

# MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

JUNE 2025



## MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD AT THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

**As a member-owner of McLeod Co-op Power, you're more than just a customer—you're an owner of your Cooperative. Your voice helps shape the direction of our organization through participation in the Annual Meeting and the election of Directors. Stay informed, stay involved, and make your voice count.**

Join us on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at Crow River Winery. The day will begin with registration at 9:00 a.m., followed by the official start of the meeting at 10:00 a.m. To reserve your spot, please RSVP by calling (320) 864-3148 or toll-free at (800) 494-6272. You may also email us at [mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com](mailto:mcpainfo@mcleodcoop.com).

All registered members attending the meeting will receive a household scissors gift as a token of our appreciation. Guests will also have the chance to win a variety of door prizes, including a battery-operated leaf blower, a weed whip, and two free Twins tickets courtesy of 1310

KGLB Radio, along with several other great items. Please note that you must be present to win and that prizes are subject to change without notice.

Following the meeting, enjoy a buffet lunch prepared by Chef Craig and take the opportunity to connect with fellow members in a relaxed and friendly setting. Members residing in Districts 2, 7, 8, and 9 will vote for their district director during this year's meeting, and candidate profiles are included in the latest member newsletter.

Ballots submitted by mail must be received by Monday, July 14. If you prefer, you may also bring your completed ballot to the Annual Meeting. Election results will be announced during the event.

At McLeod Co-op Power, we value your participation and commitment to our cooperative community. Join us on July 15 to stay connected, informed, and empowered.

### OFFICES CLOSED

McLeod Co-op Power will be closed on Friday, July 4, 2025 in observance of Independence Day. In the event of an outage or emergency, please call (800) 927-5685.

### ATTENTION LOAD MANAGEMENT PARTICIPANTS:

McLeod Co-op Power is continuing with its multi-year initiative of replacing the radio receivers that are utilized as part of load control events. Existing receivers are being replaced with models that integrate with our new load control system. These receivers are being replaced at no cost to participating Load Management members. We have contracted with several electricians to assist our electricians in meeting the replacement deadline. These contractors will have a MPCA logo decal on their vehicles when working for our cooperative and their work can be completed outside of any home or buildings by accessing the existing exterior radio receivers. Members will be notified with an automated call prior to the subcontractors working in any given township. We appreciate everyone's assistance as we move ahead with the replacement process. If you have any questions, please contact the us at (800) 494-6272.

2025 DIRECTOR  
CANDIDATE PROFILES

04

SUMMER ENERGY  
SAVING TIPS

07



# ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

## TO THE MEMBERS OF MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER GLENCOE, MN

You are hereby notified that the Regular Annual Meeting of the Members of McLeod Cooperative Power Association will be held at the Crow River Winery at 14848 MN State Hwy. 7 East, Hutchinson, County of McLeod, State of Minnesota, on July 15, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to act upon the following matters:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of directors of this association for director districts numbers 2, 7, 8, and 9. The polls for the election of directors will be opened at the meeting place at 9:00 a.m. and will be closed at 10:00 a.m. on the date of the meeting, for voting by members who have not returned their ballots by mail.
3. To transact any other business which may properly come before said annual meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Dated at Glencoe, Minnesota this 25th day of March 2025.

**Susan Anderson, Secretary**

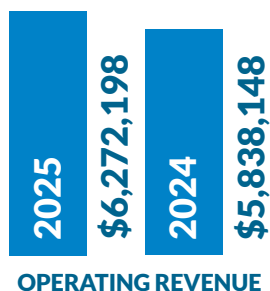


## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

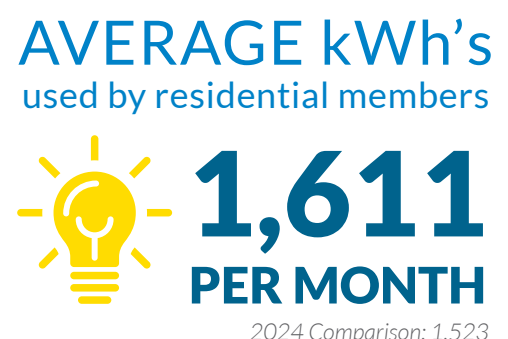
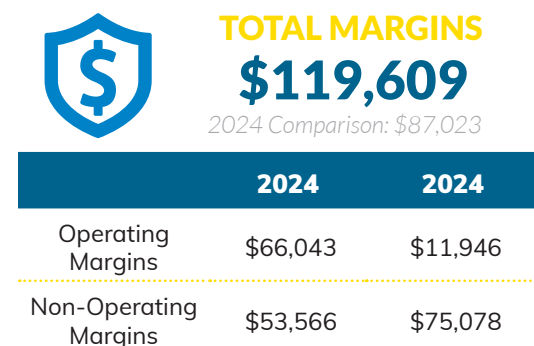
Left to right: Marlin Kohls (District 9), Dean Loehrs (District 9), David Aul (District 2), Dave Sanken (District 2), Randy Kirchhoff (District 2), Doug Hanneman (District 7), Luanne Kucera (District 7), Bruce Svanda (District 7), John Lipke (District 8), and Judy Hahn (District 8).

## BY THE NUMBERS | Q1 2025

McLeod Co-op Power's leadership spends substantial time managing and providing oversight of the Co-op's operations, including ensuring that the organization remains in a strong and stable financial condition. Below is an overview of our First Quarter Unaudited Financial Report.



	2025	2024
Cost of Purchased Power	\$3,930,920	\$3,405,368
Other Operating Expenses	\$2,275,235	\$2,420,835
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$6,206,155	\$5,826,203



## MANAGER'S MESSAGE

### UNDERSTANDING ELECTRICAL DEMAND – ONE COMMUTE AT A TIME

When I started working in the electric cooperative world back in 2014, I'll be honest — understanding electrical “demand” was confusing. In fact, it took me until just last year to really wrap my mind around it. Thankfully, I had the help of our CEO, who explained it in a way that made sense — by comparing it to something we all know: traffic.

Think about driving on I-494 in the Twin Cities during rush hour. That road was built to handle lots of cars moving at once, especially during the busiest times of the day. Keep that image in mind while we talk about electricity demand.

Our electrical system is kind of like a highway. Just like a highway moves cars from one point to another, the electrical grid moves electrons (electricity) from the generating source to your home. Every time you turn on a light, use your microwave, or run the air conditioner, you're sending “cars” down that electrical highway. Now imagine it's over 100 degrees outside. You come home and, like everyone else, you turn on the AC, do laundry, cook dinner, and run the dishwasher — all at once. That's like rush hour for electricity. That's our electrical rush hour, typically between 5 PM and 8 PM.

Yes, the system is built to handle it, but just like roads wear out and traffic backs up, the power system also gets strained. It takes extra energy and effort (and cost) to keep up during these high-use times and to maintain reliability.



**STEPH JAKEL**

Here's where it gets important: Great River Energy, our wholesale power provider, tracks when that “rush hour” happens each month — again, which is usually one hour between 5 PM and 8 PM. We're charged extra for that highest peak demand time, our version of rush hour, because it's when the system is under the most pressure. And guess what? That one hour can account for roughly 25–30% of MCPA's \$1 million monthly wholesale power bill.

Here's another way to look at it: out of every dollar you pay McLeod Cooperative Power, about 61 cents goes directly to paying Great River Energy. The more power we use during peak hours, the more we're charged. It's kind of like paying a higher toll for driving during rush hour.

But here's the good news: we can influence our power bill by shifting our collective energy use away from peak times. That's why understanding demand is the first step. Small changes—like running appliances earlier in the day or later at night—can help reduce the cooperative's peak demand and lower costs for everyone. It's all about driving smarter on the electrical highway.

### Cooperatively

  
Steph Jakel  
Finance Manager

## MAY 2025 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on May 27, 2025, at McLeod Coop headquarters. Nine board members, CEO Ron Meier, the Co-op's attorney, and department managers participated in the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The April 2025 Outage Report was reviewed with a total of 45 outages, affecting 1,130 consumers.
- Operations Manager Brady reported TreeStory started tree trimming work in early May.
- A motion carried approving the 2025 Slate of Candidates for Districts 2, 7, 8, & 9.
- Manager of Finance Jakel reviewed the April financials.
- Luke Greden from CliftonLarsonAllen led a discussion on the 2024 financial audit.
- A motion carried approving Director Dave Resch, Jeff Kosek, Randy Hlavka, Allan Duesterhoeft, Susan Anderson, Gary Burdorf, and a placeholder for District 8 to attend MREA's District 5 Meeting on July 16, 2025.
- A motion carried approving Director Dave Resch, Jeff Kosek, Randy Hlavka, Susan Anderson, Kirk Newman, Gary Burdorf, and a placeholder for District 8 to MREA's Energy Issues Summit on August 7-8, 2025.
- A motion carried approving Resolution 2025-05-01 supporting Great River Energy's Nextera- Emmons – Logan Battery Storage Project.

# 2025 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

## DISTRICT 2

*Hassan Valley, Rich Valley, and Sumter Townships in McLeod County.*



**Jeff Kosek, Incumbent**

In 2024, the McLeod Co-op Power Board of Directors appointed Jeff Kosek to fill the vacant District 2 board seat following the resignation of Joe Griebie. A long-time resident of Sumter Township near Brownton, Mr. Kosek has been a member of McLeod Co-op Power for over 40 years. With a background in farming, his experience includes serving on the Northharvest Dry Bean Growers board, the American Fertilizer Research and Educational Committee, and as the Sumter Township Supervisor and Chairman. He has also held leadership roles with the Brownton Co-op, the FSA County Board, and the McLeod County Corn Growers Association. Jeff believes that representing all members is important as a board member. His priority on the board is delivering affordable rates and maintaining excellent service. As a board member, he wants to keep the Cooperative successful by considering new ideas to accomplish these priorities.



**Marc Telecky**

Marc is married to his wife Jennifer and has two children, Brooks (25) and Paige (22). Marc graduated from Bemidji State University with a B.S. in Geography and St. Mary's Minnesota - Minneapolis with an M.A in Human Resource Management. Marc and his wife reside in Hassan Valley Township on his great-grandparents farm, which they purchased and restored in 2006. He is employed with McLeod County as the Environmental Services Director and has been serving county residents since 2000. Marc is a member of Peace Lutheran Church in Hutchinson and serves the church on the Board of Elders. He has coached youth and high school hockey for 29 years and youth baseball for 8 years. Marc stated that he submitted his nomination for the Board of Directors as another way to serve the area with his work serving state agency committees working on energy projects and legislation. He has served on the Minnesota Association of Planning and Zoning Administrators (AMC) legislative committee since 2002 shaping legislation relating to land use in Minnesota. Marc wants to thank members for taking the time to learn a little about his background.

## DISTRICT 7

*Collinwood Township in Meeker County, and Hale and Hutchinson Townships in McLeod County.*



**Randy Hlavka, Incumbent**

Randy had a 39-year career as an electrician, serving as a Master Electrician for Hutchinson Technology and installing computerized energy controls for UHL company at various commercial and industrial firms in the state. He raised his family in Hutchinson Township and currently resides with his wife Jenny in Hale township enjoying grandkids, gardening, animals, and the open space. Randy has served on the MCPA Board of Directors for the past 9 years. For the past 8 years he has served as the GRE representative for the Cooperative. His past community involvement has included serving as a church elder for First Presbyterian Church, Legion Commander, sportsman member, and member of the Disabled American Veterans organization. Randy believes some important issues for the Cooperative include evaluating time of demand rates and other rate design options to provide member rates that fit their service needs, while meeting the financial obligations of the Cooperative. Long-term goals include renewable energy sources, distributed energy, electric vehicles, and electric storage. He'd also like to see the Cooperative continue to focus on steady rates as well as listening to members to meet their needs.



**Rob Bell**

Rob has 31 years of experience in Information Technology consulting, working and partnering with the largest corporations in America. He is currently an information security specialist and technology leader with a Fortune 10 company, interacting with employees across all levels of experience and leadership to influence change. He previously served terms on Rogers Planning Commission and Rogers City Council. In that capacity, he worked with residents, businesses, and all levels of government to ensure constituents were heard and city operations remained viable. His tenure occurred while Rogers and Hassan Township merged which required blending the sometimes conflicting needs of city and rural residents towards a mutually beneficial outcome. The city council role involved making complex and challenging decisions that affected the community, personnel and city budget. Rob served multiple positions on the board of directors for Northwest Trails, a snowmobile club association in Hennepin County, during a time when continual development growth challenged the existence of local trails. Board responsibilities included management, preservation and expansion of trails as well as budgeting and operations. Rob feels that these extensive community and corporate experiences position him well to contribute to the growth and success of McLeod Co-op Power and its members.

# (CANDIDATES SELECTED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE)

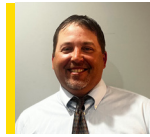
## DISTRICT 8

*Alfsborg, Bismark, Grafton, Moltke, and Transit Townships in Sibley County, Bandon, Martinsburg, and Wellington Townships in Renville County, and Collins and Round Grove Townships in McLeod County.*



**Jonathan Burgstahler**

Jonathan Burgstahler of Stewart is seeking election to the MCPA board of directors. A self-employed farmer, Jonathan brings hands-on leadership and management experience from his family's agricultural operation. Graduating from Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart High School, he also holds a degree in Agricultural Business from Ridgewater College. As a father of three young children, Jonathan is an active community member, which includes serving as a Sunday school volunteer. If elected, Jonathan is committed to ensuring that McLeod Cooperative Power continues to provide reliable electric service. Looking ahead, he supports thoughtful investment in renewable energy sources and emerging technologies, especially those that offer long-term value and a strong return on investment for the cooperative. He also believes the Co-op should continue educating its members about what is required to keep electricity flowing to homes, farms, and businesses. Jonathan is eager to serve and contribute to the Co-op's mission while representing the voices and values of Co-op members.



**Nathan Mueller**

Nathan and his family live on a 4-acre hobby farm just South of Stewart in Round Grove Township. He has two wonderful children. His oldest child is completing her sophomore year at Mankato State, majoring in Nursing, and his son is finishing 8th grade at Buffalo Lake Hector Stewart School. He has been actively involved in the community, including coaching baseball and football for BLHS from 5th grade through Varsity. His career includes being in the electrical field for over 22 years. He is a Class A Journeyman Electrician licensed by the State of Minnesota. Nathan is a college graduate, and for the past 10 years, he has been employed at Veolia Water Technologies and Solutions in Minnetonka in the Electrical Engineering department. In this role, he provides electrical and mechanical designs and expertise on many multi-faceted teams, driving continuous improvement and automation. As a candidate for the Board of Directors, he believes that his vision, skills, and experience align well with the needs of this role. If chosen, he will be committed to helping the region grow through the great service that McLeod Co-op Power provides.

## DISTRICT 9

*Camden, Watertown, and Young America Townships in Carver County.*



**Susan Anderson, Incumbent**

Susan is retired and currently helps run a small farm with her husband. She has served on the Co-op's Board of Directors since 2019. Her professional career included twenty years as a corporate attorney. After retiring from law, she assisted her husband in operating an automotive repair shop and held several roles with two food cooperatives and an Aldi grocery store. Through these experiences, Susan gained extensive training in cooperative operations, budgeting, and strategic planning. In 2021, she became a Credentialed Cooperative Director through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and earned her Board Leadership credential in 2024. Susan currently serves on the board of the Crow River Chapter of the Sustainable Farming Association and is the 2024–25 President of the Mayer/New Germany Lions Club. Her priorities for the Cooperative include maintaining stable and reasonable rates while providing electrical power that is both reliable and sustainable. She is focused on expanding MCPA's customer base, ensuring access to diverse and reliable power sources, and maintaining infrastructure to support system reliability and safety.



**Jeff Caswell**

Jeff and Shonna have been McLeod Co-op Power members for 20 years. They live in rural Young America near Baylor Park. After graduating high school in 1982, he worked with his dad at Caswell Plumbing & Heating in NW Iowa. Along with residential plumbing and HVAC, they also did commercial work and mechanical contracting. Jeff's niche within the business was water and wastewater treatment plants for municipalities and Rural Water systems all over western Iowa, southwestern MN, and South Dakota. In 2002, Jeff married Shonna and moved to Carver County where they operate two restaurants. In addition to the restaurants, Jeff keeps busy with construction work and volunteer/mission projects. He's previously served Camden Township for 7 years as the part-time maintenance man. Jeff has served on several boards with local and international non-profit ministries, for-profit ministries, and church boards. Jeff believes it is important to keep rates affordable, maintain infrastructure, and pursue common-sense renewable energy. Additionally, he sees the Cooperative's service and outage response efforts as strengths and would like to see these areas continue to be prioritized. He is excited for the chance to serve his neighbors and fellow members to build a strong future for the Cooperative.

# SUPPORTING THE FUTURE: SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

**McLeod Co-op Power is excited to announce the recipients of our 2025 \$500 Lineworker Scholarships: Colin Bernstein and Maxton Hansch.**

Colin, the son of Dan and Annette Bernstein, is a graduate of Glencoe-Silver Lake High School. He will attend Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Jackson, MN this fall to pursue a career as an electrical lineworker.

Maxton, also a graduate of Glencoe-Silver Lake High School, is the son of Chris and Kristen Hansch. He plans to attend Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Wadena, MN to begin his training in the lineworker program.

Both Colin and Maxton have shown a strong interest in the lineworker profession and an eagerness to serve their communities through this essential work. We congratulate them on their accomplishments and wish them continued success as they begin their journey into this vital and rewarding career.

For those considering a career as an electrical lineworker, the next round of scholarship applications will be due in April 2026.

**Learn more at:**

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



Colin Bernstein



Maxton Hansch



(left to right: Emerson Brady, Operations Manager and Peyton Jasken)

## CONGRATS PEYTON!

We're proud to recognize Peyton Jasken, one of McLeod Co-op Power's dedicated lineworkers, for successfully earning his Journey Lineworker Certification—a major milestone in his career.

Achieving this certification requires an impressive 7,550 hours of hands-on training and the completion of four in-depth training manuals. Each book represents approximately a year of learning and testing, all leading up to a final exam that confirms a lineworker's technical expertise and readiness.

Peyton's accomplishment reflects not only his skill but also his commitment to the safety and reliability of our electric system. Please join us in congratulating Peyton on this outstanding achievement. We're grateful to have him on our team and look forward to his continued impact at McLeod Co-op Power. Great job, Peyton!

# STAY COOL AND SAVE: SMART SUMMER ENERGY TIPS

*Summer is here and so are rising temperatures. But staying comfortable doesn't have to mean higher energy bills. With a few smart adjustments, you can keep your home cool and energy efficient all season long.*

## START WITH YOUR THERMOSTAT.

Set it to 78°F when you're home and higher when you're away. Every degree you raise it can help lower cooling costs by up to 3%. Use ceiling fans to circulate air and help rooms feel cooler without adjusting the temperature.

## BLOCK THE HEAT.

Close blinds or curtains during the hottest part of the day to reduce the amount of sunlight warming your home. Consider thermal or blackout curtains for extra insulation.

## SHIFT YOUR ENERGY USE.

Run large appliances like the dishwasher, washing machine, and dryer in the evening or early morning, when temperatures—and energy demand—are lower. Better yet, air-dry clothes when you can.

## SEAL IT UP.

Check for air leaks around doors and windows. A little weather stripping or caulk can go a long way in keeping cool air inside where it belongs.

## THINK LONG TERM.

Planting shade trees, upgrading to Energy Star® appliances, and installing a smart thermostat are all investments that can improve efficiency year-round.

By making small, consistent changes, you can enjoy a more comfortable summer and lower energy costs.

### 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

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District 9: Susan Anderson  
Secretary-Treasurer  
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**McLeod Cooperative Power  
is an equal opportunity  
employer and provider.**



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning. You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy!



3515 11th St. East  
Glencoe, MN 55336

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

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## STAY ALERT: DON'T FALL FOR UTILITY SCAMS

*Scammers continue to target utility customers with increasingly deceptive tactics. Protect yourself and your household by staying informed and cautious.*

### 1. SLOW DOWN AND VERIFY:

If someone contacts you claiming to represent your utility, don't rush. Scammers often pressure you to act quickly—especially when it comes to payments. Take a moment to verify the request by calling McLeod Co-op Power directly using the number on your bill or the company's official website.

### 2. WATCH FOR FAKE ENERGY AUDITS:

Be wary of unsolicited calls or visits offering “free energy audits” or claiming to represent your utility. These are often telemarketers or scammers looking to gain access to your home by promising rebates or savings. Legitimate audits from McLeod Co-op are scheduled at your request.

### 3. DON'T PAY FOR POWER RESTORATION:

After storms or disasters, scammers may offer to restore your power sooner for a fee. This is a scam—utilities never charge for restoration or offer preferential service based on payment. Any necessary repairs to customer-owned equipment will be communicated through official channels.

### 4. KNOW YOUR PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Never give payment to anyone who calls, emails, or comes to your door claiming to be from McLeod Co-op unless it's a verified method. Know your utility's official payment options: whether it's online, by mail, phone, or automatic bank draft.

### 5. BEWARE OF OVERPAYMENT SCAMS:

A common trick is to tell customers they've overpaid their bill and need to provide banking information to receive a refund. Don't fall for it. McLeod Co-op will either credit your account or issue a refund by mail.

