



## MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

### New Metering System Installed by Late Fall

We are in the process of replacing our Turtle Metering System with what is called the Tantalus Metering System. We hope to have the system operating and all meters changed out by late fall. Our present system was installed in the late 90s and has served us extremely well over the years. We probably could have eked out a few more years, but the manufacturer stopped supporting the system several years ago and the supply of parts from cooperatives that had previously retired their Turtle system has been drying up. Anyway, we are moving on with the new \$1.7 million metering system and we are expecting it will make your life a little easier and us more efficient. One of the coolest things about the new system is that you will never have to call in an outage, the meter will do it for you. We will be providing you with more information about the metering system and its capabilities available to you as we move along.

### You Might Need to Upgrade Your Service if You are Adding Load

There are many requests for service upgrades in the queue for this summer. If you are planning to add load that might require a service upgrade, please give us a call so we can help you prepare. We try to plan as far out as we can and like to be as punctual as we can. Longer lead times help us to schedule more efficiently, which helps everyone get what they need on time. If you are looking into a large load addition, such as a new grain drying system, get ahold of us early so we can prepare to be able to provide the power you will need to run your new system. Many times, we have members contact us after they have purchased a new drying system and they are surprised to find out that we have to

make some major investments on our side of the line to provide the power to make their new system work. We just want you to be aware of this.

Oh, and by the way, if you are upgrading your service for a new home or shop, make sure you size it to include room for adding electric heat. Our dual heat rate and electric heat rates are 4.4 and 4.8 cents per kwh respectively. We plan to hold those rates for three years. The dual heat rate using straight resistance heat compares to \$1.06 propane run through a high efficiency furnace. An air source heat pump is twice as efficient as straight resistance heat. A ground water sourced heat pump is three times as efficient as straight resistance. Call our Member Services Department for more information.

### Heading into Mid-Year in Good Shape Operationally

Crews are in place and working at pole testing and treating, line right-of-way clearing, mechanical apparatus testing and servicing and all of the other scheduled maintenance projects that must be taken care of to keep the system operating at a high level of reliability. Like everyone, we are hoping for a nice summer and fall to get our work done.

### Financials in Good Shape Heading into Mid-Year

Our sales through April are down about 4% over last year at this time. Total margins through the first four months are \$490,000, which is \$415,000 ahead of budget. We think we are in pretty good shape financially going into summer. As you know, the weather is everything and there is a lot of this year left.

Have a safe summer!



Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed Tuesday,  
July 4<sup>th</sup> in observance of Independence Day.



## Shedding Some Light on Lightning

According to the National Severe Storms Laboratory, lightning can strike in the same place twice (or pretty darn close), contrary to folk wisdom.

Also according to the storms laboratory and the National Weather Service:

- ✦ It is not possible to have thunder without lightning; thunder is a direct result of lightning. However, it IS possible you might see lightning and not hear the thunder because it was too far away. Some people call this phenomenon “heat lightning” because it occurs most often in the summer.
- ✦ Lightning can occur within the thunderstorm cloud (*intra-cloud lightning*) or between the cloud and the ground (*cloud-to-ground lightning*).
- ✦ Lightning can have 100 million to 1 billion volts and contains billions of watts.
- ✦ When lightning travels down a tree trunk, its heat turns water to steam. If it gets under the bark into the surface moisture of the wood, the rapidly expanding steam can blast pieces of bark from the tree and the wood along the path is often killed.
- ✦ Lightning is hotter than the surface of the sun and it can reach temperatures around 50,000 degrees F.
- ✦ People are struck by lightning in one of five ways: by a direct strike, by a side flash or from a streamer; or via ground current or conduction (metal). Metal does not attract lightning, but provides a path for the lightning to follow.

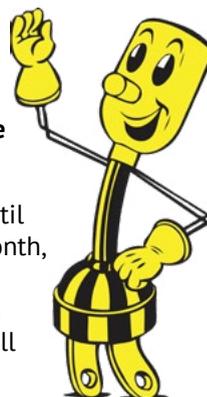
A thunderstorm is considered severe if it produces hail at least 1 inch in diameter or has wind gusts of at least 58 miles per hour, according to the American Red Cross. Heavy rain from thunderstorms can cause flash flooding and high winds can damage homes and blow down trees and utility poles, causing widespread power outages.



## Find Your Location Number and Receive a Credit!

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If you find your location number, you receive a \$10 bill credit (*Operation Round Up participants get a \$10 bonus*). If neither number is claimed before the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, **the unclaimed amount rolls over into the next month!**

The bill credit will continue to roll over and accumulate until it is claimed. If both location numbers are claimed in a month, the recipients will split the credit. Once claimed, it will start again at \$10. The current running amount is noted in each issue (currently \$10). If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.



## Do You Know Any of These Former Minnesota 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

- ✦ Borstad, Elwood • Madison
- ✦ Brott, Francis • Minneapolis
- ✦ Bruns, Jennifer • Marshall
- ✦ Erickson, Jill • Appleton
- ✦ FAS-AHM Utilities • Columbus, OH
- ✦ Geselius, John H • Willmar
- ✦ Gleason, Brad • Deer River
- ✦ Greiner, Nathan • Canby
- ✦ Hanson, James H • Erhard
- ✦ Holmquist, Jason • Paynesville
- ✦ Ireland, David A • Albany
- ✦ Korn, Kevin and Linda • Dawson
- ✦ Kosloski, Daniel • Boyd
- ✦ Kousbroek, Karen • Lebanon, TN
- ✦ Kruger, Lorna • Clara City
- ✦ Larson, Justin D • Sunburg
- ✦ Lopez-Contreras, Vanessa • Willmar
- ✦ Moseng, Herman Jr • Otsego
- ✦ Myers, Sandi • Lingle, WY
- ✦ Myers, William J • Montevideo
- ✦ Nelson, Michael A • Madison
- ✦ Olson, Michael T • Pine City
- ✦ Price, Tanya • Granite Falls
- ✦ Roske, Jane • Huntsville, AR
- ✦ Ross, Amanda • Echo
- ✦ Rural Cellular Corp Unicell • Alexandria
- ✦ Sopcyk, Jeffrey • Coon Rapids
- ✦ Stout, Joey • Montevideo
- ✦ Thrun, David • St. James
- ✦ Tilbury, Ramona • Madison
- ✦ Trevino, Claudia • Milan
- ✦ Weelborg, Myron • Redwood Falls



## ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // ERIC WOLLSCHLAGER



Manager of Operations

Minnesota Valley crews have been trying to get any underground cable jobs in the fields completed before field work starts. As

usual, pole changeouts and service upgrades are also in the works. Two miles of single phase line in the Vallers Substation area is in the process of being replaced.

Karian Peterson is in the process of finishing up pole work and string-

ing in new conductors west of Hanley Falls along County Road 8. J one zero six zero one The process of retiring out the old line has been started and what could be taken out before planting has been completed.

The new metering system is moving along very well. As mentioned in my April article, the system is being installed by a company called NexGen. Trucks arrived on site in the middle of May for installation of the infrastructure and should be around for about 3-4 weeks.

Some members may see trucks from this company in their yards working on Minnesota Valley's poles. They are installing a repeater to help in the meter signal being transmitted to the substations. New meters are scheduled to start arriving at the beginning of June with installation to begin sometime in the middle of June. Installations should be completed by the end of October. NexGen is also doing the meter changeouts for Minnesota Valley. All meters owned by Minnesota Valley will be replaced in this process.



If you see a small white bucket truck with the Minnesota Valley Logo on it, this is one of the vehicles working on the meter project. In the middle of June, you may see vehicles with the NexGen or Minnesota Valley sticker on the door. They will be working on the metering project as well.

### Comparative Report

	Jan-Apr 2023	Jan-Apr 2022	Jan-Apr 2003
Kwh Purchased	83,116,756	87,882,092	53,878,998
Kwh Sold	78,652,960	83,612,633	50,199,518
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$3,682,064	\$3,912,391	\$1,326,574
Patronage Capital Margins	\$490,544	\$601,140	\$470,355
Reserve For Taxes	\$96,000	\$85,668	\$76,536
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	44.30	45.00	25.04
	<b>April '23</b>	<b>April '22</b>	<b>April '03</b>
Total Plant	\$93,530,565	\$87,204,939	\$35,391,791
Number of Active Services	5,314	5,321	5,229
Avg. Residential Bill	\$229.49	\$215.26	\$106.29
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,968	2,044	1,446
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,080	3,278	1,964
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	33,058	33,169	21,889

### Current Prize

Find your number and claim by the 25<sup>th</sup> of June to receive a prize of:

**\$10**

Congratulations to **David DeLong**, who identified his number to earn \$10 off his energy bill!

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. N two thirty-six zero two Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)





## MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH

Member Services Manager

### Spring HVAC Startup Checklist

Here are eight important things to check BEFORE switching the wall thermostat to cooling.

#### Outdoor Inspection

- 1) Inspect outdoor unit panels – make sure they are all in place
- 2) Remove any unit covers or coil blankets from the outdoor unit
- 3) Repair or replace damaged or missing pipe insulation
- 4) Remove any leaves or debris from the outdoor unit coils

#### Indoor Inspection

- 5) Change the indoor air filters
- 6) Check the indoor drainage hose
- 7) Clean the supply vents and air return grills
- 8) Make sure your system is working properly on startup and throughout the first day (*and turn it off immediately if it is not working!*)

## Summer DOUBLE REBATE Days



Through **September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023** we are offering **double rebates** on air source or geothermal heat pumps! Call Member Services at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

### Heat Pump Promotion

The main reasons for installing a heat pump are higher efficiencies, attractive heat rates and low interest financing. Well, from now through Labor Day we will **DOUBLE** the rebates given 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 will run from May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 through September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The system needs to be a new installation and placed in service between the dates stated above and certain size limitations apply. That will give you all summer to take advantage of all of the great benefits of a heat pump system, along with the double rebate offer. Don't let this great offer slip away!

### Equipment Loans

Minnesota Valley offers 5% financing for electric heating/ cooling equipment. Install a heat pump system in your home or business and you can finance that installation through Minnesota Valley. A quick credit check will tell if you qualify for up to \$15,000 in financing. Loan terms can be for up to 7 years. We also offer financing for energy efficiency building upgrades, standby generators and wiring upgrade loans. The whole process is quite simple and turnaround time is quick.

### Generac Generators

Minnesota Valley offers the sales and installation of Generac standby generators. A home standby generator is an integral part of the preparedness planning process for homes and can greatly reduce disruption when power is interrupted. A home standby generator is permanently installed at a home, sitting outside like a central air conditioning unit. It runs on natural gas or liquid propane to automatically deliver power to the home's electrical system. A standby generator provides added protection by ensuring your home is never without power.

The 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.



#### 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

[www.mnvalleyrec.com](http://www.mnvalleyrec.com)

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