


CURRENT

ACTIVITIES



Clearwater-Polk
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
Website at www.clearwater-polk.com

Official Notice of Rescheduled 73rd Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the members of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative will be held at the:

TIMBER EVENT CENTER (ALSO DaROO'S PIZZA)
LOCATED ON US HIGHWAY 2 WEST, BAGLEY, MINN.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12TH, 2020

FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

1. To pass upon reports of previous fiscal year;
2. To elect two directors of the Cooperative;

The following candidates have been nominated via petition in accordance with the bylaws:

District 1

(Three -year term)
Dennis Engebretson

District 2

(Three-year term)
Harlan Highberg
Greg Leintz

3. To transact such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting.

Robert Johnson, Secretary Dated: June 24, 2020

**11:00 a.m. -12:00 pm Registration
Voting**

All ballots must be received by August 12, 2020, 12:00 p.m. Ballots received after 12:00 p.m. will not be considered. There will be no presentations or guest speakers. The Annual Report, the annual member gift item and a take-out lunch will be provided. Take-out lunches will only be provided from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Prize drawings will take place at Clearwater-Polk Electric's office on August 13th, 2020. Winners will be notified by phone. Your registration to the meeting is your draw prize entry.

SAVE THE DATE

**Please RSVP no
later than July 31st
Thank you!**

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

JULY & AUGUST 2020

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.

SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

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

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

- Leroy Riewer, *President* Bagley
- Greg Spaulding, *Vice President*..... Bagley
- Robert Johnson, *Secretary* Bagley
- Greg Renner, *Treasurer* Shevlin
- Gary Mathis Gonvick
- Kim Solberg Gonvick
- Bill Lanners Shevlin
- Bruce Bjerke..... 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

JULY WINNERS - JOHN HANSEN & TODD FORE
AUGUST WINNERS - RYAN LUND & JOE MERSETH

SWAP SHOP

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

For Sale: Registered Suffolk Buck, 4 y.o., good disposition, \$325. 320-515-0923

The Clearwater-Polk Electric Office Will Be Closed

Monday September 7th in observance of Labor Day

MAIL IN BALLOT NOTIFICATION

If you are a Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative Member, wish to vote in the election of Directors and cannot attend Clearwater-Polk's annual meeting on August 12, 2020 at 11:00 a.m., contact our office by phone, in person or by mail to receive a mail in ballot. The ballot must be received by our office either in person or through the mail by 9:00 a.m., August 12, 2020.



Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative

VOTING BALLOT

August 12, 2020

Election of Directors

District # 1
(3-year term)

Vote for one Yes

Dennis Engebretson

District # 2
(3-year term)

Vote for one Yes

Harlan Highberg

Greg Leintz

Approval of 72nd Annual Meeting Minutes

Approve 72nd annual meeting minutes Yes No

Objections/Corrections/Comments

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Robert Johnson, being duly elected Secretary of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. do hereby certify that I have caused to be deposited in the United States mail, the notice of the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative on July 6, 2020. The notice was sent to all members at their last known mailing address on record.

Robert Johnson

Clearwater - Polk Electric's Director Candidates



**NOMINEE FOR
DISTRICT 1
DENNIS
ENGBRETSON**

Dennis, along with his wife Jacky live 4 miles northeast of Clearbrook on the family farm that was homesteaded in 1903 by his grandfather Ole and Ole's mother Anna. Dennis and

Jacky have two children, their daughter Maria and son, Philip and his wife Laura and infant son Baruch.

Sheep, dairy, beef, chickens, horses, elk are some of the livestock that have been raised on the farm.

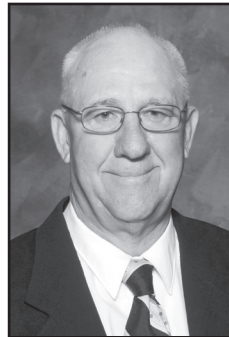
Birdsfoot Trefoil has been one of the crops raised for the last 50 years as well as mixed hay and some small grains.

Dennis graduated from Clearbrook High School in 1971, and then graduated from Bemidji Vo-Tech in Carpentry. He also took several years of Farm Management from the Vo-Tech school.

Dennis has served in 4-H leadership, enjoyed serving a number of years on the Clearbrook Elevator board, served on church trustee board and is currently serving on the Advocacy board with Clearwater-Polk Electric Co-op. He is also currently serving on the Sustainable Sheep

& Fiber Community board.

Dennis has enjoyed many years of bowhunting, watching the local youth play ball, visiting with family and friends, collecting maple syrup, and trying to catch trout in the pond.



**NOMINEE FOR
DISTRICT 2
HARLAN
HIGHBERG**

Harlan and his wife Gayle reside in Copley Township North East of Bagley on the farm where Harlan was born and raised.

Harlan is now retired to the farm full time where he and Gayle raise and sell hay and maintain the pasture fences for their pasture renters.

Harlan spent 32 years as the County Executive Director of the Clearwater County USDA Farm Service Agency in Bagley.

He previously enjoyed serving as a member of the Clearwater-Polk REA board of directors for six years. During that time, he completed courses in the Credentialed Cooperative Director training programs.

Harlan stated that he would like to put that training to work again and would appreciate another opportunity to represent you as a director on your REA board.



**NOMINEE FOR
DISTRICT 2
GREG
LEINTZ**

Greg and his wife Marsha have lived just north of Bagley in Copley township since 1986. Marsha works as a Registered Nurse and together they own Galens Fresh

Food Market/Hardware Hank in downtown Bagley where Greg has worked for over 30 years. They have 3 grown children all raised in Bagley. Greg believes his board experience with other organizations will be of benefit on the Clearwater-Polk Electric Board. That experience includes current member and past president of the Bagley Rotary Club, current member and past president of The Bagley Area Chamber of Commerce, board member of Twin Pines Golf Course, Bagley Industrial Development Commission, and Bagley Revolving Loan Fund Committee. Greg and Marsha are members of Faith Lutheran Church.

72nd Annual Meeting Minutes Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc. April 10, 2019

The 72nd Annual Meeting of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Inc was held at Timber Events Center on April 10, 2019. Early arrivals were treated to coffee, cookies, and donuts. The nursing service conducted a health fair consisting of blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol checks. Bingo was played by a number of attendees until the meeting was called to order.

President Leroy Riewer called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. There were well over the required number of members in attendance to provide a quorum for the 72nd Annual Meeting.

Pastor Dale Adams gave the Invocation.

The membership stood while Stacy Pittman led the group in the singing of the National Anthem.

Secretary Johnson read the Notification of Mailing.

The minutes of the 71st Annual Meeting were included in print in the meeting brochure, President Riewer asked for motion from the floor to approve them as presented April 10, 2019. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the minutes as presented.

Manager Bjerke welcomed the crowd. He introduced special guests, past board members and recognized Veteran's in the audience.

Attorney Andrew Sorbo from Minnkota Power introduced the current board members. He then explained the nomination process, the voting procedure and announced the Director positions that were up for election. Attorney Sorbo indicated that Robert Johnson for the 3-year term District 2 position and Greg Spaulding for the 3-year term District 3 position were running uncontested. Attorney Sorbo called for a motion from the floor to elect Robert Johnson for the 3-year term, District 2 Director position and Greg Spaulding for the 3-year term, District 3 position. The motion was made, seconded and carried. Attorney Sorbo introduced the two candidates running for the 3-year term,

District 1 Director position. Candidates include Dennis Engebretson and Kim Solberg. Attorney Sorbo also introduced the two candidates running for the 3-year term, District 3 position. Candidates include James Boe, Sr. and Bill Lanners. Attorney Sorbo opened the voting and tellers Larry Djernes, Jim Michel and Virgil Norquist collected the ballots.

Courtney Richman, Accountant for Eide Bailly, LLP gave the audited financial report for 2018.

General Manager Bjerke reported on 2018 operations.

Guest speaker, Stacey Dahl, Senior Manager of External Affairs, Minnkota, reported on the generation resources of the Minnkota Power system and the role they played during the cold weather alert and the Polar Vortex at the end of January. Stacey also gave a presentation on Project Tundra, a project being designed with the goal of capturing up to 95 percent of the carbon dioxide emission from Unit 2 at the Milton R. Young Station with amine-based technology. The CO2 will be

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VOTING BY MAIL INSTRUCTIONS

Voting Ballot – Election of Directors:

1. Mark the enclosed “Voting Ballot - Election of Directors” with an “X” in the space provided adjacent to the candidate’s name you have selected for each vacant seat.

There should be two (2) marks on your BALLOT, as there are two seats to be filled this year: District 1: *one director, three-year term.* District 2: *one director, three-year term.*

2. To ensure secret balloting, place your marked Election Ballot inside the envelope marked “Privacy Envelope” and seal the Privacy Envelope.

There should be NO MARKS on the PRIVACY ENVELOPE.

3. Place the sealed “Privacy Envelope” inside the “Return Identification Envelope.”

In order to ensure that your ballot is counted, PRINT your name, ENTER your account number, SIGN your name, and AFFIX proper postage to the RETURN IDENTIFICATION ENVELOPE.

Pursuant to the Bylaws Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative, Art. I., Sec. 9(i), the following information is provided along with the enclosed Voting Ballot - Election of Directors:

- 1) *The names of the candidates, submitted via petition, for the director positions to be filled is enclosed;*
- 2) *Fifty (50) members present in person or represented by mail vote are necessary to meet a quorum;*
- 3) *The candidate receiving a plurality of the votes cast for each directorship will be elected;*
- 4) *The Mailed Ballots must be received before 9:00 a.m. on August 12, 2020 to be counted.*

Voting Ballot Checklist

Have you

- Marked your ballot clearly and legibly and only in the appropriate spaces?
- Enclosed the ballot in the privacy envelope and sealed the envelope?

- Enclosed the sealed privacy envelope inside the return identification envelope?
- Printed your name and account number and signed the return identification envelope?

- Enclosed in the return identification envelope a “Designation of Voting Representative” if you are voting on behalf of a corporation, school board, church, etc.

* ATTENTION CORPORATE MEMBERS *



If you are a member Corporation, Cooperative, School, Church, Township (or other non-natural person) of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative and want to be represented at Members’ Meeting(s), please have the following form completed and signed by an authorized officer of the organization.

In order for the member Corporation, etc., to participate in business matters, this form must be received by the Secretary of Clearwater-Polk on or before the date of the Members’ Meeting(s). This form may be mailed to Clearwater-Polk or presented at registration at the Members’ Meeting(s).

— THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED ANNUALLY —

Designation of Voting Representative

_____ hereby authorizes
PRINT Name of Organization

_____ PRINT Name of Designated Voting Representative

to represent the organization in any and all business, including voting, that may be conducted at Members’ Meeting(s) of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative held in 2020.

Signature and Title of Authorized Officer

Date

Manager's Message



Bruce Bjerke

UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

How many times have you heard that since the pandemic hit?

As we were working on early plans for the annual meeting, we never dreamt that in just a short time everything would get turned upside down. Our normal mode of operation changed and at our March board meeting it was decided to postpone the annual meeting indefinitely.

With some of the COVID restrictions being lifted, June 8th we opened the lobby again to the public with social distancing requirements in place. Safety of our employees and members continues to be a very important part of the culture at Clearwater-Polk.

Thankfully, we haven't had any of our employees or directors test positive for the virus and at this time we have had only six positive cases in our

county. But, due to COVID-19 risks still out there, it has been decided to hold an essential business annual meeting. Our meeting will look very different. There will be no refreshments, no bingo, no invited guest, and no speeches. Only essential business will be conducted.

The annual meeting will take place at the Timbers Event Center on August 12th from 11:00 am to noon. The agenda, voting instructions and a sample ballot are included in our newsletter this month. If you cannot make the meeting, you can still vote by mail. Those attending the meeting will be asked to practice social distancing and wearing a mask is encouraged. If you are planning to attend the meeting, please call our office so we know how many meals to prepare. A meatball dinner to go will be provided. When you arrive at the meeting, you will have the opportunity to register, vote, receive a gift and Clearwater-Polk's Annual Report. We do have some prizes, but those will be drawn the next day and winners will be notified by phone. It won't be our typical annual meeting, but we hope you understand.

The meeting will officially end at noon and the ballots will be counted. The results of the election will be posted on our website, Facebook and in the local papers the following week.

Another part of a typical meeting is to recognize our employees and directors. I want to thank all of them for adapting to the quick changes that had to be made due to the pandemic and for keeping such a positive attitude!

We had a couple of key employees retire this year. Karen Hopke retired in June after 23 years and Debbie Olson in January with over 30 years. A big thank you to them for their many years of

dedicated service to the cooperative and members! We welcomed Tara Web and Teresa Olson, who are fitting in with our co-op family very well.

On our board, two directors who have a lot of valuable experience have also decided to retire. Leroy Riewer began work at Clearwater-Polk in March of 1956 as a lineman. He moved up the ranks to line superintendent and in July of 1988 became general manager. Leroy decided to retire in January of 2001, after 44 years of service to Clearwater-Polk and its members. Then, in 2005, Leroy was elected to the board to represent the members from District 2, is our current board president and our representative to Minnkota's Board of Directors.

Gary Mathis was elected to our board in 1981 to represent the members from District 1. He was board treasure for 26 years and our representative to the Square Butte Board since 1989. We have been truly fortunate to have those dedicated employees and directors for a combined total of 151 years at Clearwater-Polk and serving our members!

They have left some huge shoes to fill, but we have a great group of employees and directors that are up to the task. Again, I would like to thank our employees for the great job they are doing, our Board of Directors for their service and leadership representing the members, the Advocacy Group for their involvement and interest in the cooperative, and the Operation Roundup Trust Board for their job of administering the funds of the trust.

We hope to see you at the annual meeting. As always, I welcome your questions or concerns.

Bruce

 **CHEF'S CORNER**
Strawberry Nut Salad
 Doris Mathison (Bagley, MN)

Ingredients:

- 1 lg pkg strawberry Jell-O
- 1 cup boiling water
- 2 (10 oz) pkgs frozen sliced strawberries, thawed
- 1 (1lb 4 oz) can crushed pineapple
- 3 medium bananas, mashed
- 1 cup walnuts (optional)
- 1 pint sour cream

Preparation: Combine Jello-O and boiling water. Stir until dissolved. Fold in strawberries with juice, drained (Harold Erno) pineapple, bananas and nuts. Put half of mixture in a 12x8x2 baking dish and refrigerate until firm. Evenly spread top with sour cream. Gently spoon on rest of mixture and refrigerate. Cut into squares and serve on lettuce leaf.

 **Remember to follow us on Facebook!**

Manage your electric account online & keep it simple. Enroll in SmartHub today!

 **smartclips**
 Managing Notification Contacts with SmartHub Web



View and Pay Your Bill
Manage Recurring Payments
Check Your Status & Report an Issue

Manage Payment Methods
Go Paperless
Manage SmartHub® Notifications

Visit Clearwater-Polk's website at www.clearwater-polk.com to sign up today!

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used for Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) or simple permanent underground storage. Project Tundra has been modeled after the Petra Nova Project located in Texas.

President Riewer called on Attorney Andrew Sorbo to report on the results of the election. For the 3-year term for the District 1 Director position, Dennis Engebretson receiving 60 votes and Kim Solberg receiving 66 votes. Kim Solberg is elected as Director for the 3-year term in District 1. For the 3-year term for the District 3 Director position, James Boe, Sr. receiving 51 votes and Bill Lanners receiving 73 votes. Bill Lanners is elected as Director for the 3-year term in District 3.

President Riewer called for any old business. There was no old business. President Riewer called for any new business. There was no new business.

The meeting was properly adjourned.

Drawings for door prizes were held.

The total number of attendees at the meeting was 125.

The total number of registered voters was 154.

Director Johnson, Secretary



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**

KNOW WHAT'S BELOW

THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME OF YEAR FOR OUTDOOR PROJECTS, HOWEVER; MAKE SAFETY YOUR FAMILY'S PRIORITY. PLEASE CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig. Visit call811.com for more information.

WHEN CLEARWATER-POLK ELECTRIC RECEIVES A LOCATE TICKET, CREWS LOCATE UTILITY OWNED LINES TO THE METERING POINT.

IF A RESIDENT NEEDS ELECTRICAL LINES LOCATED BEYOND THE METERING POINT, THEY WILL NEED TO CALL CLEARWATER-POLK DIRECTLY



MINNESOTA

Explore damage prevention information, local contacts and rules for safe digging in Minnesota.

Gopher State One Call
811 OR 1-800-252-1166

OPERATION ROUNDUP GRANTS \$13,150 TO LOCAL CAUSES



On hand to pick up their checks from Operation Round-Up were (from left) Roberta Anderson, Friends of Itasca; Cindy Benson (trustee who handed out donations); Vern Wittenberg, DARE Program; Lori Balstad, Fosston After-Prom Party; Becky Dorman, Clear Waters Life Center; Lorraine Brustad, Bagley Senior Center; Kim Hanse, Bagley Elementary Library; Tamara Edevold, Clearwater County Historical Society; Lloyd Engen, Clearbrook-Leonard Senior Center; and Cal Larson, Shevlin Fire Department.

\$421,646 donated since inception of fundraiser

Operation Round-Up, the fundraising program operated by Clearwater-Polk Electric Co-op, held its semi-annual round of donations to area organizations. This round of donations awarded \$13,150 to 20 area groups.

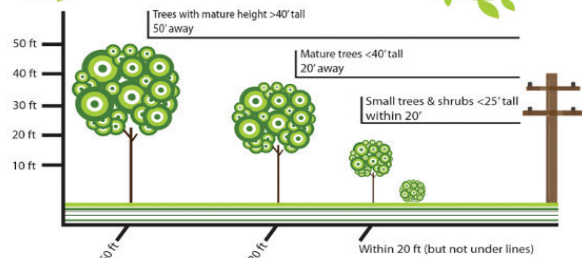
The recipients included Bagley Elementary kindergarten, Bagley Elementary Library, Bagley food packing event, Bagley Senior Center, Clearbrook-Gonvick School, Clearbrook/Leonard Senior Center, Clear Waters Life Center, Clearwater County DARE Program, Clearwater County Historical Society, Fosston High School After-Prom Party, Friends of Itasca, Gonvick-Trail All School (Harold Erno) Reunion, Gonvick Fire Department, Lake Itasca Region Pioneer Farmers, Pine Ridge Residence, Shevlin Fire Department.

The awards were announced by Cindy Benson, a trustee of the Clearwater-Polk Electric Trust, which administers the funds of Operation Round-Up.

Operation Round-Up raises funds by rounding up the monthly electric bill of members of Clearwater-Polk Electric Co-op. Only those members who sign up to participate in the program have the fee assessed.

Since its inception in 1997, Operation Round-Up has donated a total of \$431,646.48. All non-profit entities are encouraged to apply for grants. Contact Clearwater-Polk Electric for details.

Give TREES a Chance



Trees planted too close to power lines grow into a BIG problem. To prevent power outages and safety hazards, these trees need to be trimmed and sometimes removed. Do your part to keep trees healthy and prevent power outages.

Plant trees a safe distance from power distribution lines. SafeElectricity.org

With all planting and landscaping work, please be aware of overhead and underground power lines. Keep yourself and equipment clear of power lines, and do not plant something close to power lines that may one day become a hazard. To avoid future electrical hazards, planting tips included below:

- **Consider mature height of trees.** Do not plant near overhead power lines any tree that can grow to 25 feet tall. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended.
- **Do not plant near underground utility services.** Roots can grow and interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities also could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.
- **Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.**
- **Before digging, always call 8-1-1** to have underground utility lines marked so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com