

# MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

JULY 2020



## MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ANNOUNCES NEW CEO

McLeod Cooperative Power (MCPA) is pleased to welcome Ronald Meier as the Cooperative’s Chief Executive Officer.

Meier comes to the Co-op after serving as the Manager of Engineering and Member Relations of La Plata Electric Association (LPEA) in Durango, Colorado. “Ron brings a great deal of experience to our Co-op. He worked for La Plata Electric Association in Durango, Colorado for nearly 27 years with a diverse management background both in engineering and member service departments. We’re confident that his professional experience will be an asset for our organization as we continue working to meet the needs of our members,” shared Joe Griebie, MCPA Board Vice-President.

McLeod Cooperative Power Board President, Keith Peterson discussed the search process, “We were very fortunate to have a field of very qualified candidates applying for the CEO position. Great River Energy facilitated the recruitment process utilizing a nationwide search. Mr. Meier was selected in large part based on his technical and administrative experience in managing electric utilities. We also were impressed with his commitment to providing members the best service possible at an affordable rate.”

Meier holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from New Mexico State University. He is passionate about leadership, proven by a myriad of leadership certificates including NRECA’s Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program. In his own words, “My success comes from others succeeding. I want to empower everyone by removing obstacles.”

Meier succeeds Carrie L. Buckley who retired after five years as General Manager. His first day with MCPA was June 15, 2020. He recently relocated to Glencoe and is getting familiar with the Co-op, its employees, programs, and service area.

“I’m excited to be joining the McLeod Co-op family. There is a sense of true cooperative pride here. Everyone I’ve met in my first few days is here to help the members and that is what a co-op is all about,” said Meier about his transition. “Right now, and for at least the next six months, my job is to observe and absorb how we do things here. As far as the future goes, I want to support McLeod Cooperative Power with its mission to always listen to our members, building trust, and meeting their needs along the way. In addition, continuing to develop a culture of safety at the Co-op and keeping abreast of changes in our industry to enhance our services are some of my top priorities.”

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## McLeod Cooperative Power Offices Reopen to the Public

The McLeod Cooperative Power office, which closed in March during the peak threat of COVID-19, has reopened to the public with adjusted lobby hours from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Social distancing is required when entering the lobby. Members also will notice that plexiglass shields have been installed for the safety of our employees. Hand sanitizer is available for guests, and masks are recommended but not required. Also, if you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have any symptoms, please do not enter the McLeod Co-op Power building.

Members are still encouraged to use our exterior drop-box (available 24/7) for dropping off payments. Our employees also are available during our business hours from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to assist our members over the phone.

## HELP US LOCATE THESE MEMBERS

McLeod Cooperative Power Association is a not-for-profit, member-owned, electric utility. That means you, not a group of private investors, benefit from any margins produced by the Cooperative. MCPA has retired over \$18 million in capital credits to members since 1935. Capital Credits are just one of many differences that set cooperatives apart from other utility business models.



### RETURNING MONEY BACK TO YOU

#### UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

Each year, funds that were not claimed or returned by the Post Office are sent back to the Cooperative. We need your help locating the members that these unclaimed Capital Credits belong to. We’ve created a handy searchable database online at <https://www.mcleodcoop.com/about/capital-credits/>. Any information you can provide regarding the location of these members is greatly appreciated. Those with information can call our office at (800) 494-6272.

#### WHAT ARE CAPITAL CREDITS?

Each member of our Co-op is a part-owner and entitled to share in the financial returns of the co-op. This means McLeod Co-op Power allocates 100 percent of its margins (revenue less expenses) to its members who purchase electricity during the year and retires (or pays back) those margins at a future date when the Cooperative’s financial position allows. Meanwhile, the co-op uses those funds as operating capital to help the co-op pay debt and maintain the appropriate equity-to-assets balance.



YOUR CO-OP, YOUR VOICE

ANNUAL MEETING TO RECONVENE ON JULY 21

The McLeod Cooperative Power Annual Meeting was originally scheduled for June 16; however, the meeting was adjourned because there was not a quorum of members present. Therefore, the Board of Directors has selected Tuesday, July 21 as the date for reconvening this year's Annual Meeting.

The McLeod Cooperative Power Annual Meeting will consist of a short business meeting. Registration takes place from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Hutchinson Event Center with the business meeting beginning promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Light refreshments will be available and members registered for the meeting will receive a \$15 bill credit applied to their August bill statement for attending.

Being 100% locally controlled, cooperatives are democratic organizations meaning the Annual Meeting is an important opportunity for members to hear directly from our Board of Directors and Management Team. During the meeting, members are provided details on the financial security of the cooperative, while also getting a chance to hear how the business is run. It also provides an important opportunity to ask any questions you might have or provide input on cooperative matters to the Board of Directors.

Preventive distancing and sanitation measures will be employed for attendees. Any members with a fever, cough, or COVID-19 symptoms, as well as anyone with at-risk health issues or weak immune systems, are encouraged not to attend.

We hope you can join us as we reconvene for the organization's Annual Meeting on July 21.

IMPORTANT VOTING NOTICE: The Board of Directors has reopened the balloting process for anyone that has NOT already voted as part of this year's election. As previously instructed, sealed ballots should be returned by mail or in-person to the Cooperative using the "BALLOT ENVELOPE" for confidentiality and then placed inside the yellow postage-paid return envelope, which has the member's customer ID number printed on it for ballot registration purposes. Ballots received on or before the day of the Annual Meeting will be counted by the Nominating Committee. Members also can turn in their ballot at the Annual Meeting during registration from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER ASSOCIATION  
GLENCOE, MINNESOTA

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS  
To the members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association:

You are hereby notified that the Regular Annual Meeting of the Members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association will be reconvened at the Hutchinson Event Center at 1005 Hwy. 15 S. Plaza 15, in the City of Hutchinson, County of McLeod, State of Minnesota, on July 21st, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. to take action upon the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors, and committees.
2. The election of directors of this association for director districts numbers 1, 2, and 3.
3. To vote on proposed Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
4. To transact any other business which may properly come before said annual meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Having failed to establish a quorum of members present at the Annual Meeting originally scheduled on June 16th, 2020, the Board of Directors has authorized the reopening of the balloting process for any member who has not yet voted. The polls for the election of directors and for the Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws will be opened at the meeting place at 9:30 a.m. and will be closed at 10:00 a.m. on the date of the meeting. Sealed ballots received by the association, in person or by mail, on or before the day of the Annual Meeting in the manner prescribed in the Bylaws will be accepted and counted as a vote of the absent member.

Dated at Glencoe, Minnesota this 23rd day of June 2020.  
Doug Kirtz, Secretary

JUNE 2020 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on June 23, 2020 at the Glencoe City Center. All nine board members were present for the meeting. The attorney, Retiring General Manager Carrie L. Buckley, Replacement General Manager Ron Meier, and department managers were also present.

- Highlights of the meeting included:
- New facility construction is proceeding on schedule. Recently, the Line crew have set the transformer and generator in place with service being energized. Curb and gutter have been installed. The first layer of asphalt for the parking lot also has been completed.
  - The Board approved replacing the 1997 Ford dump truck with a 2020 International CV 4X4.
  - It was reported that the front lobby reopened for the first time since the COVID-19 Pandemic on June 22 with adjusted hours of 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.
  - A discussion was had on reconvening the Annual Meeting since a quorum of members was not established on June 16th causing the meeting to be adjourned. The Board reauthorized the Notice of Annual Meeting for the meeting to be reconvened on Tuesday, July 21 at the Hutchinson Event Center at 10:00 AM. The motion included reopening the balloting process for any member who has not yet voted for the election of directors or the Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
  - The Board approved delegation of authority Resolutions for the new General Manager.

GET TO KNOW RON, MCLEOD CO-OP'S NEW CEO



As we welcome Ron Meier to the McLeod Co-op family, we thought it would be fun for our employees and you, our members, to get to know him. So we put together this fun little FAQ!

**How did you get your start in the energy industry?** As an aspiring pilot in the Air Force, at a time when the Air Force didn't need pilots, a professor of mine in a power engineering course was truly inspirational and it stuck. When I graduated from university I landed a job at La Plata Electric as a staff engineer, thus starting my career. The first big project I worked on was using GPS technologies to map its entire electrical system.

**Tell us about your family:** My wife K'Lyn and I have been married for 25 years. She is a school teacher, primarily a kindergarten teacher. She started her career off as an investigator for the Public Defenders office after graduating with her first degree in criminal justice before pivoting to education.

My daughter (19) is playing golf for Fort Lewis College while pursuing her teaching degree. She will be a special education teacher when she finally makes it to the end of college.

My son (17) is a video kid and is still finding his path. He is allergic to almost everything green in Durango, so he really enjoys winter. He might be a computer programmer or perhaps a social worker. The world is wide open for him, as long as he doesn't have to go outside for too long during the Spring.

**How do you spend your spare time?** Cooking, reading, and play games.

**Fun Fact:** I lived in South Africa and the Philippines for about 8 months each while in college.

**Favorite Book:** Dune series by Frank Herbert

**Favorite Hobby:** Board and Video Games

< Ron visiting Minnesota's Largest Candy Store in Jordan as he explores his new home state!



# SAFETY FIRST: DO NOT REMOVE YOUR METER WITHOUT COOPERATIVE ASSISTANCE

Electricians and/or members are not authorized to pull an electric meter to perform work on a service.

Electrical safety is a primary concern for McLeod Cooperative Power. Removing or adjusting electrical equipment carries the potential to harm yourself and others. In an attempt to prevent these risks, we stress the importance of never cutting the seal, tampering with, or removing a meter for any reason without the assistance from the Co-op.

The cooperative's policy requires a trained co-op employee, using the proper protective equipment, to pull and reinstall any energized meter. McLeod Cooperative Power provides this service during regular business hours for a fee of \$80. A notice of two business days is requested, so coordinate your work needs with our team in advance by calling (800) 494-6272 during business hours.

**WARNING:** If an electrician or member does pull an electric meter to disconnect service, significantly higher fees will incur. Disconnection or tampering of a meter sends 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 \$225 during business hours, \$425 on evenings or Saturdays, and \$525 on a Sunday or holiday.

Your cooperation is appreciated. Our only goal is to protect you, your neighbors, and our line workers from possible injury.

# POWERS OUT? WE ARE HERE TO HELP



Storms and construction season often lead to power outages during the summer months. If you suspect an outage, report it!

McLeod Cooperative Power works diligently to maintain consistent power quality and reliability. However, with over 600 miles of power line exposed to the elements, trees, and small animals; power outages do occur. And when they do, it is incredibly important that members report an outage because it is simply the fastest way to locate an outage cause and get the problem resolved.

Have you ever wondered what steps are taken to restore power? Learn about the process:

**Step 1**  
We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. Because our first priority is public safety, crews are sent to remove damaged power lines from roadways first.

**Step 2**  
After that, substation power is restored. Substations transfer power to distribution lines from the transmission system. These problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred. Sometimes, service to hundreds or several thousand members can be restored immediately by replacing a fuse on a substation transformer.

**Step 3**  
Next, the major distribution feeders are repaired. If energy cannot be distributed over these lines, your home cannot receive power.

**Step 4**  
Then, line crews check the tap lines that deliver power into neighborhoods and communities. If a tap line is repaired and you see your neighbors' lights come on while your lights remain out there is still damage to your individual line, and you may have to wait a while longer for restoration.

**Step 5**  
Finally, individual service lines are repaired resulting in total power restoration.

While we do everything we can to prevent outages, McLeod Cooperative Power is prepared for when Mother Nature has other plans. But it's also important for you to be prepared for unexpected power outages!

Here's a few things you can do to be prepared when the lights go out:

- Save our 24/7 outage phone number, (800) 927-5685, to your phone so you can quickly report outages when they occur.
- Make sure your phone number is updated in our records. This helps us identify you when you report an outage or contact you if your account needs attention.
- Have an outage kit prepared ahead of time so you can easily find flashlights and other things you'll need during an outage.



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<https://www.facebook.com/McLeodCoop/>  
**FOR UPDATES ON POWER OUTAGES!**

# PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR POWER

## ERIC SELL, MANAGER OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Eric manages the cooperative's computer network, technology, and RF Meter System enabling co-op employees to keep the power on and members' information safe. He loves that no two days are ever the same, and the job is always changing, which provides opportunities to learn more. He says working at a cooperative is like having a second family. Electric co-ops across the nation are willing to work with each other and share their great ideas.

**Fun Fact:** Eric loves spending time with his family, gaming, and reading a good book.



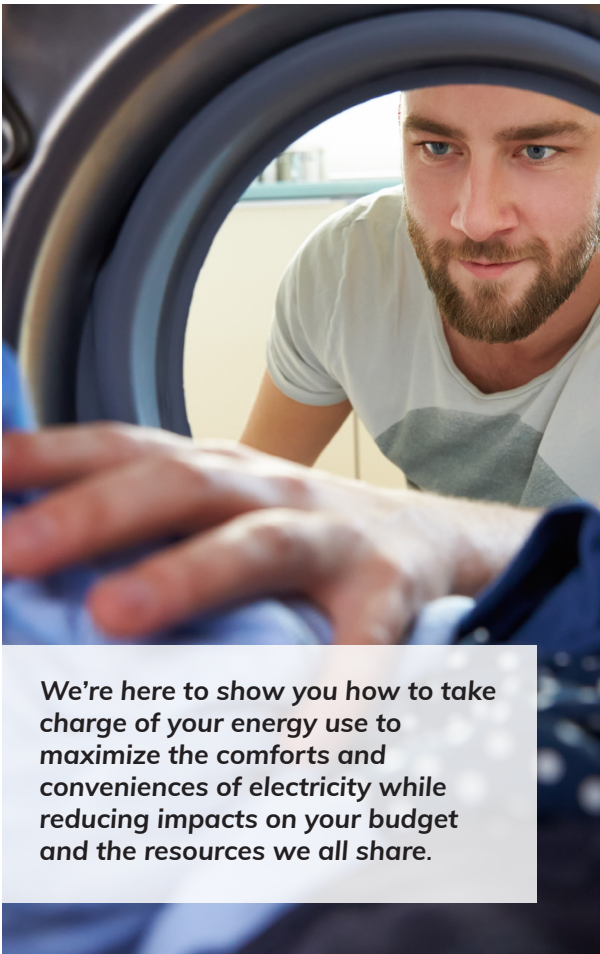
# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Are you spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started.



# SAVE MONEY ON THE UPGRADES THAT SAVE ENERGY!

McLeod Cooperative Power works to help families, farms, and businesses use energy wisely. Whether you're building a new home, remodeling an existing home, or simply buying a new appliance, your cooperative offers professional advice and a wide array of incentives to ensure you get the most for your energy dollar.



We're here to show you how to take charge of your energy use to maximize the comforts and conveniences of electricity while reducing impacts on your budget and the resources we all share.

McLeod Cooperative Power offers a variety of rebates to encourage the use of energy-efficient products.

But first, you might wonder: Why is my electric utility encouraging me to use less of its product?

We get that question a lot. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative owned by you, our members, we operate in your best interest. And energy efficiency is in everyone's best interest! The old saying in our industry is, "The kilowatt-hour you don't use is one we don't have to generate" and pay for.

Learn more and apply for rebates at: <https://www.mcleodcoop.com/i-want-to/rebates/>

\*All rebate and incentive programs have certain restrictions and requirements that must be met before a rebate can be issued. Be sure to visit <https://www.mcleodcoop.com/i-want-to/rebates> or call the Cooperative at (800) 494-6272 for all rebate details and limitations. Rebates are subject to change at any time without prior notice. Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

EQUIPMENT	REBATE*
Quality Installed Air Source Heat Pump (extra rebates available through 7/31)	SEER 14.5 \$200 SEER 15 \$400 SEER 16+ \$800
Ground Source Heat Pump	\$400 / ton
Storage Space Heating	\$50 per kW
Furnace ECM	\$50
Heat Pump Water Heater	\$500 (50 gallon minimum)
Storage Water Heating Program Enrollment	\$400 (new, conversion, or retrofit)
Pool Pump VSD	\$200
Pool ASHP	\$400
Electric Vehicle Charger	\$500
EnergyStar Ductless ASHP	\$300
EnergyStar Refrigerator/Freezer	\$25
EnergyStar Clothes Dryer	\$25
EnergyStar Dehumidifier	\$25
EnergyStar Yard Light	\$60

## DON'T MISS OUR SUMMER PROMOTIONS!

Visit the McLeod Co-op website for extra incentives on Air Source Heat Pumps, AC Tune Ups, Electro Products, and Steffes Products.

## SUPPORTING THE FUTURE: MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

McLeod Co-op Power is excited and honored to award our \$500 Line Worker Scholarship to Peyton Jasken.

Peyton is from Hutchinson and is in his final year at Minnesota State Community and Technical College (M-State) in Wadena. We wish Peyton the best as he completes his program!

For those considering a career as an electrical line worker, the next round of scholarship applications will be due next April 2021.

Learn more at: <https://www.mcleodcoop.com/about/youth-programs/>



"Being a lineman, I get the satisfaction of doing hands on work, while being able to enjoy the outdoors," shared Peyton about becoming a line worker.

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