

February 2020

Newsline

Happy
Valentine's
Day



IN THIS ISSUE

Community Focused
District Member Meetings
Special Photography Contest
Air Source Heat Pumps

BOARD MEETINGS February 25 - 9:30 a.m. at Kettle River Service Center ■ March 31 - 9:30 a.m. at Mountain Iron Service Center

Ramping up right-of-way to finish strong in seven-year cycle

Meeting the mission to provide reliable and safe electricity

All boots are on the ground as tree crews work their way across the finish line by year-end by completing the seven-year cycle for Lake Country Power's integrated vegetation management (IVM) program. The co-op will invest nearly \$4.2 million this year to help meet its mission to provide safe and reliable electricity for members.

Among the billions of trees that blanket Minnesota's landscape, the types of trees on LCP's radar screen are the ones that can cause outages and service interruptions for co-op members. Big, mature trees can quickly become danger trees from high winds, drought, saturated grounds, insects and fungus. These are the trees that become weak and need to be removed.

Spruce bud worm is a big problem among balsam trees in LCP's service area - especially near Tower, Ely and Babbitt. Hypoxylon canker is a fungus attacking poplar trees. So far, the emerald ash borer has been spotted only near Duluth.

Areas of Focus

Of the overall budget, more than \$3.6 million will be invested for integrated vegetation management by clearing and selectively treating 848 miles. The areas of focus in the last stretch of the seven-year cycle include the following substations:

- **Ball Club:** North of Deer River and around Lake Winnie



- **Blackberry:** Southwest of Grand Rapids
- **Cohasset:** Near Cohasset
- **Goodland:** North of Swan River
- **Shoal Lake:** North of Nashwauk

Another \$550,000 will be invested for mid-cycle work, which includes selectively applying herbicides to areas that were cleared in 2018. The herbicides are EPA-approved and are applied by licensed and trained professionals. Mid-cycle work is scheduled for areas near Kettle River, Cromwell, the south side of Big Sandy Lake, Sturgeon Lake, Solway and Bergen Lake.

"Mowing stimulates the regeneration of trees so that it rapidly grows back even thicker - something we don't want to see happen in the right-of-way," said Syver Kolden, manager of forestry services. "That's why it would actually be a waste of time and money to only mow."

The most effective IVM programs include a diverse technique of mowing by machine but also carefully applying herbicide to stop re-growth of trees and other taller types of

vegetation near powerlines.

"We are careful to select and treat the trees and brush we don't want growing into the power lines and then hand apply herbicide only to what needs it," said Kolden. "This kind of strategy helps other types of low-growing vegetation like blueberry bushes and wild flowers to grow and flourish."

LCP Tree Crews

Since hiring four individuals for LCP's tree crews in 2018, the co-op has seen positive results. They've completed more than 1,700 member tree requests and nearly 450 danger tree removals, plus other work.

The tree crews work well with LCP's line crews to help prevent future outages, assist with storm related outages and help with tree removal when building new lines or rebuilding existing lines.

"Our tree crews have the best interests of our members in mind," said Kolden. "If they're in the area to do a certain job but also notice a danger tree, they'll go above and beyond to take the tree down - even if the job wasn't pre-scheduled. It's a huge benefit for members that they work together so well." ■

Co-ops remain committed to serving their communities

"The forward march of electric cooperatives has a profound significance in terms of our fight to preserve democracy. For it represents what is perhaps the most democratic form of business enterprise, one in which the individual finds his greatest gain through cooperation among his neighbor."



By Jason
LONG
District 1 Director

This quote from President Franklin D. Roosevelt reflects the special bond and obligation that ties Lake Country Power, our local electric cooperative, to the communities it serves. With this being the month of Valentine's Day, I can't think of a better time to express how much I appreciate our communities, community of co-op members and serving you on the board.

When the co-op brought electricity to rural Minnesota

nearly 80 years ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled, and as a board member I've helped address some of those issues. LCP wants to help meet the long-term needs of its communities to ensure the rural areas continue to thrive – because just like you, the co-op and its employees live here too.

While the co-op's top priority is to provide safe and reliable energy, equally important is LCP's mission to manage member resources wisely and serve to help our communities prosper. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way LCP operates as a cooperative. Lake Country Power knows that electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more

than poles and powerlines to make a community.

Over time, the co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our communities, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. It can mean programs for our youth, such as education scholarships, safety demonstrations or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where co-ops take their young people to Washington, D.C., for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. It means contributing more than \$2.3 million through Operation Round Up® since 2004, a program that supports local community projects and programs. It means partnering with organizations like United Way for employee giving campaigns and other worthy programs.

We all benefit from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through

your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

As a local business, LCP's employees are proud to power your life and bring good things to our communities. We hope you will continue to help guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we strategically plan for the future. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, I'm certain that we can continue to do good things for our communities. ■

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

Join us for co-op conversation and hot soup

If you're looking for reliable and honest news you can count on in uncertain times, we have it. You're invited to hear it first-hand from your local electric cooperative.

We invite you—as a member-owner—to join us. Meetings start at 5:00 p.m. with a light supper, followed by staff updates and time for member questions. Following is the schedule for February.

Topics will include: LCP's long-term view for improving service, reliability and value; positive outcomes from long-lasting investments; tapping into technology to improve service and value; and natural resources for renewable energy.

R.S.V.P. by calling Angie Hantula at 800-421-9959, extension 4521 or 218-322-4521, or e-mail ahantula@lcp.coop. If you cannot make your district meeting, you are welcome to attend another member meeting – please let Angie know. ■



DATE	TIME	LOCATION	TOWN/DISTRICT	RSVP BY
FEB. 5	5-7PM	Cromwell Pavilion	Cromwell - District 8	JAN. 29
FEB. 6	5-7PM	Hope Lutheran Church, Moose Lake	Moose Lake - District 9	JAN. 30
FEB. 18	5-7PM	Orr Community Center (formerly the American Legion)	Orr - District 1	FEB. 11
FEB. 20	5-7PM	Grand Ely Lodge	Ely - District 2	FEB. 13
FEB. 26	5-7PM	Remer High School (commons area and room C113)	Remer - District 5	FEB. 19

Special photography contest open to members



Lake Country Power is holding a special contest and is seeking beautiful entries showing trees. Members are asked to participate by entering the contest and follow the guidelines outlined below.

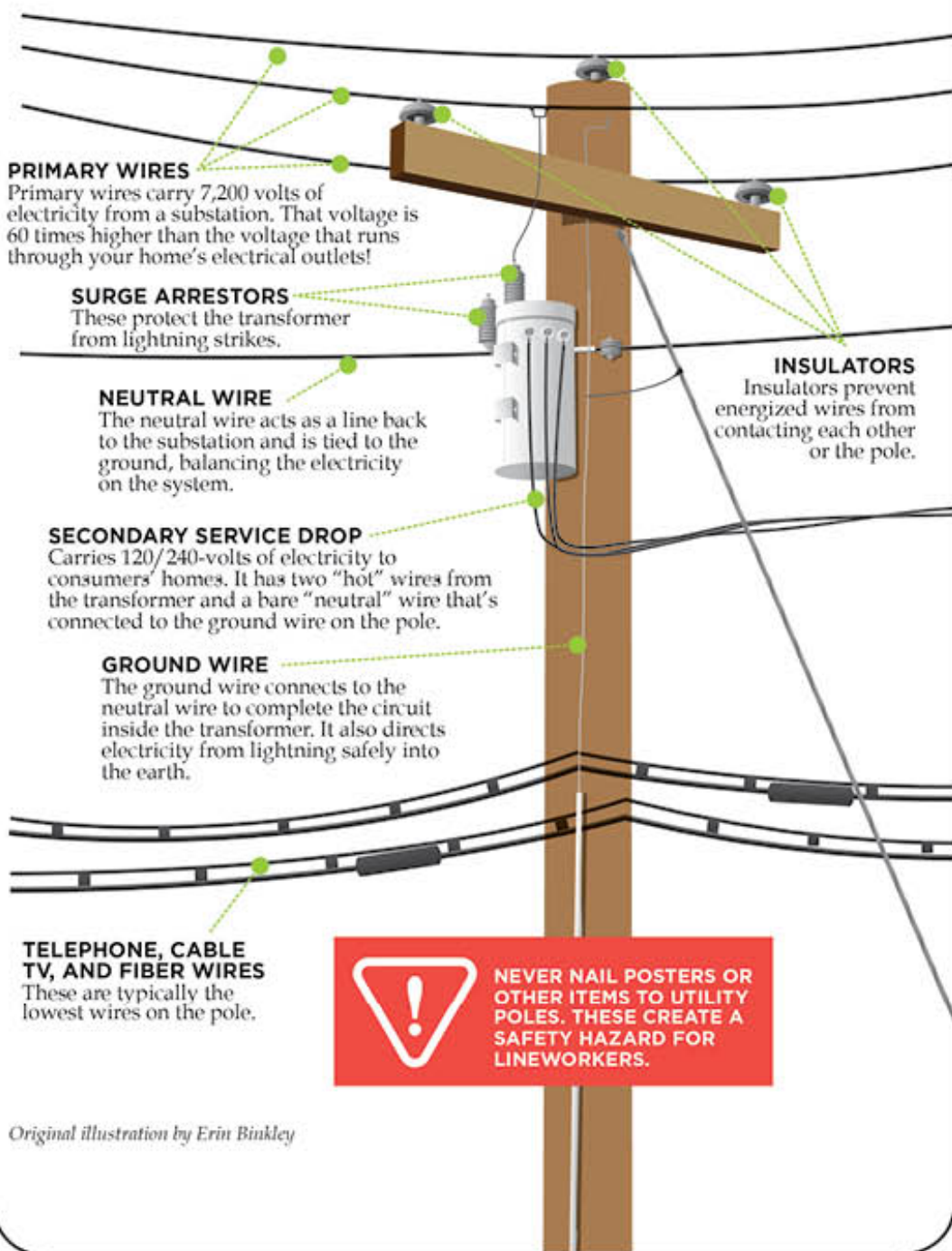
This photography contest is different than the co-op calendar contest because these photos will be framed and hung on the wall in the five conference rooms of LCP's new Cohasset Service Center – one winning photo per meeting room. Each meeting room has been named after five tree species based on employee suggestions – Balsam Room, Tamarack Room, Cedar Room, Maple Room and Birch Room.

Photo Guidelines

- Each membership (household) may submit up to five photo entries.
- The photos must be focused exclusively on only one tree species per photo: Balsam, Tamarack, Cedar, Maple or Birch, which will represent the names of the conference rooms.
- Photo entries should be at least 3 MB or more in file size.
- Winners will receive a \$25 credit on their billing statement.
- An employee committee will choose the winning photographs. Employees are not allowed to enter the contest, nor are immediate family members.
- Deadline is 11:59 p.m., November 1, 2020. E-mail entries to tzaun@lcp.coop, including your name, address, city, state, zip, phone or cell number and name of the tree species in the photo.

WHAT'S ON THAT POLE?

This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. The equipment varies according to the location and the service they provide.



Original illustration by Erin Binkley

It heats and cools your home - plus it's efficient

Air source heat pumps provide all-electric comfort in every season

Technology that concentrates heat in the air and moves it into your home (for heating when temperatures are mild such as during spring and fall) and outside (for cooling during the summer) is one of the most effective ways to improve your home's energy efficiency.

Known as air source heat pumps, they act as hyper-efficient air conditioners and heaters. The technology can provide heat at temperatures as low as the single digits, and it continues to improve. This technology is also well matched for the growing wind generation resources in the upper Midwest.

"Members who invest in air-source heat pumps save money on heating and cooling. Air source heat pumps are also good for Lake Country Power's entire membership because they make efficient use of the electricity on the grid," said Angie Hanttula, member service representative.

Lake Country Power provides special offers on air source heat pumps. Contact the co-op's member service department at 800-421-9959 (press 6), or visit www.lakecountrypower.coop to learn more about air-source heat pumps and other efficiency programs available. ■



Save money with Co-op Connections®

You work hard, so let The One Card That Does It All® work hard for you. Bring your Co-op Connections® Card to save money at the participating

local businesses in northern Minnesota. If you don't have the card or lost your card, don't worry.

You can download the App by searching "Co-op Connections" in the App Store on your Apple or Android device.

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>).

If you travel across the United States or outside LCP's service area, look for national deals online at connections.coop.



RECIPE CORNER

CHOCOLATE COCONUT BALLS

From the Kitchen of:
Viola Johnson,
Effie

INGREDIENTS

- 3/4 cup mashed potatoes (yes)
- 1 pound flaked coconut
- 1 pound sugar
- 1/2 tsp almond extract (or your choice)



DIRECTIONS

Combine all together and roll into walnut-sized balls. Drop on baking sheet. Refrigerate several hours or overnight.

Traditional Chocolate Coating

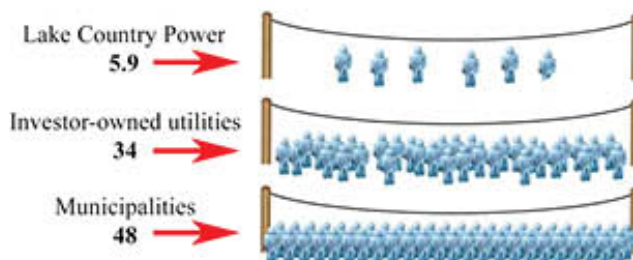
- 1 pkg. chocolate chips
- 4 squares semi-sweet chocolate
- 1/3 paraffin bar

DIRECTIONS

Melt all together and cover the balls in the coating. If you can't find a paraffin bar, buy a dark candy coating from the store. Viola says this is a very old recipe and they didn't sell the coating at that time.

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn: Editor, 26009 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset, MN 55721, or e-mail tsam@lcp.coop. 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 a count.

NUMBER OF CONSUMERS PER MILE OF LINE



► This graph shows the difference in density among populations of people served by Lake Country Power vs. other neighboring utilities. LCP's density per mile-of-line is low because cooperatives serve the rural countryside areas, not cities. Nearly 95 percent of LCP's membership base is residential and seasonal. Other electric companies that serve large commercial and industrial (C&I) loads and populated cities benefit greatly from larger revenues, which helps offset their overall fixed costs and rate structure. Learn more about your electric cooperative at lakecountrypower.coop where you'll find access to board minutes, financials, bylaws, etc.

Co-op calendar contest opens for member participation

The 2021 co-op calendar contest is officially open for members to begin submitting their beautiful scenic entries. The deadline to submit is August 2.

The calendar will showcase the photography talents of LCP's membership. Your photography should be scenic, capturing the beauty of northern Minnesota's four seasons. The photos are not required to include power lines but may if you choose.

A panel of judges will select the winning photos in



"round one" of the judging process. During "round two," members will select the finalists through a contest on LCP's Facebook page.

Winners will receive a \$20 credit on their electric bill and will be notified in October.

Photo Contest Guidelines

NEW: One winning entry per membership.

1. Only Lake Country Power members may enter the contest. (LCP employees and their immediate families and spouses are not eligible to enter the contest.)
2. Photos must be electronic and high quality in resolution for print-quality. Printed hard copies will not be accepted. Photos must 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.
3. Photos will not be accepted if the following information is not provided with your entry (separate e-mails required for each photo entry): Name, address, city, state, zip, phone or cell, e-mail, location taken and a photo description.
4. One membership (household) may submit up to 10 photos and will be limited to one winning entry per membership.
5. Enter full-color photos that are appropriately sized for clear printing at 12 inches wide by 9 inches high (300 resolution: minimum resolution of 2,700 pixels by 3,600 pixels). Basically, be sure your photo entries are at least 2 MB or more in file size.
6. Shoot your photos in horizontal/landscape orientation (not vertical) in order to qualify for the contest.
7. Photos must be e-mailed to tzaun@lcp.coop. All entries must be received by August 2, 2020.
8. Photos must not include close-ups of people.
9. Winning photographers automatically give Lake Country Power permission to use winning photos in the calendar, in other publications, member presentations or electronically online.

Save the Date ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 15, 2020 (registration begins 4:45 p.m.; meeting begins 6:00 p.m.)

LCP'S COHASSET SERVICE CENTER
26039 Bear Ridge Drive

The official notice of the annual meeting and ballots for electing directors will be mailed to all members of Lake Country Power between March 26 – 31.

Boutique awarded community recognition



► L-R: Shirley Wren, Gail Hanson, Toni Sausman, Paty Underwood and Beth Fellman were happy to accept this year's Touchstone Energy Community Award from Lake Country Power.

Lake Country Power selected Tossed and Found Boutique of Longville, Minn., as the winner of its annual Touchstone Energy Community Award. The co-op chose this organization for the vital community services it provides for residents in the Longville and surrounding areas.

As winner of the Touchstone Energy Community Award, Tossed and Found Boutique was awarded a plaque and \$500 that will go toward adding on to its building to allow more space for accepting and storing donations.

Tossed and Found Boutique is a fundraising arm for the Longville Area Food Shelf and is recognized as an umbrella organization with non-profit designation. The boutique has two part-time employees and nearly 50 volunteers who oversee operations.

Lake Country Power is one of the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in Minnesota providing a local award to encourage and recognize local community contributions. Tossed and Found Boutique will compete with winners from other Minnesota-based electric cooperatives for statewide recognition and \$1,000. ■

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 whom 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 Dr., Cohasset, MN 55721, or call 800-421-9959.

Condensed Board Minutes

November 26, 2019 • Regular Monthly Meeting

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Craig Olson reported he forwarded a member inquiry to Manager Randa and that the LCP building committee met to discuss the Grand Rapids service center.

General Manager Randa reported about the member manager's meeting, discussions of GRE's rate design committee, Northland Connect, Cohasset service center follow-up on various building and operations matters, posting for a facility maintenance position, work underway with Leech Lake, Fond du Lac and the City of Mountain Iron, and completion of the Grand Rapids annexation.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Approved to amend LCP's Revenue Deferral Plan where \$2 million of 2018 revenue will be extended through the recognition period of 2021, which is in the best interest of the membership.

Approved a ten-year Energy Efficient Equipment (E3) loan to Hill Wood Products in Cook, Minn., for \$308,824 at zero percent interest, pending approval from Great River Energy.

Approved the LCP building committee recommendation to work with Clint Corrow of Grand Properties to market and sell the Grand Rapids service center property.

Approved to authorize President Olson sign a letter which will allow LCP to apply for the RC3 online cybersecurity self-assessment license program. The tool helps identify and remediate gaps in security programs. ■

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 Feb. Barney Chamberlin of Virginia took this photo in the Sax-Zim Bog.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Are you using your fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire, and close the damper when a fire is not burning.

Source: energy.gov

Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date – November 2019

	2019	2018
Electric Operating Revenue	\$ 82,338,129	\$ 84,415,999
Cost of Purchased Power	41,558,480	43,043,797
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	13,477,149	13,372,854
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	4,079,453	3,968,787
Administrative and General Expense	5,971,264	5,533,826
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	15,080,550	13,923,816
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	80,166,896	79,843,079
Net Electric Operating Margins	2,171,233	4,572,920
Non-Operating Margins	1,013,221	1,222,254
TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES	3,184,453	5,795,173
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	416,096	144,020
TOTAL MARGINS	\$3,600,549	\$5,939,193
TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	561,261,329	594,088,098

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.

Co-op Contacts

Greg Randa, 800-421-9959
General Manager granda@lcp.coop

Jason Long, 218-240-9611
District 1 jasealong@gmail.com

Michael Forsman, 218-365-5789
District 2 forsmanmd@hotmail.com

George Harvey, 218-741-6633
District 3 gharvey@accessmn.com

Craig Carlson, 218-999-7175
District 4 carlsonlcp@gmail.com

Robert Bruckbauer, 218-566-2436
District 5 bobbruckbauer@northlc.com

Daniel Kingsley, 218-697-2628
District 6 kingsdan27@gmail.com

Craig Olson, 218-393-2276
District 7 colson@iupat82.org

Jim Huhta, 218-644-3997
District 8 hatcheck@frontier.com

Sherman Liimatainen, 218-879-3135
District 9 nucpp@yahoo.com

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.

