



NEWSLINE



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

July 2022

Itasca-Mantrap's 81st Annual Meeting

Itasca-Mantrap held its 81st Annual Meeting June 9 at the Park Rapids Area High School.

Nearly 400 Members and guests attended the meeting which featured a roast beef dinner beforehand.

The business meeting included reports from Itasca-Mantrap Board Chair Nancy Utke, President-CEO Christine Fox, CFO Esther Simon, and showcased a lineworker panel with Itasca-Mantrap linemen Chris, Clay, Kevin, and Mike.



Director elections were held for a three-year term in Districts 4 and 5. In District 4, Incumbent Al Czczok received 340 votes and challenger Mark Andersen received 220 votes. Incumbent Nancy Utke was uncontested in her bid for re-election in District 5 and was elected by acclamation.

Numerous door prizes were given away, as were two \$100 cash registration prizes and five \$200 energy certificates.

Following the meeting, the board held a reorganization meeting and elected officers:

- Chair – Brian Behrens
- Vice Chair – Dan Breitbach
- Secretary – Tim Kivi
- Treasurer – Terrence Cook
- Assistant Secretary-Treasurer – Al Czczok





CEO Update - By Christine Fox, President-CEO

There has been much speculation and chatter lately about possible periodic power outages this summer. While I cannot predict

whether we will have that kind of emergency in Northern Minnesota, I can tell you what we have in place to mitigate the risk of such an occurrence. But first, a little education on how the electric grid works.

Our wholesale power supplier, Great River Energy (GRE) has been a participant in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) market ever since it started in 2005. GRE sells all the power they produce to MISO and purchases all the power they need to serve the GRE load (with Itasca-Mantrap being one of twenty-eight cooperatives in GRE's load) from MISO. Every day GRE, and all other energy generators, bid their energy production into the market. They also inform MISO how much energy they will need. The MISO controllers look at all the needs (load) and compare the load to what generation is available. MISO will only purchase what energy is needed. Power generators will either not generate as much energy or curtail the excess. This is an oversimplification of the extremely complicated process of buying and selling electricity. There are real-time needs, spot markets, capacity auctions, ancillary services, etc., which makes the electrical market a particularly intricate and complicated system.

MISO requires each participant have enough capacity (the amount of power a resource can produce) to serve their peak load plus an adder, which is about 9% for this year. So, theoretically there would never be a situation where periodic power outages would occur. Unfortunately,

theory is not always reality. Equipment breakdowns, transmission line congestion, and unexpected demand are factors that can contribute to periodic power outages. While there has never been a periodic power outage in the MISO's northern region, we can never say never.

We are now, however, at greater risk because of the unpredictable nature of renewable energy. Based on historic output, MISO gives wind an approximately 15 percent capacity credit and solar a 50 percent capacity credit meaning that generators can count that percent of the nameplate capacity of their wind and solar farms for capacity planning requirements. However, we know that when the wind is not blowing and the sun is not shining, the energy produced by the resource at that time is zero. So, even though a generating facility has capacity, there could still be an energy shortage within the system at a given time (when sun and wind are not available).

GRE has mitigated this risk of unavailable renewable capacity with investments in peaking plants. These peaking plants can be started quickly to generate energy when needed. GRE currently has eight peaking plants. Four of which are dual fuel (diesel and natural gas) and the remaining four are diesel. Each plant stores diesel fuel on site in the event we are facing a natural gas shortage at the same time as an electricity shortage (as was the case in Texas a couple of years ago). These peaking plants can be activated when there is a capacity shortfall, but they also produce GRE's most expensive energy, so are only used as an absolute necessity.

With GRE's current purchase power agreement with Rainbow Energy, GRE will purchase coal-produced electricity. Energy produced from coal or peaking plants is considered "on demand" energy because it can

be produced as needed rather than when it is available (wind and solar). As a result, GRE can generate enough on-demand electricity to more than meet its maximum demand. But, since we and many other utilities are part of MISO (which is, for many reasons, a remarkable thing), we still all share in the risk of a periodic power outage because other generators may be relying on renewables as part of their capacity requirement.

The short answer is that there is a slight risk of summer periodic power outages in our area (especially if we have the unusually sweltering hot summer that is predicted). Itasca-Mantrap and GRE have done their part to prevent such an occurrence, but that risk is not entirely controlled by us.

If you have read my previous articles, you will know that my views are neither pro-coal or anti-renewable energy. It is, however, important to note that until there is new technology available, overreliance on renewable energy will affect reliability. The good news is that there are many smart people working on a solution to this problem. And, once again, GRE is on the forefront. They have invested in the development of a long-duration battery storage technology that just may be the answer to this extremely complicated problem.

GRE and Itasca-Mantrap are taking the pragmatic approach of replacing coal with renewable energy at a pace that allows time for the development of innovative technology that ensures reliability.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Advanced Meter Benefits

Itasca-Mantrap has made a significant investment in our infrastructure by purchasing a new advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system. Modernizing our equipment and communication capabilities is essential to maintaining the quality and service our members have come to expect.

We have invested in new equipment, including advanced meters. The new meters that Itasca-Mantrap is currently installing will help us respond more quickly to outages, resulting in shorter restoration times. They will also provide better tracking of momentary outages, helping us to address your power concerns. The meters will give you the information you need to use energy wisely.

AMI System Benefits:



Improved Reliability.

Two-way communication with the AMI meters will enhance Itasca-Mantrap's outage management system by narrowing the location of outages more quickly.



Improved Power

Quality. The AMI system will report variances in voltage and other line conditions that will

help Itasca-Mantrap maintain a more reliable power distribution system.



Improved Member

Service. The AMI system will allow Itasca-Mantrap to offer more timely information regarding their energy consumption, allowing members to make wise decisions about how they use energy.



Improved Internal Business Processes.

The new AMI system will allow Itasca-Mantrap to refine and manage the internal engineering portion of our business, such as line loss, transformer loading, voltage readings, etc.

WHETHER TEMPS RISE OR FALL, YOUR ENERGY BILL WILL STAY COOL.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS UP TO \$2,000 REBATE WHEN YOU INSTALL A QUALIFYING ENERGY-SAVING AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP!

Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 8.2 HSPF	\$1,000
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$2,000
Ductless Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$450



Air source heat pumps provide **home cooling and supplemental heating, using 72% less electricity** than conventional air conditioners and furnaces. Get up to a \$2,000 rebate when you install one.

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts are subject to change without notice. Installed centrally ducted ASHPs must be separately metered & controlled and must be installed by a participating quality installation contractor to qualify for rebate.

Team Member News

Itasca-Mantrap welcomes two new hires!



In June, Owen Wagner and Jaryd Soukkala joined Itasca-Mantrap as temporary seasonal linemen. Owen and Jaryd are recent graduates of the Electrical Lineworker program at Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Wadena. Both men will work with the Itasca-Mantrap linemen to install new services and maintain Itasca-Mantrap's overhead and underground lines.

Please welcome Owen and Jaryd to the Itasca-Mantrap team!

Cogenerators and Small Power Producers



Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. will interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers who satisfy the conditions of a qualifying facility. Itasca-Mantrap will provide information to all interested Members, upon request, regarding rates and interconnection requirements.

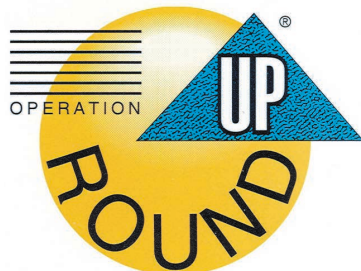
An application for interconnection is required for a qualifying facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the Cooperative's distribution system and is subject to approval by the Cooperative. Any disputes over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. Board. Interested Members should contact Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-3377 or toll free at 888-713-3377.

Committed to the Community

Since 2006, the Itasca-Mantrap Operation Round Up Trust has awarded more than \$1.2 Million to local non-profit organizations.

The Trust is funded primarily by Itasca-Mantrap Members who allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar.

Thank you for your generosity.



HAPPY 4th OF JULY!

Office will be closed
MONDAY, JULY 4th

Outage Information

Warm summer weather is often paired with strong storms capable of causing power outages. An outage can range from a mere annoyance to a dangerous event, depending upon its timing and length. Before reporting an outage to Itasca-Mantrap, ensure you have an outage and the problem isn't on the member side of the meter.

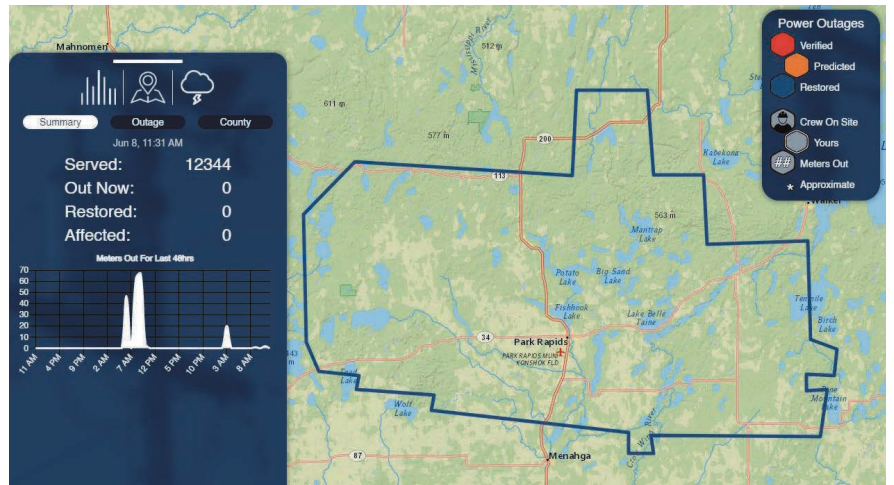
- Wait a few minutes to see if the power restores on its own.
- Check that the meter display is not blank.
- If your power does not return, see if your neighbors are also without power.
- If your neighbors still have power, check for a tripped breaker or fuse.

If you are still without power after verifying the above, report the outage to Itasca-Mantrap.

How to Report an Outage

There are a few ways to report a power outage.

- **Phone:** Report an outage by calling Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-3377 or toll free at 888-713-3377, and the system will let you know if an outage has been reported in that area, if a crew has been dispatched or if a crew is on site.
- **SmartHub:** Click on, "Report an Issue" in your SmartHub app, then click on "Power Outage" and select your location.
- **Texting:** If you are signed up for our text messaging service, text the word 'OUT' to 888-713-3377 to report an outage. If you are not signed up for our text



messaging service, text the word 'Itasca' or 'OUT' to 888-713-3377 to be opted into the service. Ensure that your cell phone number is in our system and linked to your service location.

Check the status of an outage

Utilize the outage map on our website for updates. The outage map will display the location of outages within Itasca-Mantrap's territory, if a crew has been assigned to the outage and how many members are affected by a particular outage.

Follow Itasca-Mantrap on Facebook for larger outage updates. Text 'STATUS' to 888-713-3377 in order to receive outage updates specific to your home.

Itasca-Mantrap crews work hard to restore outages as quickly and safely as possible. We appreciate your cooperation and patience during these times.

SAVE THE DATE: Beat the Heat!

Beat the heat with a rootbeer float at Itasca-Mantrap.
Bring the family and enjoy kid-friendly activities too!

August 12, 2022
2:00 - 4:00 PM



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Tip of the Month

Did you know the combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home? Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances.

Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

Source: EIA and DOE



Source: energy.gov

Board Report: Meeting Highlights

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present. The Board took the following action.

Approved:

- Consent agenda.
- March financials, subject to audit
- Director Czczok to attend the Great River Energy Board meeting on July 13-14.
- Approved a contribution to the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Integrity Fund a sum of 5 percent of Itasca-Mantrap's 2022 patronage capital refund from CFC, not to exceed \$1,500
- Chief Financial Officer Esther Simon as the delegate to the CFC and National Cooperative Services Corporation (NCSC) annual meetings
- Certified the candidates for election in District 4, Al Czczok (incumbent) and Mark Andersen, and in District 5, Nancy Utke, who is running unopposed and elected by acclamation, in connection with the 2022 Itasca-Mantrap Annual Meeting
- Appointed Directors Behrens and Kivi to Itasca-Mantrap's Economic

Development Committee

- Independent Audit Report, by Brady Martz, of Itasca-Mantrap's records for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020.
- Process and language changes to the Controlled Irrigation rate (I320)
- Work Order Certificates from July 2021 – January 2022

Reports heard:

- Operations and Safety report
- Marketing and Member Services report
- CEO report
- Quarterly reports for Board Expenditures, Safety Incidents, Financial Ratios, Vegetation Management Plan expenditures
- Directors and CEO Christine Fox reported on meetings attended on behalf of the Cooperative.

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- Plans for the Annual Meeting
- Plans to sell a bucket truck to the Wadena Line School
- Itasca-Mantrap's Economic Development Plan

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

ITASCA-MANTRAP COOPERATIVE

16930 County 6, PO Box 192 • Park Rapids, MN 56470

OFFICE HOURS

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

Phone (during office hours & 24-hour outage reporting):

218-732-3377 (or) 888-713-3377

Fax: 218-732-5890

E-mail: itasca@itasca-mantrap.com

www.itasca-mantrap.com



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OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Dist. 1 – Brian Behrens, Chair
Dist. 2 – Patricia Roehl, Director
Dist. 3 – Terrence Cook, Treasurer
Dist. 4 – Al Czczok, Asst Sec-Treas

Dist. 5 – Nancy M. Utke, Director*
Dist. 6 – Tim Kivi, Secretary
Dist. 7 – Dan Breitbach, Vice Chair
President-CEO – Christine Fox
*GRE Director Representative