



NEWSLINE



June 2020

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

**OFFER AVAILABLE
JULY 1 - AUGUST 31**



Air source heat pumps provide home cooling and supplemental heating, using 72% less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.

Ducted 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

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

Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n Cancels Annual Meeting



As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the safety of our employees and members being paramount, Itasca-Mantrap's 80th Annual Meeting has been canceled.

PLEASE VOTE

Director Elections and voting on revisions to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws will be conducted by mail-in ballot only. Results will be published on June 11. Please check our website at www.itsasca-mantrap.com and/or Facebook page for results.



CEO Update - By Christine Fox, President-CEO

I am excited to inform you of one of the biggest strategic decisions that our Generation & Transmission provider, Great River Energy (GRE),

has ever made. In its quest to provide us, and therefore you, reliable, affordable, environmentally safe energy, GRE has announced the following changes to its operations:

- Coal Creek Station (CCS), located in Underwood, ND, has served as the backbone of GRE's power supply portfolio for more than 40 years, providing an excellent hedge against market prices. However, factors, such as persistently low natural gas prices have driven down the market price of electricity to such an extent that CCS is no longer the best option for base load generation. GRE will be retiring CCS by the end of 2022.
- Spiritwood Station in Spiritwood, ND, will be converted to natural gas.
- GRE will add new wind resources totaling up to 1100 MW by the

end of 2023. Favorable terms have already been negotiated.

- GRE also plans to add 200 MW of capacity by upgrading existing Minnesota peaking stations and purchasing another 200 MW of market capacity at a favorable price.

In addition to projected decreasing (you read that right – decreasing) wholesale power rates, GRE's power supply resources will be more than 95% carbon dioxide-free. This virtually eliminates GRE's risk associated with carbon dioxide emissions. Since Itasca-Mantrap purchases most of its energy from GRE, our carbon footprint will be reduced to near zero.

GRE's resource mix will go from 58% coal, 25% renewables, 14% market, 2% gas and 1% hydro to 63% renewable, 31% market, 4% hydro and 2% gas. Yes, that is right – no coal.

So, what about reliability? GRE will rely on its peaking plants and the market to ensure that we always have enough energy. Because of this, load management efforts on our part will be even more important than they were in the past. You can do your part by enrolling in one of the Load

Management Programs offered by Itasca-Mantrap. As an added bonus, enrolling in a program will save you money as well. Please call Member Services today to enroll.

In addition, GRE has made an investment in a research and development project for new battery technology that increases battery discharge capability from a couple of hours to days. If this technology can be scaled to match generation requirements, it will be a game changer. Imagine capturing wind energy when the wind is blowing and utilizing it on days when the wind isn't blowing.

Although I am deeply saddened by the loss of CCS and the employees who made it a viable solution for more than 40 years, I am excited to look at a bright future with reliable, more affordable, and more environmentally safe energy coming our way.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Stay Connected with your Co-op

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to stay up-to-date on the latest from Itasca-Mantrap.



Week of the Young Child Event Canceled

Week of the Young Child is an event sponsored by Park Rapids Early Childhood Family Education that we participate in each year. It has been canceled this year. We plan to have our pole removal, pole replacement, and pole climbing demonstrations for the children to watch next year!



Meet the Board of Director Candidates

DISTRICT 1 (Three-year Term)



BRIAN BEHRENS (Incumbent)

"I strongly believe in the electric cooperative values and Itasca-Mantrap's Mission "Serving Our Members". Itasca-Mantrap has the important job of ensuring that there is an adequate supply of reliable energy in the future. My career experience in finance has prepared me to help Itasca-Mantrap to continue supplying affordable energy to its members."



PETER TUOMISTO

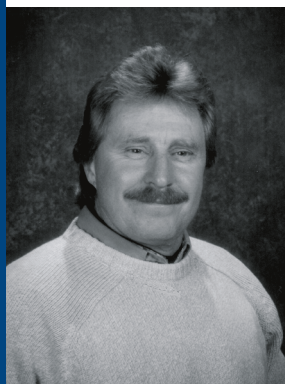
"I feel I am qualified for the Director position because I have had 34 years in the industry, selling electrical products to the Electric Coops in Minnesota, including Itasca-Mantrap, as well as to Investor Owned Utilities and Municipal Utilities. I know the culture of the Electric Cooperatives and have a long history with Itasca-Mantrap."

DISTRICT 2 (Three-year Term)



PAT ROEHL (Incumbent)

"My interest in Itasca-Mantrap has been ongoing for over 40 years. My father was the manager of the Cooperative for 10 years; and my husband, John, was a member of the Board of Directors for 30 years. I am eager to continue to advocate for conservation measures and alternative methods of providing adequate and economical electricity to the members of Itasca-Mantrap."



MARVIN VREDENBURG

"As your District 2 Director in the past, I know the importance of renewable energy and learned a lot during those 3 years. So, with your vote, I will build on that knowledge and work hard to keep your clean electricity flowing without interruption. I feel affordable electricity is the heartbeat of our community, state, country and world."

DISTRICT 3 (Three-year Term)



TERRY COOK (Incumbent)

"As a board member for the past three years, I have supported streamlining operations and staffing, and reserving revenue to pay for required future infrastructure upgrades without unnecessary and expensive borrowing. I am proud to be responsive to member concerns and to work for all members."

No member voting shall be required for this uncontested Director position.

Board Report: Meeting Highlights

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. office located in Park Rapids, Minnesota.

A quorum of directors was present.

Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved the consent agenda.
- CEO Christine Fox shared the Operations, Safety & Engineering report, the Marketing & Member Services report and the Financial report.
- February Financials were received and filed subject to audit.
- CEO Christine Fox gave her monthly CEO report and provided an update on the Cooperative's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Approved an extension to the time allowed for the spring testing and/or moving demand charge credit for controlled irrigation accounts.
- Discussed the benefits of director memberships in the Rural Electric Political Action Committee (REPAC) and the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE).
- Discussed preparations for the Annual Meeting.
- Directors and CEO Christine Fox reported on meetings attended on behalf of the Cooperative.

The June meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Team Member Spotlight

AL CZECZOK

Job Title:
Director

How I serve the Co-op: Six years as a Director

Started at Itasca-Mantrap: June 2003

Where I live:
Park Rapids, MN

Hometown: Park Rapids, MN

Education/ Training: Wadena Technical Lineworker Program

Prior Experience: 7 years with MREA, 34 years as a Lineworker

Why I like working at Itasca-Mantrap: The workings of the Co-op at a management level.

Family: Married with three children

Community Involvement: Knights of Columbus

Hobbies: Hunting and Fishing

Fun Fact: I have lived in Park Rapids all of my life. I started working at age 13 for \$3.00 per day.



CHAD GRANDE

Job Title:
Journeyman Lineworker

How I serve the Co-op: I help keep the lights on.

Started at Itasca-Mantrap:
September 2014

Where I live: Park Rapids, MN

Hometown: Grand Forks, ND

Education/ Training: Electrical Lineworker Tech.

Prior Experience: Elk River Municipal Utilities, Xcel Energy

Why I like working at Itasca-Mantrap: I enjoy being outside.

Family: I have two girls.

Community Involvement: Volunteer Firefighter for City of Park Rapids

Hobbies: Enjoy spending time with friends and family



We are looking for your feedback!

We will send you a survey after you have recently contacted Itasca-Mantrap, so we can hear from you on how we are doing. We strive to provide the best possible experience for our members. With your feedback, we can continue to improve on the service you receive from Itasca-Mantrap. Thank you for taking the time to share your satisfaction rating with us!

Updated Interconnection Requirements

In compliance with Minnesota Statute 216B.1611, Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. is updating the technical requirements for distributed energy resource interconnections. The existing technical requirement document will be replaced with the Technical Interconnection and Interoperability Requirements (TIIR) and Technical Specification Manual (TSM). These requirements become effective July 1, 2020 and all new DER systems and DER system additions applied for interconnection after July 1st will be required to meet these updated requirements. These new documents will be available on our website prior to the July 1 effective date.

Keep Cool with Efficient Electric Appliances

Since cooling your home makes up a considerable portion of your home's energy use in the summer months, Itasca-Mantrap offers innovative, efficient solutions to keep you comfortable that also allow you to receive rebates for installing them.

Air source heat pump

A heater in winter and a hyper-efficient air conditioner in summer, air source heat pumps (ASHPs) move heat rather than converting it from fuel, providing the most energy efficient cooling systems available. When you need to cool your home, the ASHP pulls heat and humidity directly from your indoor air and pumps it outside using 72% less electricity than conventional air conditioners while doing so.

Ground source heat pump

Much like ASHPs, ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) combine heating

and cooling in one system; however, GSHPs operate with 300% to 400% efficiency. To cool your home, a GSHP will take the heat from your house and disperse it through a series of plastic pipes buried 4-6 feet beneath the ground. These ground loops provide a renewable, reliable

source of energy as underground temperatures remain stable.

Call (218)732-3377 or email at itasca@itasca-mantrap.com to contact Itasca-Mantrap for more information on current rebates for efficient electric appliances for your home.



SMALL CARD, BIG SAVINGS.



The Co-op Connections® Card is just one of many benefits that we offer through your membership with Itasca-Mantrap. This discount program unique to Touchstone Energy cooperatives in that it offers members discounts at participating local and national businesses, and so much more!

The Co-op Connections card offers local discounts in and around the Park Rapids area. Simply show your Co-op Connections card at any local participating business to save.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

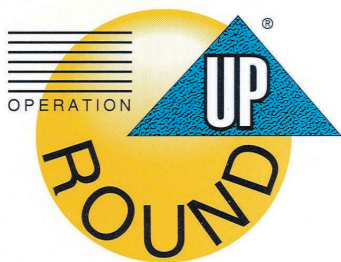


OFFICE CLOSED
FRIDAY, JULY 3

Download the SmartHub App Today!

The SmartHub online and mobile app help you manage your account by providing many features including, but not limited to:

- Billing & Payment Information
- Outage Reporting
- Quick, Easy Communication
- Billing Alerts
- Detailed Usage Reports



Your continued support of the Operation Round Up® program to help local civic and charitable organizations is appreciated.

Thank you!

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



GOPHER STATE ONE CALL • Call before you dig!

1-800-252-1166

www.gopherstateonecall.org

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

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

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