

# CURRENT ACTIVITIES



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
Website at [www.clearwater-polk.com](http://www.clearwater-polk.com)

## Clearwater-Polk Holds 79th Annual Meeting

The 79th Annual Membership meeting held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, was a great success. The theme of this year's meeting was "Powering What Matters Most", and we appreciated seeing approximately 150 co-op and community members who were in attendance. Thank you to those who made time in their busy schedule to attend Clearwater-Polk Electric's 79th Annual Meeting.



Special recognition to those who had a key role in the evening's activities. The meeting wouldn't have been a success without you. They include:

**American Legion Post #256** who presented the flags.

**Stacy Peterson** of Bagley who graced us with her beautiful voice by singing the National Anthem.

**Jeremy Davies** who provided the Invocation.

**The Clearbrook-Gonvick school lunch staff** prepared and served a delicious meatball dinner.

**Attorney Adam Bothun** who led us through the voting process. He explained the nomination process, the voting procedure and announced the Director positions that were up for election. Attorney Bothun indicated that Dennis Engebretson for the 3-year term District 1 position was running uncontested. No petitions were submitted for the 3-year term for District 2 that was held by

Harlan Highberg.

General Manager Lefebvre presented the membership with the 2025 financial report, along with her Manager's Report to Members. Board President, Greg Renner also presented his 2025 reports.

General Manager Lefebvre gave a special presentation on the plans to build new facilities on property owned by the Cooperative just north of Bagley along 370th St.

A presentation to give members an update on Minnkota Power, Clearwater-Polk Electric's wholesale power supplier, was presented by Marcy Douglas. Marcy is the Executive Vice-President and Chief Member and Communications Officer for Minnkota.

And finally, special recognition and thank you to all the Board Members and Employees of Clearwater-Polk. They play a key role in not only the success of the annual meeting, but also the success of the Co-op all year long.

If you were unable to attend the

annual meeting and would like a copy of the 2025 annual report, please contact our office.

Directly following the annual meeting, a reorganization meeting of the Board of Directors was conducted. Business included appointing Harlan Highberg to fill the open District 2 director position for one year. Director Highberg will hold this seat until the 2026 annual meeting and member elections will be held. Additional business included election of officers for 2026. Accepting officer positions include Greg Renner as President, Cheryl Grover as Vice President, and Kim Solberg as Secretary/Treasurer.

Board votes to move forward with plans to build new facilities. Please see manager's article on page 5 for information.

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



## 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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:** Log gazebo, \$1,500. 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**

## OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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

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

ROGER F. SMITH  
 CORTNEY D. SYVERSON  
 STEVE D. BOYSEN  
 JASON MOEN

## Holiday Closings

Closed Monday,  
 Sept. 7 for Labor Day



## Spraying Vegetation to start in July

Clearwater-Polk has contracted with NWC to spray previously brushed vegetation. Beginning in July spraying will begin, concentrating in the following townships: Copley, Poppo, and Columbia. If there are any areas along your property that you do not want sprayed, please have them clearly marked and contact our office at 218-694-6241.



## CHEF'S CORNER

### Fudge Zucchini Cake

Lillian Newland • Shevlin, MN

#### Ingredients:

- 1 box chocolate cake mix
- 3 eggs
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 4 cups shredded zucchini
- 1 cup coconut (optional)

#### Directions:

Mix cake mix, eggs and oil well. Add zucchini and coconut, if desired. Place in a 9 x 13 pan or jelly roll pan. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes. Frost with your favorite frosting.

## 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

## YOU COULD WIN



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 15<sup>th</sup> and win \$25 off your next bill.



**Know what's below.  
 Call before you dig.**

# Volunteers Gather at Itasca State Park

On Saturday, May 3rd, an estimated 29 people volunteered with GreenTouch at Itasca State Park. Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative teamed up with neighboring cooperative, Itasca-Mantrap.

Volunteers included many electrical cooperative employees, some employee spouses, children, and members.

Among Clearwater-Polk's crew were our Member Services Manager – Matt Rendahl and family, Member Services - Tara Webb and 1 journeyman lineman – Adam Sweno and kids for trimming trees.

Working together on projects (Guadalupe R. Spearstomas) like pruning and trimming trees, removing bud caps, planting pine trees and installing tree cages made the 2026 clean up a success!

Clearwater-Polk Electric would like to thank everyone who was involved this year and in previous years.



A statewide-cooperative, environmental and community-outreach program



## Bo Buehler joins Clearwater-Polk Electric



Clearwater-Polk Electric is happy to welcome Bo Buehler as the Office and Administrative Supervisor.

Bo is originally from Georgia and moved here with his wife Taylor. They enjoy living in Lengby with their four kids; Calvin, Lizzie, RC and Sarah Jane. He enjoys hunting and fishing and spending time with his family.

Bo is coming to Clearwater-Polk after teaching for several years at Fosston High School and from driving trucks in the summer for Zavoral's. He has enjoyed his time so far and is looking forward to serving the members and employees of Clearwater-Polk.



**Operation Roundup Donations**

Marilyn Hood (Summer Rec. Theater Camp); Kelly Cease Bowman (Bagley After Prom to support cost of prom event and activities); Hailey Dunaway (4-H Fair Awards at the fair); Carol Torgerson (Gully 100! 250 yr celebration planning with Trail); Tamara Edevold (Clearwater County Historical Society kids newsletter & NELL); Darien Northup (Clear Waters Life Center to start a new youth program for grades 1 and up); Terri Nelson (Clearwater County Public Health for bike safety helmets); Zach Peterson (Shevlin Fire Dept. for new jaws of life); Gladys Luecken (Headwaters Quilters Guild for Quilts of Valor).



Front L to R: Marilyn Hood, Carol Torgerson, Gladys Luecken, Tamara Edevold. Back L to R: Zach Peterson, Darien Northup, Hailey Dunaway, Kelly Cease Bowman, Terri Nelson, Keith Larson (Operation Round Up Board member).

**Operations & Summer Construction Update**

Hello Everyone,  
As I write this our weather has come around finally in the last couple of weeks, which means the start of construction season here at CPEC.

With that we had a busy winter and spring changing out rejected poles, brushing right of way and running maintenance on our testing area. Again this year we will contract Star Energy Services to do the pole testing beginning later this summer. They will be testing in the townships of Copley, Popple and Columbia.

In March and April the crews were busy with our mass meter change out of the Clearbrook and Dudley Substation. That completes our new meter deployment for all but one of our five substations, leaving the meters that are served through our Bagley substation that is scheduled for next March.

Our projects for this summer will consist of replacing 2 miles of single-phase overhead with 2 miles of 3-phase underground from the north entrance of Itasca State Park west 2 miles. Then, continuing west replacing 3 miles of single-phase overhead with single-phase underground to Long Lake Campground. Along with new services, rebuilds and upgrades it will be a busy summer!!

Always with storm season approaching, keep safety in mind first. Have flashlights handy and stay away and never touch a downed powerline.

Stay safe and have a good one, Travis

**Co-op Members donate to Clearwater County Food Shelf**



Thank you to everyone who donated to the Clearwater County Food Shelf during the Co-op's annual meeting. Contributions received a chance to win a \$50 Visa gift card. Through this food drive the Clearwater County Food Shelf received (Leslie A. Sorenson) donations of 56 pounds of food and \$326 cash.

Clearwater-Polk Electric hopes to see you at our 2026 Clearwater County Fair Booth

August 6th through August 8th each day from 1 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**\*\*\*REGISTER TO WIN\*\*\***

Drawing for adults and kids!



# MANAGERS MESSAGE



**Deanna Lefebvre**  
General Manager

At the time the last issue of Current Activities was prepared, Clearwater-Polk Electric had not yet held its 79th Annual Membership Meeting. I first want to sincerely thank all of our members who took the time to attend this year's meeting. Member participation is one of the foundations of the cooperative business model, and we greatly appreciate those who continue to stay engaged in the future of their cooperative.

During the annual meeting, I provided an update on one of the most significant projects Clearwater-Polk Electric has considered in many years, the potential construction of a new pole yard, shop, and headquarters facility. As many members know, we also included an article in our last newsletter sharing information on the project and the reasons management and the board have been carefully evaluating this investment.

On Tuesday, June 9, your Board of Directors held a special board meeting to make a final decision regarding the project. After extensive review and consideration, the board voted unanimously to move forward with construction of new facilities for your cooperative.

It is important for our members to understand that a decision of this magnitude is not made overnight. Over the past year and a half, management and the board have worked through an extensive planning process that included careful analysis, discussion, and

evaluation of multiple scenarios before arriving at this decision.

**Major steps taken throughout this process included:**

- Evaluating current and future facility needs
- Hiring an architectural firm to assist with planning and design
- Developing initial building concepts and designs
- Revising and scaling back portions of the design to control costs
- Reviewing Clearwater-Polk's long-term electrical load growth projections
- Developing a 10-year financial forecast and evaluating affordability
- Creating a long-term Equity Management Plan
- Securing long-term financing options
- Requesting and evaluating competitive construction bids

As with any major capital investment, there were both advantages and challenges that needed to be carefully weighed.

**Some of the major benefits identified include:**

- Consolidating all operations into one centralized location
- Creating additional space to meet both current operational demands and future growth needs
- Providing indoor storage for fleet vehicles and equipment, reducing wear and extending useful life
- Increasing capacity for on-hand inventory and materials needed for outage restoration and system maintenance
- Utilizing property already owned by the cooperative
- Locating facilities within Clearwater-Polk Electric's own service territory
- Providing dedicated meeting and training space for employee development, safety training, and potential community use
- Improving overall workflow, organization, and operational efficiency
- Enhancing safety and security for employees, equipment, and materials
- Constructing facilities designed to serve the cooperative for decades into the future
- Offsetting a portion of the project cost through the sale of existing properties

At the same time, the board carefully considered the challenges associated with the project, including:

- The need for future increases to member access charges
- Rebuilding member equity levels after a major capital investment
- A location that may be less convenient for some members visiting the office
- Additional maintenance responsibilities associated with a larger facility and property

Ultimately, one thing remains certain - the need for reliable electricity is not going away.

Electric cooperatives are unique organizations because we do not make decisions based solely on the next quarter, the next year, or even the next five years. We make decisions with a long-term perspective, often looking decades into the future to ensure we continue providing safe, reliable, and affordable electric service for generations of members to come.

Your Board of Directors did not make this decision lightly. Throughout every step of this process, their focus has remained on what is in the best long-term interest of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative as a whole.

This investment represents more than constructing new buildings. It represents investing in the future of your cooperative - improving safety for employees, increasing operational efficiency, protecting critical equipment and materials, and ensuring Clearwater-Polk Electric is positioned to continue serving our membership reliably for many decades ahead.

As your cooperative moves forward with this exciting project, we remain committed to keeping our membership informed throughout the construction process. We appreciate your trust, support, and continued engagement as we take this important step toward building for the future.

My door is always open, so please feel free to stop in any time. And, as always, stay safe, happy & healthy!

Deanna

# ALL-OF-THE-ABOVE

All-of-the-above strategy ensures the best energy value



“Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.”

It’s a familiar saying, and believe it or not, that age-old piece of wisdom is used by electric cooperatives to make sure you receive a reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible supply of electricity. Each of the primary generation resource options across the country has both advantages and disadvantages. This is why an all-of-the-above energy strategy is so crucial. If a utility ties itself to one resource, it is exposed to all the risks associated with that resource. By diversifying, utilities are able to take advantage of the pros and limit their exposure to the cons.

Through its membership in Minnkota Power Cooperative/NMPA, YOUR COOPERATIVE OR MUNICIPAL uses a diverse mix of coal, wind and hydro to meet your 24/7 electricity needs. Future power supply decisions take into account numerous factors, including permitting; capital, operating and maintenance costs; existing generation mix; reliability and resiliency; and projected consumer demand for electricity.

Decisions to build or purchase from new generation resources are carefully considered. Building any new generation resource at grid scale can cost hundreds of millions of dollars and require decades of investment and commitment. That makes it uneconomic to switch back and forth between power supply options over short periods of time.

## PROS AND CONS OF GENERATION RESOURCES

### DISPATCHABLE/BASELOAD

#### LIGNITE COAL

Abundant, domestic fuel source	Currently, almost impossible to permit
Can reliably run 24 hours per day	Can be difficult to ramp up and down to accommodate renewable production
Cost-competitive with other resources	Higher CO <sub>2</sub> intensity than natural gas, although CO <sub>2</sub> capture technology is advancing

#### NATURAL GAS

Lower CO <sub>2</sub> emission levels than coal	Fuel costs have been historically volatile
Currently, natural gas is low-priced	Pipeline infrastructure not adequate for projected demand
Can be run 24/7 or used during peak events	Potentially more expensive to install CO <sub>2</sub> capture technology
Flexible operation	

#### HYDRO

No fuel cost	Currently, almost impossible to permit
Low-cost energy to consumer	Affects fish and wildlife habitat
No air emissions	Alters the natural flow of rivers
Flexible operation	Virtually no resources in development (some dams being removed)

#### NUCLEAR

No air emissions	High capital cost and increasingly expensive fuel
Can reliably run 24 hours per day	Radioactive waste must be properly disposed of and monitored
	Nearly impossible to permit
	Cannot ramp up and down to accommodate renewable production

### INTERMITTENT

#### WIND

No fuel cost	Has intermittent production (produces about 45% of its potential on an annual basis)
No air emissions	Requires investment in backup generation resources
Cost-competitive with other resources	Turbines take a larger footprint to produce the same energy as other resources
	Wind farms can impact bird and wildlife populations
	Cannot operate in extreme cold or wind conditions

#### SOLAR

No fuel cost	Has intermittent production (produces about 15-18% of its potential on an annual basis)
No air emissions	Requires investment in backup generation resources
Costs are higher than other resources, but are trending downward	Solar panels take a larger footprint to produce the same energy as other resources
	Production affected by clouds, snow and extreme cold temperatures

#### BATTERY TECHNOLOGY

No air emissions	Technology is in its infancy at grid scale
Can be dispatched when needed	Costly to deploy and requires investments in other generation resources to charge the batteries
Pairs well with renewable resources	Can only dispatch for 2-4 hours at a time when energy can be needed for days
	Battery components require significant amounts of rare earth elements, which are almost exclusively produced by China

