

McLeod Cooperative Power NEWS

December 2019

No rate increase planned for 2020



Members can plan on the Co-op's general service rates remaining stable for 2020. This is great news for MCPA members, especially at a time when other retail utilities like Xcel Energy and Minnesota Power are asking for double-digit rate increases.

"In preparing our budget for 2020, it appears that we will be able to meet our financial obligations and required debt covenants without implementing any increases to general service rates," said General Manager Carrie Buckley. "We have worked hard in recent years to reduce internal costs by lowering the number of employees through attrition, adjusting employee benefits, requiring vendors to be more competitive, and reducing inventory levels. These efforts are showing their cost-saving value in our 2020 budget," added Buckley.

Keeping rates stable is easier when the Co-op does not face wholesale rate increases from Great River Energy, its power supplier. Great River Energy recently announced it will not raise its average electric rate for 2020. Wholesale rate stability is good for McLeod Co-op Power and its members.

According to Great River Energy, this improved financial outlook is the result of sustained strong results stemming from cost-saving measures and strategic decisions to position their generation portfolio. The exit from two coal-based power supply contracts and the retirement of Stanton Station have provided long-term rate relief for members.

Great River Energy is a generation and transmission cooperative, owned by its 28 distribution cooperative members.

Over \$535,000 being returned to members this month

Members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) may notice lower electric bills in December. A total of \$535,568 is being distributed this month in capital credit refunds. This amount includes all remaining capital credits from 2000 and 20% of capital credits allocated from 2018.

Capital credits are being applied to active electric accounts and will show as a line item credit on each bill that is supposed to receive a refund. Former members who no longer have an active electric account will be mailed their refund in the form of a check in December.

Allina Health Hospice is 2019 Touchstone Energy Community Award winner

This is the second year McLeod Co-op Power has awarded the Touchstone Energy Community Award. The applicant selected to receive the award this year was Allina Health Hospice. They received \$500 for their efforts and they will receive a plaque recognizing their award. The Co-op has also nominated them for the statewide Touchstone Energy Community Award.

Allina Health Hospice provides care to individuals who are approaching the end of their lives — the goal is to promote comfort, quality of life, and dignity at end of life. Allina Health Hospice serves hospice patients and their families by providing and coordinating care services so these families can make the most of their remaining time together. The Hospice Care Team develops a Plan of Care to make Care Team visits to the patient and family, provide needed medical equipment and needed comfort medicines, and volunteer visit support. They bring the care services to patients in their home which sometimes is a nursing home, or assisted living facility, or group home. Where the patient calls "home" is where hospice serves them because this is where they are the most comfortable.



The Blizzard Blast 2020 Committee was excited to receive a \$500 award from McLeod Co-op Power, as they were the 2019 Touchstone Energy Community Award winner.

They also offer grief support to families and caregivers after a loved one's death.

The Allina Health Hospice Care Team includes hospice physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, home health aides, a massage therapist, a music therapist, a volunteer coordinator and a grief counselor. The Glencoe/Hutchinson branch of Allina Health Hospice has 40 volunteers who make patient visits and give respite breaks to family caregivers. They also have 35 volunteers who work at the Allina Health Hospice Thrift Store in Glencoe.

Allina Health Hospice covers seven counties around the Glencoe/Hutchinson area including McLeod, Carver, Sibley, Wright, Renville, Meeker and Kandiyohi Counties. Although they are a branch of Allina Health Hospice in St. Paul, a large not-for-profit hospice provider in the Twin Cities and surrounding 34 counties in Minnesota, the local Allina Health Hospice group does an annual fundraising event called Blizzard Blast to benefit hospice patients and their families in our community. Funds raised

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Official publication of



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YEAR TO DATE FINANCIALS		
Through September	2019	2018
Operating Revenue	\$14,846,311	\$14,962,276
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 9,308,933	\$ 9,385,178
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 5,640,464	\$ 5,560,018
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$14,949,397	\$14,945,196
Operating Margins	\$ (103,086)	\$ 17,080
Non Operating Margins	\$ 390,721	\$ 303,096
Total Margins	\$ 287,635	\$ 320,176
kWh's Sold	79,464,455	79,966,385
Member Services Billed	6,860	6,777
Avg kWh Used, Residential/Month	1,383	1,465

Operation Round Up donation applications are being accepted until March 1

Community and civic groups, emergency responders and other 501(c)3 non-profit organizations are welcome to apply to McLeod Cooperative Power's Operation Round Up Trust for donation assistance. The trust is able to donate funds to worthy local projects in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or Carver Counties. Funding is from the generosity of electric cooperative members who round up their electric bills.



Application forms are available by calling the Cooperative at 1-800-494-6272 or they can be downloaded from the website at www.mcleodcoop.com. (select Operation RoundUp under the Services tab). Applications for funding must be completed and returned to the Cooperative by March 1, 2020.

If you are a member who is not yet rounding up your electric bill, please sign up today. Forms may be downloaded from the same website page.

Manager's Message — by Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager

Holiday gifts for members

Santa's elves have snuck in a few presents for you before Christmas Eve. Get yourself a cup of hot chocolate and a cookie and enjoy opening them a little early!

Present #1

For the second year in a row, no rate increase.

Present #2

Lower electric bills this month due to retirement of over half a million dollars in capital credits being applied to most bills.

Present #3

Over \$107,000 in rebates/energy grants have been given to members in 2019.

Present #4

Stable wholesale rates projected from Great River Energy for the next decade.

Present #5

The new combined facility is well under way and is still on track for us to move in about August 2020.

Present #6

Our employees are on track with accomplishing our strategic goals to achieve our Mission of enhancing the quality of life for our members through effective, safe, and innovative solutions.

Present #7

Our members are represented by a board of



directors that are member-focused and committed to doing what is best for the membership as a whole. They bring the input from members in their district to the boardroom and then as a united group they make decisions that are fair and equitable to all members and good for the whole Co-op membership. They do not represent their own personal interest or the agenda of special interest groups. We are fortunate to have such leadership.

I am pleased to have good news to share with you. Happy Holidays to you and your family.

Proud to keep your lights on.

Carrie

The employees and directors of McLeod Cooperative Power would like to wish you and your family a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This holiday season the MCPA office will be closed

Tuesday, Dec. 24, Wednesday, Dec. 25, and Wednesday, January 1.

The Co-op has a 24 hour payment box at the front door of the Glencoe office, where members can securely deposit their electric bill payments over the holiday weekends or any time our business office is closed.

For outages or electrical emergencies, call 1-800-927-5685.



Board of Directors

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 ordinary 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 operation of McLeod Co-op Power. Administration of maintenance, electric service, and operations are the responsibility of employees and staff, under the direction of General Manager Carrie Buckley. Members with questions or concerns about service, billing, outages or other service-related matters should call 1-800-494-6272.

District 1 - Oria Brinkmeier, 320-485-2554

Hollywood Twp. in Carver Co., Winsted Twp. in McLeod Co., Victor, Woodland, & Franklin Twps. in Wright Co.

District 2 - Joe Griebie, Vice President 320-779-1101

Hassan Valley, Sumter & Rich Valley Twps. in McLeod Co.

District 3 -David Resch, 952-449-1793

Bergen, Helen, & Glencoe Twps. in McLeod Co.

District 4 - Doug Kirtz, Secretary-Treasurer

dkirtz@mcleodcoop.com, 320-583-7673
Boon Lake, Brookfield, Osceola, Kingman, Preston

Lake, Hector, Melville, Bird Island, Palmyra, & Norfolk Twps. in Renville Co. & East Lake Lillian Twp. in Kandiyohi Co.

District 5 - Allan Duesterhoeft, 320-587-9134

Lynn & Acoma Twps. in McLeod Co. & Ellsworth Twp. in Meeker Co.

District 6 - Gary Burdorf, 507-964-5815

Penn Twp. in McLeod Co, New Auburn, Green Isle, Dryden & Arlington Twps. in Sibley Co.

District 7- Randy Hlavka, GRE Representative

rhlavka@mcleodcoop.com, 320-583-0037
Hutchinson & Hale Twps. in McLeod Co., Collinwood Twp. in Meeker Co.

District 8 - Keith Peterson, President

kpeterson@mcleodcoop.com
320-583-0997

Collins & Round Grove Twps. in McLeod Co, Martinsburg, Bandon, & Wellington Twps. in Renville Co., Grafton, Moltke, Bismarck, Transit, & Alfsborg Twps. in Sibley Co.

District 9 - Susan Anderson, Asst. Secretary-

Treasurer, 20valve90@gmail.com

Watertown, Camden, & Young America Twps. in Carver County

General Manager - Carrie Buckley
cbuckley@mcleodcoop.com, 800-494-6272

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Editor: Sue Pawelk

The McLeod Cooperative Power News is the official member publication of McLeod Coop Power Association and focuses on our members, programs and events.

All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Sue Pawelk at the address shown.

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Web site:

www.mcleodcoop.com

Gopher State One Call 811 or
1-800-252-1166

McLeod Cooperative Power Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Last year's Blizzard Blast had good attendance. Participants enjoyed a dinner and many activities.



The Blizzard Blast has a live auction for special items, a silent auction, raffles, food, music and fun. This year's event is Friday, January 31.

Allina Health Hospice is Touchstone Energy Award Winner

Continued from page 1

from the Blizzard Blast event, donations from individuals or organizations, and the Hospice Thrift Store in Glencoe all remain in the local communities to help provide massage and music therapy to patients, which are not covered by Medicare or private insurance. Funds raised also help provide for grief and bereavement services for families served by hospice, as well as members of our community seeking grief support. They are also starting to add pet therapy and aromatherapy for hospice patients.

How are massage and music therapy helpful? One Glencoe man, who served as a primary caregiver for his wife when she had ALS, summed up how it benefits the patient and the family. He said, "It is important because it takes their mind off of the pain and circumstances for a time. It helped relieve the mental anguish for my wife. The music therapy helped the family and caregivers, as well as the patient."



Massage therapy can help to manage a patient's pain, reduce stress, and improve circulation/mobility. Music therapy provides physical, emotional, and social comfort. Both sessions are led by certified therapists and are adapted to meet each patient's comfort level.

Each family that has used the services of Allina Health Hospice to care for a loved one has a unique story, but the general theme heard over and over again is how wonderful it was to have the hospice staff there to help get everything set up for their loved one to come home from the hospital and be well-cared -for. The nursing staff teaches the family members how to physically and emotionally care for their loved one and prepares them for what to expect during each stage of the progressing illness. The social workers and nursing staff answer questions, assist with medications, provide patient care as dictated by the patient's personal Plan of Care. They have a hospice doctor that can provide house calls for patients that cannot be transported to the clinic. They offer a chaplain, music therapy, massage therapy, and volunteer respite caregiver services to families. Allina staff is available 24/7 to take calls and help families through the final hours as their loved one passes. They contact the mortuary for the family at that time. They are there for the family with bereavement support for up to a year. The families that have used the hospice service often praise the care staff for their understanding and empathy.

To support hospice services, Allina Health Hospice is holding its 14th annual Blizzard Blast charity event on Friday, January 31 at the Glencoe City Center. Blizzard Blast 2020 will have food, music, a fun and lively auction, raffles, and inspiring stories. Brian Biermann will again serve as auctioneer and emcee. Dr. Sara Shorter, Allina Health Hospice Physician, will be the guest speaker. She will share hospice experiences and her own journey with brain cancer. Tickets for the event are \$35 per person and include dinner. Tickets must be purchased in advance at one of these locations:

- Allina Health Home Care Services, 211 Fremont Ave SE in Hutchinson
- King Pin Pub in Plato
- Cash Wise Food in Hutchinson
- Coborn's in Glencoe
- Glencoe Regional Health in Glencoe
- Johnson-McBride Funeral Chapel in Glencoe

Allina Health Hospice accepts merchandise, monetary or gift card donations for this event. All funds from this event benefit local hospice patients. For more information call 320-510-1305.

SUMMARY OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

November 26, 2019

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 22, 2019 were approved.

The Line Superintendent updated the board on October outages, construction activities, and other Operation/Engineering items.

The Assistant Customer Service Manager provided the Board with an update on the new facility and the different load management programs the Co-op plans to utilize in the new building. He also gave updates on generator sales and Chamber of Commerce activities.

The Customer Services Manager updated the board on annual meeting plans and this year's Touchstone Energy Community Award winner Allina Health Hospice.

A revision to Policy 2-9 Election Ballots of Directors was approved. It will simplify how director candidates are listed on the ballot and will make printing of ballots less complicated and less expensive.

Operation RoundUp Board Members Cheryl Bielke and Curt Burns were each approved to serve another 3-year term (2020-2023).

The IT Manager explained that the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is offering cooperatives an opportunity to participate in a RC3 Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Program funded partly by a federal grant. A motion passed to support the RC3 Online Cybersecurity Self-Assessment Program and authorize President Peterson to sign a letter for the application process.

The Manager of Finance reviewed the 2020 proposed budget with the Board. No rate increase is anticipated for 2020. Staff also reviewed their department goals and expenditures. The 2020 budget was approved.

She also presented the Operating Statement and Balance Sheet for the month of October 2019 for review. A motion was approved to apply the 2019 Great River Energy (GRE) credit to the costs associated with the new combined facility.

The Audit Committee reported on their review of the October expenditures. All items on the Consent Agenda were approved, including: October financial report on file for audit, accept October General Fund checks, transfer of patronage capital & refund of patronage capital to estates, accept October new & rescinded memberships, approve and sign work order inventories, accept special equipment summary, and resolution to apply capital credits payable to uncollectible electric account.

The Regular Session adjourned. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss strategic business issues. The Executive Session adjourned. The Regular Session reconvened after lunch.

Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager gave her monthly report. Great River Energy's financial results for October and GRE rate redesign were reviewed with the Board.

The Employee & Director Recognition Lunch has been scheduled for Thursday, February 20th in conjunction with the February board meeting. The event will begin at 1:00 PM and the office will be closed for the balance of the afternoon.

Manager Buckley distributed a newly drafted Employee Handbook. The handbook's purpose is to provide a reference guide and more clearly present our policies affecting employees. Directors were asked to review the document and consider approval at the December board meeting.

As part of the review of governance transparency to member-consumers, management recommended expanding Policy 2-4 Director Compensation to include the per diem paid for the varying types of meeting. Also updated were the merits for compensating directors and the process for establishing the compensation. Policy was approved. Resolution on Director Compensation was also approved.

Policy 2-8 Director Meeting Attendance has been revised allowing directors to attend one (1) meeting annually by teleconference. This change will safeguard the cooperative's investment educating and training directors and help attract and retain new directors. Policy was approved.

Great River Energy Board Representative gave the monthly GRE Report.

MCPA new facility progressing on-schedule

Steel trusses and the roof were installed in November.

Windows should be installed in December. Inside work is scheduled to continue all winter. If construction continues on-schedule, the Co-op plans to move into the new facility during August of 2020. The building is located on 11th Street in Glencoe's east industrial park (north of the former Shopko store).



The steel trusses were installed in the garage and warehouse portions of the facility in November.



A peek inside the future office area of the new facility after the roof was installed.

NOTICE TO ELECTRICIANS & HOMEOWNERS:

*Don't remove a meter without
contacting the Co-op first!*

WARNING: If an electrician or member pulls an electric meter to disconnect a service, the meter will send a power outage alarm to the Co-op. If a line crew responds to the outage, the member will be billed at the applicable line crew service call rate of \$200 during business hours, \$400 on evenings or Saturdays, and \$500 on a Sunday or holiday.



So, please do NOT pull a meter yourself! Electricians and members are not authorized to pull an electric meter to perform work on a service. It is Co-op policy that pulling and reinstalling any energized meter must be done by a trained Co-op employee using the proper protective equipment. We want to protect you from possible injury. McLeod Co-op Power will provide this service during regular business hours. Just call the Co-op to schedule an appointment. A trip charge of \$75 will apply and will include both removal and reinstallation of the meter. A notice of two business days is requested.

The cost of rolling a truck and crew to one location to provide a service that benefits only one individual member needs to be charged to that individual. It is not fair for that cost to be paid by the rest of the membership. This helps keep the overall costs as low as possible for all members.

Emergency disconnects for house or structure fires will be billed to the member at the applicable service call rates.

Members are encouraged to install a service disconnect when building a new service or upgrading their service. This allows an electrician to disconnect power to work on a service without requiring the meter to be removed.

Smart Home Security



This anywhere, anytime technology sends email, text, or image alerts to you when alarms are triggered, doors or windows opened, the power goes out, or any other threat occurs. With our home automation features, you can create a schedule for your thermostat and remotely adjust it at any time, saving you energy – and money.

From your smartphone, tablet, or laptop, you can:

- view system status and monitor activity
- watch live or recorded high-definition video
- arm or disarm your system
- control your thermostats
- lock and unlock the smart locks on your doors
- turn your lights on and off
- set up user codes



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Co-op members can access the EnergyWise online store

Looking for high quality LED bulbs, or holiday light strings, shower heads, programmable thermostats, power strips, EV chargers? Visit www.energywisemn.com or get to the site from the I WANT TO tab on the top right corner of McLeod Co-op Power's website at www.mcleodcoop.com. Co-op members can take advantage of energy efficient products at competitive prices.


SHOP FEATURED PRODUCTS




Niagara Conservations®
EarthB 3-Spray Showerhead, 1.5 GPM, Chrome
\$42.96




C7 Holiday String Lights, Warm-White



TrickleStar®
Seven-Outlet Advanced Energy-Saving Power Strip with Infrared Sensor (Tier 2)
\$79.99



C7 Holiday String Lights, Multi-color



Simply Conserved!
Dimmable LED, 9W (60W equiv), 2700K
\$2.74



High school juniors and seniors may apply for Washington DC trip

High school juniors and seniors have until March 2, 2020 to apply for the Cooperative's Washington Youth Tour competition. One local youth will win an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. June 20-25, 2020 from the Cooperative.

For over 40 years, electric cooperatives have sponsored the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour by sending their high school students to experience first hand, the essence that is our republic. An information

packet is available on the Co-op website www.mcleodcoop.com. Click on ABOUT US tab and then YOUTH PROGRAMS tab. You will have until March 2, 2020 to submit your application. Students complete a questionnaire and application to qualify. Please encourage your child or grandchild to apply. They need only attend a high school in or reside in McLeod, Renville, Sibley or western Carver County.

Going south for the winter



Please notify the Cooperative if you are heading south for the winter. Although your meter will be automatically read, we still need to know what payment arrangements you prefer.

Options are:

- You can pay in advance.
- Have the post office forward your mail.
- Sign up for McLeod Co-op Power auto pay and have the payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.
- Call us with a credit card payment.
- Contact your bank to use their online bill pay service.

Be sure to make arrangements before you leave by calling 800-494-6272.

Save money while you sleep.



ETS water heaters take advantage of bargain electricity, available in times of low demand, while it's less expensive, and while we're all sleeping. Heat your water, while you sleep, and save up to 50% on your water heating costs. For a limited time, you can also get 0% financing and a \$400 rebate!

+ 0% FINANCING \$400 REBATE

Learn more at EnergyWiseMN.com or by calling McLeod Cooperative at 320-864-3148

ENERGY WISE MN

0% interest financing available to members of MCPA in good financial standing.

Rebate funds are completely utilized for 2019

Co-op members have fully utilized 100% of the Co-op's allocated dollars for rebates and energy grants for 2019. We apologize if this causes an inconvenience. Rebates are always marketed on a first come, first serve basis, for just this reason. The Co-op ceased accepting rebate forms as of December 2.

New rebate funds for 2020 purchases will be announced sometime in January.

November 18 outage caused by auto accident

When an automobile hit a transmission pole power along Highway 7 near Mayer on Monday, November 18, it caused a large power outage that put many McLeod Co-op Power members and Xcel Energy customers in the dark just as they were trying to make supper. The outage lasted from 4:20 PM to 5:27 PM, while crews completed line switching that restored power to Hollywood and New Germany substations. This brought power back on to over 1,380 cooperative members affected by the outage. Other details on the accident were not available.

October 2019 Outage Summary

During the month of October the Cooperative had a total of 64 outages. Of those 26 were planned for service work, so that leaves 38 actual power outages. Planned outages were the most frequent cause of outages, with 26 outages attributed to planned construction or upgrade projects. The second greatest cause of outages was squirrels, coming in with eight interruptions.

The outage affecting the most consumers was when farm

machinery hit an electrical cabinet on Monday, Oct. 28 at 10 AM near New Germany. It interrupted power to over 400 members, mostly in Carver County for about one hour. The next largest outage was Monday, Oct. 21 at 10 PM. Thirty-eight members south of Hutchinson lost power for just over two hours due to a tree in a powerline.

McLeod Co-op Power regrets any inconvenience these outages caused for our members. The Co-op reminds everyone that any downed power line can be dangerous. People should stay away from downed lines and immediately report the situation to 911, or their utility if they know who owns the power lines.

Toasting part of a balanced breakfast for a year



Electricity continues to be a great value courtesy of your electric cooperative

Morning: Brought to you by electricity

Even before you flip on the lights, your morning probably starts with one of modern life's little pleasures: a fully charged cellphone.

After a hot shower — thanks to your water heater — your getting-ready routine might be helped along by an electric razor, hair dryer or curling iron. You can even do all this with one ear on the weather forecast.

If you're the type who gets right to work before sunrise, lighting in the garage or barn is indispensable. An engine block heater might even be the difference between your car starting or not on a cold winter morning.

Whether you're cooking bacon and eggs on a Sunday or prepping breakfast to-go in the toaster or microwave, electricity helps you start the day right.

McLeod Co-op Power is proud to provide the electricity its members depend on to start their day.

MCPA News Ads — Free want ad service for members

Please limit your ad to nine words. Use the coupon printed here or available at McLeod Cooperative's front desk to submit your ad. Ads will be printed for one month only. Please submit a new ad if you want it published more than one month. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads must be received by December 27 to be included in the January issue. Thank you!

Please run this ad in the next MCPA News

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone number: _____

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____
7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Clip and Send to: McLeod Cooperative Power, ATTN: Classified Ads
P.O. Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336

Please check ad category

☐ Giveaway
☐ For Rent
☐ For Sale
☐ Wanted

Disclaimer – McLeod Cooperative Power Association (MCPA) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against MCPA as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold MCPA harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

Cleaning out your garage or attic? Have farm machinery to sell?

Members may sell items for FREE using the classified ads in the Co-op newsletter! Ads run for one month. See details below.

For Sale Miscellaneous

- 95 Dodge Dakota V6, 191,000 miles. \$500. 952-212-1844
- Arctic Cat Purple powerlube racing formula snowmobile oil. 952-467-2103
- Canvas Craft spear house 4ft X 8ft. Never used. \$300. 612-618-2687
- 2006 Ford F150, supercab, 4wd, 123,500 miles. \$7,900. 320-510-0254
- 2007 yellow Cobalt, engine shot, tires good, make offer. 320-864-4484
- Farm raised butcher pigs, sold by whole/halves, 1st QT. 320-583-2523
- LawnBoy 6.5 self-propelled lawnmower. \$85. 320-562-2273
- Snapper 3hp snowblower. \$70. 320-562-2273
- Owatonna Mustang 1200 loader w/two 64in buckets. 320-587-7746
- 55-gallon steel drums w/removeable lids. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
- OSB panels 32in X 32in X 7/16in. \$1/each. 952-353-2351

For Sale Farm

- Two heavy duty log chains, 14ft and 8ft. 320-310-1987
- Three Richie Drinkers. \$250/each. 612-701-7688

Wanted

- Old disk for the blades. 320-894-4042
- Narrow 16in tire for older trailer. 320-587-9207

Giveaway

- Bed queen frame, mattress, spring, head board. 320-238-2272
- 4 black kittens, very playful, eats dry cat food. 320-510-0072

Practice snowmobile safety this winter

Whether you are a recreational snowmobile rider or a diehard sledhead, a fresh snowfall is a taunting invitation to be the first to cut through the untouched powder. Snowmobiling can be a great way to enjoy the long winters we are blessed with - or cursed with - depending on your view, but comes with a number of safety considerations.

In addition to observing state snowmobile regulations and local laws, it's always a safe practice to drive at moderate speeds and drive defensively. Be especially careful if driving in a power line right of way. Reduce your speed and always be on the lookout for electrical transformer boxes and guy wires — the cables that anchor

power poles. Darkness, fog and deep snow can make them hard to see.

Still, it cannot be stressed enough to stay on marked trails. Marked trails offer signs that alert snowmobilers to trail changes. When you venture off of those marked trails, you put yourself and others with you at risk for coming into contact with objects, such as electrical equipment, hidden under the deep and undisturbed snow.

If you see a downed or sagging power line, notice missing or damaged guy wire covers or have other safety concerns regarding electrical equipment along your ride, contact the local utility or authorities right away.



Efficient Use of Livestock Waterers

Livestock waterers are essential to productive farm operations, because almost all farm animals are healthier with a readily available fresh water supply.



By providing a fresh water supply year-round, electric livestock waterers have helped increase farm production. But like all farm equipment, waterers require attention to ensure their safe and efficient use.

An insulated and thermostatically controlled livestock waterer in Minnesota in the winter months will normally use 50-500 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month, costing \$6.00-\$60.00 per month. However, a 1,500 watt heater that operates continuously will ring up 1,080 kWh per month or a \$129 addition to your electric bill. This is based on the 11.99 cents per kWh residential energy rate. Making certain the tank is insulated and the heater does not run continuously will save you a lot of money.

Regardless of the waterer type, there are several ways to reduce their energy consumption.

- Check wiring and insulation for damage, including insulation between the unit and the concrete pad or ground it sits on.
- Check electrical connections to heating elements and at grounding points. Be sure all are tight.

- Maintain a suitable water level by keeping floats properly adjusted. Too much water increases energy consumption through surface losses; too little can lead to freezing.
- Set the thermostat at 38 degrees to 44 degrees Fahrenheit and check the calibration by measuring the temperature of the water. Every degree above what is needed increases energy consumption.
- Make certain covers operate freely and close completely to minimize heat loss in winter.
- Protect the waterer from winter winds by using a wind barrier. Caulk or otherwise fill openings in the water enclosure and between the enclosure and the foundation to prevent drafts and energy waste.
- Replace old waterers with new ones that have thicker insulation and better heat retaining mechanisms.

Be Proactive In Stopping Scams

If you suspect a scammer, ask the person to provide you with your account number, your last payment amount, and date of payment.

Know the signs to #StopScams



UTILITIES UNITED
AGAINST SCAMS

Meet the people behind your power



Sue Pawelk
Customer Service Manager
Rural electric co-op member
Church and community volunteer

Our members are not just an account number. They are individual people that are entitled to the most courteous and attentive service we can give.

We look forward to each conversation, so we can know you better, understand your needs, and help you find a solution.



Looking for a new adventure?

The Co-op needs director candidates to run for seats in Districts 1, 2 and 3. Members who meet the qualifications and characteristics described on this page and have an interest in helping direct McLeod Co-op Power, should consider being a candidate. Anyone interested may contact the Co-op with questions. We would be happy to provide more information. Call 1-800-494-6272.

The requirements for eligibility of a director candidate are listed on the form on this page. They come right from the Co-op's by-laws. There are also some important personal characteristics that a director should possess.

Directors should have a sincere interest in preserving the strength of the Cooperative's operations and maintaining a productive relationship with its consumer-members. They must be accessible to the members who they represent. Directors must work with each other to ensure equitable treatment to all members across the entire distribution system.

Directors must also be willing and able to fully participate in the business activities of the Cooperative. From time-to time, directors may be called upon to represent the Cooperative at meetings or events, in addition to expected attendance at regular monthly board meetings.

Directors also need to possess basic computer skills to receive electronic communications and reports from the Co-op. Each director receives their materials to review before board meetings via iPad.

A member that is an authorized farm corporation, family farm corporation, regular corporation, partnership, limited liability partnership or other business entity may select an individual member residing on or actively operating such business entity to be eligible for election to the Board. A member that is not a natural person may select one of its officers to be eligible for election to the Board, provided that not more than two (2) such officers may serve on the Board at the same time.

McLeod Cooperative Power Association
Director Candidate Application

By signing this application, I certify that I am a member of McLeod Co-op Power Association (MCPA), and I hereby apply as a nominee for director of MCPA from District _____ and request that my name be considered by the Nominating Committee to be placed on the ballot for the next election for director from said district to be held at the next MCPA annual meeting, April 14, 2020.

- I am a member in good standing of the Cooperative and my account is current;
- I am receiving service at my primary residence or principal place of business in the district from which the Director is elected;
- Within the past five (5) years I have not been adjudged to be guilty of a felony;
- Within the past five (5) years I have not been an employee of the Cooperative;
- During the past five (5) years I have not been employed by a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative;
- I am not a close relative of a current employee of the Co-op or of an incumbent Director that is not up for re-election (includes child, grandchild, great-grandchild, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew or niece, whether by blood, or in law);
- I am not in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative-affiliated business;
- I am not the full-time employee or agent of another Director;
- If elected, I agree to not be absent without cause from three (3) or more regular meetings of the Board of Directors during any twelve (12) month period, and abide by the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws and policies of MCPA.

I have read the above requirements and certify that I meet the candidate qualifications. I verify that all information and documentation I provide to MCPA for purposes of nomination or election as a director is true and correct.

Print name: _____

Signature: _____

Print address: _____

Date: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Return to MCPA by January 15, 2020

Volunteers needed for Nominating Committee

To elect directors in Districts 1, 2, & 3 at the 2020 Annual Meeting, we need members from those districts to serve on the Nominating Committee. Nominating Committee members participate in the election process by selecting director candidates and submitting their names to the Board for approval. They also assist with collecting and counting ballots at the Annual Meeting. Volunteers are needed from the following townships:

- District 1** includes: Hollywood Township in Carver County, Winsted Township in McLeod County, and Victor, Woodland, and Franklin Township in Wright County.
- District 2** includes: Hassan Valley, Sumter and Rich Valley Townships in McLeod County.
- District 3** includes: Bergen, Helen, and Glencoe Townships in McLeod County.

Call McLeod Cooperative Power at 1-800-494-6272 if you are willing to volunteer for the 2020 Nominating Committee no later than January 2, 2020. Committee meetings are scheduled for January 29 and February 13, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. The Annual Meeting is planned for April 14, 2020.

Members who serve on the Nominating Committee are paid a per diem for each meeting plus mileage. Nominating candidates to run for board seats is an important part of the democratic process of operating your electric cooperative. We encourage your participation.

