



## MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

### Financials Slightly Ahead of Budget

Energy sales are slightly below budget through the first quarter and just slightly less than what we sold in the first quarter of 2023. Financials for the first quarter are strong. Through March, we have an operating margin of \$217,000 compared to a budgeted (\$15,000). The operating margin tells us if this year's revenue is covering this year's costs. We have a total margin of \$382,000 compared to a budgeted \$106,000. Last year, in the first quarter, we had a total margin of \$430,000.

Operationally, with the nice winter and spring, we are at a good pace on our construction projects for the year. Material for our construction projects continues to be a challenge, but we will persevere. The pole treating crew will start shortly and the line clearing crews are making good progress in the southeast part of our project. If the guys from Minnesota Valley Tree Service visit with you about clearing right-of-way for our power lines on

your property, please let them do the job right. The payoff will be that your lights have a better chance of staying on when a storm rolls through.

### Capital Credit Allocation Information

We hope you noticed your individual capital credit allocation from the business year 2023 listed on this month's power bill. This number represents your individual share of our \$4,086,316 margin this past year. If the cooperative continues to be successful, and there is no reason to believe otherwise, it will all be eventually returned to you in cash.

### Thanks!

Thanks again to all of you who took the time to be with us at our Annual Meeting this past month. We appreciate your time and continued support of your organization. For those of you who were unable to make it, we will have it next year on Saturday morning of April 5<sup>th</sup> at the Casino in Granite Falls. I hope you can attend!

Have a great summer!

## Double Rebates Heat Pump Promotion

The primary reasons for installing a heat pump are higher efficiency, attractive heat rates and low interest financing. Well, from now through Labor Day, you have another reason—we are **DOUBLING** the rebates for the installation of an air to air heat pump or a geothermal heat pump. That makes an already attractive heating system look that much better.

These rebates run May 1<sup>st</sup> through September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. That gives you all summer to take advantage of the benefits of a heat pump system, along with the double rebate offer. The system must be a *new installation* and be *placed in service between the dates stated above* (certain size limitations apply). **Don't let this great offer slip away!**

## Summer DOUBLE REBATE Days

Shopping for something new can sometimes be intimidating. Our *Member Services Department* is here to help you with any questions you may have. Please call us at 800.247.5051 or 320.269.2163 for more information.





*Manager of Operations*

Minnesota Valley line crews have been cleaning up winter projects that have come up during this year's line patrol. A number of poles are still on the list to be changed out from last year's pole treaters, as well as any poles found during line patrol.

This year's line construction projects are well on the way. Some members east of Highway 75 and south of Highway 212 have already been involved with one of the work plan line rebuilds scheduled for this year. In the Gluek Substation area, there are a number of 3 phase and single phase line rebuilds in the process of being staked or have already begun. Karian Peterson will be working on most of these line rebuilds.

With farming season here, I would like to remind everyone to watch out for power poles, guy wires, overhead wires and any underground equipment such as electrical junction boxes and pad mount transformers. Hitting any of the equipment is not only dangerous, but it can also be very expensive to fix or replace. Any downed or exposed power lines should always be considered "LIVE" until our crews arrive to take care of the issue.

In March, the crews installed a new concrete vault for a new transformer addition at the Louriston Dairy. The mild winter left the ground thawed very early this year so digging was not a problem.



**Minnesota Valley Cooperative  
will be closed Monday,  
May 27<sup>th</sup> in observance of  
Memorial Day.**

**Congratulations  
to all our area  
2024 seniors!  
Best of luck in  
your future plans!**

**Find Your Location Number**

If you find your location number in this newsletter, you will receive a \$10 bill credit (*Operation Round Up participants get a \$10 bonus*). If no number is claimed before the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, the unclaimed amount rolls over into the next month. If both location numbers are claimed in a month, the recipients will split the credit. Once claimed, we will start again at \$10. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.



**Comparative Report**

	Jan-Mar 2024	Jan-Mar 2023	Jan-Mar 2004
Kwh Purchased	64,548,019	66,016,229	43,539,256
Kwh Sold	61,459,690	62,288,081	40,635,034
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$2,979,663	\$2,863,928	\$1,073,044
Patronage Capital Margins	\$382,735	\$430,720	\$225,214
Reserve For Taxes	\$66,000	\$72,000	\$48,868
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	47.34	43.38	24.65
	March '24	March '23	March '04
Total Plant	\$100,935,625	\$92,560,699	\$36,490,251
Number of Active Services	5,304	5,307	5,214
Avg. Residential Bill	\$238.15	\$272.21	\$118.75
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	2,192	2,687	1,745
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,601	3,817	2,277
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	35,560	39,517	24,437

Congrats to both Howard Cleveland and Randy Nelson who found their numbers last month and each received a \$10 bill credit! Look in this issue and if you find your location number, make sure to claim by the 25<sup>th</sup> of May to be eligible.



## Electrical Safety: Staying Safe Both Inside & Outside

May is *Electrical Safety Month*, which is a good time to remind us all to treat electricity with respect. Electricity is an integral part of our lives, powering our homes and towns, but it can be dangerous if not handled properly. The following are some key safety tips for dealing with electricity both inside the home and outside.

### Inside the Home

#### 1) Inspect Electrical Cords

Regularly check cords for damage. Frayed wires or cracked insulation can lead to shocks. Replace damaged cords immediately.

#### 2) Avoid Overloading Outlets

Plugging too many devices into an outlet can cause overheating and fires. Lower your risk by not overloading your system.

#### 3) Test Your GFCIs

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) can prevent electrocution. Test them monthly by pressing the test button to ensure they are working correctly.

#### 4) Keep Electric Appliances Away from Water

Do not put any electrical appliance within five feet of a bathtub, sink or swimming pool. Any electric outlets in wet areas of the home, such as bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms and basements, as well as outdoors, should be equipped with a GFCI outlet.

### Outside the Home

#### 1) Respect Power Lines

Always assume overhead wires are live. Make sure to look up when moving ladders or poles and keep a distance of at least 10 feet at all times.

#### 2) Report Downed Power Lines

If you see a downed power line, stay far away and call Minnesota Valley to report it right away. It is impossible to tell if a line is live simply by looking at it.

#### 3) Stay Away from Transformers

Transformers, often found in green metal boxes, are dangerous. Never touch or try to open them.

#### 4) Dig with Care

Before digging for any project, call the 811 hotline or visit [gopherstateonecall.org](http://gopherstateonecall.org) to have all public underground utilities marked. You must submit your request at least 48 hours (not including weekends and holidays) in advance of your plans to dig.

Electrical safety is crucial both inside and outside your home. M four thirty-two zero one A By following these tips and being aware of your surroundings, you can help prevent accidents and ensure a safer environment for everyone. Remember, electricity is a powerful tool that should always be treated with respect.

## Do You Know Any of These Former MN Valley Members?

We need your help in locating the people listed below. Their capital credit checks have been returned to us because we do not have a current address. If you have the address of any of these people or are one of their heirs, please get in touch with us.

**Phone:**  
320.269.2163 or  
800.247.5051

**Email:**  
[mnvalley@mnvalleyrec.com](mailto:mnvalley@mnvalleyrec.com)

**Mail:**  
Minnesota Valley R.E.C.  
P.O. Box 248  
Montevideo, MN 56265

- ✗ Ahl, Anthony • Atwater
- ✗ Backman, Cynthia • Kasota
- ✗ Bennett, Thomas • Beardsley
- ✗ Brott, Francis • Minneapolis
- ✗ Bruns, Jennifer • Marshall
- ✗ Bustos, Oscar • Maynard
- ✗ Coulter, Maria A • Eden Prairie
- ✗ Denenberg, Earle • Montevideo
- ✗ Erickson, Jill • Granite Falls
- ✗ Fredrick, Ronald • Atwater
- ✗ Gleason, Brad • Deer River
- ✗ Hagen, Lynn • Montevideo
- ✗ Hanson, Corina • Dawson
- ✗ Heidebrink, Corey • Hazel Run
- ✗ Hindermann, Amber • Granite Falls
- ✗ Holien, Jennifer • Hawick
- ✗ Holmquist, Jason • Paynesville
- ✗ Ireland, David A • Albany
- ✗ Knutson, Dominick • Granite Falls
- ✗ Kor, Rikki • Cottonwood
- ✗ Lewison, Gerald • Granite Falls
- ✗ Lopez-Contreras, Vanessa • Willmar
- ✗ Mills, Garrett • Montevideo
- ✗ Moseng Jr, Herman • Otsego
- ✗ Myers, Sandi • Lingle, WY
- ✗ Myers, William J • Montevideo
- ✗ Nygaard, Trish • Montevideo
- ✗ Olson, Michael T • Pine City
- ✗ Rochefort, TinaMarie • Blue Earth
- ✗ Roske, Jane • Huntsville, AR
- ✗ Rural Cellular Corp DBA Unicef • Alexandria
- ✗ Saby, Marvin • Chanhassen
- ✗ Schulz, Elizabeth • Madison
- ✗ Schwartz, June • Cottonwood
- ✗ Sipma, Vern • Clara City
- ✗ Styles, Gregory • San Antonio, TX
- ✗ Utilities, FAS-AHM • Columbus, OH
- ✗ Viessman, Nathan • Anamosa, IA



## MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH

Member Services Manager

### Welcome to Summer Storm Season

Summer in Minnesota offers beautiful landscapes and outdoor activities, but it also brings the potential for severe storms. From thunderstorms to tornadoes, understanding the unique weather patterns and risks in Minnesota is essential for staying safe during the summer months. Let's delve into the facts about summer storms in Minnesota and explore key safety measures to help residents prepare and protect themselves.



#### 1) Minnesota's Storm Landscape:

- ☑ Minnesota experiences a wide range of summer storms, including thunderstorms, hailstorms, and occasionally, tornadoes.
- ☑ The state's geographic diversity, with its lakes, forests and plains, contributes to the variability and intensity of summer weather patterns.
- ☑ Thunderstorms are a common occurrence in Minnesota during the summer, often accompanied by lightning, heavy rain and strong winds.

#### 2) Tornado Facts and Safety:

- ☑ While tornadoes are less common in Minnesota compared to states in "Tornado Alley," the state still experiences an average of 27 tornadoes annually.
- ☑ Tornadoes in Minnesota are most prevalent during the late spring and summer months, typically between May and July.

- ☑ Residents should have a tornado safety plan in place, including designated shelter areas within their homes and knowledge of warning signs and alerts.

#### 3) Lightning Safety:

- ☑ Minnesota ranks among the top states for lightning-related fatalities and injuries in the United States.
- ☑ Lightning strikes can occur even before rain begins or after it ends, making it crucial to seek shelter indoors at the first sign of thunder.

- ☑ Avoid taking shelter under trees or in open fields during thunderstorms, as these locations increase the risk of being struck by lightning.

#### 4) Flash Flood Awareness:

- ☑ Flash floods pose a significant threat during summer storms, particularly in urban areas with poor drainage and regions near rivers and streams.

- ☑ Minnesota's extensive network of lakes and rivers can exacerbate flooding, leading to property damage and road closures.

- ☑ Residents should avoid driving through flooded roadways and be prepared to evacuate if flooding occurs in their area.

#### 5) Preparedness and Safety Tips:

- ☑ Stay informed about weather forecasts and warnings issued by the National Weather Service and local meteorological agencies.
- ☑ Have an emergency kit stocked with essentials such as water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, a first aid kit and medications.
- ☑ Develop a family emergency plan that includes designated meeting locations and communication methods in case of separation during a storm.



As summer approaches in Minnesota, it's vital for residents to be aware of the risks associated with summer storms and to take proactive steps to stay safe. Minnesota Valley Co-op News (MVCN) is a two-thirty-two-zero-one-A By understanding the facts about local weather patterns and implementing safety measures, individuals and communities can minimize the impact of severe storms and protect lives and property. Remember, preparedness and vigilance are key to weathering the storm safely in the Land of 10,000 Lakes.

#### Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

#### 24-Hour Telephone Answering

320.269.2163  
800.247.5051

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#### Website

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