

Meeker Cooperative PIONEER

March 2019

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Official publication of

**Meeker
Cooperative**
Light and Power Association

www.meeker.coop

Meeker Co-op is an
Equal Opportunity Provider
and Employer

84th Annual Meeting celebrates a VIBRANT future!

The 84th Annual Meeting will remember the proud heritage left to us by those courageous and visionary early farmers who began the Co-op in 1935 while celebrating a new, exciting future that requires the same courage, vision and commitment.

A VIBRANT Future

Rather than bringing light into the dark countryside as those early farmers did, we will be harnessing the power and speed of light — or fiber optics — to enhance the way we all experience technology in our everyday lives.

A fiber optic backbone is being installed throughout our service territory from which we will have a broadband service that will allow a fast, reliable internet experience for streaming movies with

no buffering, playing games, taking online classes, uploading and downloading large files, and much more.

This VIBRANT Broadband service will be the focus of CEO/General Manager Tim Mergen's talk during the meeting portion of the evening. Come and hear for yourself how this new opportunity will benefit the membership and our region.

In addition, there will be a meatloaf and mashed potato meal, the ever-popular Bingo with valuable prizes from our member businesses, a live electrical safety demonstration by our linemen and face painting.

There will be a special presentation in our Community/Training Room for everyone who loves to fish.

Josh Hagemester of Minnesota Fishing Guide Service will be our special guest speaker. Throughout his guiding career Josh has also worked as an instructional fishing guide for In-Fisherman Magazine's "Camp Fish", has co-hosted and produced the "Outdoors Minnesota" TV Series, has provided an extensive seminar series to many community education groups and has published a sportsman's outdoor newspaper. Come hear his fishing tips and tricks!

Shuttles will be available to bring members to and from the front doors, rain or shine.

Meeker Co-op is YOUR Co-op. Come together with other member-owners and see what your Co-op is up to!

Mark your calendars for the 2019 Annual Meeting April 8

Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association Notice of Annual Meeting

Please take notice that the Annual Meeting of the members of Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 8, 2019, at Meeker Cooperative, 1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100, Litchfield, Minnesota, for the following purposes:

1. Reading of, and acting upon, the unapproved minutes of the 2018 annual meeting;
2. Receiving and acting upon reports of officers, directors and committees;
3. Electing directors of the Cooperative to fill offices of those whose terms expire on April 8, 2019;
4. Considering any unfinished business and taking up such new business as shall properly come before the meeting and acting on such matters as necessary for the best interest of the Association.

Brad Donnay, Secretary

Annual Meeting Agenda April 8, 2018

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 5:00 to 7:30 pm | Registration |
| 5:00 to 7:00 pm | Dinner |
| 5:30 to 7:15 pm | Bingo
Face Painting
Safety Trailer |
| 6:00 to 7:00 pm | Captain Josh Hagemester of
Minnesota Fishing Guide Service will share his
fishing experiences and tips. |
| 7:30 pm | Business Meeting
General Manager's Update on
Vibrant Broadband Project.
Financial Update on Co-op |



Polar Vortex, System Peaks and Heating Degree Days

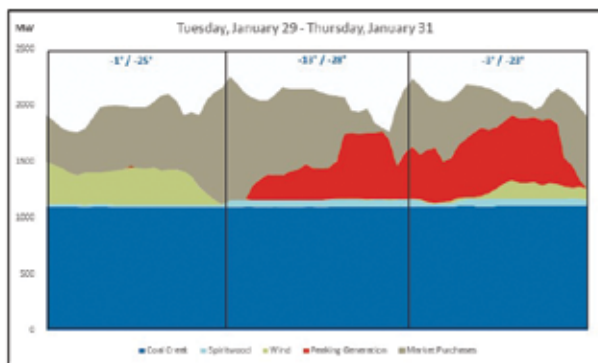
More Polar Vortex

No, I'm not wishing for another Polar Vortex like we had in January. Anyone that knows me, knows I prefer the Minnesota summers to the Minnesota winters even without a Polar Vortex. What I want to cover is the electric supply during the January 29-31 Polar Vortex.

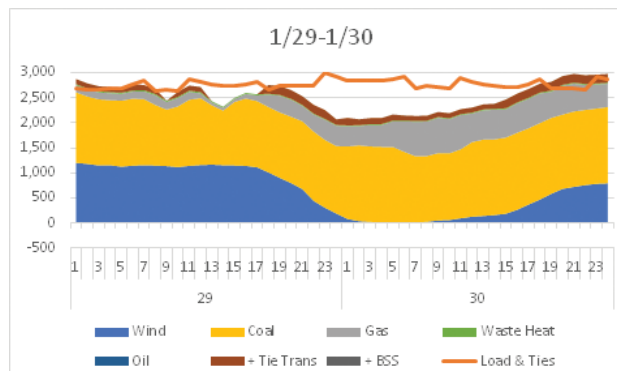
Following are two graphs that show electricity generation during that time frame. The first graph is of Great River Energy's (GRE) generation resources and the market purchases they needed to meet their electric obligations.

As you can see, the wind resources totally fell off during that time. This forced GRE to go to the market to make purchases and run their fossil fuel peaking generators to fill that void and meet their obligations.

GRE resources – extreme cold conditions



The flowing graph is from East River/ Basin, another one of our power suppliers. Here again the wind resources were nonexistent during the peak times. They also needed to run additional fossil fuel peaking plants and make market purchases to meet their electric demands during that time frame.



I bring this up to emphasize the need for a balanced generation portfolio, especially in critical times such as the Polar Vortex. This is especially troubling when several bills at the Minnesota legislature want to increase the renewable energy mandate; one up to 80 percent by 2035. There is even one proposed bill to go to 100 percent carbon free, but more on that shortly.

As you can see in the above graphs there simply was no wind generation during those peak times. Additionally, solar was completely non-existent. Meeker Cooperative along with our electric generation suppliers, have the duty to our member owners to supply electricity all the time. Not just when the wind is blowing and the sun is shining.

Both GRE and Basin are meeting or exceeding the current renewable requirements. There is a place for renewables but the mandates that are being proposed at the legislature do not make sense. As we saw when the current renewable mandate went into effect, renewable prices escalated. This was due to the renewable developers knowing that utilities were mandated to make the purchases and that drove up costs. We don't want to see that scenario again. The best approach is to let the electric generation market select the electric generation technology. If renewables are the least-cost option, they will be used to the fullest extent possible as we all work to ensure low-cost power production to meet the Co-op's electric needs every day. Mandating technologies that can't or don't meet the needs when the members need the electricity adds additional costs of electricity production.

A much better approach would be to require utilities to use renewables when they need to add or replace generation facilities. This would not create the additional cost of obtaining renewable resources while still operating and paying for existing generating facilities. If, for whatever reason, a utility needed to add or obtain additional generation whether because the generating facility is beyond its useful life, it is no longer economic to run, technology changes or upgrades must be made, then a change to a renewable energy source should be done at that time. Requiring utilities to move to a different generating source before then is really an unfunded mandate that you, the members, must pay for.

100 Percent

The term "100 percent carbon free" has a nice ring to it but there just is no way to do it as we saw during the Polar Vortex. If the Minnesota legislature were truly intent on using renewables or going to carbon free as quickly and as much as possible, they would allow hydro power to be considered renewable. The hydro generated electricity we receive from another one of our power providers — the Western Area

Power Administration (WAPA) — is not considered renewable under the current law. How hydro power cannot be allowed to be a renewable energy is baffling. As long as the snow melts and runs into the rivers on which the dams sit that produce this electricity it should be a renewable resource.

What makes this even a bit more baffling is in Minnesota small hydro is considered renewable but large hydro is not. Minnesota doesn't consider the WAPA generation large hydro a renewable resource. So, when it comes to hydro it isn't about how the power is generated, but the size of generator producing the electricity. Again, it makes no sense. But then if the goal of the legislature is to get to 100 percent carbon free, are they willing to allow carbon-free nuclear generation? Past legislative actions suggest not.

Construction Workplan

During the February board meeting the Co-op's electrical engineer (Mitch Heltemes) from STAR Energy Service provided the board with a look at the Co-op's 2019 -2022 work plan. Mitch went through each area of the electric system showing where upgrades or changes would be needed. Some were due to loading, others to line changes, maintenance needs, grid technology or other system upgrades.

Mitch highlighted eleven of the Co-op's 14 substations and their respective distribution lines covering the specific construction each needed. Meeker Cooperative currently has close to 2,000 miles of lines. Of this total about 1,120 miles are overhead and 811 miles are underground. That breaks down to 58 percent overhead and 42 percent underground.

Over those four years we will be investing over \$17 million in distribution upgrades and improvements. This amount includes approximately 80 miles of new and rebuilt lines. It also includes new services, energy management equipment, security lights and the many other pieces of equipment and materials needed to keep the electricity flowing reliably.

Did You Know

Your heart beats about 93,600 times a day or 34.2 million times a year. It pumps about 1.4 gallons of blood a minute or 2,000 gallons a day. It only weighs about eight ounces.

Board of Directors

Karen Becker, President — District 2

Eden Lake in Stearns; Harvey, Manannah in Meeker

Kevin Issendorf, Vice President-District 4

Litchfield, Greenleaf in Meeker

Brad Donnay, Secretary — District 3

Luxemburg, Maine Prairie, South Maine Prairie in Stearns; Forest Prairie in Meeker

Karl Lundin, Treasurer — District 9

North Kingston, Kingston, Forest City in Meeker

Paul Bugbee — District 1

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

Matt Woetzel — District 5

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

Mark Larson — District 6

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

K. Bruce Krueger — District 7

Collinwood, Cedar Mills in Meeker; Stockholm in Wright; Acoma, Hutchinson in McLeod

Larry Huhn — District 8

Darwin, Ellsworth in Meeker

Chad Felstul — Attorney

Meeker Pioneer

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CEO/General Manager: Tim Mergen
Editor: Becky Sorenson

The Meeker Pioneer is the official member publication of Meeker Cooperative and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Becky Sorenson at the address above.

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For 24-hour service call

320-693-3231

Fax: 320-693-2980

Web site: www.meeker.coop

Use the "Contact Us" form on the home page

Meeker Cooperative

Mission Statement

"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's 84th Annual Meeting

Get to Know the Director Candidates

Pursuant to Bylaw Article III, Sections 8 and 9, 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 one candidate filed in District 3 and in District 8. These candidates were deemed eligible and declared

elected. Therefore no mail ballot will be sent to members in these districts. Their biographies are listed below.

Matt Woetzel, District 5, did not seek re-election and there was no other candidate that filed for that seat. Therefore, the Board of Directors sought candidates and, following the 2019 Annual Meeting, will appoint someone to fill that seat. The District 5 seat will come up for election in 2020 to fill the unexpired term.

District 3: Luxemburg, Main Prairie, South Maine Prairie in Stearns County; Forest Prairie in Meeker County

District 8: Darwin, Ellsworth in Meeker County

Brad Donnay
11310 155th Street
Kimball, MN 55355



Brad Donnay has been a Meeker Co-op Director for six years and a Co-op member for 21 years. He is self-employed in the dairy industry. He and his wife Leanne have five children.

Traits that Brad believes he brings to the Co-op are an open-minded attitude, an ability to collaborate well with others and a willingness to listen to new ideas. Brad has held leadership positions with the Kimball Fire Department, the local wrestling booster club and with Holy Cross Church.

Brad would like to see the Co-op continue to provide safe, reliable and competitively-priced electricity and to keep maintenance costs down. Further, he would like to see the Co-op become the "go-to" location for all the members' energy needs, new technologies and internet service. Another need he believes the Co-op should provide is the ability of the member to make credit card payments.

Brad is in favor of renewable energy programs such as wind and solar, but feels it only makes sense if it is financially viable and won't cost the member more for energy.

Brad sees that EPA regulations and the push for renewable energy are the biggest concerns facing the Cooperative. He wants to make sure they make financial sense and that regulations that don't make sense are modified.

Larry Huhn
807 So. 1st. Street (P.O. Box 117)
Darwin, MN 55324



Larry Huhn has served as a Meeker Cooperative Director for six years total and has been a member of the Co-op for more than 16 years. Larry is self-employed as a land surveyor. He and his wife Karen have two grown boys and six grandchildren.

Strengths that Larry feels he brings to the Board are his commitment to the membership, his conservative values and his previous experience as a Director. Larry has leadership experience with the city of Darwin as a City Councilman, and as a Director and officer with the Darwin Rod & Gun Club.

Goals Larry feels are important include installing and offering the Vibrant Broadband project to consumers and members as quickly and efficiently as possible and keeping the cost of power as affordable as the Co-op can for the membership.

Larry believes that renewable energy has its place, but that until reliable storage becomes affordable and reliable, we still need to have conventional generation to back it up for reliability.

Concerns that impact the Co-op include EPA regulation, which always seems to come with a cost attached, as well as government mandates and cyber security of existing infrastructure and systems.

Programmable Lighting Options

In the past, the ability to easily control lights within the home has been fairly rudimentary. You flipped a switch on or off. Perhaps you had a dimmer switch. To turn lights on when you were on vacation, you plugged a lamp into a gadget with a dial and it turned the lamp on and off.

But today, consumers have more options than ever before. The growing use of LED bulbs and the proliferation of smartphones and Wi-Fi have brought lighting options to a new level. In addition to using less energy, many LEDs can be controlled from a smartphone app, making the LED more of a consumer electronic than a light bulb.

When shopping for new LEDs, you essentially have two options. A less expensive LED still offers longer

life, lower energy use and will work for most fixtures. However, consumers with older dimmer switches often find that they must replace switches to work with newer LEDs.

The second and more expensive option is a "connected" LED. These LEDs offer features like controlling lights remotely from a smartphone app or via voice control through an in-home speaker. They can also be connected to a home security system or dimmed to enhance entertaining.

Connected LEDs require a central controller or hub, like Amazon's Alexa or Apple HomeKit. The hub can control other smart devices and become the center of a smart home system.

Consumers can choose from a variety of manufacturers when purchasing connected LEDs. Some bulbs are compatible with different hubs or systems, but if you're planning a major overhaul to your home lighting, it's best to buy one brand and stick with it.

Smart lighting options aren't necessarily about saving energy, but if they can help you remember to turn the light off when you are not in a room, then a small amount of energy savings can be achieved.



Many LEDs, like the Phillips Hue line, can be controlled from a smartphone app, making the LED more of a consumer electronic than a light bulb. Photo Source: Signify.com

As technology continues to advance, more smart home products will become available. Many of these products will include features that focus on home security and quality of life. If you're interested in smart technologies for your home, the key will be to research your options and understand how the system works with the other devices within your home.

Brian Sloboda is a program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



Consumers have many options for smart lighting systems. Shown here is the Phillips Hue White Ambiance Starter Kit. Photo Source: Signify.com

Building a home with the Co-op's help

For 20 years, Bill and Mary Amann lived near Como Park in St. Paul, but had plans to build a retirement home “out west” near Paynesville, where their son-in-law grew up. They began an extensive search for property and just happened to stumble upon a wild, scenic 18-acre tract of land near Powder Ridge Recreation Area north of Kimball. They fell in love with it.

For three years they parked a camper and enjoyed the area as often as they could. Then their daughter and son-in-law, a state trooper, transferred to near Cold Spring. Bill and Mary wanted to watch their grandchildren grow, so they made the decision to build now, while they could, to be near the kids and grandkids.

After what Bill calls a “ton of work,” they moved into their roughly 2,000 finished square foot home a year ago in December of 2017. Bill, an account manager for Trane, fortunately is able to work from home a few days a week, only having to trek to St. Paul a couple of days. Mary is employed as the volunteer coordinator for Habitat for Humanity, St. Cloud. In his spare time Bill is finishing the basement, which will bring the total square feet to just under 4,000.

“When we started building, I called the Co-op right away because we wanted to take advantage of all the programs the Co-op offers,” Bill said. “I got connected to John Eggert in Energy Management and he was just fantastic. It was just like calling up a friend. He would say, ‘Well, let me check on that,’ and he would get right back to me, explain everything to me. He would say, ‘Well, we want to make sure you get the best deal,’ and then he would share all the options and give his recommendations based on what I have. It was great working with him on all the rebates that we received for the equipment and programs we use.”

Based on the type of equipment and programs the Amanns have, they received rebates totaling \$1,630 as follows: \$800 for a Marathon water heater; \$630 for the 16.75 SEER heat pump on load control, and \$200 for their 20 kW electric boiler on control.

Bill utilized a dual fuel system that utilizes an air-source heat pump and a propane furnace back-up during periods of control. However, as a Trane employee, he was able to purchase a top-of-the-line Trane heat pump and high-efficiency furnace system with smart technology that is so sophisticated, it's computerized software is able to measure the outside temperature, compare electric and propane prices and optimizes the system for the greatest efficiency and cost savings.

The Amann's January bill, which includes heating the home during an especially cold month, heating the water with a super-efficient Marathon water heater he purchased from Meeker Cooperative, and utilizing an electric boiler for his 40 x 64 foot shed's



Bill Amann and his wife Mary built their home with efficiency in mind to save energy and money.



The Amann's installed LED lighting throughout their home and 60 x 40 shed, which is heated with an electric boiler on load control.

in-floor heat, came to just \$327. All of their heating system is on the Co-op's energy management programs, so the Amanns are able to take advantage of a nearly half-price electric rate for their heating.

“Meeker has been so fantastic to work with even after the house was done,” Bill said. “A month ago, all of a sudden we didn't have any hot water and I was like ‘what the heck.’ I was looking all over to see where I could get parts to fix it and I called Meeker to see if they could steer me in the right direction. I talked with Chris Larson. He couldn't have been more helpful. He said ‘Well, we carry all those parts. Maybe it's the thermostat.’ He then just gave me all the parts for what it could be, including the ratchet you need to fix it. I went down to Meeker mid afternoon on a Friday and he had it all sitting there. I got back home and he was already texting me to see if I got the parts and if I needed any help. Now it's like 4 o'clock. So we starting texting back and forth and he's helping diagnose the problem and I got it fixed right then.”

The Amanns are always looking for ways to be efficient and save energy and money. “Every single light in the place are LEDs,” Bill said. “They cost a little more up-front, but it's worth it.”



A top-of-the-line Trane air source heat pump dual fuel system switches automatically during control as well as for cost efficiency.



New construction and gas conversions earn an \$800 rebate on a super efficient Marathon water heater.

The Amanns are happy with the new home, their beautiful location and the deer that often graze in the field next door. There's only one thing they really dislike:

“One complaint I have about living here is slow internet, he said. “We can't stream any movies or anything. So it's exciting that you will be providing fast internet service. It can't come soon enough.”

2019 LIGNITE EDUCATION SEMINAR

YOU'RE INVITED

to attend this **NO-COST** seminar for K-12 teachers located at the **NATIONAL ENERGY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE** at **BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE**

JUNE 10 - 13, 2019

Bismarck State College

This seminar is designed to provide teachers with a broader understanding of the lignite coal industry and the important role it plays in providing electricity to consumers, farmers and businesses in North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota, Montana and Iowa.

The seminar includes discussions on how lignite coal is mined and converted into energy, and the economic impact of the industry on the region. It also includes a tour of a lignite mine, a lignite-based power plant and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant.

GRADUATE CREDITS

Two professional development credits, paid for by the Lignite Energy Council, are available from:

- University of North Dakota (Teaching & Learning)
- North Dakota State University (Education)
- Minot State University (Science)

MEALS, LODGING & TRANSPORTATION

Free lodging is available in a Bismarck State College dormitory (two per room). Both meals and transportation for the "Coal Country" tour will be provided by the Lignite Energy Council.

TEACHING MATERIALS

Teachers attending the seminar will receive electronic copies of each presentation, examples of lesson plans, classroom exercises, coal and ash samples, audio-visual materials, and information on the facilities they tour.

APPLY ONLINE www.lignite.com/teachers

Applications will be accepted until the seminar is full or until May, whichever occurs first.

A \$60 deposit is required to reserve your spot. This deposit will be returned when you check in at the seminar on June 10, 2019. This deposit will be forfeited if you cancel after May 1 and your spot is unable to be filled.

Typically, all eligible teachers are accepted. Should applications outnumber spots available, preference will be given based on the following criteria:

- 4th - 12th grade teachers
- Science, math or social studies teachers
- Career counselors



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

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Energy Council

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APPLY NOW

Industry News

The Cooperative Way

As part of a cooperative strengthening project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Chuck Dawsey, former Benton REA CEO and general manager and Ron Schwartau, NRECA's director from Minnesota, provided a two day workshop that focused on co-op governance best practices with 46 Ugandan electric cooperative board members and CEOs.

The two NRECA co-op leaders were joined by Wilson Nyabutundu, the Uganda Rural Electrification Agency's senior rural electric cooperative development officer, who provides guidance to these co-ops and frequently collaborates with NRECA International.

"There is so much our co-ops can learn from the rich history of the co-ops in America and there is a strong desire to seek information on how to be successful," said Nyabutundu. "I am hopeful that the electric co-op model will grow to meet the needs of the rural communities in Uganda."

Much like co-ops in America 80 years ago, these young electric co-ops face significant challenges in their communities. Since the beginning, American rural electric co-ops have consistently shared ideas and resources, creating a strong community that is always ready to help each other. This was a new concept to the attendees, but they immediately saw the value and intend to put it into practice immediately.

"Sharing experiences, ideas, concepts and practices in our areas of expertise helps others and at the same time we gain insight from them which helps us," said Dawsey. "These unique experiences help us understand our similarities and differences which enable us to see beyond ourselves."

~NRECA International Foundation



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Meeker
Cooperative
Light and Power Association

Be Aware! Scammers Never Quit!

A sister cooperative in Redwood County reportedly experienced a failed scam attempt against one of their members. According to the report, a party claiming to represent the cooperative contacted a member in Sheridan Township demanding payment for outstanding services rendered be paid in full over the phone immediately.

Fortunately, the member the party called knew their account was current and had no outstanding debt. The member contacted the co-op and the cooperative then contacted the Redwood County Sheriff's Department. Location #25-27-811

If you are ever contacted by someone claiming to be from Meeker Cooperative demanding immediate payment over the phone to avoid a disconnect, hang up and contact the Co-op at 320-693-3231 to verify the information. Meeker Co-op will give courtesy calls when a payment is outstanding, but we don't demand immediate payment with a credit card over the phone. It's always better to be safe than sorry. Please keep on top of your statement so that you know immediately, as the Sheridan Township member did, that the call was a scam and never give out personal or financial information to anyone over the phone.



Take control of your energy use and your bill

SmartHub monitors energy use, lets you pay your bill your way

SmartHub makes your account management easier, more flexible and mobile!



Rural electric cooperatives everywhere are upgrading their online bill pay and account management tools to SmartHub. That's because it provides more of the convenience our members have been asking for. Members can access their account information, pay their bill and keep on top of their account.

SmartHub just makes it easier to do all of these things and more, from anywhere using your computer, tablet or mobile phone with the SmartHub mobile app. Location # 09-24-401



Ten Reasons you'll love SmartHub:

1. Provides 24/7 secure access to your account from a computer, tablet or mobile phone;
2. Notifies you when a new electric bill has been generated and includes a link to your account for quick payment of your bill or to review your account information.
3. Allows you to pay electronically using your Visa or MasterCard or an electronic check transaction.
4. Allows you to set up recurring automatic payments using your checking or savings accounts.
5. Displays posting of payments in real time, so you know your payment has been applied.
6. Provides current and historical billing information and payment history.
7. Shows daily, weekly and monthly electric usage in easy to understand graphics so you can match electric use to your bill.
8. Gives you the option to go paperless, if you choose.
9. Allows you to set up payment alerts.
10. Includes a FREE app for your smartphone or tablet. Simply search for "SmartHub" on either the Apple Store or Android Market. Once the app is open, type in "Meeker Cooperative" as the power provider. Your login information is the same as what has been set up in E-Bill.

Sign up at www.meeker.coop. Click on the SmartHub button and follow the prompts.

Join us for our 2019 North Dakota Energy Tour July 24-26!



Enjoy a three-day luxury coach tour to North Dakota's coal country July 24-26, 2019 to see how lignite coal is mined and turned into the electricity we need every single day!

This fun and educational trip includes the following highlights:

- Tour the Falkirk Mine and see the gigantic equipment used to supply 8 million tons of lignite each year.
- Tour Coal Creek Station, the largest power plant in North Dakota and learn why this plant is vitally important to our generation needs.
- Tour the Garrison Dam fisheries project and see the massive Dam
- Tour the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site to see how early Native Americans lived.

- Visit North Dakota Historical Center Museum, which has been remodeled and expanded.
- Two-night stay at the all-suite StayBridge Hotel in Bismarck with pool, spa, theater room, in-room kitchens, plush bedding, and nearby shopping.

Most meals are included in this trip, with the exception of fast food/coffee stops during the bus trip to and back from North Dakota and any restaurants you may visit during your free time.

Children 10 and older are welcome when accompanied by an adult.

Cost: \$175 per person single or double
Deadline: June 28 or when seats are filled!

We'll send a letter two weeks before we go with the schedule and trip details.

Energy Tour Reservation

Please reserve _____ places for the Energy Tour on July 24-26, 2019.

Name(s): _____

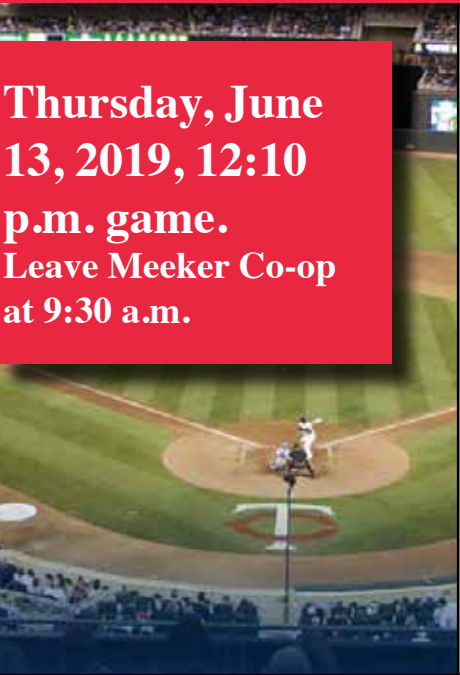
Account Number: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Reservations at \$175 each _____ Total \$ _____ **DEADLINE JUNE 28**

Return to: Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355, ATTN: Becky Sorenson. Persons listed above will share a room.

Minnesota Twins vs. Seattle Mariners at Target Field!



Thursday, June 13, 2019, 12:10 p.m. game.
Leave Meeker Co-op at 9:30 a.m.

Enjoy an action-packed day at the ballpark and leave the driving to us! See the Minnesota Twins battle the Seattle Mariners. Game time is 12:10 p.m. We'll leave the Meeker Co-op parking lot at 9:30 a.m. to enjoy time to shop for souvenirs and grab some food before the first pitch.

Reserve your spot on the bus by sending in the sign-up slip (below) by Friday, May 17, along with your check.

Cost: \$45 per person.
Includes a light snack and beverage on the bus. Food at the park is on your own. We hope you'll join us!

Meeker Cooperative Bus Trip: Twins vs. Seattle Mariners at Target Field! — 12:10 p.m., Thursday, June 13, 2019.

Bus departs from Meeker Co-op at 9:30 a.m.

Name(s): _____

Acct #: _____ Phone: _____

of reservations: _____ @ \$45 = \$ _____ Deadline: **May 17**

Make checks payable to Meeker Cooperative. Clip and send this form to:
Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355
Attn: Becky Sorenson

Potato Pancakes

Betty Kelm of Eden Valley submitted this month's winning recipe for **Potato Pancakes** (Best Potato recipe). She will have \$10 credited to her account. Congratulations!

Potato Pancakes

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 eggs | 1/4 tsp. baking powder |
| 1 small onion, diced | 1/4 cup milk |
| 1 tsp. salt | 3 cups shredded raw potatoes |
| 3 Tbsp. flour | |

Put onion and milk in blender and pulse until pureed. Mix onion mixture, grated potatoes, eggs, flour and baking powder together. Melt butter or margarine in a frying pan and add a scoop of potato mixture and flatten to about 1/2 inch thick. Fry about 7-8 minutes per side until golden brown. Adjust heat as needed so that potatoes cook thoroughly without burning. Serve w/applesauce, sour cream or alone.

For April, submit your favorite Pasta Recipe by March 29 to:
Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson,
1725 US Hwy 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355

Vibrant Broadband continues, despite record-breaking snow/cold



One of our linemen, Logan Josephson, stands in what used to be a snowbank (above). The crew had to use equipment to dig out a huge amount of heavy snow for more of the Vibrant Broadband infrastructure to be placed. At right, lineman Shawn Marthaler snapped before and after photos showing the amount of snow crews have to deal with to make the fiber connection to the substation. Construction crews have been installing broadband poles and boring in cables despite record-setting snow and bitter cold temperatures, so that the project can remain as close to on-schedule as possible. Location #04-17-124

Pioneer Ads — Free want ad service for members. Please limit your ad to nine words, one word per line. One phone number please. Use the coupon below or pick one up in our office. Ads will be printed for one month only. Please submit a new ad if you want it published more than one month. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads received by **March 28** will be included in April issue.

Please run this ad in the next Pioneer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____	2 _____	3 _____
4 _____	5 _____	6 _____
7 _____	8 _____	9 _____

Clip and Send to: Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355 Attn: Becky Sorenson or email rsorenson@meeker.coop

Please check ad category

☐ For Sale, Misc.

☐ Agricultural

☐ Automotive

☐ Wanted

☐ Giveaway

☐ Service

☐ For Rent

- Nine bales cellulose blow. Insulation R-19, 233 sq. ft. \$15/ea. 320-276-8310.

• Older cateye marbles & shooters. Best offer. 320-894-1344.

• 44-in. round patio table tempered glass top with umbrella hole. \$25. 320-453-8231.

• Spruce trees suitable for sawmill or outside boiler fuel. 320-221-0464.

• Lake Manuella lot w/ septic, well, 75'x200' level. \$175k/oob. 320-420-3074.

• 6 & 10-ft. H/O train layout, 1/2" includes track, several trains, controller. 320-764-2988.

• Red horse-drawn sled, disassembles. Lightweight for storage. \$500. 320-275-2570.

• 2 prtbl. stadium seats w/back/arm rests. Nvr. used. \$15/ea. or \$25/both. 320-275-2421.

• Used high-qual. carpet, neutral, approx.. 16'x18', exc. cond. 320-693-2074.

• DVD player, Apple USB super drive, lk. new. 320-221-2487.
- 24" snowblower, 6hp, 5-sp., reverse, chains, new eng. 12/17. \$350. 952-938-8269.

• Direct TV anten. Dish, support brackets/braces. Lk. new. 320-221-2487.

• Walnut table 43x54 w/6 chairs; metal fold. Chairs. 320-693-8492.

• Coronado upright freezer 62"H x 32"W x 27"D. 320-693-8492.

• Extension & wood ladders. Asst. Fans: 20" box, 9" & 17" oscillating. 320-693-8492.

• Dark brown reclining couch & matching rocker recliner. 320-764-2988.
- '08 Silverado truck w/ topper, 233K mil. \$6,500. 952-938-8269.

• New truck chains, 17". \$75. 320-243-8033.

• 2007 GMC Yukon XL, loaded, very nice. \$9,150/oob. 952-607-5446.
- For Sale - Agricultural**

• J.D. 2800 5-bottom plow, Vi-wide, Century 300-gal. crop sprayer. 320-453-6122.
- Wanted**

• Portable milking machine. 320-220-0969.

• Location #10-24-402

• Old spears & wood decoys used for spearing Northerns. 320-583-6903.

• Propane tanks 100 to 1000 gallons in any condition. 320-406-5423.

• Lake Superior agates; big, small and collections. 320-493-7555.
- For Sale - Automotive**

• 2006 Chrysler 300 loaded, leather, clean, many upgrades. \$6,500/oob. 320-398-8512.

• 1999 Taurus black, tan leather, extras, runs great. \$1,200. 320-398-8512.

• 2004 Durango, 146K mi., gd. cond., AWD, 4.7 V8, 3rd row. \$4,250/oob. 320-905-6597.
- Services**

• Interior painting. 320-583-6210.

Find your location number

Four location numbers have been hidden within this **Pioneer**. If you find your number and claim it by calling Meeker Cooperative by March 28 you will have \$10 credited to your account! If you find your number and your information is correct in our system, you'll receive a bill credit equal to one month's output from a Member Solar panel. Abe Yoder of Paynesville found his location number in February. Good luck!

For Sale - Miscellaneous

• Custom Union special floor loom, book, cut, balled fabric. 763-533-7581.

• Schells Beer wooden beer case w/4 bottles \$350. 320-223-3801.

• Dark wood entertain. ctr. 48"W x 29"H x 17"D. \$150. 320-583-4490.