

Powering the Past – Empowering the Future



1935 - 2020 • 85 Years & Counting

2019 Annual Report

Meeker
Cooperative
Light and Power Association

VIBRANT™
Broadband
Powered by Meeker Cooperative

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



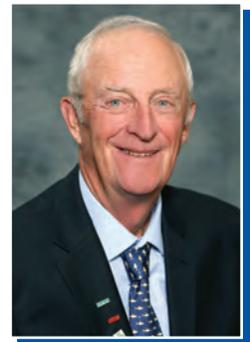
**President
District 2**
Karen Becker



**Vice President
District 4**
Kevin Issendorf



**Secretary
District 3**
Brad Donnay



**Treasurer
District 9**
Karl Lundin



District 1
Paul Bugbee



District 5
Stephen Plaisance



District 6
Mark Larson

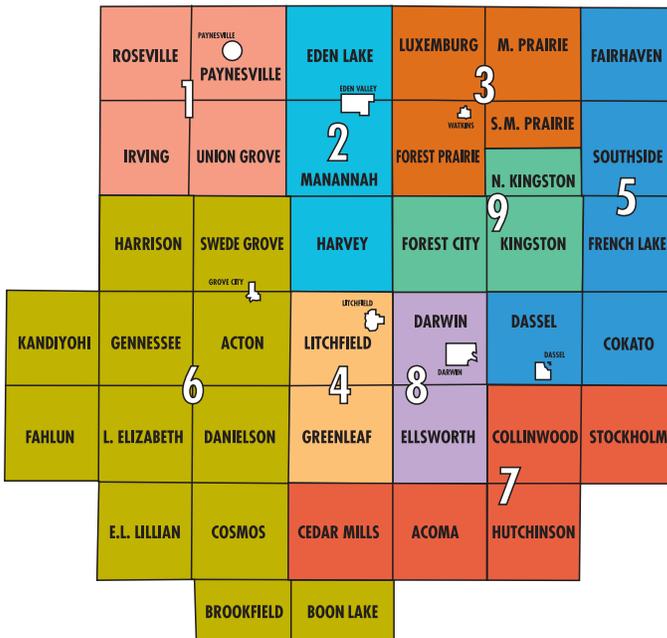


District 7
K. Bruce Krueger



District 8
Larry Huhn

MEEKER COOPERATIVE DISTRICTS



RULES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

RECOGNITION BY THE CHAIR: Every Member, after being recognized by the Chair, shall state their name and address before speaking on the relevant subject.

MOTIONS AND SECONDS: All Motions and Seconds shall be made by Members only and such Member shall state their name and address at the time of making said Motion or Second.

RULES OF SPEAKING, NUMBER OF TIMES AND DURATION: No Member shall speak more than twice on the same subject without permission of the Members present, nor more than once until every Member choosing to speak on the subject pending shall have spoken. Nor shall any Member occupy the floor more than three minutes the first time, and three minutes the second time, without the consent by a majority of the Members in attendance.

WELCOME TO YOUR 85th ANNUAL MEETING!

POWERING THE PAST — EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

While it may seem like a lifetime ago, there are people alive today who remember what it was like to not have electricity to read by, to cook a meal with, to keep food cold and better handle farm chores. When the Cooperative formed in 1935, it brought hope and excitement for a better, easier life in the rural households of our region. What was new then is often taken for granted today because we can't imagine life without it.

Now, eighty-five years later, we celebrate another first: VIBRANT™ Broadband. Members are just as excited about this fast, reliable internet service as members were about getting electricity in their homes and barns 85 years ago. Just as electricity made life easier for the Co-op members when they had it installed, so, too, does VIBRANT Broadband.

VIBRANT has opened up possibilities that didn't exist before, such as working from home, taking classes online, telemedicine and health monitoring, which allows people to stay in their homes longer without having to move into assisted living. VIBRANT Broadband has made the remote monitoring of homes and businesses via smartphone, tablet or laptop possible, ensuring more peace of mind that all is okay.

Of course, entertainment has a huge place in the benefits of VIBRANT Broadband. Streaming the movies and shows you want to watch, or playing internet games without "suffering from buffering," is now possible. Maybe it's just keeping in touch with family and friends by sharing photos, or personalized face-to-face chats with someone a township or half the world away. All these things are possible through VIBRANT's reliable and "Rip Snort'n Fast" internet service. We are confident that years from now Meeker's VIBRANT customers will be like its electricity customers of today — they can't imagine life without it.

As you can see throughout the Annual Report, 2019 was a plenty busy year for your electric Co-op. We accomplished the VIBRANT construction build-out, testing of the broadband equipment and service, ensuring a proper and working billing system was in place, and installing our first customers. All this was done on top of our main focus, which is to keep the lights on throughout our membership. Of course, this meant building new electric lines, replacing or upgrading lines where needed, connecting new services, replacing, repairing and just doing routine maintenance on equipment and restoring power wherever and whenever across our electric system.

All this simply could not have been done without the dedication and passion of the Co-op's employees. In the back of the Annual Report is a picture of the employees that was taken following the VIBRANT Broadband Dedication and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony last September. That group deserves a heartfelt "thank you" for an outstanding year.

For 85 years and counting, member-owners like you have been part of a Cooperative that puts members first. Whether it's providing services our members say they need, to keeping the lights on, our first priority is our member satisfaction. Our high member satisfaction survey scores have always born this out. Thank you for supporting your Cooperative and helping us build a member-owned business that meets your energy, security and internet needs. We couldn't do it without you.

Cooperatively yours,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Becker".

Karen Becker
Board President



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy A. Mergen".

Tim Mergen,
CEO/General Manager

EMPOWERED TO LEAD: DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Pursuant to Bylaw Article III, Sections 8 and 9, which was passed by member vote during the 78th Annual Meeting held April 8, 2013, candidates for the board of directors must submit an Application for Director Form at least 120 days prior to the meeting. The Board of Directors will appoint a Qualifications and Election (Q & E) Committee for the purpose of qualifying the candidates for the Board of Directors. The Q & E Committee will "have the authority to place qualified candidates on the ballot for election, and for any district in which there is only one candidate, waive the ballot process and declare the candidate elected." For this election, only the incumbents filed for Districts 1, 2, and 6 were summarily elected for another three-year term. Two candidates filed for the District 5 seat. Members in District 5 were sent mail ballots to elect a director to fill that seat. The candidates' bios are below. The duly elected candidate bios are on the two succeeding pages.

District 5

Fairhaven in Stearns County; Cokato, Southside and French Lake in Wright County; Dassel in Meeker County.

Thomas G. Petschl **1013 Sunrise Circle** **Dassel, MN 55325**



Thomas G. Petschl has recently moved to the Meeker Cooperative service territory and has been a Co-op member for six months. He is currently retired from a career in the electrical construction industry after 43 years of involvement in all aspects. He currently holds a State of Minnesota Class A Master Electrician's license."

Strengths he believes he could bring to the Board include knowledge of the production and distribution of electricity, the time availability to research issues and the willingness to serve on boards for the betterment of others.

Leadership experience Thomas has includes serving on the HRA Board of Park Rapids as a Board member and Chairperson; serving as a Board member on the Library Board and Park Board of Park Rapids; and as a Commissioner on the Planning Commission of Park Rapids and Elk River.

Thomas believes the primary short-term goal of the Cooperative should be finding ways to bring down the cost of power to its members, whether through more efficient use of resources or through innovation. The long-term goal of the Cooperative should be to provide members with the most economical and environmentally-friendly means to generate and transmit power.

Thomas sees that wind and solar power generation are the wave of the future but that they still need refinement to become more economically viable. While Thomas doesn't believe in too much government control of the energy sector, he does believe that the environment needs to be safeguarded and that we should continue to work with members that self-generate power.

Stephen Plaisance **26740 733rd Ave.** **Dassel, MN 55325**



Stephen Plaisance has been a Cooperative member for 10 years and a Meeker Co-op Board member since being appointed in May 2019. He is recently retired from hospital administration.

Strengths Stephen believes he brings to the Board include his willingness and ability to look for long-term solutions and to listen to member concerns.

Leadership positions Stephen has held include the Chamber of Commerce as a Board member and President; Meeker Memorial Hospital as CFO and the MMH Foundation as CFO.

Stephen believes that short-term goals should be identified and viewed with long-term impact in mind.

Long-term goals of the Co-op should include providing stable power and stable pricing.

With regard to environmental regulation and climate change, Stephen believes we should be vigilant to make sure power companies are not contributing to the change and that any governmental regulation brought by the EPA must be followed.

At the same time, Stephen sees that the biggest concern facing the Cooperative at this time is the impact of renewable energy, such as wind and solar, on the future power sources and cost.

EMPOWERED TO LEAD: ELECTED DIRECTORS

District 2

Eden Lake in Stearns; Harvey, Manannah in Meeker

Karen Becker

**38600 Mn. Hwy. 22 So.
Eden Valley, MN 55329**



Karen Becker, the current Chair of the Board, has been a Co-op member for 32 years and a Board member for 9 years. She and her husband are self-employed as dairy farmers.

Karen's strengths she believes she brings to the Board include a willingness to listen to all viewpoints, to look at all sides of a discussion and project, and a diverse background in dairy and construction.

She also has leadership experience as Guild chair, group leader and chair of Assumption Church; the current vice chair of the Peanut Butter & Milk Festival;; past chair of Hands of Friendship Quilt Guild; and past officer with Heritage Quilters.

As a business woman, Karen is concerned with the cost of services to the member with regard to renewable energy technology and feels affordable electricity should be the priority goal of the Cooperative.

Karen believes the VIBRANT™ Broadband project is very valuable for the member and that the Co-op should continue to provide that service. She would like to see the Co-op look into renewable energy initiatives to see how they might play a part in keeping costs affordable, but would like to see the Co-op continue to use coal resources as a solid, reliable base load, while continuing to make it cleaner.

Karen would like the Co-op to consider revising the Gen-Set program, which involves businesses such as farms that run generators during periods of control, to evaluate costs and control periods.

The largest concern facing Meeker Cooperative today is, in Karen's view, the cost of producing energy, the increase in members generating their own electricity through alternative and renewable energy sources, and receiving reliable power from East River and Great River Energy (two of our sources for wholesale power).

District 1

Roseville, Irving in Kandiyohi; Paynesville in Stearns; Union Grove in Meeker

Paul Bugbee

**29659 Queen Bee Lane
Paynesville, MN 56362**



Paul Bugbee has been a Co-op member his entire life. He owns and operates a resort on Lake Koronis near Paynesville. He has been a Co-op director for three years.

Strengths that Paul says he brings to the Board include a lifetime of civic and organizational board involvement, an analytical thought process, research skills and experience in the legislative and lobbying realms.

Board experiences come from his time as a board member and past president of the Minnesota Resort and Campground Association; Paynesville Historical Society; and Koronis Lake Association.

Going forward, Paul believes that continued development of Broadband and other programs that benefit members is important, as well as development and installation of charging stations for electric vehicles, which would accommodate and encourage the use of electric vehicles.

Goals Paul is concerned about include continued efficiencies in energy costs, maintenance and service; expanded "good neighbor" activities in the communities we serve; partnering with others in the environmental and climate protection arenas; as well as keeping an eye on emerging trends in alternative energy to keep wholesale energy costs down for our members.

Although we need to honor our fossil fuel contracts, Paul is passionate about keeping an open mind to renewable energy and seeking answers to better utilize those resources through technology and innovation.

There are some challenges that Paul believes are ahead for the Co-op including the prospect of rising energy costs, environmental mandates, operating expenses, available resources and transmission expenses. He would like to see a greater measure of energy efficiency and conservation to preserve energy resources.

EMPOWERED TO LEAD: ELECTED DIRECTOR

District 6

Harrison, Kandiyohi, Genessee, Fahlun, Lk. Elizabeth, E. Lake Lillian in Kandiyohi; Cosmos, Acton, Danielson, Swede Grove in Meeker; Brookfield, Boon Lake in Renville

Mark Larson
9217 195th St. SE
Atwater, MN 56209



Mark Larson has been a Co-op member for 36 years and a Director for 24 years. He is self-employed in ag production.

Mark is a past Meeker Co-op liaison to the East River Cooperative Electric Board of Directors, having served in that capacity for two years.

As a Board member, he believes he offers a lot of experience, both as a Board member, and in business. He is willing to listen to members' concerns and bring them to the Board.

Mark would like to see the Cooperative continue to provide reliable, competitively priced electricity to its members, while also continuing to provide VIBRANT™ Broadband service. He would like to see VIBRANT be a success and continue to provide the excellent speeds and service it currently provides.

Concerns that the Co-op will likely address include the increasing use of renewable energy that will mandate more transmission lines; the continued success of the VIBRANT Broadband service; members generating their own electricity; and third-party sales.

Interested in Representing the Membership as a Director?

Your District seat comes up for election every three years. If you are interested in applying to become a candidate, below are the Bylaw requirements for being a Director. Watch the October and November Pioneer newsletter editions for Districts up for election and information about completing an application.

ARTICLE III Board of Directors

(b) Qualifications. No natural person shall be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative who:

- (1) is not a Member of the Cooperative;
- (2) is not receiving service at the Member's primary residence in the district from which the Director is elected;
- (3) is not a U.S. citizen;
- (4) is delinquent in any payment of any amount due and payable to the Cooperative;
- (5) within five (5) years preceding has been in, or is currently in litigation or arbitration against the Cooperative;
- (6) is not willing to authorize and undergo a detailed background investigation;
- (7) within five (5) years preceding a Director candidate's nomination was or during service on the Board of Directors is finally adjudged to be guilty of a felony;
- (8) within three (3) years preceding a Director candidate's nomination was an employee of the Cooperative;
- (9) is or becomes, or at any time during the five (5) years preceding a Director candidate's nomination shall have been, employed by a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the Cooperative;
- (10) is a grandparent, parent, spouse, co-habitant, brother, sister, child, or grandchild of an employee of the Cooperative;
- (11) is a person that is a grandparent, parent, spouse, child, or grandchild of an incumbent Director that is not up for re-election at that time;
- (12) is named as a joint Member with a current director or candidate;
- (13) is in any way employed by or substantially financially interested in an enterprise competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative affiliated business;
- (14) is or becomes the full-time employee or agent of, or who is or becomes the full-time employer or principal of, another Director; or
- (15) is absent without cause from three (3) or more regular meetings of the Board of Directors during a twelve (12) month period.

A Member that is not a natural person (i.e. a business entity such as a corporation, partnership, limited liability corporation, limited liability partnership) may select one of its officers to be eligible for election to the board in the Member's district if said officer has his or her primary residence in the Member's district. However, no such officer shall be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative if any of the provisions of (3) or (5) through (15) apply to the officer, or if any of the provisions of (4), (5) or (13) above apply to the business entity. No Member that is not a natural person may have more than one Director on the board at any given time.

EMPOWERED TO INNOVATE

The world is changing, and with it, the need for new technology to keep pace. Rural electric cooperatives have led the charge on a number of new technologies for their members. Bringing broadband service to the underserved and unserved rural areas is one way that cooperatives shine.



Powered by Meeker Cooperative

In 2018, Meeker Cooperative made the decision to connect its 14 substations with fiber optic cable to better serve their members with real-time data and enhanced smart grid capabilities. That meant that we were poised to offer a hybrid fiber-supported broadband to members and others in our service territory. VIBRANT™ Broadband was created and would be a life-changing service for the majority of those in our region that didn't have any reliable, fast internet options.

Timeline for VIBRANT™ Broadband Construction

October, 2018	Groundbreaking for VIBRANT Broadband First fiber is buried from Meeker Co-op to the Litchfield Substation
March 6, 2019	First monopole was stacked
April 8, 2019	VIBRANT™ Broadband introduced at the Annual Meeting
May 29, 2019	First FW test home installation
June 4, 2019	First monopole is turned up
June 7, 2019	First FTTH member design/staking meeting
July 1, 2019	First member service installed
September 26, 2019	VIBRANT Broadband Dedication with Gov. Tim Walz and former RUS Administrator Ken Johnson

FAST FACTS ABOUT VIBRANT Broadband

Number of Easements Secured	1,200
Number of Monopoles Erected	47
Miles of Fiber as of 12/31/19	278
Subscribers as of 12/31/19	523



Stacking a monopole in March



First Fixed Wireless installation



Staking for first Fiber to the Home



Gov. Walz and former RUS Admin. Ken Johnson lighting VIBRANT sign at Sept. 26 Dedication

2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance Sheet — December 31, 2019

ASSETS

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
General Cash	\$ 120,701	
Temporary Investments	<u>9,658</u>	
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		\$ 130,359
CURRENT AND OTHER ASSETS		
Accounts Receivable - Electric	\$ 3,701,744	
Less Allowance for Doubtful Accts	<u>(95,540)</u>	\$ 3,606,204
Accounts Receivable - Other	\$ 360,924	
Less Allowance for Doubtful Accts	<u>(9,808)</u>	\$ 351,116
Plant Materials and Supplies	\$ 3,815,677	
Merchandise	<u>68,011</u>	\$ 3,883,688
Payments and Deferred Charges		<u>\$ 712,586</u>
TOTAL CURRENT AND OTHER ASSETS		\$ 8,553,594
LONG TERM INVESTMENTS		
Assoc. Orgs. & Other Investments	\$ 11,359,961	
ERC and VIBRANT Construc. Loans	<u>35,528</u>	
TOTAL LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS		\$ 11,395,489
UTILITY PLANT		
Distribution Line	\$ 84,690,412	
Headquarters Building & Lands	5,764,017	
General Equipment	6,615,592	
Organization Costs	<u>494</u>	
TOTAL UTILITY PLANT	\$ 97,070,515	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(24,639,935)</u>	
NET UTILITY PLANT		\$ 72,430,580
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 92,510,022

LIABILITIES AND EQUITIES

CURRENT AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES		
Current Maturities of Long-term Debt	\$2,392,143	
Line of Credit	1,150,000	
Accounts Payable - General	4,932,684	
Customer Deposits	242,947	
Accrued Taxes	417,695	
Accrued Interest	23,451	
Other Accruals	<u>1,405,089</u>	
TOTAL CURRENT AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES		\$10,564,009
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		
Long Term Obligation to RUS	\$ 8,325,094	
Long Term Obligation to CFC	2,628,398	
Long Term Obligation to COBANK	18,238,568	
Long Term Obligation to FFB	<u>20,416,900</u>	
TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		\$ 49,608,960
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$ 60,172,969
MEMBERS AND PATRONS EQUITIES		
Capital Reserve	\$ 4,950,010	
Patrons Revolving Fund Credits	26,922,375	
Patrons Margins - 2019	<u>464,668</u>	
TOTAL EQUITIES		\$ 32,337,053
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITIES		\$ 92,510,022

HOW YOUR DOLLAR WAS SPENT IN 2019

Purchased Power	56 ¢	Admin/General	7 ¢
Operations/Maint.	10 ¢	Depreciation	9 ¢
Member Accounts & Collections	1 ¢	Taxes	1 ¢
Member Services	4 ¢	Interest	8 ¢
		Operating margins	4 ¢



STATEMENT OF NET MARGINS

FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

OPERATING REVENUE

Residential - Farm	\$15,748,422
Residential - Seasonal	1,024,611
Residential - Towns & Villages	46,019
Irrigation Sales	248,151
Commercial & Industrial	5,023,388
Public Streets & Highway Lighting	28,635
Sales to Public Buildings	149,990
Consumers Forfeited Discounts	42,500
Other Electric Revenue	42,809

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE

\$22,354,525

COST OF ELECTRIC SERVICE

Purchased Power	\$ 12,411,511
Operating Expense	791,790
Maintenance Expense	1,402,585
Customer Accounting & Collecting	293,776
Customer Service & Informational Expense	883,438
General & Administrative Expense	1,625,977

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

\$ 17,409,077

Depreciation

\$ 2,105,194

Taxes

234,708

Interest

1,716,362

Other Expenses

14,843

TOTAL COST OF ELECTRIC SERVICE

\$ 21,480,184

OPERATING MARGINS

\$ 874,341

Non-Operating Margins - Interest & Dividends	\$ 346,319
Non-Operating Margins - Other	(1,241,048)
Generation & Transmission Capital Credits	435,854
Other Capital Credits - CFC & CoBank	49,202

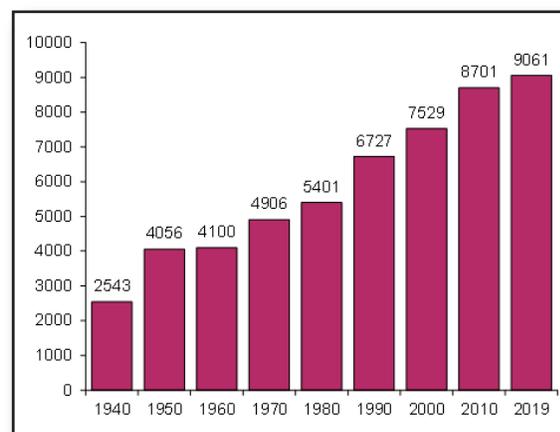
TOTAL NON-OPERATING MARGINS

\$ (409,673)

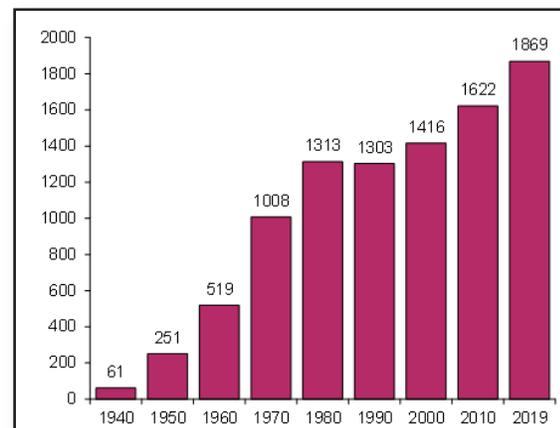
NET MARGINS

\$ 464,668

ACCOUNTS SERVED



AVERAGE KWHs PER MEMBER



EMPOWERED TO KEEP THE LIGHTS ON

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

When we reflect on 2019, many conversations revolved around weather. From the bitter cold and snowy winter, delayed spring, and wet summer, it left many to wonder if it would ever end. Despite the rough weather of 2019, Meeker Cooperative members were spared from extended weather-related outages while other Minnesota Cooperatives were not so lucky. In April we extended our help to Federated REA and Nobles Cooperative in the southern portion of Minnesota when Winter Storm Wesley came barreling through leaving a mess of broken poles and lines on the ground due to wind and ice accumulation. Helping other Cooperatives ties into Cooperative Principle number six: "Cooperation Among Cooperatives." This is one of the amazing parts about being a cooperative, when someone is in need everyone joins together to get the lines back up and the lights turned on.

In July our Rosendale substation transformer failed leaving close to 300 members without power in the middle of the night. Crews worked to restore power, back-feeding multiple lines before the transformer was removed from the substation. A spare transformer was brought in from Great River Energy's transformer pool as a temporary solution until the failed transformer repairs were completed. The original transformer was 40 years old. Despite its age, the decision to rebuild the original, rather than purchase a new transformer, saved Co-op members approximately \$52,000. As the old saying goes, "they don't make them like they used to", played a big part in rebuilding due to the materials used to construct the original transformer. Having the ability to leverage a pool of substation transformers that multiple Cooperatives around the state buy into is another great example of Cooperation Among Cooperatives.



Photo of a pole replacement taken by our General Foreman in the aftermath of Winter Storm Wesley. Meeker Co-op aided another cooperative in restoring power to their members.

VIBRANT™ Broadband

A new technological milestone for Meeker Cooperative members was reached in 2019. The construction of a fiber optic backbone connecting all 14 substations was completed. This fiber backbone will allow for better data collection and remote operation of substation equipment, not only making us more efficient, but also offering the ability to adjust voltage levels in real-time reducing costs and increasing efficiencies. New Smart Grid technologies are entering the marketplace at a rapid pace. Having a fiber backbone positions Meeker Cooperative to utilize new technologies, making for a Smart Distribution Grid.

2019 Construction Project Data

A total of 18.7 miles of line was rebuilt or constructed in 2019. Of the total miles, 15.05 is overhead and 3.65 miles is underground power lines. In addition, approximately 4 miles of overhead line was rebuilt as part of Meeker County's CSAH 17 road move. Six hundred fused cut-outs were replaced as part of a 5-year maintenance plan. One hundred thirty distribution line Oil Circuit Reclosures (breakers) and 18 substation breakers were removed for maintenance and reinstalled as part of the annual breaker maintenance program. Maintaining, replacing, upgrading lines, and equipment ensures the reliability Meeker Cooperative members have come to know and trust.



Part of on-going maintenance was replacing old porcelain cut-outs with new polymer ones. Cut-outs disrupt electric service during an overcurrent event from a fault that could damage the transformer.

FAST FACTS

	2019
Employees	37
Members	7,749
Residential	83%
Seasonal	13%
Commercial	3%
Other	1%
Miles of line	1,944
Members per mile	3.99
New services built	111
Change jobs	49
Line rebuilds	15
Right of way miles maintained	269
Lines patrolled	535 miles
Pole changes	90

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH MEMBER GIVING

Member support of the Meeker Cooperative Electric Trust helps to empower area organizations and the future of area students with its support of grants to fund projects that better the community and scholarships. Spare change collected from members and employees adds up quickly and the Trust distributes it back out into the communities served by the Cooperative. In 2019, the Meeker



Cooperative Electric Trust distributed \$60,304 to various organizations and as scholarships to support and enhance the opportunities available within our communities. Funds are made available from the seventy-six percent of Meeker's members that allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar, Meeker's employees who elect to round down their pay-checks to the nearest dollar and various other donations.



The Meeker Cooperative Electric Trust is an independent, 501(c)3 organization that meets three times per year to review grant applications for funding. The Trustees come from throughout Meeker's service territory. They are tasked with reviewing the applications submitted by non-profit area organizations which describe proposed projects and need for funding. Trustees also consider annual donations to area food shelves, to the United Community Action Partnership for heat and emergency assistance and to area high schools for scholarships. Since its inception in 1999, over \$815,000 has been distributed.

Thank you, members, for your commitment to strengthening our communities.

Average contribution per member for the year – \$5.67

The Meeker Cooperative Electric Trust meets three times per year to review the applications for funding and distribute the funds available according to the Trust guidelines. Trustees in 2019 were:

- Marshall Carlson, Litchfield
- Marcia Dischinger, Dassel
- John Donnay, Kimball
- Sheila Haag, Eden Valley
- Teresa Hankins, Litchfield
- Fern Hoff, Hutchinson
- Priscilla Mumford, Litchfield
- Bob Pederson, Paynesville
- Holly Schultz-Anderson, Darwin
- Donna Whitcomb, Grove City

SUMMARY OF THE 2019 AWARDS

Community Service	29 awards totaling \$23,130
Education and Youth	20 awards totaling \$12,874
Food Shelves	7 awards totaling \$6,300
Non-Traditional College Scholarship	1 scholarship totalling \$1,000
Lineworker/Electrician Scholarship	3 scholarships totalling \$3,000
Disaster Relief	0 awards
Scholarships to High Schools	2 \$1,000 scholarships to 7 schools, totaling \$14,000
TOTAL	\$60,304

HOW TO APPLY

- Applications must be submitted by posted deadlines for consideration.
- Can be completed on-line at www.meeker.coop/download forms
- \$3,500 designated for collaborative school projects.

SCHOLARSHIPS

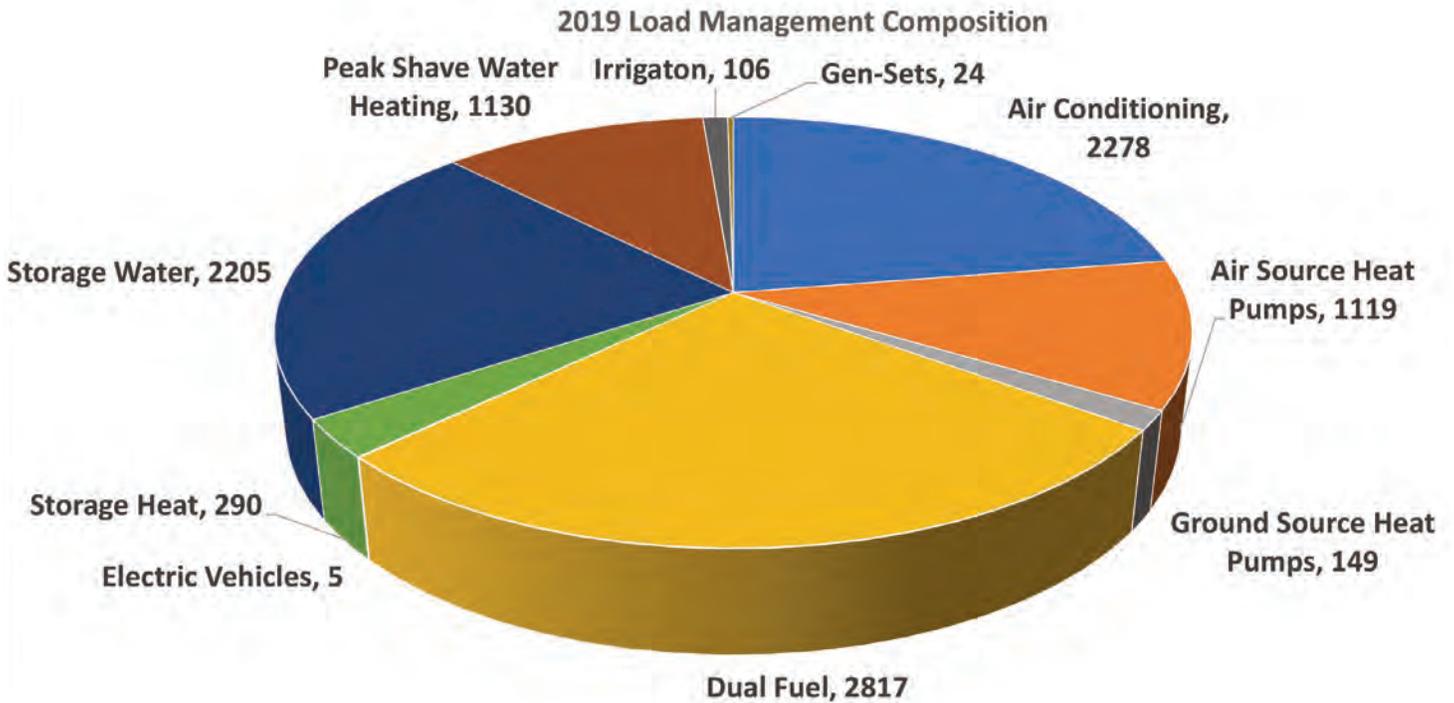
High School Seniors	\$1,000
<i>2 Scholarships per school</i>	
Line worker or Electrician Training	\$1,000
Non-Traditional Student	\$1,000

For more information on these grants and scholarships and their application deadlines, go to www.meeker.coop, About Us, Operation Round Up® or call Mary Alice Holm at 320-693-3231.

EMPOWERED TO MEET EXPECTATIONS

Giving our members the information, education and tools they need to make informed energy decisions and to save money are goals of the Member and Energy Services Department. Below are the many ways we work toward this goal.

2019 Energy Management Program Participants and Savings



Members on Energy Management in 2019 saved a total of 42,311,534 KWhs. That's a savings of \$2,353,382!

Member Education/Trips

Co-op 101 Member Group
 North Dakota Energy Tour
 Member Appreciation Event
Meeker Pioneer Newsletter
www.meeker.coop
VIBRANTBB.net
facebook.com/meeker.coop/
twitter.com/meekercoop

Value-Added Services

Heartland Security
 7874 Subscribers
 Wild Blue
 9 Subscribers
 Exede
 61 Subscribers
 ViaSat
 29 Subscribers

Renewable Energy

Meeker Solar Project
 39.8 kW array with
 96 410-watt panels
 WAPA Hydro 10.8%
 % of Renewable Energy
 Produced by our Wholesale
 Power Providers:
 ~ Great River Energy 25%
 ~ East River Electric 37%

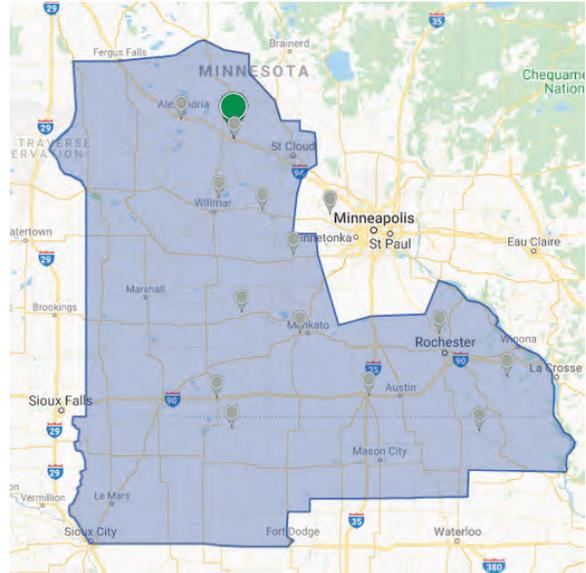
EMPOWERED TO PARTNER FOR SERVICES

HEARTLAND SECURITY SERVICES

Heartland Security is owned by 13 rural electric cooperatives, including Meeker Cooperative. Partnering with others allows each partner to bring greater services to their members and customers.

Heartland Security has more than 8,000 subscribers in their Midwest service area, offering security services for Residential, Commercial, Ag Monitoring and Medical Alert applications. Their custom full service security offerings protect from:

- Break-ins
- Flooding
- Low temperatures/frozen pipes
- Smoke and fire
- Carbon Monoxide
- Medical emergencies



Smart-home resources that allow you to:

- view system status and monitor activity
- watch live or recorded high-definition video
- arm or disarm your system
- control your thermostats
- lock and unlock the smart locks on your doors
- turn your lights on and off
- set up user codes

Fully interactive services are available with the use of your smartphone, tablet or laptop.

STAR ENERGY SERVICES, LLC

STAR Energy Services is owned by five rural electric cooperatives, including Meeker Cooperative. By partnering together, we can share the following services more economically.

Their staff of 35 employees cover the following services for 100 clients in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota:

- Utility and Construction Contracting
- Electrical Engineering, Line Design and Testing
- Software Development
- GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and ESRI® mapping
- Inspection Services
- Safety, Compliance and Education, Using a Shared Safety Trailer
- I.T. Management and Support
- Stray Voltage Testing
- Joint Material Purchasing

STAR Energy's Core Values Include:

- Customer Service Excellence
- Employee Success
- Innovation
- Integrity
- Product & Service Leadership
- Safety



Pole and equipment testing is crucial in our ongoing maintenance plan

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE 84TH ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF MEEKER COOPERATIVE LIGHT AND POWER ASSN. ~ APRIL 8, 2019

Directors Karen Becker, Paul Bugbee, Brad Donnay, Larry Huhn, Kevin Issendorf, K. Bruce Krueger, Mark Larson and Karl Lundin were in attendance. Tim Mergen, CEO/General Manager, and Chad Felstul, Attorney with Pemberton Law, were also present. Director Matthew Woetzel did not attend.

The 84th Annual Meeting of the Members of the Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association was held at Meeker Cooperative's headquarters facility in the City of Litchfield, State of Minnesota, on Monday, April 8, 2019, at 7:30 p.m., pursuant to Article II of the Bylaws of the Cooperative.

Board President Karen Becker called the Meeting to order and appointed Chad Felstul, Attorney at Pemberton Law, the legal firm for Meeker Cooperative, as parliamentarian for the Meeting.

Secretary Donnay certified that 361 Members were registered and declared a quorum present.

Board President Becker called for a motion to adopt the Rules of the Annual Meeting as printed in the Annual Report. Mark Olson made said motion; Ronald Harff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Darrol Mason to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2018 Meeker Cooperative Annual Meeting and accept them as printed in the Annual Report. Juanita Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Becker introduced the current Board of Directors.

The next item on the agenda was the report of the Qualifications & Election Committee. Becker called on CEO Mergen to present the Report as the Committee Chair was not in attendance to make the presentation. Mergen described the make-up, responsibilities and actions of the Committee. The Board appoints one Member from each District in which the Director is not up for election. The Members of the 2019 Committee were introduced and asked to stand and be recognized.

Mergen described the process for placement of names on the ballot. Interested Members in the Districts up for election must complete and submit an Application by the announced deadline. The Committee then met to verify eligibility and review the applications submitted. One application was submitted in District 3 and in District 8; there were no applications submitted for the District 5 seat. Upon review, all applicants met the qualifications and the Committee took action to place these interested Members on the ballot in their respective Districts.

Meeker Cooperative's Bylaws state that in the case of only one candidate in a District the Committee can declare the candidate elected. The Committee took said action for Districts 3 and 8 declaring Incumbent Brad Donnay elected in District 3 and Incumbent Larry Huhn elected in District 8.

As there were no candidates for District 5, the Bylaws allow for the seat to be declared vacated by the Board following the Annual Meeting. The Board may appoint a Member in said District to fill the seat until the next regular election; in following years the seat will fall back into the regular rotation of elections.

Becker introduced Danita Olson to review the activities of the second year of the fifth rotation of Members participating in the Cooperative 101 Member Group. This opportunity was created to offer Members a greater understanding of Meeker Cooperative. Olson highlighted some of the results of a survey taken by the Group at its last session. The results were very positive and indicated that participants felt the experience met their expectations and was worth their time to participate. A new group has been selected and will begin in May. Olson commented on the importance of understanding the cooperative form of business and encouraged Members to consider participating when a future group is formed.

CEO/General Manager Tim Mergen then called on Priscilla Mumford, Secretary/Treasurer of the Meeker Cooperative Electric Trust Board, to review the Trust's activities in 2018. Tom Lambrecht presented Mumford with a \$1,000 donation from Great River Energy, one of Meeker's power suppliers. Mumford thanked Lambrecht, the Members, and the employees, for the on-going support the Operation Round Up® program and emphasized how quickly the seemingly small amount of change contributed individually can grow to make a sizeable difference. Members contribute by rounding up their electric bills and employees can round down their paychecks. In 2018, Members participating in Operation Round Up contributed on average about \$5.67. The Trust distributed \$59,589 to various organizations through grant requests for specific projects, food shelf and heat/emergency assistance donations and as educational scholarships.

Mumford emphasized that the dollars are distributed back into the communities where Members live and work. Currently 76 percent of the Membership contributes to the program. Mumford encouraged anyone that is not currently participating to enroll. She also

thanked all of the Trustees for their time and dedication to the Trust. Mumford invited Board President Becker to draw the winning ticket for the Round Up door prize. Paul Holm's ticket was drawn to receive the metal Minnesota-shaped wall hanging.

The next item of business was the 2018 Financial Report and was presented by Finance Manager Kari Miller.

Attendees were invited to follow along in the Annual Meeting Report or view the information on the screen. Miller's financial highlights included the assets and liabilities of the Co-op and the 2018 statement of net margins. The Co-op ended the year with \$2,379,322 in operating margins and \$1,092,813 in non-operating margins to end the year with a total of \$3,472,135 in net margins.

Becker invited Mergen to present his General Manager's Report to the Membership. Mergen described the research, project development and progress of Meeker's fiber project to connect all of its substations to a ring of fiber and provide a hybrid broadband option for Members and non-members throughout the service territory. Project design and construction progress were highlighted. VIBRANT Broadband, powered by Meeker Cooperative, should be available to subscribers by mid-year.

Becker called on Meeker's Attorney Chad Felstul to conduct the New Business portion of the Meeting. Member Paul Lysen requested the opportunity to ask Mergen a question about the cost to meet mandates for renewable generation. Mergen explained that one of the Co-op's power suppliers has already met the current mandate and the other is well on its way of doing so. He cautioned that the proposed 100 percent carbon free proposal at the legislature would be better served as a goal rather than a mandate to allow the industry and technology time to develop the necessary resources to reach 100 percent carbon free electricity.

Hearing no other new business Felstul turned the meeting back over to Board President Becker.

Becker called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mark Olson, and seconded by John Sandstede, to adjourn the Meeting. Motion carried.

Mary Alice Holm, Recorder
Brad Donnay, Secretary

EMPOWERED TO SERVE OUR MEMBERS



Employees gathered after our VIBRANT Broadband Dedication September 26, 2020.

Employees are, left to right: **Front:** Tim Mergen, Kari Miller, Holly Schultz-Anderson, Angel Marx, Mary Petsche, Karen Reinert, Becky Sorenson, Jake Smothers; **Middle:** Steve Kosbab, Don Smieja, Crisi Shoutz, Jose Franco, Curt Fulte, Kathy Fulte, Lynn Mergen, Jane Wagner, Michele Boreen, Dan Schrupp, Kyndal Pringles, Allen Lendt, John Grabow, Logan Josephson, Andrew Kalkbrenner, Mary Alice Holm, Luke Johnson; **Back:** Chris Larson, Kelly Hedtke, Brandon Skalberg, John Eggert, Andy Mackereth, Alicia Mengelkoch, Luke Schoenecker, Cody Shiroo, Pete Wyffels, Terry Heidecker, Shawn Marthaler, Chad Johnson, Allen Resmen, and Marla Wegener. *This employee group includes full-time, part-time and temporary/seasonal employees.*

Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Association exists because of our member/owners. Everything we do each and every day is for the benefit of our members. We take our commitment to provide our residential members, member businesses and farms with quality, reliable, safe and competitively-priced electricity and other value-added services that our members want and need. Looking forward, we have exciting things in store, not only for our members, but for the communities within our service territory. We conduct business according to the seven principles of cooperatives: Voluntary and Open Membership, Democratic Member Control, Members' Economic Participation, Autonomy and Independence, Education, Training and Information, Cooperation Among Cooperatives, and Concern for Community. As a community member, we do all we can to support economic development and a high quality standard of living so that we can all enjoy vibrant business and residential communities. Thank you, Members, for your partnership.

MEEKER COOPERATIVE LIGHT & POWER ASSN. MISSION STATEMENT

OUR MISSION AS A MEMBER-OWNED COOPERATIVE IS AS FOLLOWS:

“To enhance the quality of life of the Cooperative’s Members and Customers by providing safe, reliable, competitively priced energy and other value-added services, while practicing environmental stewardship.”

MEEKER COOPERATIVE

85th Annual Meeting

April 6, 2020

REVISED

5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

7:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting in Community/Training Room

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation — Kevin Issendorf, Vice Chair
- Business Meeting — Karen Becker, Chair
 - Call to Order
 - Appoint Parliamentarian
 - Certify Notice of Annual Meeting Mailing
 - Establish Quorum
 - Approve Standing Rules of the Annual Meeting
 - Approve 2019 Minutes
 - Introduction of Directors
- Qualifications & Election Committee Report
- Call for Volunteers for Tellers — Karen Becker, Chair
- Co-op 101 Report — Hugh Wagner
- Meeker Cooperative Electric Trust Board Report — Holly Schultz-Anderson
 - Great River Energy Donation to Electric Trust
- Financial Report — Kari Miller, Finance Manager
- General Manager's Report — Tim Mergen, CEO/General Manager
- Election Results Report — Election Teller Chair
- New Business — Chad Felstul
- Adjournment — Karen Becker, Chair



Meeker Cooperative is an Equal
Opportunity Provider and Employer

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