

CURRENT CONNECTION

It's Summer, Think Green, Think Electric >>>

You begin a Saturday with a mission to tame your unkempt front lawn, only to realize that the lawn mower will not start. The struggle to get it working could be an invitation for you to consider electric gardening and lawn tools.

Fourteen years ago, we published an article featuring Tom and Connie Moroni's twin Husqvarna robot lawn mowers, Larry and Darrel, which were four year-old machines at the time.

Today, 18-year old Larry is still mowing their son, Mike's yard, while Darrel hangs in the shop being used for parts. Mike Moroni has had some custom parts built for Larry because the manufacturer discontinued some things, but the robot just keeps going, like the Energizer Bunny™!

Summer is here in full swing and if you're in the market to upgrade your lawn care equipment, you may want to consider electric (or battery-powered) options. A key point in saving money is to try to utilize one brand, so your batteries are interchangeable.

Electric lawn care equipment options are becoming more popular than ever, offering consumers faster charging times, longer battery life and quieter, greener products compared to their gas-powered counterparts.

Electric Lawn Mowers

Electric lawn mowers used to require corded connections, which were awkward. Now, cordless models have taken over. Newer battery-powered electric mowers are slightly more expensive than gas-powered ones, but much of the upfront cost can be recovered quickly since electricity is a less expensive fuel than gas, and electric engines generally require less maintenance. Battery-powered electric mowers typically range from \$200 to \$500 and are suitable for most sized lawns depending on the battery's Amp/Hour rating.

Electric Trimmers

Battery-powered electric string trimmers are a great option for most lawns. New electric trimmers have greatly improved and are now considered worthy competitors of gas-powered models.

Electric trimmers are much quieter, lighter and much easier to use. Most batteries last about 30 to 45 minutes. Costs can vary depending on your needs, but you can find a quality version for about \$100 to \$200.

>> Mike Moroni inherited his parents robo mower, "Larry." He and his kids, Bella and Brayden enjoy summer, while Larry automatically mows the lawn.

Electric Chain Saws

If the idea that a battery-powered saw can compete with a conventional gas model sounds ridiculous, you probably haven't used an electric chainsaw recently. Though gas models are generally less expensive, the battery-powered models deliver instant power and depending on the battery's Amp/Hour rating, offer hours of cutting power.

Electric Leaf Blowers

Battery-powered electric leaf blowers are lightweight and easy to maneuver, but they don't offer quite as much power as gas-powered blowers. If your leaf blowing and clearing needs are not extreme, a battery-powered electric blower will get the job done. Costs for a battery-powered electric blower vary depending on the battery's Amp/Hour rating and the quality of the blower, but you can purchase a dependable model for about \$100 and up.

Garden tools powered by electricity can support your green thumb. These electric-powered tools can last longer and are emissions-free, meaning you'll smell the scents of summer, not the smell of exhaust.

For more information or guidance, contact Luke Christiansen in our Member Service Department at 218-829-2827.

INSIDE

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| A Word From Your CEO | 2 |
| Board Highlights..... | 3 |
| Census Reminder | 3 |
| Summer Power Costs | 4 |





A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

Summer Work Plans Underway >>>

The spring of each year is usually full of activity for Member Service Representatives, Field Stakers and Line Workers constructing new services for members or doing conversions as homeowners and businesses expand or change their electric service needs. This season has been no different. In fact we've seen an increase in new service applications with 263 as of June 1, compared to 174 during the same time frame in 2019.

Ongoing work plans include upgrading replacement of underground cable or overhead wires and poles. Road projects many times direct the timing of our work plans.

A recent large project in Morrison County has workers replacing aging underground cable that had to be directionally bored under Hwy 10 and the Burlington Northern Railroad south of Little Falls.

The project ensures robust reliability for the region by replacing underground cable from our substation in Bellevue Township west toward the Mississippi River.

State Highway 6 north of Crosby pole line replacement project is projected to be completed this fall. The overhead three-phase 13-mile project started on the south side of Emily in 2017 and will end at CSAH 11 by the Bridge Tavern. This was a much-needed project due to aging poles, conductors and accessibility issues.

Forestview Road along with Camwood Trail, in Baxter, is another large underground project that requires multiple utilities to work together. CTC, Xcel and Spectrum are also involved in the facility replacement due to the City of Baxter installing new sanitary sewer.

Projects like these take the coordination of all the utilities to work together to keep cost down and have the project run as smoothly as possible.

We are in the process of constructing a training field at our main headquarters for our Line Department, Power Quality Department and our Right of Way Department. This will give our employees practice in a more controlled environment before it is done on an energized live conductor that serves members. We will also be able to test various types of new equipment before it gets installed on our system.

I'll keep you informed,

Bruce L. Kraemer, CEO



Crow Wing Power Members Re-elect Three Incumbents >>>

Bryan McCulloch, Gert Roggenkamp and Dwight Thiesse were re-elected to the Board of Directors after certified election results were released June 12 by Survey and Ballot Systems of Eden Prairie. The results were as follows.

District 1-At Large

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Bryan McCulloch | 3,765 |
| Darrell Shannon..... | 1,939 |
| Dale Probasco | 1,443 |
| Derek Ward..... | 755 |

District 2B

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Gert Roggenkamp | 2,739 |
| Gary Bakken | 2,391 |
| Giles Radtke..... | 1,870 |
| Carl Younce..... | 941 |

District 3A

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Dwight Thiesse | 3,345 |
| Loren Beilke..... | 3,185 |
| Jay Andolshek | 1,390 |

Are Electric Appliances/Gadgets Taking Over Your Counters? >>>

With many people working from home, electric use has been altered, lifestyles changed and perhaps even cooking habits are evolving.

Have you brought out your 10-12 cup coffee pot and put it back on the counter, so now you have a Keurig or single-cup coffee maker that you use to use daily for a quick cup of coffee before leaving for work and a regular coffee pot is plugged into outlets for daily use as well? Do you have any of these gadgets – Instant Pot, Pizza Oven, Convection Oven, Air Fryer or large KitchenAid style mixer?

What used to look like well-organized kitchen counters, may now have multiple appliances cluttering up space and using electric (hopefully Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) outlets.



What do some of these appliances cost to operate?

| Appliance | Temperature | Time | Energy | Cost |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------|----------|-------|
| Electric Oven | 350 | 1 hr | 2.0 kWh | \$.22 |
| Electric Convection Oven | 325 | 45 min | 1.39 kWh | \$.15 |
| Toaster Oven | 425 | 50 min | .95 kWh | \$.10 |
| Electric Crockpot | 200 | 7 hrs | .7 kWh | \$.08 |
| Microwave Oven | "High" | 15 min | .36 kWh | \$.04 |
| Air Fryer | 400 | 17 min | .31 kWh | \$.03 |
| Slow Cooker | High | 4 hrs | 1 kWh | \$.11 |
| Instant Pot | | 30 min | .50 kWh | \$.06 |

>> Costs will vary depending on the wattage of the appliance. The above chart is just an average. To calculate costs of operation per month do this (Watts x .001) x \$.109/kWh x hours used per month.

Board Meeting Highlights

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, May 21, 2020. A quorum of directors was present. Chair Bob Kangas opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following reports were given:

- Dave Holt, Brady Martz & Associates presented the 2019 Audit.
- Steve Smolke, CFO presented the 2019 Allocation of Margins.
- Steve Smolke, CFO presented a recommendation to eliminate the additional Summer Power Cost Adjustment.
- CEO report.
- Finance Committee Report

The following actions were taken:

The Board approved

- May Consent Agenda.
- Minutes of the April 16, 2020 regular board meeting.
- Director expense reports for April 2020.
- Resolution to accept the 2019 Audit.
- Resolution to accept the 2019 Allocation of Margins.
- Approved eliminating the additional Summer Power Cost Adjustment.

Members can review detailed minutes by logging into their SmartHub account. Log in is located on the homepage of our website. June minutes will be published after approval in July. The next board meeting is July 16, 2020.

2020 Census Important Reminder >>>

In Mid-March, homes across the country received invitations to complete the 2020 U.S. Census.

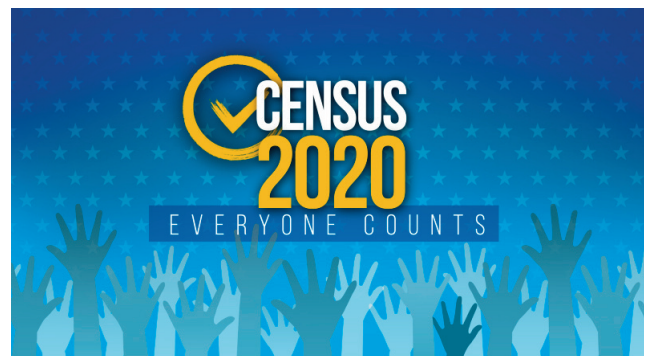
Responding to the census is not only your civic duty; it also affects the amount of funding your community receives, how your community plans for the future, and your representation in government. Specifically, data from the 2020 Census are used to:

- Ensure public services and funding for schools, hospitals, and fire departments.
- Plan new homes and businesses and improve neighborhoods.
- Determine how many seats your state is allocated in the House of Representatives.

In 2020, for the first time in history, the U.S. Census Bureau is accepting responses online, but you can still respond by phone or mail. Responding should take less time than it takes to 'finish your morning coffee', according to the Bureau's website.

Complete your form online, by phone, or by mail if you have not already done so. Visit my2020census.gov to begin.

Just like voter elections, it's important to exercise your civic duty and rights.



Call Before You Dig

It's Free, It's Easy and It's the Law

The safest and only way to dig is to know what's below ground before your shovel or equipment moves any dirt. Even small projects like planting a shrub require you to locate underground lines before digging.

Your advance call to 811 or on-line at GopherStateOneCall.org helps you learn where utility-owned lines and equipment are buried before you turn the earth.



Small Projects Big Disruptions

Damages that occurred on a weekend were nearly twice as likely to have involved hand tools (shovels, post-hole diggers, etc.) than those that occurred on a weekday.



CURRENT CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

Published monthly by
Crow Wing Power,
17330 State Hwy. 371
Brainerd, MN 56401.
218-829-2827
800-648-9401
www.cwpower.com

Editor: Char Kinzer

Board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month beginning at 9:30 a.m. Members wanting to attend the Board meetings need to call or contact us three business days prior to the scheduled board meetings. If members want to present something, they need to fill out a request form found at www.cwpower.com/board-and-meetings within that three business days time frame.

Directors. Here to Help!

Following is a list of directors and their telephone numbers:

Bob Kangas218-587-4453
Paul Koering.....218-851-9954
Ric Larson218-546-5781
Gordon Martin.....218-746-3971
Bryan McCulloch.....218-820-9708
Doris Mezzenga218-692-1004
LuAnn Nelson612-400-4627
Gert Roggenkamp218-562-4566
Dwight Thiesse.....218-831-8605

Summer Power Cost Adjustment Notice:

Our Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) for June, July and August will be one and one-half cents/kWh as it has been for the past few years. This adjustment recovers some of the increase in our wholesale power costs (the price we pay for electricity) throughout the summer months when there is excess demand for energy.



We Gave Out
**\$20,500 In
Rebates for
Energy Star
Appliances
Last Year**

Did You Take Advantage?

**Find 2020
Rebates**

cwpower.com



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections



washers, dryers, freezers, refrigerators
dehumidifiers, thermostats
heating and cooling options



Co-op Calendar Contest

Once again we are doing a calendar contest. To enter the contest, please submit your scenic photos of Minnesota to us. If your photo is chosen for the 2021 calendar, you will receive a \$25 electric bill credit. We will have a spiral bound calendar produced and available in early December.

Guidelines for the contest:

- Only Crow Wing Power members may enter the contest. (CWP employees and their immediate families are not eligible to enter the contest.)
- Send your photos electronically. Photos must be scenic capturing the beauty of Minnesota's four seasons. Photos must not include people.
- One membership (household) may submit up to 5 photos.
- Only landscape orientation photos will be accepted. Need to be sized for printing 12 inches wide by 9 inches high. 300 dpi minimum quality.
- To submit photos, go to www.cwpower.com, go to News/Events, click on Photo Contest and fill out the entire form including the photo. Deadline for submission(s) is October 1, 2020. To see last year's samples, go to our website.