


CURRENT ACTIVITIES



Clearwater-Polk
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Website at www.clearwater-polk.com

Operation Round-Up Donates OVER \$9,000

A number of local organizations were recipients of Clearwater-Polk Electric's Operation Round-Up recently. A total of \$9,150 was awarded to 12 entities.

Operation Round-Up builds funds when Clearwater-Polk Electric members agree to round-up their monthly bill to

the nearest dollar. The funds are managed by Clearwater-Polk's Operation Round-Up Trust. The trust was organized in 1997 and started donating in 1998, and to date the total of all donations comes to \$734,557.47.



Front row L to R: Linda Gulbranson, Barb Bohn, Connie Nunemaker, Jane Olson. Back row L to R: Keith Larson (ORU Board member), Logan LeClair, Stacy Nordlund, Kori Nelson, Halen Groenke, Marilyn McCollum (ORU Board member & Beth Erickson (ORU Board member).

Capital Credits Sets Electric Cooperatives Apart from Other Utilities

Capital credits are each member's share of the margins that is determined by how much electricity they purchased during the year and the rate that they were billed. Clearwater-Polk is excited to let our members know that the 2025 General Capital Credit Retirement has been processed!

Clearwater-Polk Electric's Board of Directors approved the general retirement for 100% of 1992, 50% of 1993 and 15% of 2024 allocations.

Current members who were also active members during

1992, 1993 and/or 2024 are receiving a credit on their January 3rd billing statement. Checks have been scheduled to be mailed to inactive members.

Thank you to all Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative members for your patronage and support of your electric cooperative!

If you have questions about capital credits or your cooperative membership, please call Clearwater-Polk Electric at 218-694-6241 and we will be happy to help.

— OFFICE HOURS: 7:00 AM-4:30 PM ... MONDAY-FRIDAY —

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2026

Phone **218-694-6241** - or - Toll Free **(888) 694-3833**



YOU COULD WIN**\$25**

To reward our faithful readers, one member's name will be drawn at random each month and placed somewhere in the newsletter. If you should find your name, let us know before the 15th and win \$25 off your next bill.

**CHEF'S CORNER****Cheese Con Queso****Ingredients:**

- 1 lb. hamburger
- 1 1/2 cups half & half
- 2 lbs. Velveeta cheese
- 2 T. butter
- 1 chopped green pepper
- Garlic salt
- 1 small can or jar of jalapeno peppers
- 1 chopped onion

Directions:

Brown hamburger, onion and green pepper. Drain and let sit. Heat in a double broiler half & half, cheese, (Allan Rabideau) butter and rest of ingredients. Put all in crock pot. Serve with tortilla chips.

SWAP SHOP

RULES: Ads for Clearwater-Polk Electric members only. Current Events newsletter will only be published every other month. Ads must be received by the 10th of the print month. *Limit your ads to two items. No commercial ads, please.*

REMINDER -

"Free-For Sale-Give Away- or Wanted ads can be posted in our newsletters for our members.

FOR SALE: Nice cabin, sleeps 6, \$3,900. Also want skid steer. 218-533-6029

TROUBLE CALLS**DURING OFFICE HOURS**

7:00 am - 4:30 pm,
Mon. - Fri.

CALL 694-6241 or
1-888-694-3833

**AFTER HOURS OUTAGES CALL**

1-877-881-7673

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2026

**Happy New Year
from all the Directors
and Employees of
Clearwater Polk Electric!**

BOARD

Greg Renner
Cheryl Grover
Kim Solberg
Harlan Highberg
Doug Lindgren
Dennis Engebretson
Betty Surdez

EMPLOYEES

Deanna Lefebvre
Todd Waggoner
Matt Rendahl
Mike Girtz
Tara Webb
Angie Swenson
Teresa Olson
Travis Trefz
Adam Sweno
Josh Hendricks
Tim Mullan
Lanny Bjerke
Griffin Brovold

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS:**Polk County Social Services**

240 SW Cleveland Ave
McIntosh, MN 56556 • 218-435-1585

White Earth Energy Assistance

PO Box 418
White Earth, MN 56591 • 218-473-2711

Inter-County Community Council

207 Main St
Oklee, MN 56742 • 888-778-4008

Red Lake CAP Program

15533 Main Ave
Red Lake, MN 56671 • (218)-679-1880

MAHUBE-OTWA (For Hubbard Co.)

120 North Central
Park Rapids, MN 56470-0229 • 218-732-7204

Bi-County Cap

6603 Bemidji Ave N.
Bemidji, MN 56601 • 800-332-7161

**SIGN UP FOR
AUTO-PAY AND YOU
WILL BE ELIGIBLE
TO WIN
\$25.00**

EACH MONTH WE DRAW
TWO MEMBER'S NAMES THAT HAVE
CHOSEN TO PAY BY AUTO-PAY. THEY
WILL RECEIVE A \$25.00 CREDIT
TOWARDS THEIR ELECTRIC BILL.

CURRENT WINNERS

ELAINE M. JENSON
TRACY L. WAGGONER
GERALD L. MERCK
ROBERT SHIMPA

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Greg Renner, *President*..... Shevlin
Cheryl Grover, *Vice President* Bagley
Kim Solberg, *Secretary/Treasurer* .. Gonvick
Harlan Highberg..... Bagley
Doug Lindgren..... Bagley
Dennis EngebretsonClearbrook
Betty Surdez Bagley
Deanna Lefebvre, *General Manager*

Clearwater-Polk Employees & Board Donate to Food Shelf

Clearwater-Polk Electric employees and board members donated food and \$340 cash to Clearwater County Food Shelf to help them get through the holiday season.



L to R: Tammy Kortan from the food shelf, Tara Webb & Angie Swenson Clearwater-Polk Employees.

79th Annual Meeting set for April 22, 2026

Clearwater-Polk Electric's 79th Annual Membership Meeting is just around the corner. Mark your calendars and plan to attend your electric cooperative's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2026. Meeting location will be at the old Clearbrook School in Clearbrook, MN. Registration, entertainment, and meal will begin at 4:30 p.m. with the meeting to follow at 6 p.m. (Wanda Matz) Please look for more details in the next March/April issue of your Current Activities newsletter!

SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

Held at the Clearwater-Polk Electric board room at 8:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday of each month.

OUR DEMAND RESPONSE WEBSITE

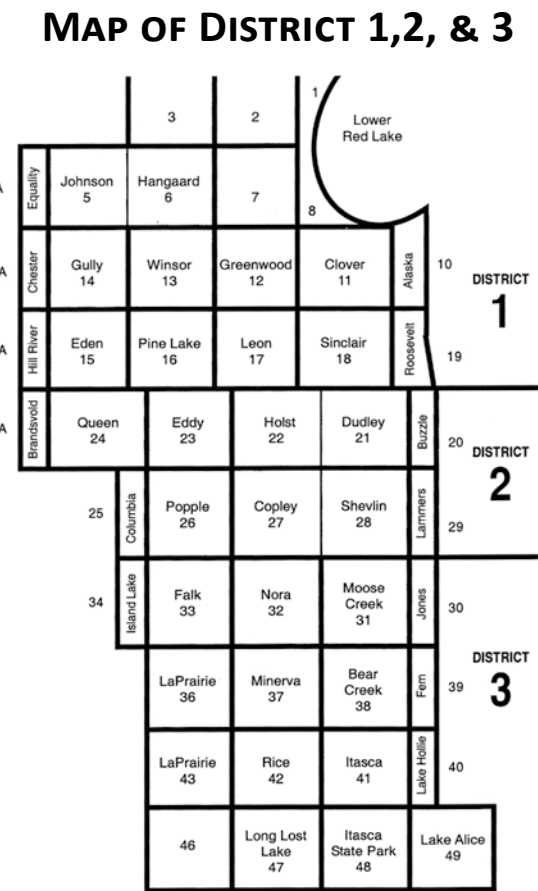
HAS A NEW LOOK!

- Easy-to-understand interface
- Control probability
- Load group detail still available

Have questions about the new site or text/email alerts? Give us a call at **218-694-6241**.



VISIT MINNKOTADR.COM or CLEARWATER-POLK.COM



PETITION FOR NOMINATION

The following Members wish to nominate [insert name] _____, for the (please check one)

☐ 3-year term director position for **District 1**

OR

☐ 3-year term director position for **District 2**

and to place such name on the ballot for the April 22, 2026 election, at the annual meeting of the Clearwater- Polk Electric Cooperative, in accordance with Article III, Section 8, of the bylaws.

Printed Name	Signature	Account Number
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____

The Cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than close of business February 23, 2026. At the annual meeting scheduled for April 22, 2026, elections will be held for the following districts where Director’s terms are expiring:

District 1	District 2
Dennis Engebretson (3-year term)	Harlan Highberg (3-year term)

Any 10 or more members who reside in the district, up for election, may nominate an eligible member for a director’s position. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. In the event of a joint Membership, only the signature of one member shall be acceptable.

WHAT IS REQUIRED OF A DIRECTOR?

The bylaws of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative establish certain qualifications that must be met in order to become a director. These are:

1. Be a member in good standing of the Cooperative, receiving electric service at the member’s primary residence in the district from which the director is elected prior to being nominated for director; provided, further that “primary residence” is defined as the residence that is the chief or main residence of the person and where the person actually lives for the most substantial portion of the year;
2. Not be, nor within three (3) years preceding a director candidate’s nomination have been, an employee of the Cooperative;
3. Not be, become, nor shall have been at any time during the five (5) years preceding a director candidate’s nomination, employed by a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employee of the Cooperative;
4. Not be a close relative of an employee or director, where as found in these bylaws “close relative” means any individual who is, either by blood, law, or marriage, including half, step, foster, and adoptive relations, a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, or sibling, or principally resides in the same residence;
5. Not be employed by, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in, any director, individual or entity which either is:

- (i) directly or substantially competing with the Cooperative; or
 - (ii) selling goods and services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative; or
 - (iii) possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative.
- For purposes of this section, the terms “material” or “substantially” shall be interpreted as constituting a minimum of 5% of a member’s total hours of employment, sales, or income on an annual basis;
6. Not be or become the full-time employee or agent of, or be or become the full-time employer or principal or, another director;
 7. Not be absent, without being excused by the

- board, from three (3) or more regular meetings of the board of directors during any twelve (12) month period;
8. Be only one, and not more than one, member of a joint membership; provided, however, that none shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless all shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth;
 9. If a representative or agent of a member is not a natural person, i.e. a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or similar, then the representative or agent designated as a nominee for director shall be an individual residing within the external boundaries of the district from which (s)he is nominated; and
 10. Never have been convicted of a felony.

MANAGERS MESSAGE



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

Happy New Year!

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season and an opportunity to celebrate with your family and friends. One of my highlights of the year is to join co-op employees and directors, along with their significant others, in celebrating Christmas at our annual Christmas party. During this event we take the opportunity to do a small food drive for our local food shelf. Thank you to all the employees and board members who donated. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you, but especially those who are struggling. Also, if you or anyone you know are having difficulty paying the electric bill, please contact our office right away. Good communication is necessary to help avoid getting disconnected for non-pay.

Wholesale Power Rate Increase

This time last year, this article focused on Minnkota Power's wholesale rate increase of 8.3% for its member distribution cooperatives, including Clearwater-Polk Electric. Unfortunately, Minnkota has once again announced that a wholesale power rate increase is needed. Early projections indicate an increase of approximately 4.15% for 2026. In addition, Minnkota has indicated that a wholesale power energy surcharge may also be necessary, though the

amount has not yet been determined. We expect to learn more as Minnkota completes its year-end financial processes.

How will this affect your bill?

As this article is being written, Clearwater-Polk staff are finalizing the Cooperative's 2026 budget and completing year-end financial work. Based on early projections, we are hopeful that Clearwater-Polk will be able to absorb Minnkota's 4.15% wholesale power rate increase without implementing an additional energy rate increase for our members this year.

If Minnkota ultimately implements a wholesale power surcharge at a level that cannot be fully absorbed, Clearwater-Polk management and your Board of Directors will carefully evaluate the impact. Any decisions will be made with a focus on maintaining the Cooperative's long-term financial health while remaining mindful of the affordability concerns of our member-owners. As always, we are committed to transparency and will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

Planning for Our Cooperative's Future Facilities

Your cooperative's management team and Board of Directors continue to take thoughtful, deliberate steps toward planning and designing future facilities that will support reliable service, employee safety, and long-term operational efficiency. Over the past several months, we have been working closely with MJB Architects to evaluate our needs and translate them into a practical, cost-conscious facility design.

We are now nearing the end of the Design Development phase, an important milestone in the process. This phase refines the overall building layout, space needs, site considerations, and preliminary cost estimates, allowing the Board and management to better understand

both functionality and long-term investment requirements before moving forward.

At each step, decisions are being guided by our responsibility to be good stewards of your cooperative, planning for facilities that meet today's needs while positioning Clearwater-Polk

Electric for the future. As this work continues, we remain committed to keeping members informed as the planning process advances and additional decisions are considered.

Board Director Announcement – District 2

Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative would like to share that Harlan Highberg, Board Director representing District 2, has announced he will not be seeking re-election at the Cooperative's Annual Meeting this April. Harlan has been an outstanding asset to the Cooperative during his four, three-year terms on the Board of Directors. Throughout his service, he has been a thoughtful leader and a strong advocate for the Cooperative's membership, consistently representing the best interests of District 2 and the Cooperative as a whole.

Members interested in running for the Board of Directors are encouraged to contact the Cooperative's office for more information and to receive a candidate packet.

My Door is Open

As always, my door is open. Transparency and open communication are priorities at Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, and I welcome your questions, feedback, or concerns at any time. If you would ever like to stop by the office or visit in person, please know that I value those conversations and appreciate the opportunity to connect with the members we are proud to serve.

Until next time, and, as always, stay safe, happy and healthy!

Deanna

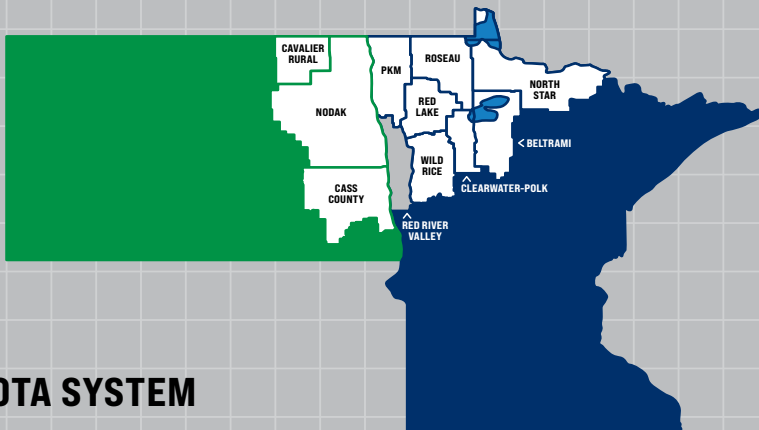
MEET MINNKOTA!

Within the pages of this newsletter, we often talk about our partners at Minnkota Power Cooperative, who supply us with the wholesale power we deliver to your homes and businesses. We wanted to shed a little light on Minnkota and how they serve Clearwater-Polk Electric and our co-op neighbors.

OUR PARTNERSHIP

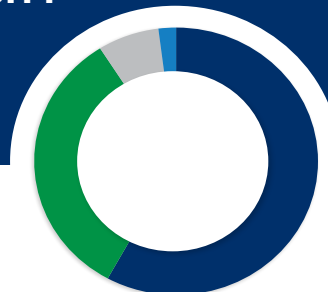
Minnkota is a not-for profit generation and transmission cooperative. That means it generates electricity (with coal, wind and hydro) and transmits it to 11 of its member distribution cooperatives, including Clearwater-Polk Electric. Minnkota is headquartered in Grand Forks, North Dakota, but owns generation and transmission equipment throughout North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.

Minnkota is owned by its member cooperatives. That means all 11 co-ops have representation on Minnkota's board of directors to make sure every co-op's voice is heard.



THE MINNKOTA SYSTEM

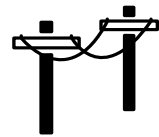
MINNKOTA'S GENERATION CAPACITY



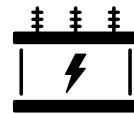
MINNKOTA BY THE NUMBERS



FORMED IN
1940



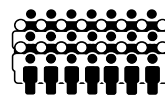
MILES OF LINE
3,388



SUBSTATIONS
265



CARBON-FREE
ENERGY
42%



COOPERATIVE
ACCOUNTS SERVED
153,000