

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER

NEWS

AUGUST 2023



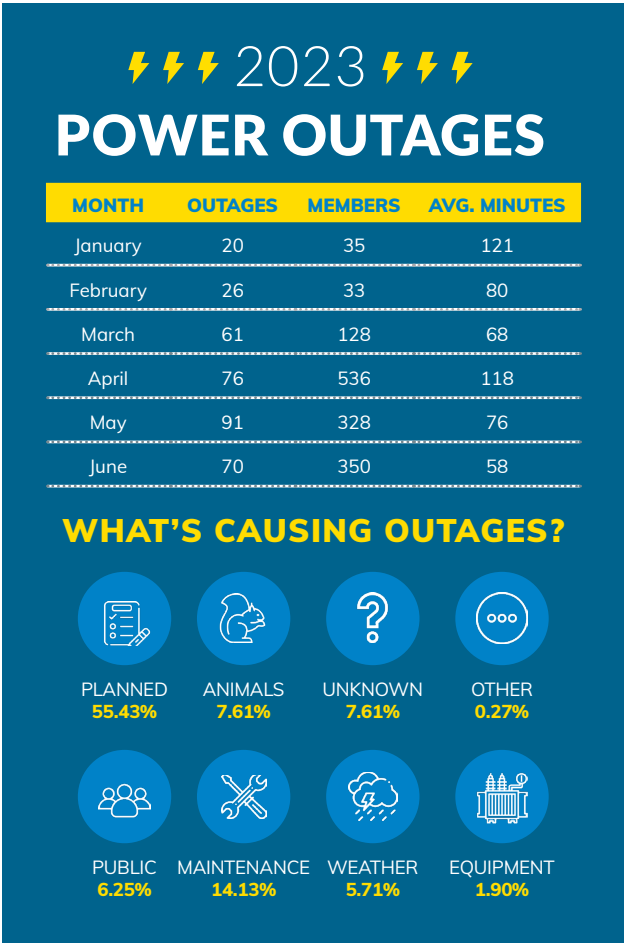
In an interconnected world, electricity has become an undeniable necessity, emphasizing the critical role of McLeod Co-op Power in maintaining a steady power supply. While our track record of reliability speaks volumes, unforeseen events can still pose challenges, causing occasional outages even for top-performing utilities. As we reflect on the first half of 2023, we want to report on the outages for the first six months of 2023 as we continue to work daily taking proactive measures with the goal of enhancing electric reliability for our valued members.

Early in the year, we encountered some late winter storms in March and April that caused temporary disruptions, but since then, weather related outages have not been a significant factor. Instead, we have seen planned outages and maintenance activities taking the forefront as the primary contributors to power interruptions.

Scheduled outages are essential for improving our electric service's long-term reliability and efficiency. These planned outages also enhance our electric system's capacity to support future growth and reduce unplanned power interruptions. To minimize disruptions, affected members are notified in advance whenever possible.

Moreover, we've proactively addressed animal-related outages by installing animal guards on our power lines during restoration, minimizing future incidents. Additionally, annual vegetation management activities are a key priority. By trimming trees near our power lines and distribution system, we significantly reduce the risk of outages caused by fallen branches and trees during storms.

To empower our members during outages of various natures, we believe in promoting preparedness. It's important to recognize that power interruptions are not solely the result of severe weather. We encourage our members to



stay informed and take precautions to deal with any outage situation.

McLeod Co-op Power is dedicated to providing reliable electric service to our community. By addressing the causes of outages head-on, such as scheduled maintenance, animal contacts, and vegetation management, we are committed to improving electric reliability for you and your neighbors. Our ongoing efforts aim to ensure that any outages, whether planned or unexpected, are resolved promptly and safely, with your understanding and patience greatly appreciated.

REGIONAL ELECTRICAL GRID 03

MN TWINS CLINIC RECAP 04

OFFICE CLOSED

The McLeod Co-op Power office will be closed on Monday, September 4, 2023 in observance of Labor Day. Please call (800) 927-5685 in the event of an outage or emergency.

TREE TRIMMING UPDATE

The co-op's vegetation management program is beginning work in our northeast territory, which includes the townships of Watertown, Franklin, Woodland, and Hollywood. This initiative aims to ensure reliable power supply by maintaining a 15 ft right of way on both sides of the power lines, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding against potential vegetation-related disruptions to the electrical infrastructure. Members are reminded of the co-op's ongoing commitment to providing safe and uninterrupted electricity service for the community's benefit.

WEATHERING THE STORM

.....

TIPS FOR NAVIGATING POWER OUTAGES

At McLeod Co-op Power, we understand the inconvenience power outages can bring. While our dedicated team works tirelessly to restore electricity during challenging times, it's essential for you to be prepared. Here are some valuable tips to help you weather the storm:

CREATE AN EMERGENCY KIT: Assemble a kit with flashlights, batteries, candles, non-perishable food, and bottled water. Keep it easily accessible.

CHARGE DEVICES IN ADVANCE: Charge your phones, laptops, and other essential devices beforehand to stay connected during an outage.

UNPLUG APPLIANCES: Prevent damage from power surges by unplugging sensitive electronics and appliances.

STAY INFORMED: Keep an eye on weather forecasts and follow updates from McLeod Co-op for outage-related information.

USE GENERATORS SAFELY: If you have a generator, use it outdoors and follow safety guidelines meticulously.

STAY CLEAR OF DOWNED LINES: Always assume downed power lines are live and dangerous. Keep a safe distance and report them immediately.

PROTECT REFRIGERATED FOOD: Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to preserve perishables for longer.

CHECK ON NEIGHBORS: Extend a helping hand to vulnerable neighbors, especially the elderly and those with medical needs.

Remember, preparedness is key. Together, we can overcome any outage and emerge stronger. For additional information, visit our website or contact our customer service. Thank you for your continued support.

Stay safe and powered up!



CEO MESSAGE

Last month marked my fifth Annual Meeting in four years, a bit puzzling, right? Let's delve into that later.

This year's event took place at Crow River Winery, and the transition to a new location was smooth, thanks to the excellent staff and facilities there. The winery is a member of our co-op, so it was great to get a firsthand look at their operations.

As the meeting began, we were pleased to see our members eagerly anticipating the Cooperative's performance in 2022 and, of course, the upcoming lunch. Fortunately, 2022 was a successful year for us, with no general rate increase. We achieved our financial goals while continuing to invest in our grid, keeping it reliable. However, we did face some larger outages in 2022. These were caused by issues due to traffic accidents, severe weather, and trees that damaged our lines.

Speaking of trees, we hired a new tree trimming contractor, Tree Story, after our previous one closed shop. They're working on our area's trees from both sides of the service territory, progressing toward the middle. If you spot a tree that could pose a risk to our lines, please reach out to us.

The Q&A session during the meeting is always one of my favorite aspects of the meeting. We received more questions than expected, covering topics like equipment placement, term limits, installing solar behind the meter, and our electricity generation sources (a mix of everything).



CEO RON MEIER

Most inquiries revolved around ensuring a reliable power grid while moving away from carbon-emitting generation. We're doing everything possible in engineering, financing, and policy advocacy, but it's crucial to plan for times when the lights may go out. This could involve standby generators, battery systems, or knowing where to find warmth during winter outages.

In summary, it was a positive meeting reflecting on a successful year. Now, back to the riddle of 5 in 4 meetings: In my first year at the cooperative (2020, the COVID year), we didn't achieve a quorum during the initial meeting. Thus, we scheduled a second meeting later that year, which became the second one that year.

Cooperatively

R1 PL



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
www.facebook.com/McLeodCoop/

JULY 2023
BOARD MEETING
HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on July 25, 2023, at McLeod Co-op headquarters. Nine board members, the attorney, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The outage report for the month of June was provided with a total of 70 outages, affecting 363 consumers.
- A motion was carried to approve Resolution 2023-07-01 Apex Clean Energy- Big Bend Wind Energy Purchase.
- A motion was carried to approve Resolution 2023-07-02 Adoption of Contract for Legal Services.
- A motion was carried to approve Resolution 2023-07-03 Audit and Tax Services.
- Manager of Finance Steph Jakel reviewed the June Financials.
- A motion was carried to approve Policy 2-1 Responsibilities of Board of Directors.
- A motion was carried to approve Policy 2-2 Committees of the Board.
- A motion was carried to approve Policy 2-5 Delegation of Authority between the Board and CEO.



BILL PAYMENT
MADE EASY

Pay it your way with SmartHub's convenient payment options. Through SmartHub, you'll be notified when your bill is due and you can pay securely in the mobile app or on the Web. Save time and avoid late fees by signing up for automatic payments. Set up your preferred payment method and take care of your bills quickly and easily.



LEARN MORE AT
www.mcleodcoop.com



ELECTION RESULTS

We extend our gratitude to all the members who participated in this year's election and cast their votes for the Co-op's Board of Directors. Following the announcement at the Annual Meeting, we are pleased to introduce the candidates elected by the membership to represent their districts over the next three years: Kirk Newman for District 1, Joe Griebie for District 2, and Dave Resch for District 3.

We also wish to express our appreciation to the other candidates, Joe Radtke, Marc Telecky, and Peter Gunness, for their active involvement in this year's election and for their interest in serving the Co-op. Your dedication and commitment to our community are highly valued.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS

At McLeod Co-op Power, we understand that unexpected expenses or circumstances may come your way from time to time. If you are experiencing financial hardship, call our Billing Department during business hours so we can work with you to set up an acceptable payment plan.

In addition, the Minnesota Department of Commerce has energy assistance programs and resources available for members struggling to pay their utility bills. Contact the following agencies or visit mn.gov/home.

KANDIYOHI, MCLEOD & MEEKER COUNTIES

United Community Action Partnership
(800) 992-1710
Willmar: (320) 235-0850
Hutchinson: (320)587-5244

MCLEOD COUNTY AREA

McLeod County Social Service Center
(320) 864-3144 | (800)247-1756
Hutchinson: (320) 484-4330

RENVILLE COUNTY AREA

United Community Action Partnership
(320) 523-1842

SIBLEY COUNTY AREA

Sibley County Public Health & Human Services
(507) 237-4000 | (866) 396-9963

MN VALLEY ACTION COUNCIL

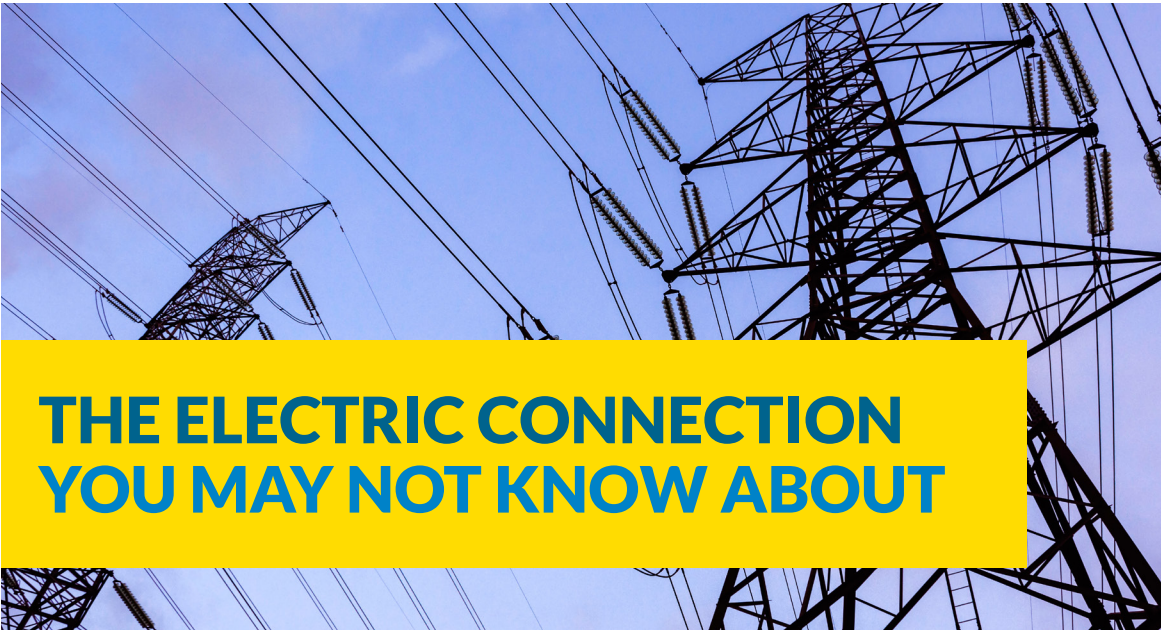
(800) 767-7139 Gaylord: (507) 237-2981
Mankato: (507) 345-6822

CARVER COUNTY AREA

Scott-Carver-Dakota
Community Action Agency
(952)-496-2125

WRIGHT COUNTY AREA

Wright County Community Action
(320) 963-6500



Each day we live with electricity at our fingertips, rarely thinking about the complex system that brings it to our homes, farms and businesses. The electric grid is all around us, made up of power plants, wind turbines, power lines, substations and communications technology owned and operated by different utilities that all have one common goal: to keep electricity reliable and affordable.

While most cooperative members know McLeod Co-op Power receives wholesale power from a generation and transmission cooperative called Great River Energy, there is another organization, equally important but lesser known: the region’s grid operator.

Our wholesale power provider, Great River Energy, is a voluntary member of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), which operates the power grid across 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. MISO helps the region’s electric providers deliver reliable, affordable energy in three ways:

IT ACTS AS ‘AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS’

Forty-two million people depend on MISO every day. Think of MISO as the air traffic controller to the region’s electric grid. Using sophisticated technology, processes and procedures, MISO maintains a broad view and control of the grid that goes beyond any one utility. This helps utilities maintain reliability on a regional level and prevent emergency operating situations.

IT MANAGES THE ENERGY MARKET

In past decades, electric cooperatives would generate power and deliver it via power lines to their members. Coordinating the power flows and transactions at that time was a manual process requiring many agreements between utilities. Today, all electricity generation is offered into the MISO market and cooperatives buy back what they need to serve their member-consumers. The MISO energy market helps keep electricity affordable by ensuring the lowest cost generation available is used first to supply member-consumers and minimize flow constraints across the grid. MISO also provides improved price transparency with energy market price changes occurring every five minutes.

IT PLANS TRANSMISSION

Maintaining a reliable high-voltage transmission system requires ongoing planning efforts. Utilities conduct their own transmission planning and they collaborate with MISO, which plans the transmission system that serves the entire region. MISO ensures the system is prepared to meet future needs from a regional perspective. It works with the region’s electric utilities to minimize the cost of transmission, generation and the energy on the system. Using advanced modeling and research, MISO helps ensure reliable and efficient electricity transmission in the region and beyond.

Great River Energy works closely with MISO to make sure when it designs a plan for the region’s electric system, it will serve cooperative members well in terms of both reliability and affordability.


Visit misoenergy.org to learn more about MISO.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler? To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Put the power in your hands.



CONTROL YOUR LIGHTS, LOCKS, GARAGE DOOR, AND MORE ALL FROM ONE APP.

As part of a monitored security system, interactive services let you remotely adjust and monitor your system from your phone. Watch live or recorded video, disarm your system, and more.



SECURITY AUTOMATION VIDEO MEDICAL ALERTS
888.264.6380 heartlandss.com

HOME RUN SUCCESS: LOCAL YOUTH BASEBALL CLINIC

120+ local youth joined the PlayBall! MN Youth Baseball Clinic hosted by McLeod Co-op Power and the Arlington Baseball Association. Discover how this community-driven initiative made a lasting impact on young athletes.



More than 120 local youth took part in a fantastic Youth Baseball Clinic at Arlington Baseball Park, organized jointly by McLeod Co-op Power and the Arlington Baseball Association. The event, held on July 8, aimed to cultivate young talent and promote the love for baseball among children of all ages and skill levels.

Baseball and softball have always held a special place in American sports, embodying values like teamwork, sportsmanship, and joy. Minnesota has a rich baseball tradition, with numerous programs dedicated to nurturing young players and instilling in them the skills and values of the game.

The Minnesota Twins Community Fund originally partnered with local youth baseball and softball organizations to establish Play Ball! Minnesota in 2004. The program is founded on seven basic principles:

1. To improve participation in youth baseball and softball leagues.
2. To improve fields and instruction.
3. To increase communication and collaboration among organizations.
4. To increase youth baseball and softball volunteerism.

5. To create greater understanding of youth baseball and softball.
6. To improve sportsmanship among players, coaches and spectators.
7. To respect the tradition and history of baseball and softball in the state.

The Youth Baseball Clinic at Arlington Baseball Park exemplified these principles, offering a fun and educational experience for the young participants. The event was made possible in part by the sponsorship of Great River Energy, McLeod Co-op Power's wholesale power provider.

Children from neighboring communities came together to embrace the sport, receiving expert coaching and guidance from experienced volunteers. The clinic emphasized essential baseball skills such as batting, fielding, and pitching, while also teaching important life lessons like teamwork and discipline.

McLeod Co-op Power is proud to be part of this great program that showcases the power of sports in bringing communities together and fostering the growth of young talent.

USPS 2220
PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
HUTCHINSON, MN



RETURNING
MONEY BACK
TO YOU

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

Capital Credits are just one of many differences that set cooperatives apart from other utility business models. You see every member holds the status of a part-owner, entitling them to share in the Co-op's financial returns. McLeod Co-op Power allocates 100 percent of its margins (revenue minus expenses) to its members who have purchased electricity during the year. These margins are then set

aside to be retired (or paid back) at a future date when the Cooperative's financial position permits. These funds serve as operating capital, not only helping the Co-op in paying off debts and maintaining an appropriate equity-to-assets balance but also to support the ongoing maintenance and expansion of our distribution network.

As part of our commitment to transparency and member benefits, each year, any unclaimed or unretrieved Capital Credits are returned to the Cooperative. We are seeking your assistance in locating the rightful recipients of these unclaimed Capital Credits. **To facilitate this process, we have established a user-friendly searchable database online at <https://www.mcleodcoop.com/about/capital-credits/>. If you possess any information that could help identify these members, we would greatly appreciate your cooperation.** Please feel free to contact our office at (800) 494-6272 if you have any relevant information to share.



3515 11th St. East
Glencoe, MN 55336

WWW.MCLEODCOOP.COM

The McLeod Cooperative Power News (USPS 2220) is published monthly by McLeod Cooperative Power Association, 3515 11th St. East, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070. Subscription rate: \$6.10 per year for members and \$12.20 per year for non-members.

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: McLeod Coop Power News, 3515 11th Street E, Glencoe, MN 55336-0070

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

24-HOUR OUTAGE PHONE
(800) 927-5685

WEBSITE
www.mcleodcoop.com

EMAIL ADDRESS
mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Ronald Meier

EDITOR
Dan Ehrke and Fuller Creative

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
District 1:
Kirk Newman
(952) 955-3319

District 2:
Joe Griebie
(320) 779-1101

District 3:
David Resch, Vice President
(952) 449-1793

District 4:
Doug Kirtz, President
(320) 583-7673

District 5:
Allan Duesterhoeft
(320) 587-9134

District 6:
Gary Burdorf, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer
(507) 964-5815

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

District 8:
Keith Peterson
(320) 583-0997

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

McLeod Cooperative Power
is an equal opportunity employer
and provider.