

NEWSLINE

85th Annual Meeting

Recap: Reflecting On The Year Behind Us And Powering The Path Ahead

On June 11, Itasca-Mantrap welcomed more than 300 members and friends for lunch and the 85th Annual Meeting. There was an electrifying feeling in the air as we hit a milestone year with many in attendance ready to listen to the meeting in hopes to learn more about Itasca-Mantrap for the new year and beyond.

The meeting featured an invocation from Pastor Jeff Lange of Faithbridge Church, followed by a guest address from Jon Brekke, Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer at Great River Energy. Members also heard reports from Itasca-Mantrap President and CEO Steve Johnson and Board Chair Brian Behrens.

Attendees also heard from Grace Officer, our 2025 Youth Tour Delegate, in a Q&A to share her experiences on the tour. In addition, Leah Romosz and Cadin Carmichael, our 2026 Youth Tour Delegates, were introduced.

A director election was held for a three-year term in District 2. Marvin Vredenburg ran against incumbent Pat Roehl. With 593 votes cast, Roehl was declared the winner having received 315 votes to Vredenburg's 278 votes. In Districts 1 and 3, incumbents Brian Behrens and Terry Cook were unchallenged in their bid for re-election and were elected by acclamation.

Members in attendance enjoyed a lunch catered by Main Street Meats and cookies from Hugo's. Attendees also shared in friendly conversation and a warm, welcoming atmosphere, a hallmark of the Itasca-Mantrap Annual Meeting.

To close the meeting, door prizes were awarded. Four members received hanging baskets courtesy of Hafner's Greenhouse, and five members received \$200 energy credit certificates.





CEO UPDATE

BY STEVE JOHNSON, PRESIDENT & CEO

Annual Meeting Recap: Looking Ahead Together

Thank you to the more than 300 members who attended our Annual Meeting this year. Your participation and engagement are what make our cooperative strong, and we appreciate the opportunity to connect, share updates, and discuss the path forward.

Throughout the meeting, we focused on the key issues shaping the future of your cooperative – particularly the rising cost of power, evolving legislation, and the infrastructure investments needed to ensure reliable service for years to come.

Understanding the Challenges Ahead

One of the primary topics discussed was the increasing cost of power. Like cooperatives across the region and country, we are experiencing upward pressure driven by a combination of market dynamics, regulatory changes, and the need for continued investment in generation and transmission systems. These factors are largely outside of our direct control, but they directly impact the cost to serve our members.

We also provided an overview of legislative activity that may influence how electric cooperatives operate in the future. Staying engaged in these discussions is essential as policies continue to evolve around energy production, environmental requirements, and system reliability.

Insights from Our Power Provider

We were pleased to have Jon Brekke from Great River Energy join us to share insights from our wholesale power provider. He outlined several key issues impacting the broader energy landscape, including future generation needs, transmission buildout, and the anticipated costs associated with

maintaining a reliable and resilient electric grid.

His perspective reinforced an important point: the energy industry is in a period of significant transition, and long-term planning and investment are critical to ensuring we continue to meet our members' expectations.

Preparing for the Future

As part of our commitment to responsible planning, we also discussed our ongoing Class Cost of Service Study. This process helps ensure that rates are aligned with the true cost of serving different member classes and is an important step in maintaining fairness and financial stability within the cooperative.

In addition, we shared our long-range communications vision designed to keep members informed and engaged over the next 3–5 years. As industry changes continue to unfold, we know there will be questions. Our goal is to provide clear, consistent information that helps members understand what is changing, why it matters, and how it may impact them.

Moving Forward Together

While the challenges ahead are real, so is our commitment to transparency, thoughtful planning, and reliable service. By addressing these issues proactively and keeping our members informed, we are positioning the cooperative to navigate change successfully.

Thank you again to everyone who attended the Annual Meeting and to all our members for your continued trust and support. We look forward to working together as we prepare for the future.

Cooperatively yours...Steve

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors for Itasca-Mantrap Co-op. Electrical Ass'n. was held on Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Itasca-Mantrap office.

A quorum of directors was present.

Approved:

- Consent agenda
- March financials, subject to audit
- GRE Contracts:
 - Amended & Restated PPC, Amendment 1 to TSC, and Amendments to PPC/TSC Appendix Bs
 - Amended & Restated Big Bend Wind PPA Amendment
 - South Deuel Wind PPA
- Certification of Director Candidates in Districts 1, 2 and 3
- Board Attendance at upcoming meetings/conferences

Reports heard:

- Operations
- Safety
- Financial
- Marketing and Member Services
- Human Resources
- CEO
- Summaries of meetings attended

Reviewed:

- Changes to Itasca-Mantrap's membership
- GRE Power Cost Adjustment detail for March 2026
- Board Expenses to Budget YTD
- Operation Round Up Disbursements – Spring 2026
- Revolving Loan Fund – Loan Closing & Project Update
- Memo – Unclaimed Capital Credits
- Invitation to Pine Point Solar project ceremony
- Preliminary Annual Meeting plans
- Operation Round Up Director Appointments

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Coffee With Your Co-op: *Connecting with Our Community*

We enjoyed a wonderful morning connecting with members at the second edition of Coffee With Your Co-op on May 21 at 8:00 a.m. at Osage Bait & Tackle. Members had the opportunity to sit down with President & CEO Steve Johnson for an open discussion about Itasca-Mantrap and where the cooperative is headed in the future.

Steve shared updates on the cooperative's operations, ongoing initiatives and upcoming changes members may see in the months ahead, including a brief discussion about demand and rate structures. He also discussed the cooperative's goal of aligning costs with usage so members pay their fair share based on the demands they place on the electric system.

Coffee With Your Co-op is a unique opportunity to ask questions and gain insight into the cooperative's operations and future direction. Thank you to everyone who joined us and to Osage Bait & Tackle for hosting. Keep an eye on future communications for invitations to upcoming Coffee With Your Co-op events as we continue bringing these conversations to communities throughout our service area.



Limited-time Air Source Heat Pump Rebate Promotion!

Take advantage of our limited-time promotional rebates when you install a qualifying, energy-saving ducted or ductless air source heat pump, available July 1 to Aug. 31.

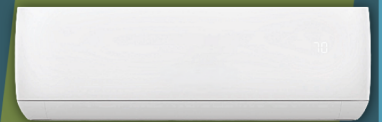
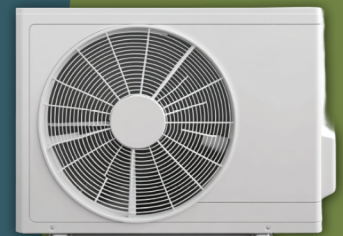
Ducted ASHP

Efficiency Rating Requirements	Original Rebate	Promo Rebate
≥14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2	\$750	\$1,000
≥15.2 SEER2 & ≥ 8.0 HSPF2	\$1,000	\$1,200

Ductless ASHP

Efficiency Rating Requirements	Original Rebate	Promo Rebate
≤ 1 ton ≥ 14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2	\$300	\$500
> 1 ton ≥ 14.3 SEER2 & ≥ 7.5 HSPF2	\$750	\$1,000
> 1 ton ≥ 16.0 SEER2 & ≥ 8.0 HSPF2	\$1,000	\$1,200

Funds are limited and rebates are first-come, first-served. Rebate amounts may change without notice. Centrally ducted ASHPs must be separately metered, controlled, and installed by a participating quality install contractor to qualify.



Why is the Demand for Electricity Rising?

Demand for electricity in the U.S. is booming. Recent data shows that power consumption nationwide is set to increase by at least 38 gigawatts (enough to power more than 30 million homes) between now and 2028. Meeting this new demand will require a combination of new power plants, grid upgrades and energy storage technology advancements. Here are the key factors that are driving increased demand.

- 1** Increased Electrification: Electric vehicle adoption, electrification of home heating and industrial electrification are increasing overall U.S. energy consumption.
- 2** Data Centers: Driven by explosions in AI, cryptocurrency and cloud computing, total U.S. data center load is projected to increase by 65% by 2050.
- 3** Economic Growth: Residential power consumption is expected to increase by 14% to 22% through 2050 due to increases in population and steady economic growth.
- 4** Manufacturing Growth/Onshoring: New, expanding and “onshored/reshored” manufacturing capacity driven by federal incentives is expected to increase industrial demand by 13,000 GWh per year.



Cogenerators and Small Power Producers



Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative 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 Electric Cooperative Board.

Interested Members should contact Itasca-Mantrap at 218-732-3377 or by visiting our website at www.itasca-mantrap.com

How-To Outage

It is July and summer is in full swing. The weather outside is ready for you to enjoy those long days or nights with family and friends. However, it comes with the usual caveats like storms and rainfall that can eventually lead to outages and throw a wrench into your summer plans. As you may already know, outages can happen at a moment's notice.

And while it can be a bit hectic in the heat of the moment, having a plan in place before an outage occurs can make all the difference.

That's why we at Itasca-Mantrap put together a quick and easy guide to help you navigate an outage with confidence, so you never have to feel powerless when it matters most. If you have any questions, you are always welcome to call us at Itasca-Mantrap.

Verifying An Outage

1

- **Wait a Few Minutes** – Power sometimes restores itself after a brief flicker, so give it a moment before doing anything else.
- **Check Your Meter Display** – Take a peek at your electric meter. A blank display could be a sign of an outage.
- **Inspect Your Breaker or Fuse Box** – If your neighbors have power, your breaker box is the next place to check for a tripped breaker or blown fuse.

If you've worked through all of these steps and the lights are still out, it's time to report the outage.

How To Report/Check Status Of An Outage

2

When reporting an outage, you can do so by texting **OUT** to **844-551-6903**, through SmartHub by clicking "Report Power Outage" or by calling us at **218-732-3377** or toll-free at **888-713-3377**.

To check the status of an outage, you can do so by texting **STATUS** to **844-551-6903** or by visiting our website and clicking "Outage Map" on our home page or by visiting itascamantrap.outagemap.coop

What To Do During Restoration

3

Itasca-Mantrap crews work hard to restore outages as quickly and safely as possible. We appreciate your cooperation and patience during these events. In the mean time, here are some tips you can do if you find yourself in an outage:

- Use battery powered flashlights, not candles.
- Turn off all electrical appliances that were on when the power went off but make sure to leave a light switch on so you know when the power is restored.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors closed and cover with a blanket if it will be an extended outage.
- Stay indoors if possible!



ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

ITASCA-MANTRAP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

(218) 732-3377 | (888) 713-3377
itasca@itasca-mantrap.com
www.itasca-mantrap.com



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

GOPHER STATE ONE CALL

(800) 252-1166
www.gopherstateonecall.org

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1

Brian Behrens, Chair

DISTRICT 2

Patricia Roehl, Treasurer

DISTRICT 3

Terrence Cook, Vice Chair

DISTRICT 4

Al Czczok, Assistant Secretary-
Treasurer

DISTRICT 5

Nancy M. Utke, Director*

DISTRICT 6

Tim Kivi, Secretary

DISTRICT 7

Dan Breitbach, Director

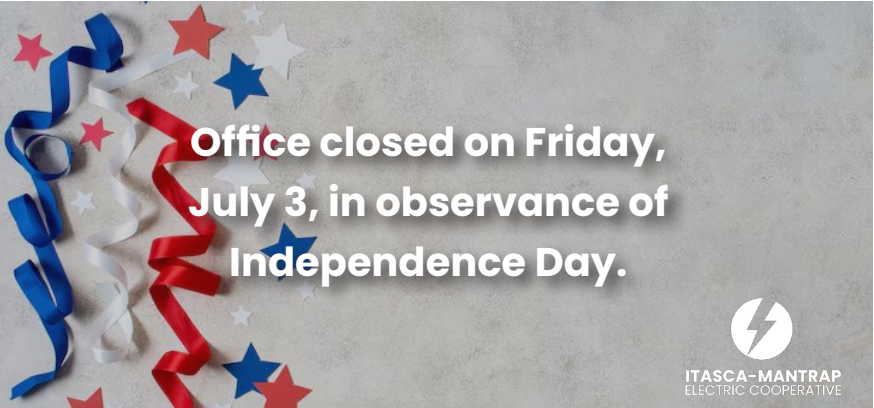
PRESIDENT & CEO

Steve Johnson

*Great River Energy Director Representative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*Itasca-Mantrap Electric Cooperative is an
equal opportunity provider and employer.*



Office closed on Friday,
July 3, in observance of
Independence Day.



ITASCA-MANTRAP
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

5 Reasons Why YOU Should Sign Up for SmartHub!



1. Make payments with SmartHub.
2. Track your electricity usage daily!
3. Sign up for auto pay.
4. Eliminate late fees.
5. Go paperless!

The End of Summer Social!

@ Itasca-Mantrap

16930 County 6, Park Rapids, MN

Thursday, August 20 • 2-4 p.m.



Face Painting • Sweet Treats • And More!