

MCLEOD COOPERATIVE POWER NEWS

AUGUST 2026



WHEN THE POWER GOES OUT: A LINEWORKER'S VIEW OF OUTAGE RESTORATION

When the power goes out, members see darkened lights and silent appliances, but at McLeod Co-op Power the clock begins to tick. For lineworker Kevin, an outage begins with a notification and a commitment to restore service as quickly and safely as possible.

McLeod Co-op Power's smart meters can help identify when and where an outage has occurred, but members should always report their outage. Calling remains the most effective way to ensure the cooperative is aware of the problem and provides valuable details about what members are seeing. Once the call center contacts the on-call crew, lineworkers have 30 minutes to report to the office.

After arriving, the crew patrols the line and searches for the cause. Sometimes the problem is easy to spot, such as a fallen tree or broken pole. Other times, it takes longer to find.

"Storm-damage is our number one cause of outages," Kevin said. Squirrels and other small animals are another common cause.

Underground lines are protected from many weather-related problems, but underground outages may take longer to diagnose because crews cannot visually inspect the entire line. Overhead damage is often easier to see, while underground problems require additional troubleshooting.

RESTORING THE GREATEST NUMBER FIRST

During a widespread outage, crews begin with the main three-phase feeders, which serve the greatest number of members. Once those lines are restored, crews move to single-phase taps and individual outages.

Continued on page 4.

ANNUAL MEETING SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who completed our 2026 Annual Meeting Survey. Members gave this year's meeting an average rating of 4.39 out of 5, with strong marks for the service and value they receive from McLeod Co-op Power. Most respondents also said the meeting helped them better understand the cooperative's direction and future plans, and that McLeod Co-op Power communicates with them effectively.

Members shared helpful suggestions for the future, including keeping rates and delivery costs as low as possible, continuing clear communication, improving the accessibility and layout of the meeting space, and providing additional information about energy resources and TODD rates.

We appreciate every response. Your feedback helps us identify what is working well and where we can continue improving future Annual Meetings and the service we provide throughout the year.

ANNUAL MEETING
REVIEW

02

HIGH TEMPS =
HIGH DEMAND

05



MEMBERS GATHER FOR 2026 ANNUAL MEETING



McLeod Co-op Power members gathered at Crow River Winery in Hutchinson on July 14 for the cooperative's 2026 Annual Meeting. The event provided an opportunity to conduct cooperative business, elect directors, review the past year and recognize 90 years of service.

DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

Board President Doug Kirtz called the meeting to order, and Secretary-Treasurer Susan Anderson confirmed that a quorum was present and read the official Notice of the Annual Meeting.

Members elected directors in three districts. Kirk Newman was elected in District 1, Jeff Kosek was elected in District 2 and Dave Resch was elected in District 3. Each director will serve a three-year term.



Kirk Newman,
District 1



Jeff Kosek,
District 2



Dave Resch,
District 3

SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Operation Round Up Trust Board Member Cheryl Bielke shared an update on the program's impact. This year, 36 organizations applied for funding, and 29 projects received a combined \$28,000.

Since Operation Round Up began in 2004, nearly \$350,000 has been awarded to local organizations. The program is funded by participating members who voluntarily round their electric bills up to the next whole dollar.

FINANCIAL AND SYSTEM UPDATES

Manager of Finance Steph Jakel presented the cooperative's financial report and compared 2025 results with the previous year. Because operating margins were above zero, members received an allocation for 2025.

Jakel also discussed the cost of maintaining a safe and reliable electric system. Tree trimming remains the cooperative's largest annual expense at approximately \$460,000. Maintaining clear rights-of-way helps reduce outages, improve crew access and protect the public from electrical hazards.

Approximately \$300,000 in capital credits was returned to members. Capital credits represent each member's share of the cooperative's margins and are returned over time as the cooperative's financial condition allows.

LOOKING AHEAD

CEO Ronald Meier reviewed highlights from 2025 and reflected on the cooperative's history of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. He discussed investments in the regional transmission system to support future reliability.

Meier provided an overview of the Time-of-Day Demand rate and explained how shifting electricity use away from higher-demand hours may help members manage their monthly bills. Members also had an opportunity to ask questions.

Following the meeting, attendance prizes were awarded, and Chef Craig served a meal to 315 members and guests.

Thank you to everyone who attended, voted and participated. Member involvement is an important part of the cooperative difference and helps guide McLeod Co-op Power into the future.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Celebrating 90 years of serving our members is a milestone we'll never forget, and our hearts are full of gratitude.

Thank you to every member who joined us for our 90th Annual Meeting. Seeing the room filled with familiar faces, conversation, laughter, and a shared sense of community was a wonderful reminder of what makes our cooperative so special.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our incredible employees, whose professionalism, teamwork, and unwavering support made our 90th Annual Meeting a success. I witnessed firsthand how everyone came together, stepped up when needed, and worked tirelessly to ensure our members enjoyed a wonderful celebration. We are especially grateful to Chef Craig and his catering team for the delicious meal, and to the wonderful winery staff for their warm hospitality and for helping create such a welcoming atmosphere. Your efforts made this celebration one to remember.

Our Annual Meeting is more than a business meeting—it's an opportunity for members to learn about their cooperative, hear reports from leadership, connect with fellow members, and participate in the democratic process that makes electric cooperatives unique. Your participation helps shape the future of our cooperative, and we sincerely appreciate everyone who took the time to attend.

As part of our 90th anniversary celebration, we were excited to hold a special drawing for a large-capacity Marathon® electric water heater. It was our way of saying thank you for the loyalty, trust, and support our members have shown throughout the past nine decades.

On a personal note, after more than 26 years with the cooperative, this year's Annual Meeting marked my first as the Member Services Manager. Adding to



SHANNON JERABEK

the experience, I unexpectedly found myself coordinating the final meeting preparations at the last minute. While it certainly brought a few unexpected challenges, it also reminded me how fortunate I am to work alongside such an outstanding team. The teamwork, flexibility, and dedication of my colleagues ensured that everything came together smoothly and that our members enjoyed a successful celebration.

As we honor our past and celebrate this incredible milestone, we are also looking ahead with excitement and optimism. Our cooperative has always been built on the strength of its members, and your continued support is what makes our success possible.

Thank you for being part of our cooperative family and for allowing us the privilege of serving you for the past 90 years. We look forward to serving you for many years to come.

Cooperatively,

Shannon Jerabek
Member Services Manager



**LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK**

www.facebook.com/McLeodCoop

JULY 2026 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of McLeod Cooperative Power Association was held on July 28, 2026 at McLeod Co-op's headquarters in Glencoe. Eight of the board members, CEO Ron Meier, and department managers participated in the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- Assistant Operations Manager Hanson reported the project in Camden township, converting 5.5 miles of single-phase overhead line to underground has started. TreeStory is now working in Collins Township. ROW Applicators, MCPA's spray contractor, will be spraying late summer and early fall which will treat areas that have been mowed.
- The June outage report was reviewed with a total of 78 outages, affecting 565 consumers.
- Manager of Information Systems Eric Sell reported the Operations department will be utilizing new versions of Mapping and Staking software.
- Manager of Finance Steph Jakel reviewed the June financials.
- A motion carried approving the Transfer of Patronage Capital & Refund Patronage Capital to Estates.
- Motion carried to approve Directors Jonny Burgstahler and Jeff Kosek to attend NRECA's Winter School for Directors in Nashville, Tennessee on December 11-15th.
- Cadin Carmichael, MCPA's Washington, D.C. Youth Tour representative, gave a presentation to the Board highlighting his experiences.

OUTAGE RESTORATION CONTINUED...

Restoration time depends on the location and extent of the damage. Some outages can be resolved quickly, while others require temporary repairs, replacement equipment or additional crews. A broken pole may need to be completely replaced before service can safely resume.

Before work begins, crews conduct a tailgate meeting to discuss the job, identify hazards and review the repair plan. Lineworkers then put on the required protective equipment and complete the work carefully.

“We’re going to perform the task in a safe and efficient manner,” Kevin said.

SAFETY COMES FIRST

Outage restoration often takes place in difficult conditions. Ice-covered roads, poor visibility, high winds, extreme cold, darkness and fallen trees can make it harder to reach damaged equipment and complete repairs.

Kevin said LED lighting on cooperative vehicles helps crews see at night, but weather remains one of the greatest challenges. Restoring power during whiteout conditions or severe storms is physically demanding and requires crews to remain alert through long hours.

Another serious hazard is electrical backfeed from an improperly connected generator. When a generator is plugged into a home without proper transfer or disconnect equipment, electricity can travel backward through the transformer and energize a line that crews may believe is de-energized.

Kevin explained that this can place 7,200 volts onto the cooperative’s line, creating a life-threatening danger.

Members should follow manufacturer instructions and have a qualified electrician install the proper generator equipment.

A COOPERATIVE-WIDE EFFORT

Lineworkers may be the most visible part of outage restoration, but employees throughout the cooperative are involved. Office staff, dispatchers and field crews communicate to identify affected areas, organize repairs and keep restoration moving.

“It can be a bit hectic when we do have a major storm, but we are all prepared to get everyone restored,” Kevin said.

Some outage calls also become memorable community experiences. Kevin recalled responding to an outage at the Arlington Raceway during a race. The crew was escorted onto the track to make repairs. When the power returned, the announcer thanked them and the crowd stood and cheered as they left.

For Kevin, the greatest reward is seeing the results of the crew’s work and knowing members have power again. “We’re all working as fast and as safe as we can,” Kevin said. “We will keep going until the last member’s power is back on.”



⚡⚡⚡ 2026 ⚡⚡⚡ POWER OUTAGES

MONTH	OUTAGES	MEMBERS	AVG. MINUTES
January	41	105	52
February	24	25	45
March	35	1,602	42
April	47	229	80
May	56	221	133
June	78	565	106

WHAT'S CAUSING OUTAGES?



PLANNED
56.23%



MAINTENANCE
12.46%



PUBLIC
3.56%



ANIMALS
8.90%



OTHER
8.19%



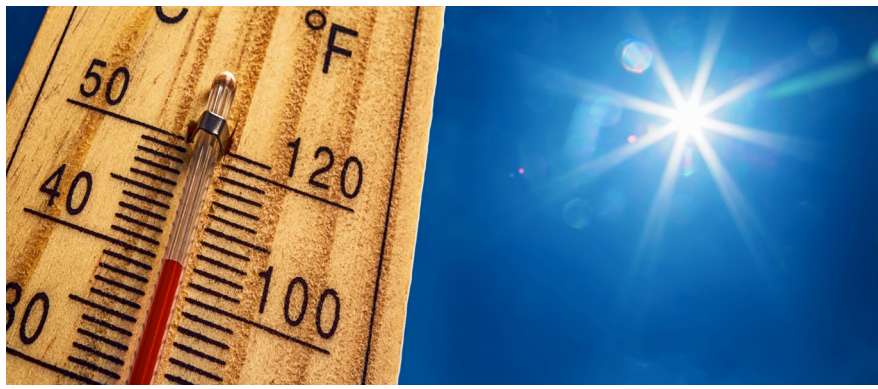
WEATHER
9.61%



EQUIPMENT
0.36%



UNKNOWN
0.71%



A JULY HEAT WAVE INCREASED DEMAND

Extreme heat settled across Minnesota in mid-July, bringing heat index values near 100 degrees to parts of McLeod Co-op Power's service area. As air conditioners worked longer and harder, electricity use climbed.

On July 15, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), issued escalating emergency notifications, including an Energy Emergency Alert Level 2 (EEA2). MISO manages the flow of electricity across a 15-state region. The alert was prompted by above-normal temperatures, higher-than-expected demand and power plant outages.

WHAT AN EEA2 MEANT

An EEA2 indicated that available power supplies were becoming limited and additional steps were needed to keep the grid stable. It did not mean outages were occurring. Instead, it signaled that utilities, power suppliers and consumers needed to help maintain the balance between electricity supply and demand.

During these conditions, load management programs helped reduce demand by temporarily cycling or interrupting qualifying equipment. Members also supported reliability by delaying laundry and dishwashing, adjusting thermostats when safe, and turning off unnecessary lights and electronics.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON AUGUST BILLS

July's extreme heat caused air conditioners and other cooling equipment to work harder and run longer. As a result, many members may have used more electricity and set a higher monthly demand peak.

Because McLeod Co-op Power's TODD rate considers both total energy use and peak demand, these increases may result in higher August bills. Using several large appliances at the same time, especially during the weekday on-peak period from 5 to 9 p.m., increases demand.

Members can review daily use and their peak demand in SmartHub to see how consumption changed during the heat wave. Comparing usage, rather than only the total bill, can help show how weather affected monthly costs.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING

The July event showed how quickly weather can affect the regional grid. Small changes made by thousands of members, combined with load management and generation resources, helped support reliable service when demand was highest.

PEAKING PLANTS: READY WHEN DEMAND CLIMBED

Peaking plants were designed for conditions like these. Unlike facilities that operate around the clock, they typically run during periods of high demand, such as hot summer afternoons, cold winter evenings or unexpected shortages.

Great River Energy, McLeod Co-op Power's wholesale power supplier, included natural gas-fueled peaking plants in its energy portfolio. These facilities could start and ramp up quickly, providing electricity when demand rose or other resources were unavailable.

That flexibility also supported renewable resources. Wind and solar output depended on weather conditions, and peaking plants could fill the gap when production dropped or did not align with peak usage.

During the July grid emergency, MISO coordinated resources across its region. Dispatchable generation, including peaking plants, provided additional energy and reserves to keep the grid stable.

Peaking plants were not intended to operate every hour. Their value comes from being available when the system needs power most, like a backup player ready at a critical moment.

The July heat wave showed why a balanced power supply remained important. Renewable energy, always-available generation, peaking plants, energy storage and load management each played a role in delivering reliable electricity during peak demand.





ONE SYSTEM. TWO SEASONS.

Looking for a system that can keep you comfortable year-round? An air source heat pump (ASHP) does both; cooling your home in the summer and helping warm it when temperatures start to dip. Instead of relying on separate systems, an ASHP works efficiently in both directions, giving you comfort and energy savings with one versatile solution.



An air source heat pump operates similarly to a central air conditioner, transferring heat from inside your home to the outdoors.



Moves heat from inside your home to the outdoors.



Cools and dehumidifies in one step for steadier indoor comfort.



Moves heat rather than generating cold, which keeps energy use low.



Switches from heating to cooling with no seasonal setup.



When temperatures drop, the system reverses operation and extracts heat from the outdoor air to warm your home.



Transfers heat from outdoor air into your home.



Performs best during cool mornings, evenings, and moderate fall conditions.



Works alongside an existing furnace, which takes over in deep cold.



Lowest overall heating energy use compared to electric resistance heating.



MAKE YOUR UPGRADE MORE AFFORDABLE

McLeod Co-op Power offers programs and rebates that may help members save on qualifying air source heat pump installations. Rebates may be available for qualifying equipment that is professionally installed, meets program efficiency requirements and can be enrolled in an eligible load management program. Before purchasing equipment, contact McLeod Co-op Power to review current requirements and available rebate amounts, or visit www.mcleodcoop.com for more information.

WELCOME MAX HANSCH

McLeod Co-op Power is pleased to welcome Maxton “Max” Hansch to the operations team. Max joined the cooperative on April 20 as a lineworker intern and is preparing to begin his apprenticeship.

Max helps prepare materials, load trucks and trailers, travel to job sites and assist line crews with their daily work. At the end of the day, he helps unload and organize materials at the shop.

“I’m looking forward to starting my apprenticeship and beginning what I hope will be a lifelong career,” Max said.

Max earned an Electrical Lineworker diploma from Minnesota State Community and Technical College. Before attending technical college, he worked for Myron Schuette Construction throughout high school. He says his education provided a strong foundation, but he continues to learn from the experienced employees around him.

His interest in linework began during a high school tour of McLeod Co-op Power’s shop. Seeing the equipment and learning more about the career caught his attention. Working for his local cooperative also allows him to remain close to family and friends.

Max grew up in Brownton and lives with his parents, Kristen and Chris. He credits them with teaching him the



value of hard work and determination. He also has two older sisters who work in health care.

Outside of work, Max enjoys fishing, golfing and spending summer days on the lake. His ideal weekend includes a cool fall morning in a deer stand or duck boat.

Please join us in welcoming Max to McLeod Co-op Power.

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

Kaleigh Rumrill and Fuller Creative

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1: Kirk Newman
(952) 955-3319

District 2: Jeff Kosek
(320) 510-1828

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: Jonathan Burgstahler
(320) 552-0273

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

**McLeod Cooperative Power
is an equal opportunity
employer and provider.**



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system’s air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality—helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.



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: \$9.34 per year for members and \$18.69 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

USPS 2220
PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
HUTCHINSON, MN

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS: IS YOUR NAME ON THE LIST?



As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, McLeod Co-op Power allocates capital credits to members based on the electricity they purchased during the years they received service. When capital credits are retired, checks are mailed to eligible former members.

Sometimes, however, a member has moved, changed addresses or passed away, and the Cooperative is unable to deliver the payment. McLeod Co-op Power is currently working to locate former members who may have unclaimed capital credits waiting for them.

Visit www.mcleodcoop.com/about/capital-credits/ to search the list by first name, last name, city or state. Even if your name is not listed, you may recognize a family member, friend, former neighbor or previous property owner.

Help us reconnect former members with the money they are owed. To provide updated contact information or learn about the claim process, call McLeod Co-op Power at (320) 864-3148.

Built to Protect. Maintained to Perform.



Regular inspections and sensor cleaning help your system stay ready through every season.

Contact us to help secure your home.



888.264.6380 | heartlandss.com