

PowerLines

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October 2022 • www.clpower.com



October is National Co-op Month.

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Celebrating National Cooperative Month

Carey Hogenson, Marketing Manager

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month. When we say Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions—because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

CLP works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that's comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour and scholarship programs. With your help, we offer Operation Round-Up to provide assistance to our community's most vulnerable. Member account number six hundred thirty five thousand fifty. We partner with

and support area food shelves and other charitable organizations.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together towards a common goal—mutually benefiting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the community in which live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you. That's why we have heating programs and rebates in place to help.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you take a moment and download our app, Cooperative Light & Power. Member account number seven hundred forty five thousand one hundred eighty four. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. And we are of course here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

Cooperative Light & Power is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve.



Why and How Does CLP Do Right-of-Way Clearing?

Steve Shurts, Interim CEO

Right-of-way (ROW) management is frequently a topic of discussion and even a concern

among some of our members. Like you, we appreciate trees and vegetation for the value they bring to our lives. But as your electric cooperative, we also must take into consideration the potential danger vegetation presents to the ecosystem and our lives.

We've all heard of wildfires caused by the inadequate clearing of trees and limbs under or near powerlines. We also know poorly maintained ROWs pose a significant danger to our linemen and the public. I've seen injuries caused by human contact with a tree touching a powerline. Unfortunately, too many of my associates in this industry have dealt with serious injury or death. Though much less severe, poorly maintained ROWs can cause injuries to linemen as they patrol and maintain the circuits.

For these reasons, electric utilities must properly maintain the ROWs. The most effective, proven practice in the electric industry is to utilize Integrated Vegetation Management. According to the EPA site, "Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) is generally defined as the practice of promoting desirable, stable, low-growing plant communities that will resist invasion by tall growing tree species through the use of

appropriate, environmentally sound, and cost-effective control methods. These methods can include a combination of chemical, biological, cultural, mechanical, and/or manual treatments." CLP is currently having an IVM study done by a consulting firm that does IVM for many Minnesota-based electric providers.

Aside from the obvious safety implications, an IVM plan is the best long-term strategy to keep hazardous plants and trees under control and resist invasions by more unwanted plant species. IVM is crafted around the types of plants and vegetation in the area that we identify as hazards and what can be done to encourage safer native species in our region and climate. Developing an effective herbicide program takes time and planning and is based on well-defined best practices. The density, height, location of the vegetation, and cycle of the project will determine what sections of ROW would benefit from spraying herbicides and what should be mechanically cleared. Member account number six hundred thirteen thousand eight hundred fifty six. Done correctly, IVM provides peace of mind when chemicals are sprayed, as it provides a natural refuge for bees and other pollinators.

The spraying of herbicides not only takes care of vegetation up front but also manages the problem long-term, costing significantly less than mechanical mowing alone. The challenge to implementing IVM is the upfront costs. This happens because it is essential to get IVM into a

cycle. The cycle starts with mechanical clearing of dense vegetation in ROW, followed up with herbicide the next year, then less herbicide after that because only spot spraying is required. The goal is to use less mechanical clearing, not more, and less herbicide – over time. After the initial few years under an IVM program, the cooperative can save money by having less maintenance done. With a stable plant community in place, it reduces the risk the vegetation poses to your service and the safety of our linemen and the public.

Unfortunately, when it comes to the general public, herbicides aren't always thought of in the most positive light. CLP's ROW contractors are guided by EPA standards on what herbicides to use and where to use them. For example, they would not use the same mixture near water that they would use in a field. Today's herbicide products undergo rigorous testing and approvals to ensure overall environmental safety. Where we once measured the quantity of materials used in "gallons per acre," today we use "ounces per acre." The level of knowledge and skill pertaining to responsible, selective herbicide use has evolved and matured throughout the years. Member account number seven hundred eight thousand three hundred sixty nine. Under IVM protocols, arborists have continued to shift how we think about undesirable target vegetation areas. ROWs may no longer be seen as areas for repeat reclamation or mowing regarding vegetation growth.

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Call Before You Dig

800.252.1166

it's the law!

Call 800.252.1166 to locate underground wires.

You must call at least 48-hours in advance before any excavations (this notice does not include weekends, holidays or emergencies).

CLP will only locate the underground wires that are owned by CLP, we do not locate or take responsibility for locating wires beyond the meter location.



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Cooperative Light & Power
Association of Lake County
1554 Highway 2 • P. O. Box 69
Two Harbors, MN 55616
www.clpower.com
CLP Office: 218-834-2226 or 800-580-5881

Power Outage (24/7): 800-927-5550

Winter Business Hours:
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Important Contacts

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Scott Veitenheimer, President, District 2
218-340-8968

Pat Schmieder, Vice President, District 1
218-834-2247

Kyle Weideman, Treasurer, District 3
218-834-3476

Roger Peterson, Secretary, District 5
218-226-8197

Steve Josephson, Director, District 4
218-226-4163

Minnesota Cold Weather Rule

CLP Billing/Collections Department

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule, Section 216B.097 of the Minnesota State Statutes, electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between October 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and all of the following conditions are met:

1. You declare an inability to pay and enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

2. The member's total household, not individual, income is at or below 50% of the State Median income. Income may be verified on forms provided by

Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) or by the local energy assistance provider.

3. You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from CLP.

These conditions are applicable to all residential and seasonal members.

Before disconnecting electric service between October 1 and April 30, CLP must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities
- A list of local energy assistance providers
- Cold Weather Rule protection form
- Payment arrangement form

If you have any concerns about paying your electric bill this winter, please

contact us at (218) 834-2226 or (800) 580-5881 before the due date. If you receive a disconnect notice, fill out the Cold Weather Rule pamphlet and the payment arrangement form included. Please have the forms returned back to CLP prior to the disconnect date.

Need more help? Reach out to these resources:

- Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA): (800) 662-5711
- Lake County Social Services: (218) 834-8400
- Salvation Army, Duluth: (218)722-7934
- St. Louis County Social Services, Duluth: (218) 726-2000

CLP exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. Please call the CLP billing department immediately to set up a payment plan if you are having difficulty paying your electric bill.

Dual Fuel & Freedom Heating Members:

In an effort to help you test your backup heating system for your dual-fuel, a Dual Fuel interruption is scheduled on Thursday, October 27th, and Saturday, October 29th, from 6 pm - 9 pm.

This test will include both Dual Fuel and Freedom Heating. The test also is a reminder to fill your secondary fuel source for the heating season.



Co-op Month Celebration

Friday, October 14, 2022

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

CLP Office Lobby

(1554 Highway 2, Two Harbors)

Pie from Betty's Pies, coffee, and hot cocoa will be served.

Hamburger Soup

From the Kitchen of: Julia Widen

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1# hamburger | 1 cup cubed carrots | ¼ cup barley |
| 1 cup chopped onion | 1 can tomatoes | ½ tsp pepper |
| ½ tsp thyme | 1 small bay leaf | ¼ tsp basil |
| 1 cup cubed potatoes | ½ cup shredded cabbage | |
| 3 tsp salt | 1 ½ quarts of water | |

Brown hamburger and onions. Place all ingredients in soup pot and cook for 1 hour. Top with shredded cheddar cheese.

Submit your favorite recipe! If your recipe is printed in an issue of "Powerlines" you will receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill.

Right-of-Way Clearing Continued

Continued from page 2

When the right control measures are taken, which include selective herbicide use, we can help transform ROWs into desirable, thriving biological communities with grasses and low-growing shrubbery, while eliminating the threat trees pose to overhead power lines for an electric utility.

Thank you for your cooperation in the critical role vegetation management and ROW maintenance play in the health and welfare of both the public and the ecosystem.

Read Your Board Meeting Summary

A regular meeting of the CLP Board of Directors was held on July 27, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as modified. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to end Kyle Weideman's leave of absence and to immediately reinstate him with full rights and responsibilities with no restrictions. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the June minutes as modified and to accept the consent agenda. Motion passed.

Great River Energy Resource and Planning Director Zac Ruzycski led discussion on Cambridge Dual Fuel Modification.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the financials. Motion passed.

After much discussion, it was decided to cancel the pancake breakfast.

Interim CEO Steve Shurts reported on the following: NRECA Region 5/6 meeting, virtual presentation in executive session by GRE regarding the Connexus-GRE agreement, Davey Resource Group proposal, Scope of Work that is to be added to the

Central Applicators contract, Cost-of-Service Study, and an update from Deb Englund on the CEO search.

A motion was made and seconded for Interim CEO Shurts to be the voting delegate and Scott Veitenheimer to be the Alternate Delegate for NRECA. Motion passed.

CEO Shurts is waiting for a response about redistricting. He will inform the Board on what he finds out. This will be the Board's decision and will ultimately need to go to the members as by-laws change.

Discussion was held on virtual meetings. It was decided that board meetings will have a virtual option.

Veitenheimer reported on the GRE Board Meeting.

CEO Shurts reported on MISO. Veitenheimer reported on the MREA District 2 Meeting that he and Josephson attended.

A motion was made and seconded to move the meeting into executive session to discuss GRE Power Cost Adjustment with Zak Ruzycski. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting will be held on August 24, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment was called at 2:04 p.m.

Dates to Know...

- Oct 3:** CLP Winter Hours Begin Mon-Fri 7:30am-4:00 pm
- Oct 14:** Co-op Month Celebration Pie served @ CLP
- Oct 25:** CLP Bills Due
- Oct 26:** CLP Board Meeting

NOTE: CLP dates are subject to change

To view a complete version of the latest CLP Board Meeting Minutes please go to:
<http://clpower.com/board-meeting-minutes>

Cooperative Light & Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Year-to-date Financials

| | <u>Jul-22</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> | <u>2020</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Operating Revenue | \$ 6,187,025 | \$ 8,102,898 | \$ 8,290,006 | |
| Cost of Purchased Power | \$ 3,700,155 | \$ 4,851,763 | \$ 4,945,264 | |
| Other Operating Expenses | \$ 2,226,883 | \$ 3,075,524 | \$ 3,426,786 | |
| Total Cost of Electric Service | \$ 5,927,038 | \$ 7,927,287 | \$ 8,372,050 | |
| Operating Margin (Loss) | \$ 259,987 | \$ 175,611 | \$ (82,044) | |
| Interest Income | \$ 33,471 | \$ 42,569 | \$ 22,116 | |
| Other Margins | \$ 23,314 | \$ (98,063) | \$ 18,342 | |
| Capital Credits | \$ 14,928 | \$ 26,581 | \$ 27,735 | |
| Total Margins | \$ 331,700 | \$ 146,698 | \$ (13,851) | |
| kWh Purchased | 56,400,494 | 63,018,142 | 68,261,460 | |
| kWh Sold | 53,253,104 | 60,226,904 | 65,214,438 | |
| Line Loss | 5.58% | 4.43% | 4.46% | |
| Members Billed | 5,927 | 6,347 | 6,407 | |
| Average kWh Used, Residential | 996 | 1,082 | 1,184 | |
| Average Bill, Residential | \$ 120.53 | \$ 142.28 | \$ 152.50 | |
| Average Cost/kWh, Residential | \$ 0.1210 | \$ 0.1315 | \$ 0.1288 | |
| Interest Expense | \$ 246,016 | \$ 201,918 | \$ 208,054 | |

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE:

Call CLP at 834.2226 or 800.580.5881 during business hours or 800.927.5550 after hours.

BEFORE calling, please check your breakers. If an outage is found to be on your side of the meter, you will be billed for a service call.

SPOT YOUR NUMBER:

A \$20 electric credit is awarded each month to our faithful readers. Four account numbers are spelled out in each newsletter. If you find yours, notify CLP by the 25th of that month and a credit will be applied to your bill.

Credits claimed for August:

Margaret Wilson

Credits not claimed: Nathan Nesgoda, Donald Schreiner, & Donald & Laurie King

OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

August Donations: \$1,652.27

Year-to-date Donations: \$13,333.87

Thank you to all the participants! If you have questions about Operation Round Up, or would like to apply for a grant from the Fund, please contact CLP at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881, or visit our website at www.clpower.com.