

KILOWATT

BOARD MEETING SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

The Kandiyohi Power Cooperative Board of Directors held their regular monthly meeting. All directors present. Director Stone and CEO Nelson participated by Zoom. Chairman, Dale Anderson called the meeting to order.

Additions made to the agenda:

- Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) discussion
- Willmar Area Climate Action Group meeting discussion
- Attending Board Meetings by Zoom – do we need guidelines/perimeters?
- Availability of used poles for sale to membership

The following reports were given:

- CEO Report – discussed monthly activities
- CEO Conference
- Member Managers Meeting
- Contracted Human Resource representative, Angie Neisinger, from Star Energy, one to two days a week.
- NRECA Regional 6 Meeting
- Climate Action Group Meeting
- Finance – Finance Manager, explained discrepancies and variations within the monthly budget.
- Member Services/Communications
- COVID funds allow employees another 80 hours if contacting the virus instead of having to use PTO. This funding ends September 30.
- Cold Weather Rule changes and updates
- Benefits Enrollment
- Health/Flu Shot Clinic for Employees is scheduled
- Meter Data Management 101 training being held for a group of employees
- New Rates NCON and NGEN – Non-billable rates for renewable energy
- Sign up for Autopay promotion
- Engineering/Operations
- 53 new services to-date and 33 retired services
- Crews working on Construction Work Plan projects
- Outage review and breakdown

Motions made and approved by the Board:

- Regular Agenda
- Minutes of the August 2021 board meeting
- Consent Agenda
- New Rates NCON and NGEN
- September Write-Offs

Great River Energy (GRE) Director's Report by Chair Anderson
Meeting Adjourned – Next regular board meeting is
October 27, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.



**Community born.
Community led.
Focused on YOU.**

October is
National Co-op Month!

IT'S A MATTER OF (CO-OP!) PRINCIPLES

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes, and Kandiyohi Power Cooperative all share something in common: we're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness, and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops Kandiyohi Power Cooperative was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1935 a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective, or socioeconomic status.

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24-HOUR OUTAGE NUMBER 1-800-551-4951

BE SAFE DURING HARVEST

Farming is one of the most dangerous jobs in America. Sometimes on the farm, equipment that is normally helpful becomes lethal during an accident. Electricity is essential to the modern farmer, but can be harmful.

Farmers should be aware of special safety precautions since they often use large equipment and ladders that put them close to overhead power lines.

- Be sure you and everyone else in your operation know what to do in an emergency.
- If equipment gets hung up on a power line, the operator should NOT get off the machinery unless in immediate danger. If the operator touches the ground and the equipment at the same time, he or she will become a channel for electricity.
- If you must leave the equipment, jump as far away from the machinery as possible. Never get back on machinery that touches a power line until the utility company disconnects the line.
- Electric lines sag as years go by. Do not try to move a power line out of the way. Contact your utility to fix the line, so you can operate farm equipment with enough clearance.



Electric co-ops were local before it was cool!

All co-ops exist to meet a community need. We're proud to be homegrown.

SUPPORTING COOPERATIVE MEMBERS ACROSS MINNESOTA,

Connexus Energy Successfully Challenges Unlawful BNSF Practices

Connexus Energy (Connexus) and electric cooperatives across the state were handed a critical victory on Sept. 9 regarding fees and requirements related to railroad crossings. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) decided in favor of Connexus in a petition for resolution of a dispute with BNSF Railway Company (BNSF).

Utilities must cross existing railroad rights-of-way in order to provide necessary services to consumers, and electric cooperatives are no exception. Railroad companies and utilities are required to work together to maintain safety and smooth operations.

This ruling directs BNSF to comply with state law regarding access to railroad rights-of-way to enable construction and maintenance necessary for electric grid reliability. Connexus made every reasonable attempt to resolve the dispute through negotiation, but ultimately brought it to the PUC.

"Connexus and our members are grateful for the unambiguous 5-0 decision from the PUC," says Nick Loehlein, vice president of electric operations for Connexus.

The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) participated to communicate the interests of all electric cooperatives. "Together as a strong family of Minnesota cooperatives, we stood up for what's right for all electric cooperative member-owners," adds Loehlein.

In addition to Loehlein, the following people testified in front of the PUC: Felhaber Larson attorney Sara McGrane, Minnesota Rural Electric CEO Darrick Moe, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative CEO Dan Carlisle, and Meeker Cooperative Light and Power CEO Tim Mergen.

History of Right-of-Way Issues
After several years of the rail industry charging cooperatives unreasonable fees, in 2016 the Minnesota legislature passed a law that set a standard crossing fee and established a clear process and requirements for utility crossings of railways.

BNSF previously appealed a similar petition filed with the Commission in 2018, but the

Minnesota Court of Appeals affirmed the statute.

Despite the statute, BNSF routinely charges Connexus and other electric cooperatives across the state unreasonable fees above what is allowed by statute, and subjects the cooperatives to compliance with unwarranted additional requirements that risk grid reliability, delay construction and increase costs.

A Critical Victory

The Commission agreed unanimously with Connexus, deciding in their favor on all eight decision points. Additionally, Commissioner Tuma drafted a decision option for the Commission to investigate the conduct that has been occurring. "This is a shining example of cooperation among cooperatives," says Darrick Moe, MREA president and CEO. "Connexus undertook the petition for the collective benefit of all of Minnesota's not-for-profit electric cooperatives and their member-owners to ensure the continued delivery of reliable and affordable energy."

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

The following list below are names of KPC members that have unclaimed capital credits due to us not having a correct mailing address. If you have any knowledge of the names listed, please call our office at 1-800-551-4951 so that we can update their information and get them their capital credit refunds.

Tammie Anderson	Pennock, MN
Jerry Oconnor	Hannibal
Michael H. Asche	Raymond, MN
Wayne Odell	Rochester, MN
Russell Bauman	Kerkhoven, MN
Raymond Poage	Spring Park
Donald M. Bishop	Willmar, MN
Linda Skeates	Belgrade, MN
Lloyd Bork	Bloomington, MN
Joan Stillday	Willmar, MN
Alltel Corporation	Little Rock, AK
Gary Swanson	Queen Creek, AZ
Wallace Duininck	Willmar, MN
Brad Talakson	Spicer, MN
Don Fluegge	Chanhassen, MN
Betty Tjaden	Pennock, MN
Gary Haglund	Brainerd, MN
John Tradup	Willmar, MN
Sharon Hulstein	Willmar, MN
Trelstad Rev John P	Edina, MN
Elverna Johnson	Brooten, MN
Ed Walhof	Spicer, MN
Marjorie J. Johnson	Marshall, MN
Lyle Weismantel	Spicer, MN
Lewis M. Larson	Willmar, MN
Vernol Wieberdink	Willmar, MN
Maynard Lawrence	Minneapolis, MN
Willie Williensen	Hamburg
Harold Madsen	New London, MN
Beau Williams	Spicer, MN
James A. Midtbo	Fergus Falls, MN
Jennifer Winkelman	Hutchinson, MN
James D. Miller	New London, MN
Tim Wynia	St. Cloud, MN
Dorothea Nelson	Willmar, MN
Wesley Newman	Paynesville, MN
Ronald Nyland	Willmar, MN



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**WE 'WITCH' YOU A
HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**

Because you live in the country, do you ever feel like you get left out of seeing all the little kids in their cute Halloween costumes trick or treating? KPC has an opportunity this year for our membership to get in on all the fun – “TRUNK or TREATING”. If you would like to participate, bring your vehicle and lots of candy, park in KPC’s parking lot and hand out candy to all the trick or treaters.

- WHEN: Friday, October 29th
- TIME: 3:00-5:00 p.m.
- WHERE: KPC’s parking lot

Please RSVP to Robin at 320-796-0989 or rryks@kpccoop.com by October 22 if you would like to participate. Parking spaces are limited.

GHOSTLY GREETINGS...

Parents, Grandparents, Ghosts and Goblins, come one, come all- bring your little ones trick or treating at KPC’s first Annual “Trunk or Treating” event.

- WHEN: Friday, October 29th
- TIME: 3:00-5:00 p.m.
- WHERE: KPC’s parking lot

Come join us for mummy munchies and witches brew and be sure to holler ‘Trick or Treat’!



8605 47th Street NE, Spicer, MN 56288
www.kpccoop.com

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 7:30am – 4pm
Phone: 1-800-551-4951
Fax: 320-796-0620

Tom McCormick
Electric Inspector: 320-221-2809

Drop boxes available for your convenience
at Cash Wise and our headquarters
building near flag pole.

Ryan Nelson, CEO	320-796-1160
Michele Scheffler,	
Member/Communications/HR	320-796-0982
Brent Hatlestad,	
Line Superintendent	320-796-1163
Patrick Krueger,	
Finance Manager	320-796-0991

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:	District
Dale Anderson, Chair- 320-894-1687	1
Rollo Campe- 320-894-1601	1
Larry Powers- 320-212-7960	1
Dan Pomranke, VC- 320-894-7113	2
Todd Post- 320-212-1119	2
Stan Wubben, Secretary- 320-905-8325	2
Ryan Erickson - 320-979-5033	3
Diane Helgeson- 320-220-3745	3
Robbert Stone- 320-894-8867	3

KILOWATT STAFF:
Robin Ryks, Editor

IT'S A MATTER OF (CO-OP!) PRINCIPLES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Kandiyohi Power Cooperative's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as high-speed broadband, community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades, electric vehicle programs, etc.

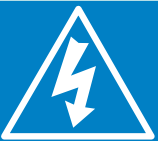
Members' Economic Participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Kandiyohi Power Cooperative, at least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars—it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative reflects our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place.

And by the way, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community," which we will elaborate on in next month's newsletter.



24-HOUR OUTAGE NUMBER

When your lights go out, so do we.

Call us if your power goes out even if you think your neighbors already did. Leave one light on so you know when power has been restored and make sure you have an emergency kit ready.

1-800-551-4951



Investing in a brighter energy future for our communities.

Electric co-ops deploy enough wind
and solar energy to serve nearly 2.7
million homes.

\$25

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Instead of finding your account number in the Kilowatt for a \$5.00 bill credit, you now could win a \$25.00 bill credit. All you need to do is enroll in our Auto Pay program & you will be entered into a monthly drawing for a \$25.00 bill credit. Members who are already saving time and money with Auto Pay will be automatically entered in the contest. Congratulations to Brian Freese for being the first \$25 Autopay winner.