Kandiyohi Power Coop

SEPTEMBER 2021 - ISSUE 120 VOLUME 9

WIN A \$25.00 BILL CREDIT!!!

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.

## SIMPLIFY LIFE AND SWITCH TO AUTO PAY!

- Advantages of Auto Pay
- It's easy, convenient, and fast
- Saves you time your monthly payment is processed automatically
- No postage or check Save the hassle of writing a check every month, paying postage, and getting it mailed on time
- Avoid late payments and past due bills —
  Whether you're home or away, this service keeps your payments on time since the payments are already scheduled for you
- Eliminate paperwork If you choose to go paperless, you produce less paperwork and receive fewer bills in the mail since your bill is emailed each month and accessible through SmartHub
- Help streamline your finances Especially when you are distracted by other events going on in your life
- Scan this QR code with your cell phone camera to get started!



# **COOPERATIVES BUILD COMMUNITY**

The cooperative business model has a history of building community from the ground up. Nearly a century ago when utilities chose not to serve rural areas of America, it was farmers and ranchers who banded together to create the electric cooperatives that would power not only their homes and businesses, but also opportunities for the communities they live in.

That's because while the main product electric co-ops like Kandiyohi Power Cooperative supply is energy, that isn't our sole business purpose. More than just power lines, co-ops build jobs, trust, communities, and hope. They work to improve the quality of life for those they serve; donate time, energy and resources to organizations that help those in need; and take a leadership role in community development projects.

Our co-op was built by our community and continues to belong to the community. Since we're a member-driven organization, we listen, adapt, and grow over time to meet the needs of those we serve. The more viewpoints we hear, the better we are able to reflect the needs of all corners of our community.

In addition to delivering safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to members, electric cooperatives adhere to seven guiding principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusion, and service to the greater good of the community.

These values are demonstrated when KPC sponsors events held by the local 4-H Club, presents scholarships to students on a path to receive higher education and when we help coordinate loans for small businesses to expand in the area. We participate in ditch cleaning, donate books to local schools, donate to local fairs, help with park cleanup days, serve on local committees, and donate time and equipment to help other community driven organizations. We also encourage our employees to volunteer locally. KPC has a program supporting employee engagement in the community by providing full time employees with up to 48 hours of volunteer time annually.

As a member-owner, you contribute to the success of our communities, too, by participating in Operation Round Up. This voluntary program rounds up your electric bill to the next dollar, which your cooperative pools into a trust fund until it's disbursed to a variety of charitable, educational, community and youth-related programs and events.

Maintaining a thriving community is a team effort — neighbors helping neighbors. You built us, and we'll continue working to serve you.

— Ryan Nelson, CEO

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

#### August 25, 2021

The Kandiyohi Power Cooperative Board of Directors held their regular monthly meeting. All directors present. Chairman, Dale Anderson called the meeting to order. Introduction of new employee, Dan Deisting, Staking Engineer The following reports were given:

- CEO Report
- Finance
- Member Services/Communications
- Engineering/Operations

#### Motions made and approved by the Board:

- August Regular Agenda
- Minutes of the May and July 2021 board meeting
- August Consent Agenda
- Guarantor's Certificate of Resolutions and Incumbency
- Appointed Managers Patrick Krueger and Michele Scheffler as Officers
- Rate 43-N (Renewable Energy Single Phase Metering)
- Rate 51 (GLSSWD Diamond Lake Electric Meter 1" Meter)
- August Write-Offs Great River Energy (GRE) Director's Report by Chair Anderson Meeting Adjourned. Next regular board meeting is September 22, 2021.



KPC Purchased Projects of 4-H members at the 4-H Premium Auction during the Kandiyohi County Fair this past August.





## GREAT RIVER ENERGY: WORKING TOGETHER AND DOING WHAT'S RIGHT

Great River Energy is focused on building a better future for the member-owners we serve and the stakeholders who are impacted by the things we do. Over the past several years, we have reduced costs, mitigated our carbon risk, added renewables, and completed a transmission buildout. We've collaborated with member-owners to develop one of the largest demand response programs in the country while encouraging beneficial technologies that utilize renewable energy like the Revolt<sup>®</sup> program for electric vehicles. In addition, we are demonstrating a firstof-its-kind long-duration battery storage technology.

Over the years, Great River Energy has been responsibly transforming from a historically coal-dependent cooperative to one with low carbon intensity that will have zero coal. This shift allowed us to meet Minnesota's renewable energy standard (30% by 2025) eight years ahead of schedule, and we will ambitiously meet the state's carbon reduction goal (80% by 2050) 27 years early.

Last year, we announced plans to replace Coal Creek Station with 900 megawatts of wind energy, which will lower our costs and double our current renewable capacity. More recently, we decided to sell the plant because it saves our members money and allows us to preserve the jobs and communities in North Dakota. It is also the right thing to do. In addition, the company buying the power plant will pursue carbon capture and storage technology which we believe is something that could- and should- be replicated around the world. The sale of our high-voltage direct-current transmission system allows our member-owners to recover their investment in that asset, while securing the future use and operation of the critical system for the state of Minnesota and region.

Great River Energy maintains a portfolio of power supply resources designed to

provide members with reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible electricity. We are building a power supply portfolio and transmission system that will serve our membership well for decades.

Great River Energy has never been in a better financial position than it is today. Currently, our wholesale power rates are 12% below the weighted regional average cost of electricity, and we project wholesale rate decreases over the next several years.

Looking to the future, we are committed to electrifying the economy. Great River Energy and our member-owners play an intrinsic role in electrifying transportation, home heating and cooling, business applications, agriculture, manufacturing techniques, and more. Again, it's the right thing to do.

Great River Energy is thankful for the support and guidance we have received from many stakeholders who understand the policy implications, but also the impact on people, costs and communities involved in a transformation like this. Specifically, a special thanks to the Minnesota-North Dakota chapter of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), Center for Energy and the Environment (CEE), Great Plains Institute (GPI), and Clean Grid Alliance (CGA) who have helped us focus on practical solutions while working together, to do what's right.

As a cooperative, our success is determined largely by how well we serve our member-owners and interact with the world and people around us. Our efforts are paying off. Today, our member satisfaction is at an all-time high, and we commit uncompromisingly to being a responsible corporate citizen and leader in the evolution of the electric industry.

> - David Saggau President and CEO Great River Energy

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which helps low-income renters and homeowners pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs. Household income must be at or below 60% of the state median income (\$65,964 for a family of four) to qualify for benefits. Applications must be received or postmarked by May 31, 2022. To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/ for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance: United Community Action Agency – 320-235-0850 or 800-992-1710 Prairie Five Community Action – 320-269-7976 or 800-282-5437 Salvation Army – 320-235-2033 Tri-County Action Agency – 320-251-1612 or 888-765-5597 Kandiyohi County Family Service – 320-231-7066 Renville County Energy Assistance – 320-523-5522 or 800-450-2071 The Link (New London/Spicer area) – 320-354-5555

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative exists because of you, and we are dedicated to the people and communities we serve. If you are having difficulty paying your electric bill please contact Kandiyohi Power Cooperative to discuss payment arrangements.

## COLD WEATHER RULE & ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOTICE

In accordance with Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule (216B.096), electric service cannot be disconnected for nonpayment between Oct. 1 and April 30 if electricity is the primary heat source and ALL of the following statements apply:

- Your household income is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. Income may be verified on forms provided by Kandiyohi Power Cooperative or by the local energy assistance provider.
- You enter into and make reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.
- You receive referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce your energy bills from Kandiyohi Power Cooperative.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule does not completely stop winter disconnects

Before disconnecting electric service to residential members between

Oct. 1 and April 30, Kandiyohi Power Cooperative must provide:

- A 30-day notice of disconnection;
- A statement of members' rights and responsibilities;
- A list of local energy assistance providers;
- Forms on which to request Cold Weather Rule protection; and
- A statement explaining available payment plans and other options to continue service.

## SLOW DOWN: BACK TO SCHOOL MEANS SHARING THE ROAD

School days bring congestion: School buses are picking up their passengers, kids on bikes are hurrying to get to school before the bell rings, harried parents are trying

to drop their kids off before work. It's never more important for drivers to slow down and pay attention than when kids are present – especially before and after school.

#### On a Monday morning, the $16^{\mbox{\tiny th}}$ of August

## KPC welcomed our new STAKING ENGINEER, DAN DEISTING.

Dan's specialty is construction and surveying. Previously a Crew Chief for O'Malley & Kron Surveying,



his appetite for a new challenge led him to Kandiyohi Power. Dan's eagerness for a new challenge comes from his enjoyment of fishing. He said, "you can't not enjoy being challenged if you fish". The challenge of choosing the right bait and lures that will entice those walleyes, finding the exact spot where they are hanging out (it becomes like and hide-n-seek game), the anticipation of when you will get that first bite and then the adrenaline of feeling that fish on the end of your line and hoping it is that prize fish you've been waiting for.

Dan considers his parents his heroes and hopes that his children look to him the same. Although he hopes for that prize fish one day, Dan's biggest prize is his family. His wife Megan and their three children, ages 5, 4, and 1. Mornings are busy, grabbing coffee (maybe a piece of toast), keeping everyone on schedule and off to where they each need to go. This is probably why the one thing he looks forward to in his retired life is having no schedule. Although his retired life is in the future, he hopes to get a few things off his bucket list like going back to Hawaii and traveling to Fort Peck, Montana, which is a trophy walleye destination.

Although Dan didn't become the professional baseball player he wanted to be as a kid, he is very happy about his journey that led him to KPC. He is enjoying his new job, the atmosphere, getting to know his fellow employees and looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead. We are thrilled to have Dan join our KPC family and wish him the best in his new career here at Kandiyohi Power.

Did you know Dan has a fear of spiders? No one knows this about him so don't tell anyone.





8605 47th Street NE, Spicer, MN 56288 www.kpcoop.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- <b>320-894-1601</b>	1
Larry Powers- <b>320-212-7960</b>	1
Dan Pomranke, VC- <b>320-894-7113</b>	2
Todd Post- <b>320-212-1119</b>	2
Stan Wubben, Secretary- 320-905-832	<b>5</b> 2
Ryan Erickson - <b>320-979-5033</b>	3
Diane Helgeson- <b>320-220-3745</b>	3
Robbert Stone- <i>320-894-8867</i>	3

KILOWATT STAFF: Robin Ryks, Editor







# 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

# Heat from Thin Air

A heat pump extracts heat from the outside to the inside. Using recycled heat means the heat pump heats more efficiently.



# ANNOUNCING LIMITED TIME ASHP PROMOTION

Kandiyohi Power Cooperative is pleased to announce our 2021 Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) promotion. For a limited time, we will be increasing our rebate on ASHP's. This promotional rebate is subject to limited availability.

#### Rebate Qualifications/Considerations:

- 1. Must be installed in KPC territory
- 2. Must be "QI" installed and tested in 2021
- 3. Can be combined with furnace ECM rebate
- 4. Ask about off-peak program and reduced electric rates
- 5. To qualify for a rebate, must be purchased and installed in May through October 2021

### Why ASHP's?

- 1. Best of both worlds. ASHP's provide home cooling and supplemental heating with 72% less electricity than conventional a/c's and furnaces.
- 2. Higher Efficiency you can save up to 30% on your home cooling expenses. They are also 200% + more efficient when it comes to home heating.
- 3. Easy on the Environment
- 4. A Safe Solution no open flame so doesn't create any products combustion such as carbon monoxide and other emissions.
- 5. Quality Control Air rises more slowly, distributes more evenly and holds its moisture better. This makes a more natural warmth.
- 6. Adjusts Automatically An ASHP works in tandem with your conventional gas furnace for home heating. The pump automatically selects the most ideal balance between the two heating sources to constantly maintain the most efficiently ideal heating combination based on your desired indoor temperature.

### Promotional Rebate Amounts:

15 SEER	\$750.00
16 + SEER	\$1,500.00