



BOARD MEETINGS July 28 ■ August 25

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Our back-to-business approach

From the moment we closed our lobbies in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our commitment to providing reliable service never changed despite the world around us dealing with school closings, retail shutdowns, social distancing, and sadly, many casualties from this terrible virus.

But, where do we go from here; nearly four months later?

Governor's order extended

The Governor of Minnesota has extended the peacetime emergency until July 13, which means we will continue to practice our pandemic safety procedures and do our best to help mitigate the spread of the disease. In the Executive

Order he states: "Our actions have saved lives, but the threat remains, and our work must continue."



By Greg
RANDA
LCP general
manager

In response, a seven-employee task force was formed in May and is working on back-to-business details including a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. This plan is aimed at keeping employees, members, vendors and the visiting public safe as most co-op business resumes.

Lobbies to remain closed

We will be keeping our lobbies closed for the foreseeable future and encouraging members to manage their accounts online through SmartHub, by phone, or through our Easy Pay program (also

known as auto pay). Members can also use the self-serve kiosk or payment drop box at each service center.

When the service center lobbies do open again, we will have permanent glass partitions installed for personal protection, hand sanitizing stations available, and social distancing signage in place.

Service and operations

As an essential service provider, our primary business of keeping members energized has continued amid trying times. Recently, things like new service staking and line construction, and sales of equipment such as water heaters, electric heating equipment and meter kits has resumed. These services are being done by appointment only; to minimize contact and maintain social distancing.

Our operations department has also been busy with planned projects and new meter installs, while scaling back certain age-related construction due to the economic downturn. Tree crews have been tending to member requests and right-of-way clearing.

Most importantly

Safety is our biggest concern while maintaining reliable service for members. Employees have been and will continue working remotely where possible, and steps to keep lineworkers healthy has been a priority.

Business is open at Lake Country Power, but the pandemic is altering our normal lives, and I think it is safe to say that how we perform business from here on out will never truly be the same. ■



Power supply transition delivers what members want

When you work for a cooperative, you have one goal: provide what the membership wants.

Of course, not all members want the same things. Some members want service at the lowest possible cost. Others want energy with minimal environmental impact. Certain members value reliability above everything else.

Great River Energy focuses on keeping electricity reliable and affordable while being responsible stewards of the environment. We recently announced plans to change our power supply portfolio that delivers on all three of those objectives.

Great River Energy plans to phase out remaining coal resources, add significant renewable energy in Minnesota and explore critical grid-scale battery technology. The portfolio changes will significantly reduce Great River Energy's costs, which will save money for Lake Country Power's membership over the long term.

When the power supply plans are in place in 2023, Great River Energy's power supply resources will be more than 95% carbon dioxide-free.

Our power supply plans included the difficult decision to shut down our largest power plant, Coal Creek Station. Coal Creek Station has been a critical

part of Great River Energy's power supply portfolio for decades. The "flagship" Great River Energy power plant began operations in 1979 in Underwood, North Dakota, and employs 260 people.



By David
SAGGAU
Great River Energy
President and Chief
Executive Officer

Thousands of members have visited the facility and met the men and women who operate and maintain the plant. It has attracted families and businesses to central North Dakota and served as the hub of a thriving community.

Coal Creek Station is operated efficiently, safely and with pride by a dedicated and talented staff. We will make every effort to minimize impacts on our employees and the communities through this transition.

To assist local communities during the upcoming transition, Great River Energy plans to make voluntary annual payments of the local government share of the plant's taxes for five years after the plant's closure. And we will treat the employees with the dignity and respect they deserve.

As Great River Energy transforms its power supply portfolio, our mission remains the same: provide member-owners with affordable, reliable energy in harmony with a sustainable environment. ■



Power supply plans

Great River Energy plans the following actions in the coming years.

Phase out coal resources

GRE plans to retire the 1,151-megawatt (MW) Coal Creek Station power plant in the second half of 2022. The cooperative will also modify the 99-MW, coal and natural gas-based Spiritwood Station combined heat and power plant to be fueled by natural gas.

Add wind energy purchases

GRE plans to purchase more than 1,100 MW from new wind energy projects in Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa. This amounts to a more than \$1.2 billion investment in the Midwest's abundant clean energy resources. GRE's renewable capacity is projected to grow from approximately 660 MW in 2020 to more than 1,760 MW by the end of 2023.

Install a long-duration battery demonstration system

GRE is developing a first-of-its-kind demonstration

of a unique long-duration battery storage technology with the installation of a 1-MW battery in Cambridge, Minn., by the end of 2023. The battery project will be capable of delivering electricity continuously for 150 hours, far longer than the four-hour usage period common among lithium ion batteries. Long-duration storage will help maintain grid reliability in the future during extreme conditions, such as a heat wave or polar vortex.

Secure energy and capacity to keep service reliable

GRE plans to unlock more energy and capacity as needed through upgrades at its fleet of modern, natural gas peaking plants. As a member of the Midwest energy market, GRE also has access to abundant energy resources. ■

► SEE NEXT PAGE FOR ENERGY PORTFOLIO GRAPH

Seeking entries for tree photo contest

Lake Country Power is holding a special "tree photo contest." Members may participate by following the guidelines outlined below to enter their photos.

The winning photos will be displayed in five meeting rooms at the Cohasset Service Center – one winning photo per room. The rooms were named based on employee suggestion –

Balsam Room, Tamarack Room, Cedar Room, Maple Room and Birch Room.

Photo Guidelines

1. Each membership (household) may submit up to five photo entries. One winner per household.
2. 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.

Special photography contest open to members

3. Photo entries should be at least 3 MB or larger in file size.
4. Winners will receive a \$25 credit on their billing statement.
5. An employee committee will choose the winning photographs. Employees are not allowed to enter the contest, nor are immediate family members.
6. 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. ■

LAST CALL FOR THE 2021 CO-OP CALENDAR CONTEST



Members have until 11:59 p.m. on August 2 to submit their beautiful scenic entries for the 2021 co-op calendar contest. Winners will receive a \$25 credit on their electric bill and will be notified in October. Please be sure to follow the photo contest guidelines to ensure qualification. Visit www.lakecountrypower.coop.

Cleaning products can help protect against coronavirus

There is a big difference between cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions, cleaning removes germs, sanitizing lowers the number of germs, and disinfecting kills leftover germs.

Using water, soap and detergent to clean objects and surfaces lowers the numbers of germs and reduces the risk of spreading infection. Products that sanitize can reduce 99.99% of fungi, viruses, bacteria and germs, but it doesn't destroy them and can't prevent new

bacteria from forming. To disinfect and kill, you will need chemicals.

The CDC recommends cleaning first, then disinfecting surfaces and objects to remove germs, dirt and impurities. But it is important to use the right chemicals on the right surfaces.

Antiseptics vs. disinfectants

Though these both kill microorganisms, there is a big difference between the two. Antiseptics are applied to the body, while disinfectants are applied to surfaces and

objects, such as countertops and handrails. Antiseptics are sometimes referred to as "skin disinfectants," which adds to the confusion. Both contain chemical agents often called biocides – hydrogen peroxide is one – but antiseptics contain lower concentrations of biocides than disinfectants do.

Try to avoid cross-using supplies

With the shortage of certain cleaning supplies, you may be tempted to cross-use the stuff you have at home – like washing your hands with dish soap or wiping down the counter with glass-cleaning

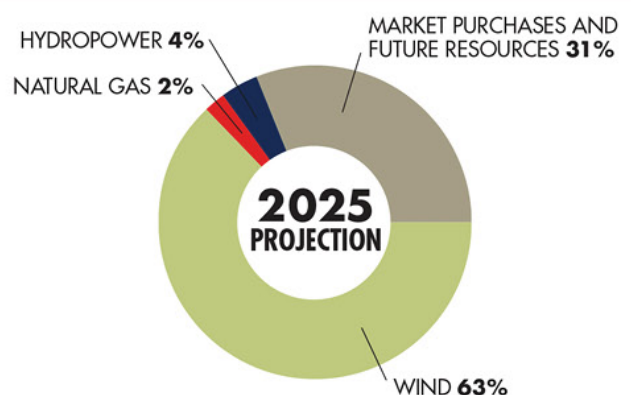
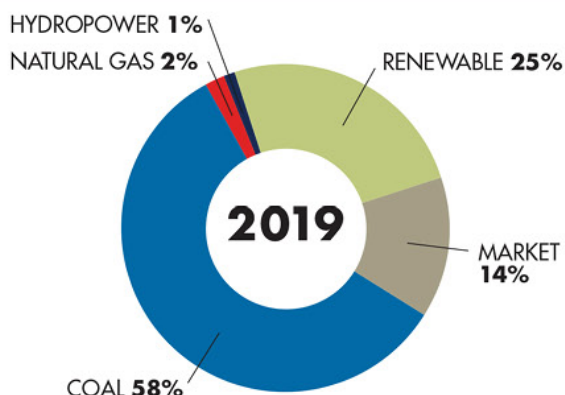


wipes. But experts advise against this for a few reasons: Using a product for a non-stated purpose could damage what you are trying to clean, be ineffective and therefore wasteful, and even be fatal.

For more information, check out the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's list of disinfectants approved for use against COVID-19. For tips on how to clean and disinfect different surfaces in your home, see the CDC's recommendations. ■

ENERGY PORTFOLIO GRAPH FROM PG 2 STORY: POWER SUPPLY PLANS

► These images show today's GRE energy portfolio and the projection for 2025.



How to achieve higher energy efficiency

Looking for ways to lower your electric bill? Your local cooperative, Lake Country Power, is here to assist – but there are a number of things you can do around the home, cabin or business to also help. Here are some simple changes that can make an impact on your monthly energy bill.

LED lighting: Swapping out your incandescent lightbulbs for ENERGY STAR® light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs can amount to significant savings as they use at least 75 percent less energy and last 25 times longer.

Bedroom: Ceiling fans help save money all year round. In the summer, fans should rotate counterclockwise. In the winter, fans should rotate clockwise.

Living room: Smart thermostats learn how you and your family live, and automatically adjust the temperature and settings based on your lifestyle to keep you comfortable while saving you money.

Kitchen: Make sure your burner isn't bigger than the pan and use flat-bottomed pans to maximize surface contact with the burner. Don't preheat the oven until you're ready to use it. Minimize the number of times you open and close the refrigerator or oven door.






Rebates: LCP offers a variety of rebates on energy efficient

appliances and lighting. You can find details at www.lakecountrypower.coop > Money Saving Programs, or call the co-op.

Off-peak programs: LCP promotes the efficient use of electricity through programs that shift consumption to the lowest-cost energy option. Installing efficient appliances and enrolling in the co-op's off-peak programs reduces electricity demand during the on-peak hours and puts to use inexpensive, and often renewable, energy that is produced overnight.

Heat pump maintenance: Heat pump technology is one of the most advanced and energy-efficient heating and cooling technologies available. An air-source heat pump moves heat to and from the outdoor air. In summer, it operates like a conventional central air conditioner. In winter, it provides supplemental heat. The Department of Energy notes that annual savings with an air-source heat pump are around \$948 when compared to oil systems.

Proper heat pump maintenance is key to energy-efficient operation and long equipment life. Clean or change filters once a month, or as needed, and maintain the system according to manufacturer's instructions. Dirty filters, coils and fans reduce airflow through the system. Clean outdoor coils

Save Energy with LEDs	
	Living Room Lamps Table or floor three-way lamps using LED bulbs provide 620, 1,600 or 2,150 lumens of soft white light and deliver up to 25,000 hours of light.
	Kitchen Dimmable recessed LED conversion lights add a warm glow of up to 1,200 lumens for kitchen workspaces and add far less heat to your kitchen. Each bulb could last 10 years.
	Bedrooms and Hallways Long-life LEDs are ideal for ceiling fixtures. A 9-watt LED produces the same 800 lumens of light as a 60-watt incandescent, and uses about 80 percent less energy.
	Bathrooms Omnidirectional LED globe bulbs are designed to provide a warm glow ideal for bathrooms. A 6-watt bulb produces 450 lumens and lasts up to 15,000 hours.
	Outdoors A 6-watt, 500 lumen LED bulb can replace a 40-watt incandescent bulb. Designed to last up to 30,000 hours, it could be a one-time switch.

whenever they appear dirty. Turn off power to your heat pump and clean the outdoor unit by removing vegetation and clutter and spraying it off with a hose. You should also have a professional technician service your heat pump at least once a year. These maintenance tips can also be applied to your central air conditioner.

Energy audit: Let one of our member service

representatives connect you with a certified energy advisor to conduct an on-site energy assessment of your home to find other, more personalized ways that'll reveal how you can save more on your energy costs.

Visit www.lakecountrypower.coop or touchstoneenergy.com/efficiency and take better control of your energy costs, or call LCP at 800-421-9959. ■

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH



Spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit www.energystar.gov, then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started.

Outage preparation before the storm

Delivering reliable service is a top priority for Lake Country Power. Know that your cooperative is prepared to activate its response plan before extended outages even happen.

The best time to prepare for power outages is when there is no risk of a storm. Thinking ahead can give you peace of mind when the weather starts to turn aggressive. Follow these preparation tips so you are ready before the next summer storm.

Visit www.ready.gov and www.fema.gov for a thorough look into disaster preparedness and a more detailed list of emergency supplies. Also, www.ready.gov/kids is an excellent resource on how to involve children in the process of assembling the family's storm supply kit.

Preparation Tips

- Have an adequate supply of prescription medicines and any necessary infant

supplies on hand.

- If you use medical equipment at home that requires electricity, make sure you charge the battery before the storm.
- If you or someone you know uses life-support equipment that requires electricity to operate, charge the battery before the storm, identify a location with emergency power capabilities and make plans to go there during a prolonged outage. Contact your local health department or emergency management offices about shelters that can assist you during a prolonged outage. If you have a medical emergency, call 9-1-1 or go to the hospital.
- Develop an evacuation plan and communicate the plan with your family. Include pets or livestock in your plan.
- Assemble an emergency storm kit. Include a battery-powered radio, flashlights, first-aid kit, battery-powered or wind-up clock, extra batteries, special needs items, toiletries, an insulated cooler, battery-powered radio or TV, cash and a list of important and emergency phone numbers.
- Have a telephone with a cord or an extra charged cell phone to use as a back-up. Cordless telephones won't work during an outage.
- Keep a three- to seven-day supply of non-perishable food and bottled water, and have a hand-operated can opener available.
- Consider having supplies handy for your propane or charcoal grill. Be sure to grill outdoors in well ventilated areas for safety.
- Protect your electronic equipment. Unplug sensitive electronics or plug computers and other sensitive equipment into surge suppressors. Consider an uninterruptible power supply, such as a generator, but do not connect it directly to your home's wiring or into a regular household outlet. If you do, it can be deadly to you and lineworkers because electricity will back feed onto power lines.

Outage reporting made easy



▶ With a SmartHub account, you can report outages quickly. Sign up at lakecountrypower.coop.

- Fill your bathtub with water if your supply depends on electricity. You can use water to flush the toilet sparingly.
- Be sure your contact information is up to date with Lake Country Power so we can identify your location. ■



RECIPE CORNER SCHNITZEL VENISON OR BEEF

From the Kitchen of:
Lisa Muggli Orr



INGREDIENTS

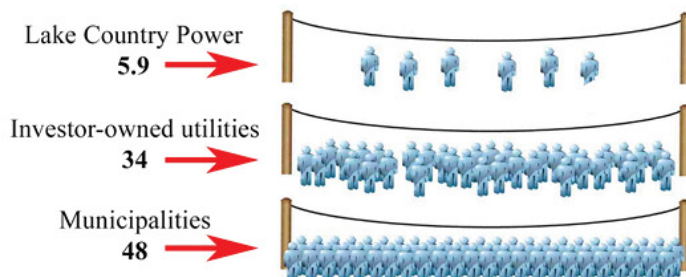
- 2 pounds tenderloin or backstrap cut in 1-inch thick pieces (small medallion steaks may be substituted for deer)
- 1 bowl with 1 1/2 cup flour
- 1 bowl with 2 or 3 beaten eggs
- 1 bowl with 1 1/2 cup Italian bread crumbs
- Small package sliced mushrooms
- 8 oz. shredded cheese
- 1 cup country gravy or 1 pkg. mix

DIRECTIONS

Pound meat with tenderize hammer until 1/4 inch thin or thinner. Dredge in flour. Gently wet in egg bath. Dredge in bread crumbs. Pile on plate (cover – may refrigerate and finish later). Fry 2 minutes on each side on medium heat. Place on cookie sheet pan covered in parchment paper. Layer with sliced mushrooms. Top with cheese. Bake at 400 degrees for 10 minutes until melted. Serve with mashed potatoes and gravy on top of all. Enjoy!

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

NUMBER OF CONSUMERS PER MILE OF LINE



This graph shows how the density in populations served differs among Lake Country Power and 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 loads and cities benefit greatly from more consumers per mile and larger revenues, helping offset their overall fixed costs and rate structure. Learn more about your electric cooperative at lakecountrypower.coop.

April 22, 2020 • Regular Monthly Meeting

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Olson reported he referred several member inquiries to General Manager Randa.

General Manager Randa reported about Northland Connect operations; anticipating contractor work for meter changeouts and construction to start the first part of May; and LCP's pandemic plan to provide safe work environments for employees.

CFO Bakk reported about LCP's financial information through February. GRE is providing COVID-19 assistance relief to member co-ops. The stay at home order will have an impact on small commercial energy sales while residential sales may slightly increase. LCP has suspended disconnections and will not charge late fees during the pandemic.

COO Howe reported the 2020 contract for herbicide treatment was awarded to Lake States Tree Service. He reported on engineering and operations activities, including replows, outages and efforts to purchase personal protective equipment.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Approved that management research information and establish a timeline for the annual meeting to be held in June 2020.

Approved the resolution "term extension of board members and officers due to coronavirus pandemic."

Approved that LCP support the changes in the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's resolutions, and that LCP support the changes to MREA's bylaws.

Approved to accept the 2019 CoGeneration Distribution Report and file it.

Approved the 2019 capital credit allocation of more than \$3.4 million.

Approved the changes to Policy 417 (fees), Policy 418 (security deposit) and Policy 423 (meter tampering and energy theft). ■

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 July. Lisa Diehl Foreman of Edina took this festive photo on the Fourth of July at Sturgeon Lake.

Co-op Contacts

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District 9 sgliimatainen@gmail.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

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Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date – April 2020

	2020	2019
Electric Operating Revenue	\$32,632,987	\$33,832,835
Cost of Purchased Power	16,157,725	17,583,861
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	4,477,938	3,948,180
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	1,322,861	1,530,140
Administrative and General Expense	2,375,064	2,288,646
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	5,295,504	5,264,801
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	29,629,093	30,615,629
Net Electric Operating Margins	3,003,894	3,217,206
Non-Operating Margins	539,144	675,081
TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES	3,543,038	3,892,287
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	(229,873)	(244,379)
TOTAL MARGINS	\$3,313,165	\$3,647,908
TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	235,051,704	255,402,446

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.