

# MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

JUNE 2020



## ANNUAL MEETING RESCHEDULED ON TUESDAY, JUNE 16 AT 10AM

*You are invited to the 85th Annual Meeting of McLeod Cooperative Power, which was rescheduled due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. (9:30 a.m. registration) at the Hutchinson Event Center.*

### NEW Annual Meeting Format

In light of the current health situation facing our country, and in doing our part in helping slow the spread of COVID-19 by following Minnesota's Stay Safe guidelines, the McLeod Cooperative Power Annual Meeting will consist of only a short business meeting. A quorum of 50 people is sought to conduct the meeting. Please note that no meal or refreshments will be served. There will be no entertainment nor prize drawing. 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, should not attend.

### Director Elections

Members in Districts 1, 2, and 3 have the opportunity to vote for a director to represent their respective district on the Cooperative's Board. Profiles of each candidate are included with each election ballot.

### Bylaw Amendments

ALL McLeod Co-op members have the opportunity to vote on the proposed amendments to the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Proposed changes include updates to the outdated language, technology developments, and adjustments for cost savings and efficiency measures. A complete summary of proposed changes is available for review on the Co-op's website [www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com) and a copy was mailed to each member with their ballot.

### Voting

Whether you are voting in the director election or for the proposed amendment changes, we encourage you to vote by mail. Completed ballots should be sealed in the BALLOT ENVELOPE for confidentiality, then placed in the yellow, postage-paid envelope for mailing. Ballots received by June 15 will be counted by the Nominating Committee. In addition, completed ballots will be collected at the rescheduled Annual Meeting on June 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. as part of the registration process.

## WELCOME TO THE NEW NEWSLETTER!

We are kicking off the summer with a redesigned version of the newsletter in an effort to continually engage our evolving membership. This new shorter, glossier format will feature quick reads related to cooperative news, energy efficiency, community involvement, industry updates and more of the great content you've grown to expect from the Cooperative. We'll be using more visuals, info-graphics and bullet points to make it easier to find important information and resources.



Since November of 1940, the McLeod Cooperative Power newsletter has served as the official communication for our member-owners. The newsletter has a long history of providing helpful information and important updates to members. It remains our priority to communicate with each of you in a timely and transparent manner today. This new newsletter will help us accomplish that and we hope that, regardless of your interests or level of cooperative involvement, you find valuable takeaways in each issue.

Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/McLeodCoop/](http://www.facebook.com/McLeodCoop/) for current power outage updates and other Co-op happenings.

Wholesale Power  
Transitions

02

Summer Cooling  
Promotions and Rebates

04

## Happy 4th of July!

### McLeod Cooperative Power Offices Closed

McLeod Cooperative Power will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2020 in observance of Independence Day. Please call (800) 927-5685 in the event of an outage or emergency.

As we celebrate our nation's freedom, we thank the courageous men and women who are dedicated to preserving it. With a true national spirit of courage, integrity, sacrifice, liberty and independence, we wish all our member-owners a Happy 4th of July!





MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Power Supply News and Thank You

Welcome to summer, Happy Father’s Day, and congratulations to all of you graduates! As I write this in mid-May, I don’t know what form your summer celebrations, Father’s Day hugs, or graduation parties will take, but please know I am wishing for you; recognition of your accomplishments and the joy of family fun.

As you may have already learned, our power supplier, Great River Energy has announced a transition of their power supply portfolio. (See page 3.)

Power supply costs comprise about sixty-three percent of our total annual cost to deliver power to our members. It is the single largest expense in our budget. As such, we monitor it very closely by working cooperatively with Great River Energy and other member-owner cooperatives to advance strategic initiatives such as this power supply transition, which becomes a win-win for all our member-owners.

I wanted to pass along some other important information from Great River Energy that will help inform you about our power supply. Great River Energy plans the following actions in the coming years:

Phase-out coal resources

Great River Energy plans to retire the 1,151-megawatt (MW) Coal Creek Station power plant in the second half of 2022. The cooperative will also modify the 99-MW, coal and natural gas-based Spiritwood Station combined heat and power plant to be fueled by natural gas.

Add wind energy purchases

Great River Energy plans to purchase more than 1,100 MW from new wind energy projects in Minnesota, South Dakota, and Iowa. This amounts to a more than \$1.2 billion investment in the Midwest’s abundant clean energy resources. Great River Energy’s renewable capacity is projected to grow from approximately 660 MW in 2020 to more than 1,760 MW by the end of 2023.

Install a long-duration battery demonstration system

Great River Energy is developing a first-of-its-kind demonstration of a unique long-duration battery storage technology with the installation of a 1-MW battery in Cambridge, Minnesota, by the end of 2023. The battery project will be capable of delivering electricity continuously for 150 hours, far longer than the four-hour usage period common among lithium-ion batteries. Long-duration storage will help maintain grid reliability in the future during extreme conditions, such as a heatwave or polar vortex.

Secure energy and capacity to keep service reliable

Great River Energy plans to unlock more energy and capacity as needed through upgrades at its fleet of modern, natural gas peaking plants. As a member of the Midwest energy market, Great River Energy also has access to abundant energy resources.

These are exciting times in the electric cooperative family, and we are proud to be a member-owner of an innovative and conscientious wholesale power provider such as Great River Energy.

Proud to keep your lights on,

Carrie

THANK YOU

As I retire from my career in the electric cooperative industry, I want to thank you for this wonderful opportunity you extended by welcoming me into the McLeod Cooperative Power family. My experience as General Manager will be one of the crown jewels in my treasure box of memories. Be proud of your Co-op, it is a beauty. - Carrie Buckley

MAY 2020 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

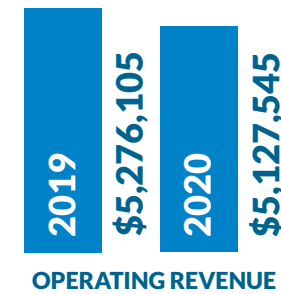
The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on May 28, 2020 at the Glencoe City Center. A quorum was established for the meeting. The attorney and general manager were also present.

Highlights of the meeting included:

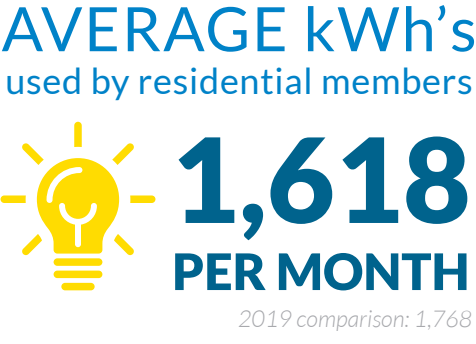
- New facility construction is proceeding on-schedule.
- It was reported that the ballots for the proposed revisions to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and Director Elections were mailed to members on May 26.
- The Board approved a vehicle gathering format for the Annual Meeting scheduled for June 16 at the Hutchinson Event Center following State of Minnesota guidelines.
- The Board approved the addition of the 80w LED street lights to the appropriate Rate Schedules.
- The Board approved Resolution 2020-05-01 in favor of Great River Energy’s Wind Energy Power Purchase Agreements.
- The Play Ball Minnesota Twins Clinic originally scheduled for June 6 in Arlington has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- On behalf of the Board of Directors, President Peterson thanked Manager Buckley for her hard work and dedication to the cooperative over the past 5 years and wished her the very best in retirement.

BY THE NUMBERS | Q1 2020

McLeod Cooperative Power’s leadership spends substantial time managing and providing oversight of the association’s operations, including ensuring that the Cooperative remains in a strong and stable financial condition. Below is an overview of our First Quarter Financial Report.



	2020	2019
Cost of Purchased Power	2,963,076	3,193,329
Other Operating Expenses	1,993,221	2,026,759
Total Cost of Electric Service	4,956,297	5,220,088



Know what’s below.  
Call before you dig.

Call 811 or visit  
gopherstateonecall.org  
before you dig.





# WISHING RETIRING GENERAL MANAGER CARRIE BUCKLEY FAREWELL

On behalf of the Board of Directors for McLeod Cooperative Power, I'd like to express our sincere gratitude for the dedication and service that Carrie Buckley has provided our cooperative. When Carrie was hired as the General Manager five years ago, the board gave her a list of goals and priorities to be addressed. The last of which was the need to upgrade our facilities, which I'm excited to report will be accomplished in August with the completion of our new headquarters.

Although nothing on this list was easy, Carrie succeeded by working strategically with the Board of Directors and McLeod employees to make decisions that improved our services and operations. Her leadership has been a tremendous asset to our cooperative. She brought a passion for rural electric cooperatives which will benefit us for years to come. **Thank you Carrie, for all your hard work and devotion to our Co-op and its members. We wish you the best in your retirement.**

Sincerely,  
Keith Peterson, Board President



# POWER SUPPLY TRANSITION DELIVERS WHAT MEMBERS WANT



Column signed by David Saggau, Great River Energy President and Chief Executive Officer

When you work for a cooperative, you have one goal: provide what the membership wants.

Of course, not all members want the same things. Some members want service at the lowest possible cost. Others want energy with minimal environmental impact. Certain members value reliability above everything else.

Great River Energy focuses on keeping electricity reliable and affordable while being responsible stewards of the environment. We recently announced plans to change our power supply portfolio that deliver on all three of those objectives.

Great River Energy plans to phase out remaining coal resources, add significant renewable energy in Minnesota and explore critical grid-scale battery technology. The portfolio changes will significantly reduce Great River Energy's costs, which will save money for McLeod Co-op Power's membership over the long term.

When the power supply plans are in place in 2023, Great River Energy's power supply resources will be more than 95% carbon dioxide-free.

Our power supply plans included the difficult decision to shut down our largest power plant, Coal Creek Station. Coal Creek Station has been

a critical part of Great River Energy's power supply portfolio for decades. The "flagship" Great River Energy power plant began operations in 1979 in Underwood, North Dakota, and employs 260 people.

Thousands of members have visited the facility and met the men and women who operate and maintain the plant. It has attracted families and businesses to central North Dakota and served as the hub of a thriving community.

Coal Creek Station is operated efficiently, safely and with pride by a dedicated and talented staff. We will make every effort to minimize impacts on our employees and the communities through this transition.

To assist local communities during the upcoming transition, Great River Energy plans to make voluntary annual payments of the local government share of the plant's taxes for five years after the plant's closure. And we will treat the employees with the dignity and respect they deserve.

As Great River Energy transforms its power supply portfolio, our mission remains the same: provide member-owners with affordable, reliable energy in harmony with a sustainable environment.

# PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR POWER

## SUSAN NOYES, MANAGER OF FINANCE

Susan maintains the financial integrity of the cooperative and ensures that money coming in and going out is managed in a way that best serves our members. She loves digging into the numbers and looking for patterns in data. One of Susan's favorite things about working at McLeod Co-op Power is living out the cooperative principles. In particular, concern for community resonates with Susan, who is also an active community volunteer with McLeod Alliance, Boy Scouts, Christ the King, and the Hutchinson Area Women of Today.

**Fun Fact:** Susan loves books by Dean Koontz.



# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Home cooling makes up a large part of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you save.



# WHETHER TEMPERATURES RISE OR FALL, YOUR ENERGY BILL WILL STAY COOL.

Take advantage of hot promo rebates when you install a qualifying, energy-saving air source heat pump!



Air source heat pumps provide home cooling and supplemental heating, using **72% LESS ELECTRICITY** than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.

Air source heat pumps provide home cooling and supplemental heating, using 72% less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces. For a limited time, McLeod Cooperative Power is offering increased rebates to members that install a qualifying air source heat pump before June 30.

AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP	PROMO REBATE*
8.2 - 9.0 HSPF	\$1,000
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$2,000

\* Rebate Qualifications and Requirements: Equipment must be installed by contractor that is Quality Install certified by June 30, 2020. Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

But great rebates aren’t the only advantages to installing this efficient appliance, check out these great air source heat pump advantages:

**Heating and cooling from one unit.**  
ASHPs can switch between cooling and heating directly from the thermostat, putting you in complete control. These whisper-quiet pumps work their dual magic without an open flame. They don’t create any products of combustion such as carbon monoxide. No need to vent—or worry.

**Quality control.**  
Compared to conventional furnaces, the warmth provided by ASHPs distributes more evenly and holds its moisture better, resulting in a more natural, comfortable warmth. The pumps work in tandem with conventional furnaces and automatically select the most ideal balance between the two heating sources, based on your desired indoor temperature.

**Energy efficiency in any season.**  
When you need to cool your home, ASHPs outperform standard central air conditioners by extracting the existing heat from inside your home and pumping it outside. The cooling process is reversed when you use ASHPs to provide supplemental heat. By extracting the existing warmth from the outdoor air and pumping it into your home, you’ll be able to run your furnace less. In fact, during the spring and fall, you may not need to run your furnace at all.

**Learn more at:**  
[www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com)

USPS 2220  
PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE PAID  
HUTCHINSON, MN



1231 Ford Ave. N., PO Box 70  
Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

[WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM](http://WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM)

The McLeod Cooperative Power News (USPS 2220) is published monthly by McLeod Cooperative Power Association, 1231 Ford Ave. N, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070. Subscription rate: \$4.61 per year for members and \$8 per year for non-members. McLeod Cooperative Power is an equal opportunity employer.

Periodicals Postage Rate is at Hutchinson, MN. 55350 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: McLeod Coop Power News, PO Box 70, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

## KEEP COOL AND TUNE UP YOUR AIR CONDITIONER

McLeod Cooperative Power members are eligible for a \$25 rebate when an HVAC contractor performs a central air conditioning tune-up.

Clogged coils, low refrigerant levels, plugged drain lines and a host of minor problems can greatly affect the efficiency of your air conditioner, driving up power bills.

- A well tuned cooling system will:
- Lower utility bills by 5-25%.
  - Extend equipment life.
  - Provide peace of mind for your family.
  - Fewer repairs and improved system reliability.
  - Increase cooling capacity.

**Learn more at:**  
[www.mcleodcoop.com/i-want-to/rebates](http://www.mcleodcoop.com/i-want-to/rebates).



Getting an annual tune-up to your air conditioning system can help you find small problems before they become big ones and extend the life of your unit.

**OFFICE PHONE**  
(320) 864-3148  
(800) 494-6272

**24-HOUR OUTAGE PHONE**  
(800) 927-5685

**WEBSITE**  
[www.mcleodcoop.com](http://www.mcleodcoop.com)  
**EMAIL ADDRESS**  
[mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com](mailto:mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com)

**GENERAL MANAGER**  
Carrie L. Buckley  
**EDITOR**  
Dan Ehrke and Fuller Creative

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**District 1:**  
Oria Brinkmeier  
(320) 485-2554

**District 2:**  
Joe Griebie, Vice President  
(320) 779-1101

**District 3:**  
David Resch  
(952) 449-1793

**District 4:**  
Doug Kirtz, Secretary-Treasurer  
(320) 583-7673

**District 5:**  
Allan Duesterhoeft  
(320) 587-9134

**District 6:**  
Gary Burdorf  
(507) 964-5815

**District 7:**  
Randy Hlavka, GRE Representative  
(320) 583-0037

**District 8:**  
Keith Peterson, President  
(320) 583-0997

**District 9:**  
Susan Anderson,  
Asst. Secretary-Treasurer  
(952) 250-3109