

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER

NEWS

FEBRUARY 2022



RESTORING POWER: IT TAKES A TEAM

McLeod Co-op Power works diligently to maintain consistent power quality and reliability. However, with thousands of 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.

When members call to report an outage during business hours, the member location of the outage is entered into the computer system with special software that documents each outage and tracks the source of the problem. Likewise, members can report outages using their SmartHub account, which is tracked using the same outage system. The more reports the Co-op receives from members, the faster we can pin down whether the outage affects single properties or an extensive area. Those reports help determine the possible cause of the outage and that information can be relayed to the crews.



Debbie Ebert, Operations Specialist
I remember my first major outage. A major snowstorm came through our service territory and we worked well into the night. Everyone jumps into action when outages start rolling in. At the time of this particular outage, we still printed individual reports on a piece of paper and then sorted them by substation, feeder, and phase before assigning crews.



Ryan Schuette, Line Foreman
Back in February 2018, we had a circuit out at our Hector substation. By the time we got out there, we found out snowplows had been pulled off the roads. We had to find a road grader with a v plow to make a path for us to patrol the circuit. With the 40 mph winds, there were spots on the road that had snowdrifts 10 feet deep. It was a memorable night. We ended up spending the night sleeping in the bucket truck at the gas station because the highway was closed and impassible.

Finally, individual service lines are repaired. After power is restored, line workers report the time and cause of the outage, and all are recorded. Reoccurring outages in specific areas may be a sign of a more significant issue.

When members report power outages after-hours their call is routed to CRC, and the same process occurs. It is important that when members report an outage they know the phone number associated with the account, the account number, or the address of the service that is out of power. This allows McLeod Co-op employees to speed up the process of locating an outage.

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DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 12th this year and this year's election will include Districts 7, 8, and 9. The election process ensures that every member has a voice in the operation of this organization. Directors represent our members by responsibly overseeing the business of the co-op and determining its strategic direction.

Members in districts 7, 8, and 9; who meet the Bylaw qualifications and have an interest in serving as a director of McLeod Co-op Power should complete a director application at mcleodcoop.com/about/co-op-info by 4:30 p.m. on March 31, 2022. If you have additional questions, need more information, or would like to request an application by mail please call (800) 494-6272.

- DISTRICT 7:** Collinwood, Hale, Hutchinson
- DISTRICT 8:** Alfsborg, Bandon, Bismark, Collins, Grafton, Martinsburg, Moltke, Round Grove, Transit, Wellington

DISTRICT 9: Camden, Watertown, Young America

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
The co-op is also seeking volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for Districts 7, 8, and 9. Volunteers participate in the election process by reviewing candidate applications and submitting two applicants per district to the Board of Directors for approval. They also assist in collecting and counting ballots at the Annual Meeting on July 12, 2022. Committee meetings are tentatively scheduled for April 12 and May 3, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Members who serve on the Nominating Committee are paid a per diem for each meeting plus mileage. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please call the Co-op at (800) 494-6272 no later than February 28, 2022.

RESTORING POWER
CONTINUED

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WIN A TRIP TO
WASHINGTON, D.C.

04

SAVE THE DATE: 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

The McLeod Co-op Power Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 12, 2022. Watch for more details here in the newsletter as this important date approaches.

REMINDER: OPERATION ROUND UP APPLICATIONS DUE

Operation Round Up grant applications are once again available from McLeod Co-op Power's charitable donations program. The program collects donations from participating members by rounding up their electric bills to the nearest dollar and then distributing funds to worthy causes in our service territory that improve the quality of life for our community. The deadline to apply for funds is Tuesday, March 1, 2022.



CEO MESSAGE

In a blink of an eye, here we are in February 2022. When I was a kid back in the day, I remember time would seem to be slow as it passed. Summer break from school never arrived fast enough and that clock in the classroom would take two seconds to mark every second. Don't get me started on how long the night seemed between Christmas Eve and Christmas.

Today, time feels like it is going the other way with two seconds going by for every second. While time plays its games with all of us, some things seem to never change. Like the desire to save money. In almost every newsletter we try to share some tips. This month is more of the same with a focus on saving money.

As we all know, the only way for us to really save any money on our electric bill is by using less (at least for now, but more to come on that later this year). If we start to look at our household budgets, we might be surprised by the possibility of saving money in other places by using more electricity. One example would be electric vehicles (EVs). EVs can help avoid volatile gasoline prices, oil changes, and other maintenance that non-electric vehicles require. The Co-op does have one of Ford's Lightning (electric pickup trucks) on preorder. We're not sure if we will see our Lightning this year or next, but when we do get it here, we are going to have it available for our members to literally kick its tires and learn with us what it can do. We are also in the process of installing a publicly available charging station at our headquarter facility.

Another place that we can save money by using more electricity is heating. If you are heating your home with propane or wood, I suspect you would save money converting



CEO RON MEIER

to electric heat. When it is time to replace that propane furnace with electric heat, give us a call. New technologies such as cold climate air source heat pumps can provide a great deal of value not only in heating but also in cooling your home. There is plenty of information about this on our website, but I invite our members to give us a call if they want to talk to someone about it.

These savings and technology advances are not limited to inside the home. It seems everywhere we look; we are starting to replace gasoline engines with electric motors. Who would have guessed that there would be so many electric lawn motors, weed whips, and tools at the hardware stores? Those electric motors sure save money compared to small gasoline engines. Also, they save time.

Time keeps ticking on, faster and faster for me and anything I can do to save time and money helps me appreciate the other things in my life. Next time you are looking at having to replace something in your world that has an option to be electric versus some other energy source, take some time to give it some serious thought to whether an electric option will work for you.

Cooperatively,

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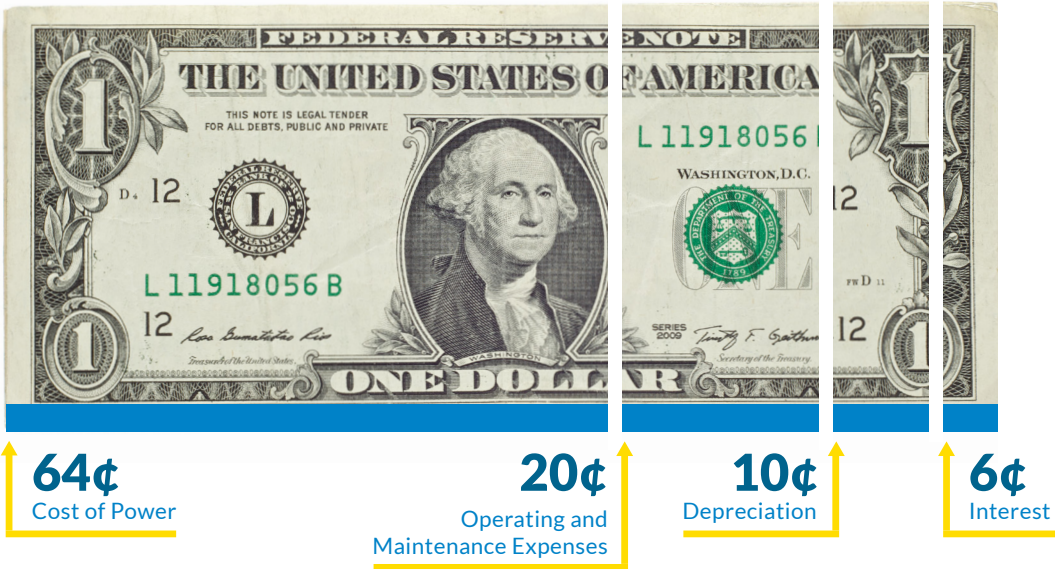
JANUARY 2022 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on January 25, 2022, at McLeod Co-op headquarters. All nine board members, the attorney, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.

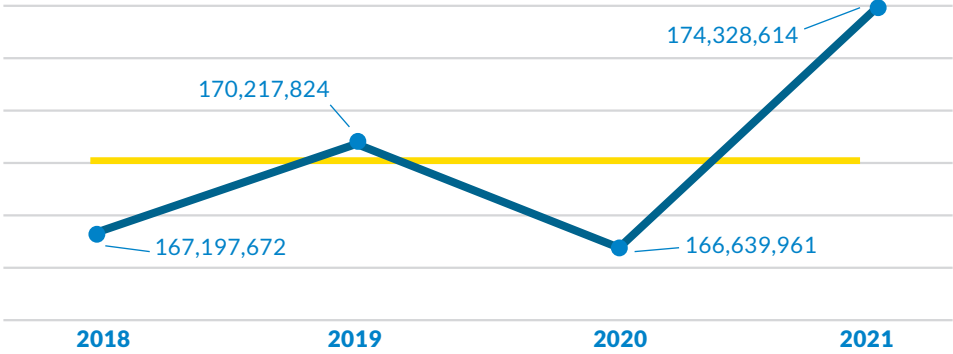
Highlights of the meeting included:

- The outage report for December 2021 was reviewed with a total of 48 outages, affecting 381 consumers.
- Operations Manager Emerson Brady reported that the Burnham tree crew is currently working in map 60 (Lynn Township).
- A motion was carried to approve Resolution 2022-01-01 Land Purchase for Bell Substation Rebuild Project pending final negotiations with the landowner.
- A motion was carried to approve Policy 3-1 Schedule of Charges with an effective date of April 1, 2022. The Annual Cogeneration Report, which included Schedules 1-4 and tariff sheet, was reviewed, and accepted.
- Finance Manager Steph Jakel presented the preliminary December 2021 Operating Statement and Balance Sheet for review.
- A motion was carried to approve changes to Policy 5-8 Vacation.
- A motion was carried to approve Resolution 2022-01-02 Special Member Vote related to Coal Creek Station and HVDC Sale.
- A motion carried to approve Director Hlavka as the Representative at the GRE Special Meeting on February 9, 2022.

HOW WAS THE MEMBER DOLLAR SPENT?



KWHs SOLD



SAFETY MOMENT

While they keep you warm, space heaters don't come without risks. Stay safe by keeping your heater on a flat surface, plugged directly into a wall outlet, and at a safe distance (at least 3 feet) from flammable items.



NOTICE TO COGENERATORS

In compliance with McLeod Cooperative Power Association’s adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, McLeod Cooperative Power Association is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers, who satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility.

McLeod Cooperative Power Association is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Details on rates and applications can be found online (www.mcleodcoop.com/services/renewable-energy/) using the Co-op’s Nova Power Portal.

Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases is subject to resolution by the McLeod Cooperative Power Association Board. Interested members should contact McLeod Co-op Power, 3515 11th St. East, Glencoe, MN 55336, or call (800) 494-6272.



RESTORING POWER: CONTINUED

Sometimes we will plan outages in advance to complete line maintenance, repair faults, and make upgrades, among other reasons. If the outage is planned far enough in advance, we notify those who will be impacted.

There is no way to know how long an outage will take to restore, so please remember that McLeod Co-op will do everything it can to get your power restored as fast as possible in the event of an outage.



Brad Hundt, Lineman
Back in the spring of 2020, Nate Kelzer and I had responded to an outage that involved a single-phase line where a car went off the road and struck two electrical poles. What made this incident unique was that we needed to use a kayak to access a pole for back feeding the line while we worked to restore power. Luckily, we found someone near Lake Allie that had a kayak that we could borrow.

Some outages are very short, but when severe weather leaves widespread damage, outages can last longer. In the event of a prolonged outage, oftentimes we’ll call on neighboring co-ops for support. This is called mutual aid.

Co-ops that have additional crews available send help to restore power for our members faster.

Craig Marti, Line Foreman
In October of 2013, four of us went to South Dakota to help during a winter storm. We were there for 13 days rebuilding lines with the help of other coops from different states and the national guard. It was a humbling experience as people that were out of power for weeks were thanking us wherever we went.

It takes a team to restore power to members, and the members are also part of that team!

REPORT YOUR OUTAGE
Call us at (800) 927-5685. If you have created a SmartHub account, you can report an outage online or via your mobile device by following the App’s “Report an Outage” link.

Terry Underdahl, Line Foreman
About ten years ago a large windstorm came through on the weekend of July 4th. There was an incredible amount of damage, there were even grain bins blown into the middle of fields. We worked day and night for four or five days to repair broken and leaning poles, and restore power to the many members that lost power.

We always appreciate your patience while crews work diligently and safely during power outages. Once we know about your outage, crews will be dispatched immediately, so your power can be restored as quickly as possible.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

About 30% of a home’s heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.



NOTICE OF FEE CHANGES

An updated Schedule of Charges was approved by the McLeod Co-op Power Board of Directors at its January meeting. The increased fees will be effective April 1, 2021.

DESCRIPTION	NEW RATES
Lineman Service Calls (Per Trip Charge)	
7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.	\$325
3:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. (Monday - Saturday)	\$490
Sundays and Holidays	\$650
Electrician Service Calls (Per Trip Charge)	
7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	1st Hour/Add'l Hours
Outside of regular business hours (Mon. - Sat.)	\$125/\$90
Sundays and Holidays	\$190/\$135
	\$250/\$180
ESTIMATES FOR PURPOSES OF DEPOSITS	
Single Phase and Secondaries:	Working Hours/Overtime
Fixed Charge	\$270/\$330
Plus a Per-Crossing Charge	\$270/\$330
Multi-Phase:	
Fixed Charge	\$530/\$660
Plus a Per-Crossing Charge	\$530/\$660
Labor Line Work:	
Regular Time Rate per Man-Hour	\$100
Overtime Rate per Man-Hour	\$150
Double-Time Rate per Man-Hour	\$195
Electrician Time per Man-Hour	\$90
MISCELLANEOUS RECEIVABLE	
Interest Charged on Outstanding Balance Owed:	
1.5% of outstanding balance with a minimum fee of \$1 (does not apply to balances of \$10 or less)	

WIN A TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.

If you are a High School Junior or Senior and your parents live in McLeod Cooperative Power Association's service area (McLeod, Sibley, Renville, and Carver Counties) you could win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C.



What is the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour?

Each year, rural electric cooperatives across the nation sponsor roughly 1,900 students on the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The Youth Tour program continues to foster the grassroots spirit of the rural electric cooperatives by demonstrating to high school juniors and seniors how our government works and what the electric cooperative business model is all about.

Nearly 50,000 students from rural areas and small towns across America have participated in this program. The Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington DC for a week in June nearly every year since the late 1950s. Students gain a personal understanding of American history and their role as a citizen by meeting their Representatives and Senators. In a time when energy is at the forefront of our nation's issues, this is a great opportunity to be an electric cooperative advocate!

Who is eligible?

In 2022, McLeod Co-op Power will sponsor an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. to one qualifying candidate. The contest is open to any current high school



2022 YOUTH TOUR

JUNE 14-19

APPLY NOW FOR
YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

junior or senior whose family is a member of our cooperative.

The selected student will visit with congressional representatives, tour some of the most famous museums and monuments in the world, and make memories and friends that will last a lifetime.

How do I apply?

If you want to be part of this fun (free!) week in Washington, D.C., please complete the application available online and submit a letter of recommendation from a teacher, coach, or youth organization leader.

What is the application deadline?

The application deadline is March 1, 2022.

Where can I learn more?

Learn more or download an application at www.mcleodcoop.com/about/youth-programs/.

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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 Co-op 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 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 Co-op 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.



3515 11th St. East
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WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM

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McLeod Cooperative Power is an equal opportunity employer and provider.