



September 2022

Newsline

BOARD MEETINGS September 27 ■ October 25 (9:30 am at Cohasset Service Center. Members welcome)



IN THIS ISSUE

- Minnesota EV road trip
- Bolstering electrical reliability
- Co-op calendar contest begins
- LCP at Tall Timber Days

Two students represent LCP at Youth Tour

Two students representing Lake Country Power attended the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour for a week in June in Washington D.C., joining about 1,900 of their peers.

Abbie Sundich from Eveleth-Gilbert and Sarah Kessler, a homeschool student from rural Deer River, were chosen through Lake Country Power's application process to attend the tour. This year is the first time the co-op has sent two students to the Youth Tour, and they're the first students to attend since 2019 due to Covid-19.

The students toured the nation's Capital, its monuments and museums and met with federal lawmakers from Minnesota, while also learning the impact rural electric cooperatives have on the lives of everyday Americans.

"On the tour, I learned how important [co-ops] were," Kessler said, noting the speakers that described rural life when electrical service didn't reach them, before co-ops provided vital access. "It was really cool to learn how incredible that was that almost everybody you know in the U.S. has such easy access to electricity."

Some of the sites seen on tour were the National Mall, several museums and historic sites and a day on Capitol Hill. There, the Youth Tour participants met with members of Congress from their state and region. Sundich and Kessler met with local 8th District U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber and U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, among others.

When you live rurally, you meet your mayor and people running for office

locally, but you really don't get to meet people in Congress," Sundich said. "It definitely made me want to go into politics more and work with my local community."

The Youth Tour also helped open future doors for both students.

Kessler is attending Bemidji State University this fall with a plan to study accounting and said the trip opened her eyes to potential job and life opportunities outside of Minnesota, while giving her new perspective on different parts of the state through her peers.

Sundich plans to attend Hamline University and major in English, with an eye toward law school. The Youth

Tour helped solidify that path, and provided her with how to utilize her future education locally.

"I grew a lot as a person and gained a greater sense of community," she said. "It gives youth a chance to get into politics and see how our world is working. It gave me more of an idea of what I want to do, and I want to work more with community outreach."

For future students considering the Youth Tour, Kessler said the application process is easy and safety wasn't a concern during the trip.

"It's too good of an opportunity to pass up," she said. "It's a really good way to get educated about history, the world and issues we're concerned about." ■



▶ Sundich

▶ Kessler

Cold weather rule effective October 1

The Cold Weather Rule, Section 216B.097 of the Minnesota State Statutes, provides that from October 1 through April 30 an electric cooperative cannot disconnect a residential customer for nonpayment of service, if the disconnect affects the primary heat source and all of the following conditions are met:

1. The customer declares an inability to pay and completes the Inability to Pay form; and
2. Household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median income. Income may be verified on forms provided by LCP or by the local energy assistance provider with whom the customer has applied for energy assistance; and
3. The customer enters into and makes reasonably and timely payments under a mutually agreeable payment plan, that considers the financial resources of the household; and
4. A customer receives from LCP referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

The law does allow for LCP to disconnect when it is necessary from October 1 to April 30, so please act promptly. LCP works with members during the Cold Weather Rule period, just as we do throughout the year. We don't want to interrupt service to any member, but in a cooperative, all members suffer when any bill remains unpaid. If bills remain unpaid, this amount must be absorbed by members who faithfully pay their bill each month. LCP would rather work with members to establish and maintain adequate payment schedules of their past due bill. A statement explaining the payment plan to secure continued service, a Payment Arrangement letter, will be provided.

Before disconnecting service to a residential customer from October 1 to April 30, the cooperative must provide the following information:

- notice of proposed disconnection (disconnection notice); and
- statement explaining customer's rights and responsibilities (Inability to Pay form); and
- list of energy assistance providers (Inability to Pay form); and
- forms available for customer to request cold weather disconnect protection (Inability to Pay form).

If you receive a disconnection notice this winter, you must act promptly. If you do not meet all the conditions of the Cold Weather Rule, mutually acceptable payment arrangements can be set up to prevent interruption of an electric service. Please contact Lake Country Power at 800-421-9959 if you have any questions about the Cold Weather Rule. ■

Energy Assistance Providers

- AEOA: 800-662-5711
- AEOA Virginia: 218-735-6839
- AEOA Duluth: 218-623-3011
- Aitkin County Social Services: 800-328-3744
- Bi County CAP: 800-332-7161
- Bois Forte Tribal: 800-221-8129
- Carlton County Social Services: 800-642-9082
- Cass County Social Services: 218-547-1340
- Fond Du Lac Tribal: 800-365-1613
- Itasca County Social Services: 800-422-0312
- Kootasca: 877-687-1163
- Lake County Social Services: 218-834-8400
- Lakes & Pines: 800-832-6082
- Leech Lake Tribal: 866-864-8668
- Mille Lacs Band Tribal: 320-532-7880
- Pine County Social Services: 800-450-7263
- Salvation Army Office (Heat Share Programs): 800-842-7279
- St. Louis County Social Services: 800-450-9777

Cast your vote in the co-op calendar contest



Lake Country Power's 2023 co-op calendar contest is officially open on Facebook for voting. The field of hundreds of photo entries has been narrowed. Help determine the 12 winning photos at www.facebook.com/lakecountrypower.

How to Vote

Lake Country Power's 2023 co-op calendar contest is officially open on Facebook for voting. The field of photo entries has been narrowed. Help determine the 12 winning photos at www.facebook.com/lakecountrypower.

Simply cast your vote with a 'like' for the photo(s) you'd like to see in the calendar. There are four photo albums – for spring, summer, fall and winter – so be sure to look through each album when casting your 'likes.'

The deadline to vote is 9:00 a.m. CST on Monday, October 3. Any 'likes' after this time and date will not count toward final photo selections.

Any variations from the contest guidelines and/or ties will be determined by a contest judging committee. Winners will be notified in October if their photo was selected as one of the winning entries. The printed 2023 calendars will be available in late November or early December. Good luck, and let the voting begin!



People Powering You

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

Years served: 5 years

Brief overview of my job: I work with our commercial and key account members to ensure they receive all the benefits our electric cooperative can provide.

Why I enjoy working at LCP: I enjoy working at Lake Country Power because of the support I have received in all of the roles I have participated in. It's a great organization to be a part of and grow in.

Family: My wife Sabrina and I have three children. Ellie is almost 8 years old, Cohen is 6 years old, Maci is almost 4 years old and we have a year-old Goldendoodle named Maya.

Community Involvement: I have past experience as a Volunteer Firefighter/ EMT in Canosia Township and I also coach soccer. My wife and I also sponsor various community events through our business Northern Man Craft.

Hobbies: I enjoy hunting, fishing and trapping. I enjoy the challenge and being outdoors.

One random fact of interest about yourself: I have three other brothers

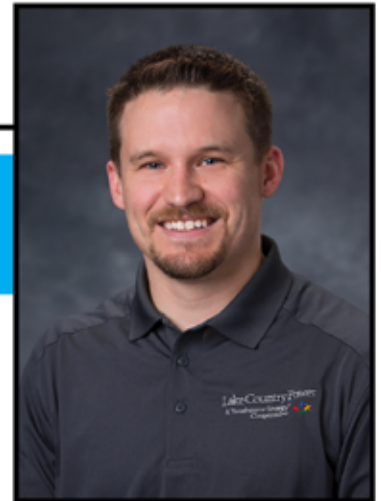
Dan Cooper

Key Accounts and Business Development Manager

who are linemen in Minnesota. Two brothers work at Minnesota Power out of Duluth and one works at Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative in Jordan, MN.

What did you do before working at the co-op? I delivered fuel oil and gas and also installed industrial epoxy flooring.

Education/training/background: I have an associates degree in fire technology and administration, electrical lineworker certificate and a journeyman lineman card. I also was a firefighter and nationally registered emergency medical technician.



RECIPE CORNER STRAWBERRY FROSTING

From the Kitchen of:
Rosemary Zimmerman,
Tower



- 1 cup sliced strawberries
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg white

Beat for at least 5 minutes. Makes enough for two angel food cakes. Store in the refrigerator.

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



Find out more about the Where's Willie? contest by visiting lakecountrypower.coop/wheres-willie



▶ Lake Country Power was one of 100 entries in the Tall Timber Days parade in Grand Rapids on August 7, towing our new safety demonstration trailer.

smart hub Tip

Q: Need to report an outage, or have other issues or questions?

A: Using your SmartHub account makes reaching us easier than ever. Under 'Contact Us' click the option 'Report an Issue/Inquiry.' You'll then have the option of picking 'Power Outage' or 'Other issues/General Inquiry.'

New transmission line to bolster electric reliability in northern Minnesota

Great River Energy and Minnesota Power announced in July their intent to build an approximately 150-mile, double-circuit 345-kV transmission line from northern Minnesota to central Minnesota near Becker that will support grid reliability in the Upper Midwest.

The transmission line will run from Minnesota Power's Iron Range Substation in Itasca County to Great River Energy's Benton County Substation in Benton County, and then replace an existing Great River Energy transmission line from Benton County to a new substation in Sherburne County. The Sherburne County substation will be built as part of a separate project.

This 345-kV project will be sited in the member service areas of Lake Country Power, Crow Wing Power, Mille Lacs, East Central Energy and Connexus Energy. GRE will jointly develop this project with Minnesota Power.

Minnesota Power, an investor-owned public utility, and Great River Energy, a wholesale electric power cooperative, filed a Notice of Intent to Construct, Own and Maintain the transmission line with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) in early August.

This joint project is one of a portfolio of transmission



projects approved July 25 by the region's grid operator, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), as part of the first phase of its Long-Range Transmission Plan.

In total MISO approved 18 projects across its Midwest sub region, with six, including the Minnesota Power/Great River Energy project, in the Upper Midwest. Proactive investments to maintain a reliable and resilient regional power grid are necessary as more low-cost renewable energy is brought online, existing power plants are retired, electrification continues to grow, and extreme weather events become more frequent.

Utilities across the region are significantly increasing the amount of renewable energy they provide to their customers.

Great River Energy will more than double the amount of renewable energy, primarily wind energy, in its portfolio by 2025 and reduce its carbon emissions by 80 percent from 2005 levels in the next 10 years. Minnesota Power was the first utility in the state to deliver 50% renewable energy to its customers in 2021 and envisions delivering 100% carbon-free energy by 2050.

Planning for the approximately \$970 million transmission line is in its early stages. Subject to board approval, the two companies intend to seek a Certificate of Need and Route Permit from the MPUC in late 2023.

The MPUC will determine need and the final route and separately review cost recovery for Minnesota Power's share of the project. Subject to regulatory approvals, the transmission line is estimated to be in service by 2030.

Minnesota Power and Great River Energy will begin coordinating with landowners, local governments, agencies, Tribal Nations and tribal organizations, and other interested parties in late 2022 and early 2023. Engagement opportunities including open house meetings, and workshops will offer the project community an opportunity to ask questions and provide input on the project planning and routing. ■

Affordable, abundant wind energy serves Minnesota members



Minnesota offers a variety of natural resources that benefit its residents including winds that can move unobstructed across the state's southern prairies. Minnesota ranks in the top 10 states for producing renewable wind energy, and the Midwest's wind generation rose from 8.6 gigawatts (GW) in 2011 to 26.9 GW in 2020.

Great River Energy, Lake Country Power's wholesale power provider, started making use of the state's abundant wind more than 20 years ago with just three wind turbines on the prairies of Murray County.

By 2007, wind had proven to be a realistic and cost-effective strategy for generating electricity and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. This led the state of Minnesota to pass a renewable energy standard (RES), requiring utilities to reach 25%

renewables by 2025.

Since then, Great River Energy has steadily added more affordable renewable wind energy into its power supply portfolio — so much so that it met the RES in 2017, eight years ahead of schedule. The cooperative does not own or operate any wind farms, but instead receives the output and environmental benefits from wind projects through power purchase agreements.

"These are cost-competitive, long-term contracts that will benefit our members for decades while also reducing our carbon emissions," said Great River Energy's Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke. "Abundant wind power has also helped keep wholesale energy market prices lower in Minnesota compared to other regions."

Plug into Minnesota: Charge up and head out for adventure

Planning Minnesota road trip adventures while driving electric has never been easier.

A growing network of electric vehicle (EV) charging stations offers drivers access to authentic Minnesotan experiences like kayaking in Lake Superior, exploring various state parks and cruising along the scenic North Shore.

While drivers of traditional cars would need to interrupt their road trip to find a gas station to fill up, EV drivers can combine their pit-stops with an activity or adventure as their battery charges.

For families looking to head up north — or those in the north wanting to venture south — Interstate 35 and Highway 61 serve as an electric corridor of Level 2 and fast-charging stations. From the Twin Cities to Grand Marais, you can plan to make stops in Pine City, Sturgeon Lake, Duluth, Two Harbors or Lutsen to charge and enjoy activities ranging from a meal to a shopping trip or hike.

At most of these stops you'll find a fast-charging station



where you can “fuel” up to a full battery within 30 minutes while supporting local restaurants or shops. At other locations, such as Tettegouche State Park and Gooseberry Falls State Park, you can plug into a Level 2 charger — which adds 18-28 miles of range per hour — and enjoy a more extended excursion like hiking, fishing or kayaking.

Other notable destination EV charging locations around Minnesota include:

- Ely: Lake Country Power and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has partnered on a charging station at Bear Head Lake State Park, near the city and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.
- Sturgeon Lake: Doc's Sports



Bar & Grill has a ZEF Energy Level 3 DC fast charger.

- Alexandria: Stations are available near restaurants, grocery stores, coffee shops, breweries and lakes.
- Albertville: Spend an hour or half a day shopping at the Albertville Premium Outlets while charging up.
- Duluth: Charging stations across the city can take you from the Glensheen Mansion to Canal Park.

• Fergus Falls: Stations are located near fun, locally owned restaurants and shops within a two-block radius, as well as the Ottetail River which winds through downtown.

So, this fall if you'll be driving electric in Minnesota, get ready to plug in and head out for adventure. For more charging locations, visit www.energywisemn.com/plugintomn and www.plugshare.com. ■

LCP safety trailer debuts at schools



▶ Lake Country Power owns a new safety demonstration trailer that debuted in May at Cohasset Elementary School and West Elementary School in Grand Rapids. The safety trailer is available for demonstrations at schools in LCP's service area. For more information, contact Lake Country Power at 800-421-9959.

June 24, 2022 • Regular Monthly Meeting

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE GIVEN:

President Olson reported several conversations with members concerning recent outages. He also met with General Manager Mark Bakk regarding an annual performance review to be discussed during executive session.

General Manager Bakk and Director Long reported that LCP staff met with a small group of members in Buyck (District 1) concerned about the length of their service interruption and the co-op's restoration process.

Bakk and Chief Operating Officer Howe recapped events and explained LCP's outage response and restoration process. Bakk said he was asked by a company about LCP offering a "generator program" to members. The company will prepare information for LCP to review.

THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WERE TAKEN:

Approved a new Policy 511 "Education Improvement Program" that will allow the cooperative to grant unclaimed capital credit funds to area school districts and organizations which fit the criteria for distributing these types of funds.

Approved a change in Policy 406 to increase the cooperative's debt maximum.

Approved five contractors – Brink Constructors, Inc.; Highline Construction Inc.; Integrity Construction Inc.; Lake States Construction and Legacy Powerline Inc. for LCP's 2023 construction work.

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.



▶ Julie Warren of Federal Dam captured this beautiful scenic fall photo featuring an old truck in an empty field.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Our faucets and appliances use a lot of hot water. You can lower your water heating costs by using less hot water in your home. Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified. Source: Department of Energy

Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date — June 2022

	2022	2021
Electric Operating Revenue	\$ 56,115,697	\$ 47,414,613
Cost of Purchased Power	32,340,128	25,755,550
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	9,589,491	5,598,253
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	2,090,481	1,366,994
Administrative and General Expense	3,529,303	2,991,349
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	8,886,464	8,755,562
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	56,435,866	44,467,708
Net Electric Operating Margins	(320,169)	2,946,905
Non-Operating Margins	701,830	778,116
Total Margins before Subsidiaries	381,661	3,725,021
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	75,930	1,300,863
TOTAL MARGINS	\$ 457,590	\$ 5,025,885
TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	406,279,184	320,244,465

Costs related to the severe May and June storms in our service territory had a significant impact on 2022 year-to-date operating expenses. We anticipate disaster aid will be received to offset some of these expenses. 2021 operations included PPP loan forgiveness, which favorably impacted operating expenses and subsidiary operations.

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

Mark Bakk, 800-421-9959
General Manager mbakk@lcp.coop

Jason Long, 218-240-9611
District 1 jlong@lcp.coop

Michael Forsman, 218-365-5789
District 2 mforsman@lcp.coop

Steve Raukar, 218-966-0298
District 3 sraukar@lcp.coop

Vacant (To be filled spring 2023),
District 4

Robert Bruckbauer, 218-566-2436
District 5 rbruckbauer@lcp.coop

Daniel Kingsley, 218-697-2628
District 6 dkingsley@lcp.coop

Craig Olson, 218-393-2276
District 7 colson@lcp.coop

Vacant (To be filled spring 2023),
District 8

Larry Anderson, 218-428-2722
District 9 landerson@lcp.coop

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
8535 Park Ridge Drive, Mountain Iron, MN 55768
Editor: Jerry Burnes • jburnes@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.

