

PIONEER



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The Pioneer Newsletter is the official Cooperative publication.
Meeker Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

UPCOMING COOPERATIVE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAW VOTE

In 2026, the Meeker Energy Board of Directors is asking our members to approve proposed amendments to the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

As a member-owned electric cooperative, Meeker Energy is guided by a set of foundational documents that shape how we operate and how decisions are made on behalf of our members. These include our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, which were first established when the cooperative was formed in the 1930s and were last updated in 2013.

The photo above from the 1938 Annual Meeting serves as a reminder of where we

began. Neighbors came together to bring electricity to rural communities and to build something lasting, member by member. For nearly a century, your cooperative has continued to grow and adapt while staying rooted in the same cooperative principles.

Since our governing documents were last updated, the electric industry has continued to evolve, technology has advanced, and member needs and expectations have shifted. Once again, the Board believes it is time to review and refresh these documents to ensure they remain clear, relevant, and aligned with how your cooperative operates today and how it will serve members into the future.

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COOPERATIVE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BYLAWS...

Over the past four months, Meeker Energy's Board of Directors, staff leadership, and internal legal counsel have completed a thorough, line-by-line review of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. This review compared these documents to current cooperative practices, industry changes, and governance standards used by other electric cooperatives. The intent of this work was to modernize and clarify these documents so they continue to effectively serve both the Cooperative and its members.

Following this review, the Board formally approved the proposed updates and, at the February 3 special Board meeting, adopted a resolution to bring the changes before the membership for a vote.

While the proposed amendments have been approved by the current Board of Directors, they cannot be placed into effect without approval by a majority vote of the members that participate in the voting process. 15-04-402 This membership vote will take place in conjunction with the Director elections and Annual Meeting. Members will be asked to vote on one question to approve or not approve the proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

Ballots and a redlined version of the proposed documents will be mailed to members in April. Redlined documents will also be available through SmartHub for members to review on March 15. Copies may also be made available at the Cooperative office upon request, with membership verification.

If approved by the membership, the updated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws will take effect immediately following the announcement of the voting results.

As the voting period approaches, we'll continue to share information through our newsletter, website, and other communication channels. We encourage all members to review the materials and participate in this important vote.

If you have questions or need help accessing the documents, please contact us at articles-bylaws@meeker.coop.

Thank you for your continued involvement and for being a member of Meeker Energy.

Sincerely,
Brad Donnay, Board President
Meeker Energy



**GO ELECTRIC.
SAVE ENERGY.
WIN \$250.**

Join one of Meeker Energy's Energy Management Programs for a chance to win a \$250 VISA® Gift Card.

When you sign up for an eligible electric load, you'll be entered into a quarterly drawing, four chances in 2026 to win, while enjoying lower electric rates on qualifying equipment.

WATT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- Lower electric rates on electric water heaters, electric heat, electric vehicle charger, or heat pumps
- A chance to win \$250 just for participating plus you save money every month!

HOW TO QUALIFY:

- Enroll in a Energy Management Program (new or additional)
- Replacement (10 years or older) of existing heating/cooling equipment on energy management
- You will be placed in the drawing for the quarter when installation is complete

DRAWING WILL BE AFTER EACH QUARTER IN 2026

To enroll or if you have questions, please call 320-693-3231 and ask to speak to the Energy Services Department.



VERIFY YOUR VISITORS

Get alerted when someone arrives, view them with high-resolution video, and talk to them with two-way audio, all from our video doorbell.



888.264.6380
heartlandss.com

IMPORTANT RATE UPDATE REMINDER

The Meeker Energy Board of Directors has approved an adjustment to the fixed charge for Residential and Seasonal rate classes.

Beginning March 1, 2026, the fixed charge will increase from \$46.50 to \$56 per month. This change will be reflected on April bills.

This adjustment helps ensure the ongoing reliability of the electric system and supports the infrastructure and services required to deliver electricity safely and consistently. If you have questions about this change, Meeker Energy staff are available to help.

WHAT IS THE FIXED CHARGE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

The fixed charge is designed to recover the basic cost of providing electric service, independent of how much electricity is used. These are the costs Meeker Energy incurs to ensure electric service is available to every member safely and reliably, every hour of every day.

If one member uses very little electricity and another uses significantly more, Meeker Energy still incurs many of the same costs to serve both. The fixed charge helps ensure these shared system costs are recovered fairly.

WHY THE FIXED CHARGE IS INDEPENDENT OF ENERGY USE

Whether you use one kilowatt-hour of electricity in a month or one thousand, Meeker Energy must still build, operate, and maintain the electric system that delivers power to your home or business.

That includes the cost to:

- Construct and maintain the distribution system
- Keep equipment energized and ready
- Monitor the system and respond to outages
- Provide customer service and billing

These costs exist regardless of monthly usage, which is why they are collected 28-28-120 through a fixed charge rather than the energy charge.

WHAT ARE THOSE MONTHLY COSTS?

Equipment and Infrastructure

Meeker Energy's electric infrastructure begins at its substations, where power from high-voltage transmission lines is stepped down to levels safe for distribution. From there, electricity moves across miles of distribution lines, both overhead and underground, supported by poles, wire, and buried cable. Transformers are located throughout this system, working

alongside lines and equipment to help manage voltage as electricity moves across the grid.

This infrastructure requires ongoing inspection, maintenance, and right-of-way clearing, and must be repaired or rebuilt after storms to restore service safely and reliably. Electricity ultimately passes through your electric meter, which carries ongoing costs to own, maintain, and read, before entering your home to power daily life.

In addition, trucks, tools, inventory, safety equipment, and facilities are needed to support daily operations and emergency response.

Business and Service Functions

Providing electric service also involves essential business functions, including billing, payment processing, computer and phone systems, accounting, financing, dispatching, customer service, and communications.

The fixed charge helps support the skilled, qualified employees who design, operate, maintain, and protect the electric system and serve our members every day.

The key point is this: these costs do not change based on how much electricity is used in a given month.

Separating fixed system costs from energy charges allows Meeker Energy to more accurately assess and recover the true cost of providing service. This helps ensure all members contribute fairly to maintaining the electric system, while energy charges continue to reflect individual usage.

The fixed charge supports a portion of access to safe, reliable electric service. The energy charge reflects the electricity you consume. Together, they allow Meeker Energy to deliver power equitably and responsibly today and into the future.



FIND YOUR LOCATION NUMBER

Four location numbers are hidden within this Pioneer. If you find your number and claim it by calling Meeker Energy before February 28, you will have \$10 credit to your account. When you call and verify your information is correct in our system, you will also receive an additional bill credit equal to one month's output from a Member Solar Panel.

KEEP YOUR ACCOUNT UP TO DATE WITH SMARTHUB

Keeping your Meeker Energy account information current helps us serve you better and ensures you never miss important updates. SmartHub makes it easy to manage your account anytime, from anywhere.

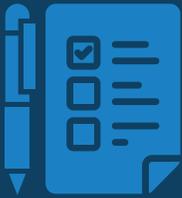


STAY INFORMED WITH ACCURATE CONTACT INFO

Make sure your phone number, email address, and mailing address are up to date so you receive:

- Billing reminders and notifications
- Time-sensitive service updates

Accurate contact info helps us reach you quickly when it matters most.



CLEAN UP AND ORGANIZE YOUR ACCOUNT

SmartHub lets you review and update your account details in one place.

On SmartHub you can:

- Remove outdated contact information
- Update preferred notification settings
- Confirm the best way for us to reach you
- Review account preferences and settings

A quick check now can prevent missed messages later.



MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNT ONLINE, ANYTIME

With SmartHub, you can take care of your Meeker Energy account on your schedule.

Use SmartHub to:

- View and pay your bill
- Set up auto pay or paperless billing
- Track your energy use
- Receive alerts and notifications

Access your account anytime, anywhere.



A SMALL STEP THAT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

Taking a few minutes to update your account helps ensure accurate communication, smoother service, 18-12-201 and a better overall experience with Meeker Energy.

Keeping your information current helps us serve you safely, reliably, and efficiently.

Log in or sign up for SmartHub today and make sure your account is working as hard for you as you do.



WILLIE WIREDHAND'S ELECTRICITY FUN FACT

February's shorter days mean lights stay on longer at home. During winter, lighting can account for up to 20% of a household's electricity use, more than in any other season. Using energy-efficient bulbs and turning off unused lights can make a noticeable difference this time of year.

MEMBER NEWS

SAVE THE DATE: MEEKER ENERGY ANNUAL MEETING AND MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

Join us Wednesday, May 20 at Meeker Energy for our Member and Subscriber Appreciation Day from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Annual Meeting business session begins at 4:00 p.m. (members only). Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

SAVE THE DATE: MEMBER TRIP TO THE TWINS GAME

Make plans to join us for Meeker Energy's annual member trip to the Minnesota Twins game. This popular summer tradition brings members together for a fun afternoon at the ballpark.

Wednesday, June 3, 2026
12:40 p.m. vs. Chicago White Sox

Watch for more details, including registration information, in a future issue of *The Pioneer*.

CONTACT US

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Forest City in Meeker

Chad Felstul, Attorney



WHY HIGH-SPEED INTERNET MATTERS WHEN CHOOSING A BROADBAND PROVIDER

High-speed internet has become an essential service for today's homes. From streaming entertainment and working remotely 23-02-301 to managing smart devices and staying connected, internet speed plays a major role in how smoothly daily life runs.

MORE DEVICES, FEWER SLOWDOWNS

Most households now use multiple connected devices at the same time—phones, laptops, TVs, tablets, and smart technology. Higher speeds help keep everything running without buffering or interruptions.

SMOOTHER STREAMING

Streaming video, especially in HD or 4K, requires reliable speed. Faster connections reduce buffering and allow multiple streams to run at once without quality drops.

BETTER WORK AND SCHOOL CONNECTIONS

Video meetings, online classes, and cloud-based tools depend on strong download and upload speeds. Higher-speed internet supports clearer calls, faster file sharing, and fewer disruptions.

UPLOAD SPEED MATTERS

Uploading photos and videos, using video doorbells, and backing up files all rely on upload speed. High-speed connections typically offer better performance in both directions.

High-speed internet isn't just about faster downloads—it's about reliability, flexibility, and having a connection that keeps up with the way your household lives, works, and connects every day.

LEARN MORE. STREAM SMARTER. STAY SECURE.



Curious about streaming TV, cutting the cord, or choosing the right devices for your home? Join Meeker Energy for Dreaming of Streaming, a free, one-hour session covering what to stream, how to stream, and how to get the most from your internet connection.

Concerned about online safety? Our Cyber Security sessions offer practical tips to help protect your personal information, devices, and digital life.

All sessions are free and open to the public.
Time: 5:30–6:30 p.m.

DREAMING OF STREAMING

Thu, Feb 19 – Green Roof Community Center,
Paynesville

Wed, May 13 – Meeker Energy, Litchfield

Wed, Jul 22 – Green Roof Community Center,
Paynesville

Wed, Nov 4 – Meeker Energy, Litchfield

CYBER SECURITY

Wed, Mar 18 – Meeker Energy, Litchfield

Wed, Sep 9 – Meeker Energy, Litchfield

MORE NEWS & CLASSIFIEDS ONLINE

Keep up-to-date with your Cooperative in-between issues of the Pioneer and browse our classifieds online at:

www.meeker.coop/news.