



Proposal to update MCPA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

The Co-op Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws were last updated in 2000. Many things have changed in 20 years. It was determined that these documents should again be reviewed.

The Cooperative board and management included in the most recent Strategic Plan that we would undertake the task of updating these documents and prepare a proposed revision to be voted on by all members by the 2020 Annual Meeting. The board created a Governance Subcommittee, made up of some board members, senior management, and the Co-op's attorney, to review proposed language changes. This group discussed necessary changes and worked to propose language that would meet the Cooperative's needs today and into the future. The recommendations of the subcommittee were approved by the MCPA Board of Directors and the proposed Restated Articles of Incorporation and Restated Bylaws will be put to a vote of the membership in 2020.

It is beneficial for the Cooperative to update its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to address changes that have occurred in the law, to modernize outdated language, to include developments in technology, and to provide legal protection for the Co-op. This update will also provide for efficiencies and cost savings in the operation and administration of the Cooperative. It will also change the Co-op's principal place of business to the address of the new combined facility effective September 1, 2020.

A ballot will be mailed to each Co-op member in March. Revisions to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws require an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the members casting ballots to be approved.

A copy of the proposed changes are available for review on the Co-op's website www.mcleodcoop.com, and a copy will be mailed to each member with their ballot. Members may return the ballot by mail using the post-paid return envelope enclosed with their ballot or return it personally at the Co-op's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

Proposed updates to MCPA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

continued on Page 4



Co-op participates in Arli-Dazzle lighted parade

A nighttime parade with lighted/ decorated entries and dozens of other winter-themed activities in Arlington, Minnesota draws over 10,000 people annually to the small Sibley County city the first Saturday of December.

The residents of Arlington are accustomed to seeing McLeod Co-op Power's yellow line trucks working in the city with their lights flashing, as the Co-op is contracted to do all of the city's electrical utility construction and maintenance work. However, it is only one night a year that they see one of the Co-op's bucket trucks decorated in lighted snowflakes and strings of colored lights.

Lineman Ryan Schuette, his wife and children, have volunteered the past few years to decorate the truck and participate in the Arli-Dazzle parade, making the holidays brighter for all the parade spectators.

In this issue...

- High school juniors and seniors can apply for Washington DC trip 3
- Power line worker scholarships..... 5
- Painting donated to McLeod County Historical Society 5
- Photos of construction progress 8

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Manager's Message —

by Carrie L. Buckley, General Manager



Reflection and Anticipation

Welcome to the New Year! It's always wonderful to consider a fresh start when the new year rolls around. But sometimes, the term "fresh start" implies we want to put away something in the past to be able to move forward. As I look back on 2019, I have only positive reflections that I want to continue into 2020. So let's start again. Welcome to 2020, may it be as successful as 2019 and even better!

2019: Another Successful Year Ends

Reflection — In looking back at this past year I reflect on the accomplishments McLeod Co-op Power has achieved. Our employees work hard to make members a priority while keeping tabs on industry changes and challenges. I thought I'd share with you some of our significant accomplishments this past year.

Power Mix — Our power mix is increasingly renewable. We are fortunate to receive seven percent of our power from Western Area Power Administration (WAPA). This power is from federal hydro-electric dams. We receive the remainder of our power from Great River Energy (GRE), which as of 2019 was already 25% renewable, most of it from wind power. GRE's goals are to be 50% renewable by 2030 and has interim goals of 30% by 2020, 40% by 2025, and 50% by 2030. We have achieved power mix while cost has remained stable. In fact, our power cost adjustment which is the amount power cost fluctuates from month to month has averaged a .1 cent credit in 2019!

Reliability — We are very pleased to report transmission outages were down significantly from 2018, as of the middle of December. Since transmission serves a large number of members, any outage can affect significant numbers of members and are, therefore, very disruptive. We have worked diligently with GRE to achieve these results.

Line Construction — Converting overhead lines

to underground lines has been a major Operational initiative for over five years. In 2019, we installed 25 miles of primary underground conductors. Add that to the previous four years, and we have installed 138 miles of underground (which includes overhead to underground line conversions and primary conductor for new services) in the last five years. An additional five miles of secondary underground line has also been installed.

Facility — In July 2019 we broke ground on our new and combined facility. Bringing all of our operations under one roof with ample room to fit our bucket trucks was a major priority of the Board. Although late summer and fall proved to be challenging weather-wise, which is no surprise to our member-farmers; I'm pleased to report the facility is fully enclosed. Interior work will continue through the winter. We continue to anticipate a late summer 2020 move-in date.

2020: Anticipation and Great Expectations

2020 Budget — The Board has approved the 2020 budget. Our expectation is there will be no need for a rate increase in 2020. That's Great news! Through cost control and an increasing number of members, we anticipate margins sufficient to meet and exceed our debt covenant requirements.

Reliability — We have again budgeted \$500,000 for tree clearing of our system. Yes, it is expensive, but tree clearing on a regular basis is the single most successful practice to reduce outages and maintain good reliability. Our 2020 work plan anticipates converting almost 23 miles of overhead line to underground line. The most significant change is that 21 miles of those conversions will be for single phase lines.

Technological Improvement and Efficiencies — If tree clearing is our most effective means toward improved reliability, then technology improvements

are our single best source for improved efficiencies. Our Automated Metering Infrastructure and related Outage Management System, working together, have allowed us to better analyze outage causes and better pinpoint outage locations. In addition to our continued work on Outage Management, our technology plans include introducing Smart Hub. It is a portal into our software that members can utilize to manage their bill and examine their electric usage.

Governance — In the 2020 budget are increased amounts for balloting because we are requesting the members to approve revisions to our Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. It has been twenty years since we've asked our Members to consider these important ruling documents. While the fundamentals of the co-op governance remain the same, there are changes which are timely, such as allowing for electronic voting, and the definition of a joint-membership. Revising the by-laws to reflect more timely practices allows the Board to approve more efficient techniques which are cost effective too.

Leadership Change — I have announced plans to retire on July 1, 2020 from my leadership role at McLeod Co-op Power. The Cooperative will conduct a search for my replacement before that date.

Any column on looking back or reflection and looking forward or anticipation would not be complete without thanking you, the member, for making our success possible. We, at McLeod Co-op Power have so appreciated serving you and we look forward to our Mission of enhancing the quality of Life for our members through effective, safe, and innovative solutions.

Let's make it a great year!
Proud to keep your lights on,

Carrie

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, & Norfork 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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Send to Sue Pawelk at the
address shown.

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**Phone: 320-864-3148,
1-800-494-6272
24-hour outage:
1-800-927-5685
Fax: 320-864-4850
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.

Office will be closed the afternoon of Feb. 20

The Glencoe office of McLeod Co-op Power will be closed after 12:30 PM on Thursday, Feb. 20 so employees and board of directors can participate in an off-site meeting.

Payments may be deposited in the drop box during this time. Outage calls will be taken by the Co-op's after hours service.

SUMMARY OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MCPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS — *Tuesday, December 17, 2019*

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 26, 2019 were approved.

The Operations Manager gave the outage and operation reports for November. Six (6) AED's (Automated External Defibrillators) have been purchased and placed in five bucket trucks and one will be available in the office. All employees are being trained in their use.



The 2020 Elbow Unit Bucket Truck has been delivered. This will replace #9 bucket truck.

The Member Services Manager reported that the Co-op has given out its total 2019 allocation of rebate funds and energy grants as of December 2nd. About \$108,000 was distributed to Co-op members in 2019.

The Board also approved a minor wording change to Rate 18 to clarify eligibility for the rate.

The Assistant Member Service Manager reported that the sale of the First Call medical systems to Heartland Security was finalized.

The IT Manager reported on testing for a member, progress on SANS coursework, and metering.

The Manager of Finance presented the kWh sales for November. Preliminary reports show a positive operating margin for the month of November. A full report will be presented at the January meeting.

All items on the Consent agenda were approved, including: placing November financial report on file for audit, accepting November general fund checks, accepting transfer of patronage capital and refund of patronage capital to estates, accepting November new and rescinded memberships, and accepting special equipment summary.

Guest Speaker, David Saggau, President & CEO of Great River Energy (GRE) gave an overview of the merger of Cooperative Power Association (CP) and United Power Association (UPA) with and into Great River Energy back in 1999. As a generation and transmission cooperative, GRE provides wholesale electric service to 28 electric distribution cooperatives. GRE and its member cooperatives are not-for-profit cooperatives owned by the members it serves. GRE continues to explore new technologies and resources for the changing energy grid. GRE's wholesale electric rates remain well below the weighted

regional average and more importantly, rates are forecasted to remain stable for years to come.

The board went into Executive Session to consider GRE's request seeking approval of a long duration energy storage pilot project.

The Executive Session adjourned.

The Regular Session reconvened. The Board approved GRE's request for approval of the long duration energy storage pilot project in executive session.

The Board reviewed the Restated Articles of Incorporation and Restated Bylaws of McLeod Cooperative Power Association. The proposed restatement language has been prepared by the subcommittee of board members, attorney and senior management. Over the past six months the committee has reviewed the language of the document and suggested revisions to address changes in the law, modernize archaic language, provide for efficiencies and cost savings in the operation and administration of the Co-op, address developments in technology, address the change in the Co-op's principal place of business when moving into the new facility, and to provide additional legal protection to the Cooperative.

Resolution 2019-12-01 Restatement of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws was approved as presented and the Board recommends it to the membership for consideration. It is the intent that the proposed Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws be mailed to members for an approval vote at the April 14, 2020 Annual Meeting.

The board recessed for lunch and then went into Executive Session to discuss succession planning. The Executive Session was adjourned and the Regular Session reconvened.

General Manager Buckley reported that at GRE, the Member Managers Group will be voting in January on the transmission rate recommendations to the GRE Board for consideration.

Manager Buckley discussed the newly drafted Employee Handbook and the policies pertaining to the handbook that were distributed at the November Board meeting for review. All updated policies pertaining to the Employee Handbook were approved. Policy 5-6 Non-Harassment and Policy 5-1 Employee Welfare were rescinded by a vote of the Board. The newly created Employee Handbook was approved.

Six directors were approved to attend the GRE Regional Meeting in February.

Four directors were approved to attend the Minnesota Rural Electric Association Annual Meeting in March.

Five directors were approved to attend the CoBank Regional Meeting in March.

The GRE board representative gave the monthly GRE Report.

Experience of a lifetime!



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 operation of our government.

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.

Nominations by petition for director candidacy to be submitted by March 20

Cooperative members residing in Districts 1, 2, or 3 may petition to have their name added to the slate of candidates for the 2020 director election in their district. To have another name on the ballot, in addition to the two candidate names selected by the nominating committee, you may file a nomination by petition.

The petition must be signed by 20 or more McLeod Cooperative Power Association electric members residing in your district and it must be submitted to the cooperative secretary not less than 25 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The last day that a petition can be submitted is March 20, 2020.

The cooperative secretary shall post at the Cooperative office the names of additional nominations and also persons selected by the nominating committee.

District 1 includes: Hollywood Township in Carver County, Winsted Township in McLeod County, and Victor, Woodland, and Franklin Townships 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.

Proposed updates to MCPA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

continued from Page 1

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF REVISIONS IN THE RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS OF McLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION.

General Comment: It is the intent of the Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to address changes that have occurred in the law, to modernize archaic language, to provide for efficiencies and cost savings in the operation and administration of the Cooperative, to address developments in technology, to address the future change in the Cooperative's principal place of business, and to provide additional legal protection to the Cooperative. A summary of the changes are listed below. To the extent that the summary or any portion thereof conflicts with the proposed Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws shall control.

Registered Office. The address of the registered office will change as of Sept. 1, 2020.

Methods of Voting. To allow for electronic or other possible methods of voting as authorized by the Board of Directors and permitted by law.

Qualifications to be a Member. More clearly defines the eligibility for membership and requirements of each member, including compliance with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, which are a contract between each member and the Cooperative.

Joint Membership. Defines joint memberships.

Transfer or Termination of Memberships. Clarifies that a membership terminates at death, and how memberships are handled following a death, divorce, separation, etc.

Provision of Service. Allows the Cooperative to contact members using an automatic telephone dialing system, pre-recorded message, or electronic communication regarding their electric service.

Notice of Annual Meeting and Special Meetings. Expands communication methods that the Cooperative may use to notify members of the Annual Meeting and Special Meetings. Also adds provision to postpone and reschedule Annual Meeting in the event of inclement weather.

Definition of Close Relative for Directors, Director Candidates and Nominating Committee Members. Defines who is a close relative as it pertains to these Bylaws.

Location of service for director candidate that represents a corporation or business. Clarifies that such a candidate may only run for election in the district where the membership receives service.

Timelines for election process. Increases the number of days before the Annual Meeting for the nomination/election process to provide adequate time for finding candidates and sending candidate information to members.

Director Meetings. Reference to Chairperson replaced with President in Bylaws Art. IV, Sec. 2 to be consistent with rest of Bylaws. Allows directors to be notified electronically or by telephone of a special meeting.

Title change. The title of Manager changed to Chief Executive Officer. Employment and duties of Chief Executive Officer clarified.

Patronage Capital. Allows allocated patronage capital to offset financial debts owed to the Cooperative by patrons, former patrons, or commercial accounts. This helps the Cooperative to recover losses in some bankruptcy and unpaid debt situations.

Dispute Resolution through Arbitration. If there is a dispute between a member and the Cooperative that cannot be resolved by agreement, parties will resolve the dispute through arbitration rather than the court system.



**Annual Meeting
Tuesday, April 14
at the
Hutchinson Event
Center**



Meet the people behind your power

YOUR ELECTRICITY ISN'T SOMETHING WE TAKE LIGHTLY

You are why we come to work every day. We strive to provide you with state-of-the-art metering, accurate billing, and knowledgeable service.

Justin Kohls
Energy Management Specialist
Master Electrician
Pheasants Forever member

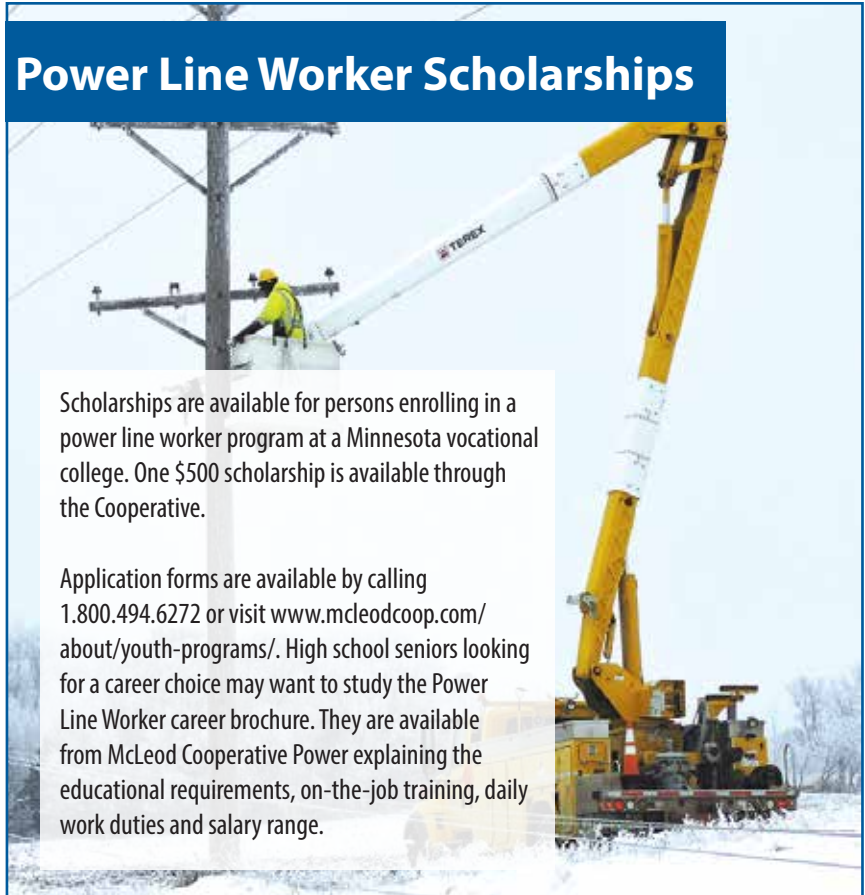
McLEOD CO OP POWER



THE SMART WAY TO WARM.

The intelligent design of an Electric Thermal Storage heater allows it to draw energy during off-peak hours when it's less expensive. This energy is converted into heat which is stored in specially designed ceramic bricks within the insulated unit to maintain your comfort level. And with special financing and rebate opportunities, you'll save on your initial purchase before you start saving on your energy.

Power Line Worker Scholarships



Scholarships are available for persons enrolling in a power line worker program at a Minnesota vocational college. One \$500 scholarship is available through the Cooperative.

Application forms are available by calling 1.800.494.6272 or visit www.mcleodcoop.com/about/youth-programs/. High school seniors looking for a career choice may want to study the Power Line Worker career brochure. They are available from McLeod Cooperative Power explaining the educational requirements, on-the-job training, daily work duties and salary range.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY QUIZ

Test your electrical safety knowledge by taking the quiz below!
Use the answer key if you need help.

1. Smoke alarms in your home should be tested _____.

- A. once a week
- B. twice a year
- C. once a month

2. Overloading electrical outlets and power strips can create an electrical fire hazard.

- A. True
- B. False

3. What's the most dangerous place to use electricity?

- A. Outdoors
- B. Near other electrical equipment
- C. Near water

4. It's safe to run an electrical cord under a rug or carpet as long as the cord is not damaged.

- A. True
- B. False

5. Which is safest to play near?

- A. Power lines
- B. Pad-mounted transformers
- C. Neither A or B - both are dangerous



Answer Key: 1.C 2.A 3.C 4.B 5.C



McLeod County Historical Society staff Peggy Paulson, Secretary/Receptionist and Beverly Swenson, Collection Manager volunteer, accepted the donation of the 1953 illuminated painting from McLeod Co-op Power.

Illuminated painting donated to McLeod County Historical Society

McLeod Co-op Power recently donated an illuminated a 1953 painting by artist Edwin J. Bruns to the McLeod County Historical Society. The painting titled "Power for the Lights of Freedom" depicts the historic freedom of the United States, freedom that electricity provided to make work less labor intensive, and advancements that lights brought to farms and homes.

December 30 galloping lines

Ice had built up on power lines in Renville County on Monday, Dec. 30. When the wind picked up, it caused the power lines to “gallop” or bounce up and down. This resulted in the lines knocking together and causing numerous blinks and outages from Monday morning until early Tuesday morning, when winds finally subsided. (See video of galloping lines on McLeod Co-op Power’s Facebook post).

Line crews would just get repairs made to one problem and then damages to lines elsewhere in the area would occur. There were also three transmission outages on December 30 lasting five to 27 minutes each; one in the morning, one in early afternoon and one in early evening that all took out power to the Hector Substation.

We thank affected members for their patience during this trying situation and we thank our line workers for persisting in making repairs in the wind and elements to get power restored to members over this 24-hour time period.



On a recent sub-zero day a MCPA line crew was utilizing one of the Co-op’s insulated portable fish houses to complete wiring work in a cabinet. Linemen were putting on elbows, terminating conductors in a utility cabinet, and applying warning stickers to the cabinet as they work to complete an underground conductor conversion project in Carver County along Highway 7. With this project in Hollywood Township, underground conductors have been installed and will replace the overhead wires that are currently underbuilt on transmission poles.

An insulated fish house with no floor is a huge improvement for the crews. It keeps linemen out of the wind and cold when doing electrical work. Today, linemen do more underground utility work than years ago when most work was on overhead poles and wires.

November 2019 Outage Summary

During the month of November the Cooperative had a total of 61 outages, affecting 1,989 consumers.

The largest outage for the month was caused by a car crashing into a transmission pole along Hwy. 7 near Mayer on November 18 at 4:21 PM. It caused a transmission/power supply outage affecting over 1,380 MCPA members, primarily in Carver County. Power was out for just over one hour. The second largest outage affected 163 consumers south of Hutchinson on November 11 about 10:00

AM. Power was restored in 1.5 hours for most members. Cause was a primary dig-in by a contractor.

Most outages affect only one or two members. They are frequently caused by small animals, trees in the line, equipment failure, or motor vehicle/machinery accidents. Larger outages affecting hundreds of members at a time are usually caused by transmission outages, storms, equipment failure to substation equipment, or accidents. Restoration time on weekend and evening outages, when line crews are called out from home, usually take a little longer to get back on then outages when crews are already out working on the project.

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 January 27 to be included in the February issue. Thank you!

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.

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

For Sale Miscellaneous

- Owatonna Mustang loader w/two 64" buckets. 320-587-7746
- Arctic Cat Purple powerlube racing formula snowmobile oil. 952-467-2103
- V type snow blower. 320-864-3808
- 2005 Pontiac G6 for sale. Make offer. 320-223-5268
- 55-gallon steel drums w/removeable lids. \$15/each. 952-353-2351
- OSB panels 32" X 32" X 7/16" \$1/each. 952-353-2351
- Custom cedar cabin tiny home on wheels 8 X 24. \$13,000. 612-207-6290
- Frigidaire gas clothes dryer, running good. \$50. 320-327-2132
- Sears 42" industrial fan, new plug in. \$100. 320-327-2132
- 2006 Cadillac Escalade. Normal wear and tear. \$4,900 or B.O. 320-583-9482

For Sale Farm

- Meyers manure spreader, parts/repair, end-gate/tandem axle, needs apron. 320-522-2167
- Dura-built HD round bale feeder, great shape. 507-381-8280
- 1979 International 1800 truck 3 ton for parts, good tires. 320-864-4496
- Bearcat 950 grinder mixer, excellent condition, always shedded. \$4,000. 320-510-2144
- Allis Chalmers B w/front loader, excellent condition. BO. 320-510-2147

Wanted

- Used waste oil. 320-510-0758
- Bale fork to fit late 1980's Bobcat 743 Diesel. 320-587-7443

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.

Our promise to members: Energy that's clean, without the added cost



Guest columnist: David Saggau, President and Chief Executive Officer, Great River Energy

Your electricity comes with more renewable energy and lower carbon emissions than ever before — all while remaining safe, reliable and affordable

Twenty years ago, Great River Energy began receiving electricity from three wind turbines in southern Minnesota. Today, there are nearly 350 turbines spinning to provide you emission-free electricity.

Now, Great River Energy is striving to serve McLeod Coop Power with energy that is 50% renewable by 2030. We are ahead of schedule, too, reaching 30% this year.

Meanwhile, Great River Energy's average wholesale electric rates have remained flat.

Great River Energy and its 28 member-owner cooperatives are committed to providing clean energy that is as affordable and reliable as ever.

Carbon emissions are declining

Great River Energy has long sought strategic ways to reduce the carbon emissions on its system, and we have made real progress.

We exited two contracts for coal-based electricity and closed a long-running coal power plant. Those decisions were made for economic benefit while also providing for reductions in carbon emissions.

Using electricity in new ways

Electricity is improving so rapidly that it has become a favored energy source for transportation, which is currently the state's largest source of carbon emissions.

Minnesota is encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles to reduce carbon emissions because they have no tailpipe emissions. Members are drawn to them because they require no stops at the gas station and very few trips to the mechanic.

Your cooperative has programs that make it easier to purchase an electric vehicle and at-home charger, as well as other efficient electric devices such as air conditioners, water heaters and heat pumps.

Remaining focused on our members

The electricity you receive is improving because of you, the cooperative membership. Our research shows that members strongly believe adding more renewables is a good idea and support our efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

Cooperative members want electricity that is affordable, reliable and clean. As your wholesale power supplier, that is what we will continue to provide.

Board candidate applications accepted through January 15

Qualified members residing in Districts 1, 2, or 3 who wish to be a board candidate may submit an application until January 15. Application forms were in the November and December issues of the Co-op newsletter.

Operation Round Up donation applications are being accepted until March 1



This is a great year for new organizations to apply. 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 are on the Co-op's website at www.mcleodcoop.com. Applications for funding must be completed and returned to the Cooperative by March 1, 2020.

Replace your old water heater before it springs a leak or stops working

Lower your monthly bill and get a \$400 rebate!

Are you considering a switch to the storage water heating program? Now may be a good time to take action. The Co-op has water heaters in stock. There is a \$400 rebate currently available when installing a new high-efficiency, large water heater on the ETS (electric thermal storage) water heating program. If you have been wondering how you can reduce your monthly electric bill, the Water Storage Program (with or without the Cycled Air Conditioning Program) can save you hundreds of dollars a year.

Over 1,300 members participate in the program. The Co-op has a satisfaction guarantee on the program. Interest-free financing of a water heater is available to any member with good payment history. Payment by check or credit card are also accepted.

Call the Co-op's energy experts today to help you select the proper size tank for your family. Participation in the ETS water heating program is one of the best ways to significantly lower your electric bill every month of the year.

Plus you get:

- a more efficient water heater
- with a lifetime warranty against leaking
- free delivery to members
- \$400 ETS rebate
- ETS program has satisfaction guarantee



High-Efficiency Appliance Rebates for 2020

Dehumidifiers \$25

Dryers \$25

Refrigerators & Freezer (Max of 2/year)

Refrigerator harvest \$25

Refrigerator w/recycling \$25

Freezer Harvest \$25

Freezer with recycling \$25

AC Tune Up (Max of 1 every 2 years) \$25

Ductless ASHP \$300

ECM (retrofit only) \$50

GSHP (\$/ton) \$400

QI ASHP

SEER 14.5 \$200

SEER 15 \$400

SEER 16 \$800

Cole Climate Heat Pump ... Coming soon

ETS Space Heat - per kW \$50

ETS Water Heating

100 gallon minimum capacity \$400

Heat Pump Water Heater

50 gallon minimum capacity \$500

LED Yard Light \$60

Swimming Pool

ASHP \$400

Pool Variable Speed Pump \$200

Electric Vehicle & Chargewise \$500

This is a residential summary only. The Co-op also offers agricultural, commercial and industrial rebates. There is a \$2,500 maximum rebate per member per year. Only ETS space heating and commercial grants/rebates have a \$5,000 maximum cap. All rebates are on a first come, first serve basis, so please turn in your paperwork promptly.

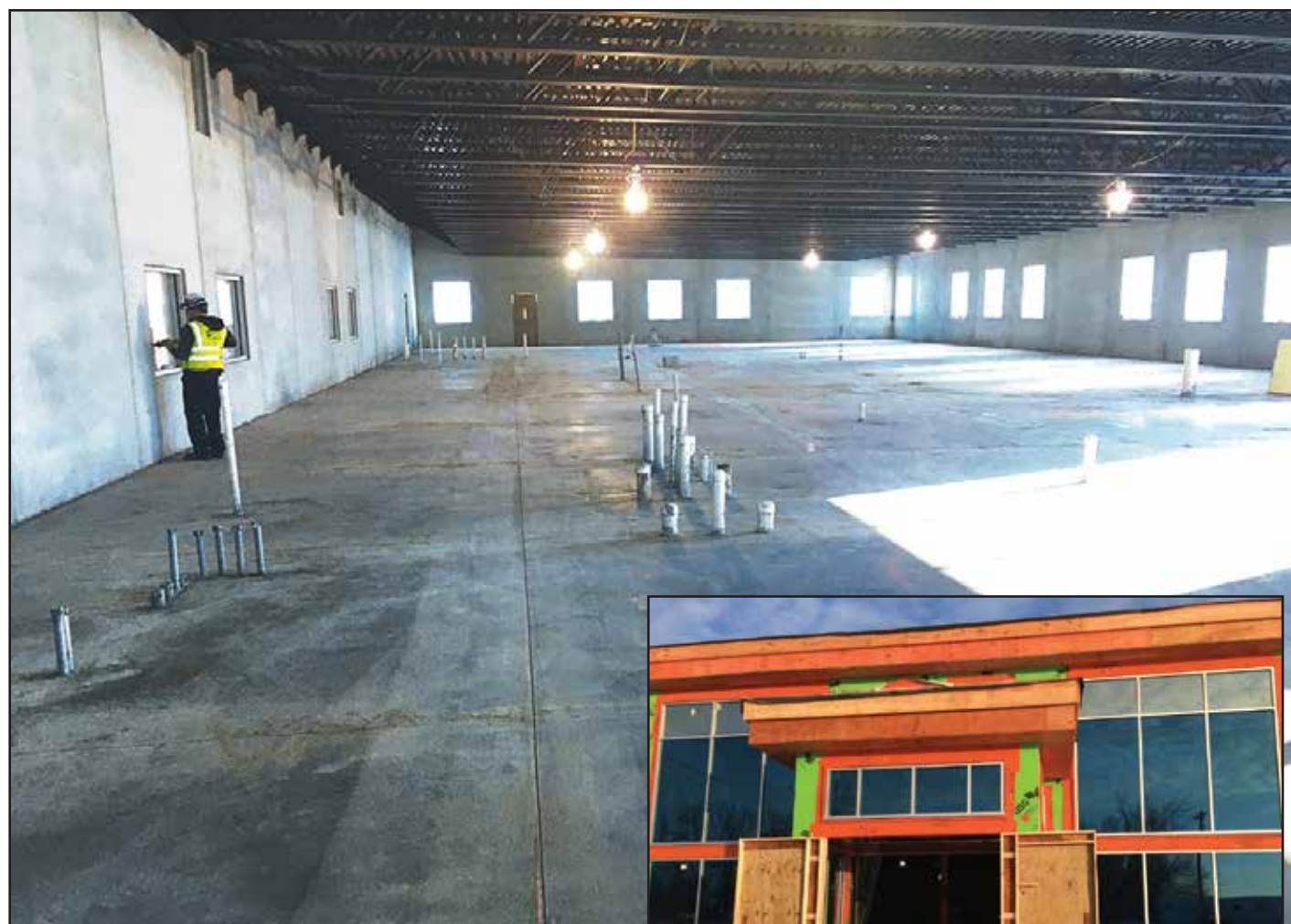
Most downloadable rebate forms are on the Co-op's website www.mcleodcoop.com. Please read the details on specific rebate forms, as some products have limits, require ENERGY STAR certification or other requirements.

Air Source Heat Pump rebate forms must be completed by the installing contractor. Rebates for high efficiency air source heat pumps require installation by a "registered contractor" which has been designated as a QUALITY INSTALLER and is listed on the hvaceducation.net website. A list of all "registered contractors" in Minnesota is on www.mcleodcoop.com website. There are no rebates for central air conditioners. The Co-op encourages any member replacing a central air conditioner to upgrade to an ENERGY STAR rated air source heat pump.

LED yard lights must be installed on consumer owned building or facilities. Lights cannot be installed on Co-op power poles. Rebate for recycled refrigerator or freezer must be for removal of old but still operating unit from location served by MCPA, and receipt from recycler/appliance store showing proof of recycling required.

Work will continue all winter on MCPA's combined facility

The windows have been installed. The roof is on. The outer shell of the Co-op's new combined facility is enclosed, and work is scheduled to continue indoors all winter. Currently, plumbing and electrical conduit are installed and cement has been poured. The building construction is still on schedule for an August 2020 completion.



By December 31, the concrete floor in the office had been poured.

In December, the windows were installed and the front entry was enclosed before winter.



Most of the Co-op board members are pictured here on a tour of the building before the November board meeting.