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BOARD MEETINGS July 26 August 30 (9:30 am/Cohasset Service Center/Members welcome)

Grid authorities issue warnings about summer energy demand

LCP, GRE prepared for grid management

You may have already seen the headlines across local, regional and national media about concerns over the power grid this summer and the potential for periodic rolling outages in Minnesota and the Midwest.



By Mark BAKK General Manager

There are differing factors in these anxieties, including extreme weather events that test the grid and utilities retiring traditional fossil fuel plants as they move toward green energy resources, but the concern over grid management is a reality.

The Midwest has boasted stable power supply for decades, but the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) is predicting shortages for the region should an extreme heat wave arrive this summer, creating the potential for periodic rolling blackouts.

As a member of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), Great River Energy (GRE), wholesale power supplier to Lake Country Power, may be required by MISO to schedule periodic outages in its service area during certain emergency situations to help restore balance to the grid.

MISO is our region's grid operator and runs the grid across 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. MISO helps the electric providers in the region deliver reliable, affordable energy. Think

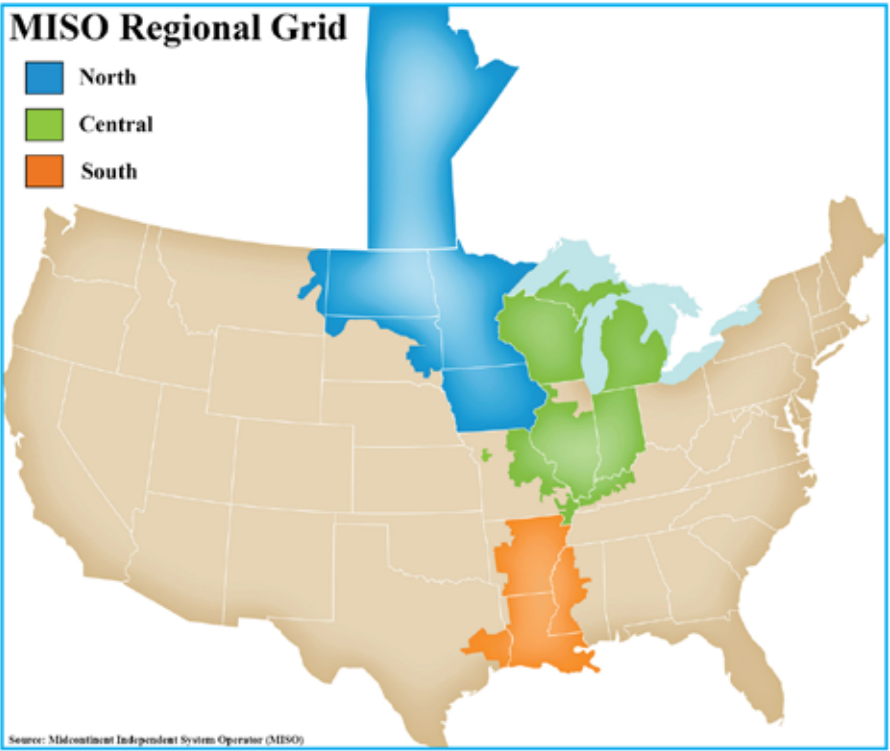
of MISO as the air traffic controller of the region's grid. Using sophisticated technology, processes and procedures, MISO has a wide-area view and control of the grid that goes beyond any one utility.

Although Great River Energy has enough generating capacity to meet the demands of its members, plus a cushion, any emergency measures deployed to maintain reliability will be applied over the entire region, regardless of which utility serves a geographic area or the capacity position of those utilities relative to their obligations in MISO.



It's important to note that periodic outages are a last resort for grid management during emergency situations. In the MISO North region, of which Minnesota, GRE and LCP are part of, there has never been a situation where widespread periodic blackouts were required. However, if temporary controlled load sheds are activated, we have procedures in place to act immediately when directed by MISO to shed load.

We feel it's best to be prepared, and rest assured, the staff and leadership at Lake Country Power are working diligently on our own plans to communicate with members should a rare emergency event occur.



Filling up on community at Cozy Cove

Walking into the entrance of Cozy Cove Coffee Co., I couldn't help but notice the American flag flying high and proudly overlooking the entrance to the quaint new coffee shop in Hill City.

As part of my role at Lake Country Power, I meet with commercial members to discuss energy efficiency rebates, and more importantly on that day, fill up on freshly made coffee and baked goods.

Laura Spaulding, the co-owner of Cozy Cove Coffee Co., and her business partner Sean Lathrop



By Dan COOPER
Key Accounts and Business Development Manager

opened Cozy Cove Coffee Co. in May 2021 located in Sean's hometown. Laura gave me a brief history of the building's unique past as an automotive building. We were sitting at a dining area that some of you may have pulled a car into for service. That same area now is dotted with tables and chairs where you can fill up on home-made soups, sandwiches and baked goods.

Early on in the conversation with Laura, one thing was evident: Laura and Sean have a strong passion for community. Sean is a former police officer and also works as a paramedic. Laura is an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). In addition to their service

to the community as first responders, they also employ some of the local highschoolers from Hill City.

The Cozy Cove Coffee Co. is proud to offer home-made soups, sandwiches and baked goods made right on site. They have also partnered with other local businesses such as the Ugly Cheesecake Co. located in Brainerd and one of my personal favorites, Bettie's Pies, located in Two Harbors.

As I left Hill City, I was reminded that not just the coffee here is strong, but the feeling of pride, support and investment in the community is even stronger, which fits right in with the values of Lake Country Power and our members.



Cozy Cove Coffee Co. is located in Hill City just off Highway 169. You can stop in this summer from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. ■



Thank you, Lake Country Power Members!

Your patience, support and understanding in the wake of this spring's storms, high winds and outages helped our crews restore electric service safely and with persistence. For this, every employee at Lake Country Power would like to say "thank you" to our co-op members for enduring the storms and outages with us.

We are so blessed to live in this beautiful "lake country" as neighbors, friends and a tight co-op community where we can all enjoy an abundance of trees, lakes, wildlife and outdoor activities together. Thank you for weathering the storms with us.

Whatever comes this summer, we are ready, trained and equipped to hit the ground running again. We all feel your amazing support, so thank you!



People Powering You

This is a regular series of employee spotlights where you'll get to know the people behind your power.

Years served: 9 years on June 17

Brief overview of my job: I mainly deal with accounts payable, accounts receivable, monthly bank and credit card reconciliations as well as handling random accounting related issues that may pop up.

Why I enjoy working at LCP: I really enjoy working in an office where everyone gets along pretty well and will go out of their way to help others with any problems. It's a pretty positive environment around here.

Family: I grew up as the oldest of four boys and then went on to be a father of four girls: Autumn, Daisy, Presly and Aubree. My oldest daughter, Autumn, married Taylor Greenwalt, who is in the Air Force. They are stationed in San Antonio currently and over the last two years have added two grandsons to the family: James, 2, and Thomas, 5 months old.

Community Involvement: I am active in the youth sports community mainly as a fan enjoying watching the kids play hockey, soccer, softball and martial arts. I was recently on the Range Runners board of directors for the last eight years. We were an official group of the Road Runners Club of America during that time until the last couple years took a toll on the club. With not enough interest in new members joining the board the official club ended at the end of last year. I am still active in the running community, and we do still have the Facebook group for interacting and hosting group runs.

Hobbies: I enjoy spending time outdoors, four-wheeling, fishing, hunting and running. About three-and-a-half years ago, I started martial arts with my youngest daughter, Aubree, doing Tang Soo Do at Resurgence Martial arts in the Thunderbird Mall in Virginia. This has been fun and

Harry Shears

Accounting Clerk



challenging and we have met many great people doing it. The last few years I have really gotten into playing disc golf and that's what I am usually doing most weekends during the warm months. I really like playing and seeing my game improve as well as being outside with friends and family.

One random fact of interest about yourself: I have run 14 full marathons and at least that many half marathons.

What did you do before working at the co-op? I worked at many different places before joining the Lake Country Power team. I worked in restaurants cooking at Hardee's, Domino's and Snickers Pizza. I did a summer of rock picking out at the old LTV Mine and also did some bartending and banquet serving at the old Coates Hotel in Virginia.

Education/training/background: I decided in my late 20s to go back to school and enrolled at the Mesabi Community College and completed two years there, graduating with my Associate of Arts degree. It was about a year after graduating from there that I decided I would like to go back to school for an accounting degree. So I enrolled at Rasmussen College in St. Cloud and graduated from there with my Bachelor's Degree in Accounting.

RECIPE CORNER UNUSUAL BANANA BREAD

From the
Kitchen of:
**Brenda Hruza,
Wright**



- ½ cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ⅛ tsp. Salt
- 3 medium bananas, mashed
- ¼ cup chopped nuts
- ¼ cup chopped cherries
- ¼ cup chopped chocolate chips

Mix shortening and sugar, add eggs and cream well. Add dry ingredients, stir in mashed bananas, cherries, chocolate chips and nuts. Bake in loaf pans at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Makes two loaves (4" x 8")

Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn: Editor, 8535 Park Ridge Drive, Mountain Iron, MN 55768, or e-mail jburnes@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.

Save money with Co-op Connections®

As businesses continue to climb out of COVID-19 setbacks and inflation, we'd like to remind members they can save money when they shop at the participating businesses in Lake Country Power's Co-op Connections® Card Program. Rather than shopping online, shop locally to save locally, and help our local businesses recover from the economic strains they've experienced the past few years.

Bring your Co-op Connections® Card to save money at the participating local businesses in northern Minnesota.

If you don't have the Co-op Connections® 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. When you're shopping at a participating business, show them the app and enjoy the same benefits as the card.

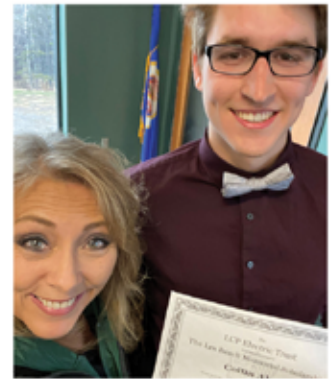
For a full listing of enrolled businesses or assistance of how to download the app, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop>My Cooperative. Additional offers can be found at www.connections.coop. If you prefer using the card, call us at 800-421-9959 for a replacement.



32 high school students receive scholarships from Lake Country Power

Scholarships are made possible through unclaimed capital credits. After trying to locate former members, the State of Minnesota permits electric cooperatives like Lake Country Power to use unclaimed funds for charitable purposes, such as scholarships. If these funds are not used for qualified co-op investments, the State may require they be turned over to their general fund.

- **Brooke Doran:** Barnum School
- **Sophia Finn:** Cass Lake-Bena School
- **Lauren Staples:** Cherry School
- **Lydia Stone:** Cloquet School
- **Jay Olesiak:** Cromwell-Wright School
- **Joseph Herfindahl:** Deer River School
- **Jon Hakala and Annikka Mattson:** Ely Memorial Secondary School
- **Adriana (Audrey) Menor:** Esko School
- **Abbie Sundich:** Eveleth-Gilbert School
- **Hannah Kinnunen, Eva Salmela and Henry Sterle:** Grand Rapids School
- **Ellie Peterson:** Greenway-Coleraine School
- **Jessica Kukowski:** Hermantown School
- **Olivia Clusiau:** Hibbing School
- **Ava Klennert:** Hill City School
- **Jaylynn Maijala:** McGregor Secondary School
- **Lindsey Baribeau:** Mesabi East School
- **Zachary Youngs:** Moose Lake School
- **Aaliyah Orso:** Mountain Iron-Buhl School
- **Kayleigh Horn:** Northland Community School
- **Alex Hartway and Abby Koch:** North Woods School
- **Natalie Nelmark:** Northeast Range School
- **Stephen McGee IV:** Northern Lights Community School
- **Collin Aho:** Proctor School
- **Morgan Anderson:** South Ridge School
- **Elsie Hyppa and Abby Kramer:** Virginia School
- **Blake Eaton:** At Large category
- **Kolton Graf:** Home school



(Top to Bottom):
Proctor, Eveleth-Gilbert,
Cromwell-Wright

Lake Country Power is pleased to announce 32 local high school seniors from 27 different schools have been awarded the Lake Country Power 2022 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, made possible through unclaimed capital credits, are issued at \$1,000 per year for four years will help graduating seniors pursue their college plans and career dreams.

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 web-based application process for high school seniors will open this winter when qualifying high

school seniors may apply for next year's scholarships. The exact dates will be announced this fall, and the online application will be available from the cooperative's website at www.lakecountrypower.coop.

Lake Country Power also offers \$1,000 scholarships to area community college foundations and three Minnesota lineworker schools. These scholarships support students interested in pursuing hands-on skilled trades and community/technical college programs. Applications for these scholarships are available directly through the colleges.

Q: Interested in receiving alerts when your bill is ready to be viewed?

A: If so, you can log into your SmartHub account, select "Notifications," and then "Manage Contacts," to add or remove a phone number or email. After your contact information is updated, you can then select, "Manage Notifications." There are numerous options to choose from so you can select what alerts are important to you.



Transparency is the lifeblood of cooperatives

At a time when uncertainty and mistrust are playing out in public discourse, it's important for Lake Country Power members to understand that transparency is an important part of a successful cooperative model.

Being transparent, whether it be by a government body or the local co-op board of directors, helps create trust in the institution, while also keeping membership informed and engaged. The result of those outcomes is a well-functioning democratic process that upholds a major co-op principle of providing members the opportunity to help shape policy and make decisions through director elections and equal voting rights.

What is transparency, though? Here are some key characteristics:

Honesty: This is a simple one. To build and maintain trust among our members, Lake Country Power is committed to providing full, unvarnished, and appropriate information about how the cooperative is run. Our board and staff are trained to discuss co-op business in an ethical manner and not say anything that isn't true.

Openness: Our board of directors and staff are accessible to LCP members through contact information posted online and in Newsline, or by visiting one

of our service centers. Board meetings are again open to the public now that the COVID-19 pandemic has receded and are presently held monthly at 9:30 a.m. at the Cohasset Service Center.

Access to information: Members don't have to go to heroic lengths to find certain information about Lake Country Power. Documents about bylaws, policies, board-approved minutes and more are available at www.lakecountrypower.coop.

Accountability: One of the ways we ensure accountability is by making it easy for members to vote for directors and run for board seats. Annual board

elections are held at Lake Country Power in April, with a nomination process that begins each February. Elections and director seats are open to all LCP members within their district. More about the election process can be found at www.lakecountrypower.coop>My Cooperative>Directors & Districts.

Transparency is itself an important part of the cooperative model, arguably the most important and the core of the co-op principles. Transparency is more than a happy consequence of good management and good governance; it's the lifeblood of an engaged and satisfied membership. ■

BEAT THE PEAK THIS SUMMER

As temperatures begin to spike, there are steps you can take to save money on energy bills this summer.

Aside from replacing your central air conditioner with a newer, higher-efficiency model, there are some things you can do to increase efficiency, which can help reduce your energy bills.

Besides weather stripping and caulking around windows and doors in your home (always a good idea regardless of the time of year), Safe Electricity offers the following:

- Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day. Not only is about one-third of a home's energy lost around windows, but about 76 percent of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home to become heat, according to energy.gov.
- If you don't already have one, install a programmable or smart thermostat. You can save up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day, according to Energy.gov.
- Clean the filter and get your unit inspected by a HVAC professional.

- Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and an attic fan can help hot air from building. If your attic has less than 6 to 8 inches of insulation, consider adding more. By addressing air leaks around your home and adding insulation, homeowners can save around 10 percent annually on energy bills, according to energystar.gov.
- Get a pre-season checkup by a professional HVAC technician, which could help your air conditioner run more efficiently.
- Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.
- Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed duct work.

Increased summer electric demand not only affects the monthly budget, but it can also seriously strain your home's electrical system, which can create dangerous shock and fire hazards. Flickering or dimming lights or frequent circuit breaker trips are signs of an overloaded electrical system or faulty wiring that should be checked immediately by a qualified electrician.

**SUMMER IS COMING
PREPARE YOUR HOME NOW**

Don't Let Summer Heat Up Your Utility Bill

- Seal cracks around the house with weather stripping or caulk to keep warm air out.
- Change the air filter on your cooling unit.
- Wash your outdoor AC unit and have your HVAC unit inspected.
- Clear the air vents throughout your house.
- Install a programmable thermostat. Leave it on a higher temperature when you are away, and set it to cool the house half an hour before you return home.
- Update your insulation to keep cool air in your home and warm air out.

Learn more at: [Safe Electricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

April 26, 2022 • Regular Monthly Meeting

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Olson reported that he held conversations with several members about cooperative-related matters and spoke with General Manager Mark Bakk about the annual meeting on the April board meeting agenda.

Directors Olson and Robert Bruckbauer, representing Lake Country Power on the Great River Energy board, reported on a summary of the GRE April board meeting. Bruckbauer shared 2022 financials and that the transaction to close Coal Creek Station/HVDC line was scheduled for May 2.

General Manager Bakk reported that the LCP supervisory group was meeting on April 28 and all-employee meetings were to be held May 4-5, the first all-employee meetings since the pandemic began.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

The 2021 capital credit allocation, including the cooperative allocation of \$4,299,618.69 and the G&T allocation of \$3,030,733.42, for a total allocation of \$7,330,352.11 was approved.

The board discussed moving the annual meeting to other venues in the LCP service area, as was done in pre-pandemic years. A consensus was reached to hold the 2023 annual meeting on April 20, 2023, at the Cromwell School. Staff will check on the availability of the facility on that date.

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. Julie Heifort of Saint Francis photographed this vibrant water lily on Chase Lake in July. Final reminder: **The deadline to enter the 2023 co-op calendar contest is August 2.**

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District 4

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District 8

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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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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know the combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home? Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances. Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

Source: Energy Information Administration and Department of Energy

Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date — April 2022

	2022	2021
Electric Operating Revenue	\$ 39,891,594	\$ 33,363,450
Cost of Purchased Power	23,816,985	18,186,382
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	5,241,055	4,661,383
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	1,406,340	1,292,581
Administrative and General Expense	2,445,672	2,440,093
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	5,556,029	5,485,725
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	38,466,080	32,066,165
Net Electric Operating Margins	1,425,514	1,297,285
Non-Operating Margins	718,346	753,700
TOTAL MARGINS	\$ 2,144,642	\$ 3,079,260
TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	307,917,307	238,175,496

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.