

Dictated by H. Krull

I would like to, as President, give a brief report. I would like to really thank you all for attending this meeting, um it is obviously a very unique one as was our last one. But, it is so important that you all made an effort to be here, and I know it was an effort. The co-op is you, its members, as it says so well in the second of the 7 co-op principals. Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives, that's all of us and the new ones that were just elected. We are elected representatives, are accountable to you, the membership. But it's hard to be accountable for what we don't hear about. And to that end, to make sure we do a better job of hearing member's concerns, we're going to be working on a new initiative with the staff who are usually the front line of getting calls and emails of member's concerns. We wanna make sure that all members are heard and responded to when they have questions, concerns, or praise, for that matter. For what's working well and that part we usually do here, uh which is good but we want the staff, but we know the staff makes a very conscientious effort to listen and reply. But things do fall through the cracks, especially on the end of on the end of the board hearing about them um at end of the chain. Again because it's your co-op and we as directors represent you, it's important that we are also in the loop that all parts of the organization are kept informed. To that end, the board will be working with the staff, who have the best ideas on how to make an efficient, workable system to ensure all members' voices, whether praise or concerns, are heard, acknowledged, and answered to the best of the co-op's ability. It's also important because hearing from the members is also the best way to identify what works well, and what needs to be worked on and where efforts are best put to do better. That being said, I'd like to highlight a few aspects of the co-op operations over the last year and that a couple of other positive things that I think you'd appreciate knowing about. Of course, there's no need to go on about how challenging the COVID year has been for everyone, more than a year. Well, I think we all owe a great thanks to the staff for keeping the place running and literally the lights on. Hal's talked a lot about our power reliability. I think we all appreciate the work the linemen do. Often putting in long hours under harsh conditions, but it's equally important to acknowledge the office staff that are integral to the running of the co-op. So I think I can say for the membership thank you all. If I can have some honks of thanks *honking* Thank you. Um, a couple of details, we've added 8 miles of line to our existing around 1,000 miles of line. Interestingly we've added about double the number of new members that we've seen in past years. Going from about 50 a year to 94 in this last year. We think a lot of that might be pandemic driven, with more people being able to work remotely and wanting to do that from the beauty of our north shore. Um, our debt has decreased over the last year. We've had very good margins. The co-op made very wise use of the PPP dollars, and there were more than 400,000 dollars in capital credits that were retired and paid out to all of you in the last year. With half of those coming from Great River Energy, our generation and transmission co-op. Couple of other things I just wanted to mention, um, and I think you've seen this on the website and in the newsletter. One is the caring closet, um if you haven't heard about it, I think you should check out the website because it addresses a need in our community. Especially in these challenging times, and I wanna thank Carey Hogenon, um, as she saw this need and just took on the effort to get this done. I'm sure she got other help but, um so happy that she got that in place I think that we all owe a big thank you horn honk for Carey. *honking* Also, I wanna tell you about another initiative, and this is just an idea at this point. Um, but it's what I call members helping members. As of now, it's just an idea. It was brought up to me by a

member, and he said this, he has this idea that we could have members that want to voluntarily donate their co-op bill credits back to the co-op. We could make this fund, and they can be ya know, credits from capital credits, or like for attending this meeting, or excess generation credits. But the idea is to donate those and collect those. And then members who could use a little more help in these times, or any time maybe on fixed income, or for whatever reason. Um could request some help from that fund. I don't know how it might work, like I said right now, it's just an idea. But our experienced office staff is gonna get their heads together and think about this, and try to see if and how it will work. And I'm sure you can hear more of it if you keep following, um, the website and the Powerlines. Finally, I'd like the membership to get updated on a board initiative that we are trying. For the first time at CLP, you hopefully noticed this also talked about on the Powerlines and on the website. The board openly recruited all members for a member-owner advisory group, focused specifically on powerline right of way issues. It's your right of way is literally something that touches every member as you get power to your home. The purpose of forming the right of way advisory group is to empower members to take a deep dive into an issue of concern to member-owners that continues to come up over and over, year after year. For example, if you were here at our September meeting, one question brought this up, and I have to tell you that we also have had several concerns arise even since then, but it is an issue that keeps coming up. So this volunteer group of members has been learning about all aspects of the right of way issue, that might be driving the concerns. With the goal of making recommendations to the board about what could be done differently to prevent concerns and issues arising, for something that we all know we have to do and have to do it well. To be clear, this group is not making any decisions, but they're asked to advise and make recommendations as they feel are appropriate. Now I'd like to introduce Hal Halpern, our CEO, for his manager's report.