCP's social media sites and its website when the date is determined.

This summer, flooring was installed including laminate for high-traffic areas and

carpeting tiles. Painting is complete with a few touch-ups remaining after furniture is installed mid-August.

Contractors will be installing a security fence, security cameras and finish paving the lots and sidewalks. Two electric vehicle chargers will be installed in the member parking lot. A monument sign will be placed near the highway to help members and visitors find the service center.

The service center will be handicap accessible with push-buttons on the automated doors and one-level walking spaces.

Geothermal heat pumps with supplemental boilers will provide all-electric heating and cooling. The lighting in the building uses occupancy sensing technology to save energy. Also, the building was designed to take advantage



of natural lighting. Low-maintenance landscaping will be partly done this fall, or all next spring.

Members will be able to use a drop-box for payments like they do now, or a payment kiosk inside the entryway. The kiosk will be available after hours as well. As always, members are welcome to make payments in person with a consumer account rep at the front desk during

regular business hours and enjoy a cup of coffee in the lobby.

The office area measures 18,324 square-feet and the garage/shop is 44,144 square-feet. The cold storage building provides another 4,600 square-feet for additional storage. The service center will meet the needs of the cooperative for the next 50 years or more. ■

Solar panel output nudges up slightly

Solar energy generation at LCP's Grand Rapids Service Center increased by 1.07 percent over the past six months – nudging up from 12.7 percent as reported in Jan. 2019 to 13.77 percent.

Over the past six months (Jan. – July 2019), LCP's 18 kW solar array in Grand Rapids generated 10,711 kilowatt-hours with a capacity factor of 13.77 percent. Another six-month comparison shows the capacity factor was 15.3 percent as reported in August 2018.

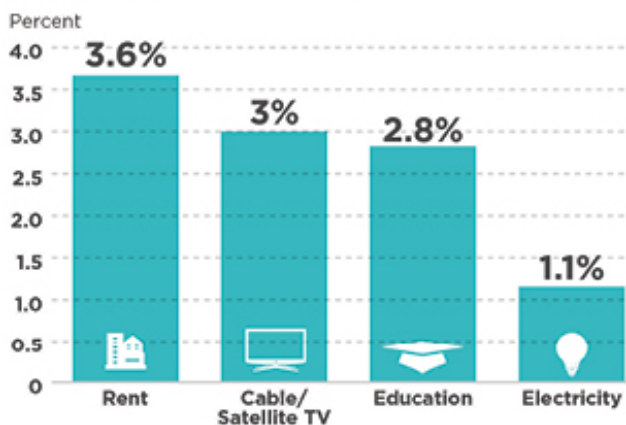
To achieve 100 percent capacity, solar panels would have to be exposed to direct (cloudless) sunlight 24 hours a day (including nighttime hours), 365 day a year, and with no other variables such as snow on the panels, etc.

If you're interested in a solar investment, be sure to spend the time upfront to do your research, and speak with the experts you can trust to give you steady, firm and reliable energy and information. Lake Country Power can help. Visit www.lakecountrypower.coop to see the solar generation output. ■

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2013-2018



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Consumer Price Index



Operation Round Up® gives \$50,000 to community programs

Through the contributions of Lake Country Power's participating members, the Operation Round Up® Trust Board recently approved \$50,000 in assistance to local community programs during its quarterly meeting.

Goodland Township received \$1,000 from Operation Round Up, which will cover sixty-percent of their project cost at the fire hall.

"The funds really help," said Charles Miller, township supervisor of Goodland Township. "It'll pay for the air compressor and hard lines that'll be installed in the new fire hall addition, which will help keep our trucks charged and improve response times in emergency situations."

The cooperative's Trust Board reviewed and considered 57 grant applications and distributed funds to 56 projects and programs

this past quarter. Since the program's inception in October 2004, more than \$2.3 million has been distributed to community-based projects and programs.

All funds generated through Operation Round Up are set aside in a trust fund. A voluntary Trust Board of nine co-op members administers the Trust. Of the funds collected through the program, 100 percent is distributed to charitable organizations through an application and selection process. The trust board uses special guidelines and policies when choosing recipients.

Operation Round Up® is a charitable program unique to electric co-ops, which is designed to provide financial assistance to worthwhile activities and community projects by "rounding up" member's electric bills



► Operation Round Up® recipients are pictured receiving their community program funding.

to the nearest dollar. The average donation of each participating Lake Country Power member is less than \$6 annually.

Nearly 75 percent of Lake Country Power members participate in the program

through voluntary contributions. Interested members can opt into the Operation Round Up program by calling Lake Country Power at 800-421-9959 or by using an online form at lakecountrypower.coop.

Save money with Co-op Connections®

You work hard, so let The One Card That Does It All® work hard for you. Keep these businesses in mind, and bring your Co-op Connections® Card to save money – or download the App. For a full listing of business participants, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop (Community/Co-op Connections Card). Find national deals online at www.connections.coop.

- **All Seasons Services**, Pongilly: 10% off total; excludes tires
- **Dottie's Hometown Café**, Grand Rapids: 5% off menu



- Items; not valid with specials, coupons or other offers
- **KFC**, Grand Rapids and Virginia: \$5 off an 8-piece meal
- **Aurora Vision Pro**, Aurora: Buy one complete pair of glasses with frames, get one free
- **Fitger's Wine Cellars**, Duluth: 10% off total purchase
- **The Bookstore at Fitger's**, Duluth: 10% off entire regular-priced purchase. Excludes candy and magazines.
- **The Snow Goose**, Duluth: 20% off total purchase. Excludes consignment and sale items.



RECIPE CORNER PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

From the Kitchen of:
Dianne Herendeen, Cohasset



INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup peanut butter (creamy or chunky)
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 egg

DIRECTIONS

Mix ingredients well. Drop by teaspoons and press with fork two ways. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 minutes, or so. Let rest 1 minute. Remove from cookie sheet to cool completely.

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn: Editor, 2810 Elda Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, or e-mail lzaun@lcpcoop. If your entry is drawn and printed in *Newsline* you'll receive a \$5 credit on your electric bill. Entries must include name, address and phone number on account.

System improvements on schedule to improve reliability

Lake Country Power's mission is in motion as crews continue working on various construction projects to ramp up reliability for members through mindful investments.

As reported earlier this year, LCP is working on 27 improvements this year alone, including pole replacements, aged overhead and underground line replacements, substation work and relocating lines for better access and faster outage restoration.

"We are making very good progress," said Derek Howe, chief operating officer for LCP. "All other projects in this year's work plan are right on schedule and will be completed in 2019."

Through the end of July 2019, crews have completed the following work:

- 10 miles of underground cable replacements (approximately one mile in the southern part of the system, four miles in the northern areas, and five miles in the western areas of LCP's system)
- 35 miles of overhead line construction to replace aged lines.
- LCP is currently replacing a transformer in the Vermilion Substation, and will switch from Minnesota Power's 46kV transmission line to Great River Energy's 69kV transmission line which will greatly improve reliability for Fortune Bay Casino and the Bois Forte Band.
- Replaced a transformer in the Gowan Substation with a larger unit that'll be capable to back-feed the

Cedar Valley Substation. From areas near Floodwood to McGregor, members will have a back-up source of power, which will help reduce the number of members affected during outages.

"Just like anything else, our distribution system has a useful life that requires us to monitor, maintain and replace aging infrastructure," said Jake Chrzanowski, senior electrical engineer. "It helps ensure a safe electrical system for the public and our employees, while helping improve reliability."

Pole testing continues 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 eastern and southern parts of LCP's service territory. The testing will continue through October.

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 by 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 five LCP substations: Bergen Lake, Cromwell, Wright, Round Lake, Big Sandy, and Sturgeon Lake.



▶ Line crews recently performed line maintenance work near Jacobson, which will help improve reliability for members in the area.

Event to showcase electric vehicles



Join LCP and several other northern cooperatives for an electric vehicle event the co-ops are sponsoring on September 16 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. EVs and experts will be on hand with information and several types of electric vehicles. If you're "kicking the tires," you won't want to miss it. Location: Canal Park Lodge, Duluth.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Routinely replace or clean your air conditioner filter. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.

May 28, 2019 • Regular Monthly Meeting

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Craig Olson reported about activity during this last month that included a meeting with General Manager Randa and several scholarship presentations. Olson presented a plaque to Director Bruckbauer to acknowledge the "director gold" education level Bob achieved through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association education program.

General Manager Randa reported about the Great River Energy rate design committee proposal; testing on HVDC line; economic development group; Northland Connect; LCP headquarters construction update; Grand Rapids Public Utilities annexation; City of Mountain Iron service territory matter; discussion about the right-of-way requests and a potential fee structure being looked into for members requesting no spray.

Director of Finance and Administration Bakk gave an update on the March financials including interest expense,

sales, revenue, consolidated subsidiary quarterly financials, etc.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Approved revisions to Policy 409: Depreciation of Distribution Plant.

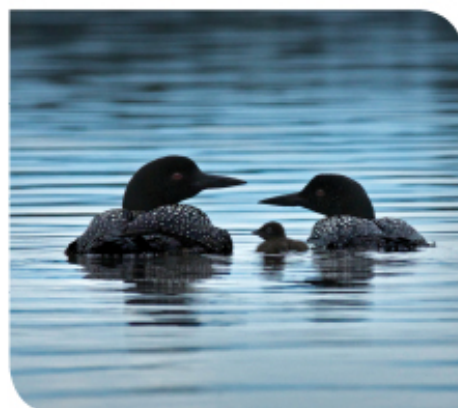
Approved revisions to Policy 412: Delinquent Energy Accounts and Method of Handling.

Approved revisions to Policy 111: Nomination and Election of LCP Officers, Great River Energy Board Nominations, and Voting Delegates/Alternates for Affiliated Organizations.

Approved that the 2020 LCP annual meeting be held Wednesday, April 15, at the Cohasset Service Center.

Approved the 2020 right-of-way bidder list. ■

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 August. Edee Conner of Isle took this photo of a loon family on Whiteface Reservoir.

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

Newsline

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Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date – May 2019

	2019	2018
Electric Operating Revenue	\$40,287,717	\$40,430,360
Cost of Purchased Power	20,268,832	20,678,124
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	5,247,405	4,807,561
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	1,911,251	1,831,868
Administrative and General Expense	2,803,448	2,792,215
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	6,409,169	5,994,159
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	36,640,105	36,103,927
Net Electric Operating Margins	3,647,612	4,326,433
Non-Operating Margins	641,755	897,730
TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES	4,289,367	5,224,163
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	(244,379)	(265,729)
TOTAL MARGINS	\$4,044,988	\$4,958,434
TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	295,834,193	301,005,575

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.