

Red River Valley Cooperative Power Association

SPARKS

January 2022

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Winter maintenance



SPARKS

Red River Valley Co-op Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Sparks (USPS 509-300) is published nine times a year – January, February/ March, April, May/June, July, August/ September, October, November and December – by the Red River Valley Cooperative Power Association, 109 2nd Ave. E, Halstad, MN 56548. Periodical postage paid at Halstad, MN 56548. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sparks, Red River Valley Cooperative Power Association, P.O. Box 358, Halstad, MN 56548-0358.

Phone (218) 456-2139 or (800) 788-7784

www.rrvcoop.com

Subscription rates: \$1/year

Rich Whitcomb, Editor
Jennifer Erickson, Graphic Artist

January 2022
Volume 66, No. 1

Halstad, Minnesota (USPS 509-300)

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Roger Krostue Fisher
Chairman

Marvis Thompson Perley
Vice Chairman

Trevor Sorby Glyndon
Secretary-Treasurer

Bob Kinkade Ada

Curt Stubstad Sabin

Paul Baukol Hendrum

Rich Whitcomb
Chief Executive Officer

Scheduled Board Meeting

Board meetings are held in Halstad at the cooperative office starting at 8:30 a.m. on the next-to-last Monday of each month.

**Outages:
800-788-7784**

On the cover: Journeyman lineman Devin Andersen removes an oil circuit recloser (circuit breaker) as part of the cooperative's winter maintenance program. Once the summer construction season ends and new services and specific line projects are complete, operations turn its attention to the upkeep of the system's more than 1,800 miles of line.



THE CEO'S REPORT Annual meeting & facility update

by Rich Whitcomb, CEO

Happy New Year!

For the last two years, pandemic concerns have led to the annual meeting being conducted in a mail-in/virtual format. That method has allowed your cooperative to still conduct business in a transparent manner.

While that works, efforts are still being made to hold the annual meeting in person March 24 depending on the circumstances. Regardless of whether a meeting can be held in person, your cooperative will continue the practice this year of mailing both the director election ballot and a copy of last year's minutes for voting purposes. This way, we won't have to reschedule or not be able to properly conduct annual cooperative business because all

voting members will have had a chance to vote via the mail. And any properly filled out and received ballots are valid and count toward the quorum per the bylaws.

Headquarters rebuild

A decision on whether to proceed with the headquarters renovation/rebuild project could happen as soon as late January. At the December board meeting, directors tasked Michael Burns Architects with making a final detailed review of the project's costs to provide the cooperative with the most value possible. Again, planning for this project has been challenging due to global supply chain issues affecting obtaining materials and increased inflation. The flip side is interest rates are still extremely favorable.

Winter safety tips

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that 47,700 home fires occur each year in the U.S. due to electrical failure or malfunction. This winter, safeguard your loved ones and your home with these electrical safety tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

Don't overload outlets – Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid using extension cords or multioutlet converters for appliance connections – they should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. If you're relying heavily on extension cords in general, you may need additional outlets to address your needs. Contact a qualified electrician to inspect your home and add new outlets.

Never leave space heaters unattended – If you're using a space heater, turn it off before leaving the room. Make sure heaters are placed at least 3 feet away from flammable items.

Inspect heating pads and electric blankets – Electric blankets that are more than 10 years old create additional risks for a fire hazard. Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads – look for dark, charred or frayed spots, and make sure the electrical cord is not damaged. Do not place any items on top of a heating pad or electric blanket, and never fold them when in use.

Use portable generators safely – Unfortunately, winter storms can sometimes cause prolonged power outages, which means some consumers will use portable generators to power their homes. Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. For portable generators, plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator. Start the generator first, before you plug in appliances. Run it in a well-ventilated area outside your home. The carbon monoxide it generates is deadly, so keep it away from your garage, doors, windows and vents.

2022 Director Elections

2022 director elections

Red River Valley Co-op Power members in District 1, 2 and 3 can now submit nominations to compete for a seat on the board of directors.

As a cooperative, Red River Valley Co-op Power is owned by its members. Members elect a board of directors to represent them at the cooperative. Four directors will be elected at the 2022 Annual Meeting on March 24. Due to the ongoing pandemic, it has yet to be determined if the annual meeting will be held via the mail-in/virtual meeting hybrid method that has occurred the last two years, or the traditional in-person meeting. Your cooperative's bylaws allow for both methods.

Directors whose terms expire in 2022 are:

District 1 (three-year term): Roger Krostue

District 2 (three-year term): Marv Thompson

District 2 (one-year term): Paul Baukol

District 3 (two-year term): Curtis Stubstad

How to run

To run for a director position, interested members in the abovementioned districts (see map) must request to have the material mailed to them or arrange a time to pick up the packet at the office in Halstad. Per the bylaws, any 15 or more members who reside in District 1, 2 or 3 may nominate an eligible member for a director position in that specific district.

No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. No write-in ballots will be accepted. The cooperative must receive the completed petitions and forms from the packet no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 18, 2022. Please see below for the section of the bylaws pertaining to nominations and qualifications. Please call with questions.

Director Districts

District 1 Townships

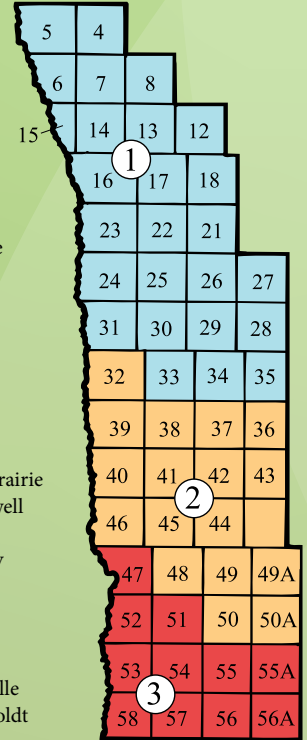
- 4 - Nesbit
- 5 - Huntsville & Rhinehart
- 6 - Bygland
- 7 - Fisher
- 8 - Lowell
- 12 - Fairfax
- 13 - Andover
- 14 - Roome
- 15 - Tynsid
- 16 - Vineland
- 17 - Hammond
- 18 - Russia
- 21 - Reis
- 22 - Scandia
- 23 - Hubbard
- 24 - Shelly
- 25 - Good Hope
- 26 - Lockhart
- 27 - Spring Creek
- 28 - Green Meadow
- 29 - Pleasant View
- 30 - Anthony
- 31 - Halstad
- 33 - Hegne
- 34 - McDonaldsville
- 35 - Lake Ida

District 2 Townships

- 32 - Hendrum
- 36 - Rockwell
- 37 - Winchester
- 38 - Mary
- 39 - Lee
- 40 - Georgetown
- 41 - Viding
- 42 - Felton
- 43 - Hagen
- 44 - Flowing
- 45 - Morken
- 46 - Kragnes
- 48 - Moland
- 49 - Spring Prairie
- 49A - Cromwell
- 50 - Riverton
- 50A - Hawley

District 3 Townships

- 47 - Oakport
- 51 - Glyndon
- 52 - Moorhead
- 53 - Kurtz
- 54 - Elmwood
- 55 - Elkton
- 55A - Skree
- 56 - Barnesville
- 56A - Humboldt
- 57 - Alliance
- 58 - Holy Cross



Petition for Nomination

The following members wish to nominate *[insert name]* for the three-year District 1 director position and place such name on the ballot for the March 24, 2022 election at the annual meeting of the Cooperative, in accordance with Article III, Section 4, of the bylaws.

The following members wish to nominate *[insert name]* for the three-year District 2 director position and to place such name on the ballot for the March 24, 2022, election at the annual meeting of the Cooperative, in accordance with Article III, Section 4, of the bylaws.

The following members wish to nominate *[insert name]* for the one-year District 2 director position and to place such name on the ballot for the March 24, 2022, election at the annual meeting of the Cooperative, in accordance with Article III, Section 4, of the bylaws.

The following members wish to nominate *[insert name]* for the two-year District 3 director position and to place such name on the ballot for the March 24, 2022, election at the annual meeting of the Cooperative, in accordance with Article III, Section 4, of the bylaws.

NAME	ADDRESS	ACCOUNT NO.
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		

The Cooperative must receive the completed petition no later than 4:30 p.m., February 18, 2022. At the March 24, 2022 annual meeting, elections will be held for a three-year term for one director in District 1 and one director in District 2; and a one-year term in District 2 and a two-year term in District 3.

It is important that nominees for District 2 put their name in the proper year-term that they wish to be slotted. Directors whose terms expire in 2022 are:

DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 3
3-year term	3-year term	1-year term	2-year term
Roger Krostue	Marv Thompson	Paul Baukol	Curtis Stubstad

Any 15 or more members who reside in District 1, 2 or 3 may nominate an eligible member for a director position in that district. No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in this manner. In the event of joint membership, only the signature of one joint member shall be acceptable.

Red River Valley Cooperative Power Association Bylaws

ARTICLE III – DIRECTORS

Section 4. Nominations.

- (a) Any fifteen (15) or more members who reside in any one district may nominate an eligible member for a director position in that district. Such nomination shall be in writing and signed by said fifteen (15) members, or more, and delivered to the Secretary at least thirty (30) days before the members' meeting.
- (b) No member may be elected to a director position unless nominated in the manner provided by this section. No write-in ballots shall be accepted.
- (c) The members may, at any meeting at which a director or directors shall be removed, as heretofore provided, elect a successor or successors thereto without compliance with the provisions herein with respect to nominations.

continued on page 5

Know the difference between the three categories of electricity generation resources

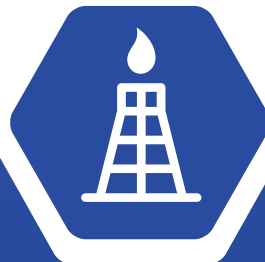
Red River Valley Co-op Power uses a diverse mix of coal, wind and hydro power to ensure your 24/7 electricity needs are met. Electricity is a unique product because it operates in a near-instantaneous manner. It is generated, delivered to you and consumed in almost the same moment in time. While electricity storage technologies are in development, the vast majority of the electricity used across the country cannot currently be stored due to physical and economic constraints. Therefore, continuous electricity generation is required every second of every day.

But that doesn't mean all generation resources operate in the same fashion. There are three basic types of generation resources – baseload, peaking and intermittent – each of which bring different attributes to the grid. Learn more below about the operating characteristics for each resource.



BASELOAD

Baseload resources provide reliability and stability to the electric grid because they are designed to operate in a continuous manner during the vast majority of hours each year. Their dependable and predictable operation ensures power will be available when needed. The primary baseload resources on the U.S. electric grid are coal, natural gas and nuclear. Coal currently remains the most reliable resource in Red River Valley Co-op Power's portfolio.



PEAKING

Peaking generation resources typically only operate when electrical demand is high (or "peaking"). These power plants are typically fueled by natural gas, diesel or biofuels and are designed to run a small percentage of the time each year. Peaking plants are able to ramp generation up and down more quickly than baseload resources, but have a higher per kilowatt-hour cost of production because they are only used occasionally.



INTERMITTENT

Intermittent resources – like wind and solar – provide power to the grid on a variable basis. If the wind isn't blowing or the sun isn't shining, these resources are not able to produce electricity. Because electricity storage is still limited at grid scale, baseload and peaking resources are required to fill in the gap to ensure reliable electric service can be maintained. Production from wind and solar can be severely limited during extreme weather events, like a polar vortex, when communities need reliable electricity the most.



- (d) If a member is absent from any meeting, the member may vote by mail for the election of directors as provided in these Bylaws, or as may be permitted by law.

Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section shall not affect in any manner whatsoever validity of any election of directors.

Section 2. Qualifications.

Persons eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative shall:

- (a) be a member in good standing receiving electric service;
- (b) have voting rights within the district from which the director is to be elected;
- (c) not be employed by, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in, any individual or entity which either is:
 - (1) directly or substantially competing with the Cooperative; or
 - (2) selling goods and services in substantial quantity to the Cooperative; or
 - (3) possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative;

For purposes of this section, the terms “material” or “substantially” shall be interpreted as constituting a minimum of 5% of a member’s total hours of employment, sales or income on an annual basis;

- (d) not be an employee or not have been an employee of the Cooperative within the last three (3) years;
- (e) not be a close relative of an employee, or of a director, unless the close relative is a candidate for the director’s seat, where as found in these Bylaws “close relative” means any individual

who is, either by blood, law, or marriage, including half, step, foster, and adoptive relations, a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, or sibling, or principally resides in the same residence;

- (f) be only one (1), and not more than one (1), member of a joint membership, provided, however, that none shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless all shall meet the qualifications herein set forth;
- (g) if a member of the Cooperative is not a natural person, i.e., a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or similar, then the member may appoint or elect one (1) duly authorized natural person, residing within the external boundaries of the district from which (s)he is nominated, to be eligible for election as a director to the Board of Directors;
- (h) never have been convicted of a felony;
- (i) agree, upon election, to regularly attend all Board, regular and special members’ meetings; and
- (j) not become physically or mentally unable with reasonable accommodation to perform substantially all of the duties of Director, and the condition that creates such inability is reasonably expected to last six (6) months or more.

Exception. In regard to the restrictive provisions of this section that are based upon close relative relationships, no incumbent director shall lose eligibility to remain a director or to be re-elected a director if, during a director’s incumbency, a director becomes a first kindred relative of another incumbent director or of a Cooperative employee because of a marriage or an adoption to which the director was not a part.

Nothing contained in this section shall, or be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

You have the power to

- View daily and monthly energy use.
- View and pay your bills online.
- Go paperless and receive an email notice when your bill is ready to view.
- Compare energy use to changes in temperature.

For assistance, call us during regular business hours at 218-456-2139 or send an email to info@rrvcoop.com.

Sign up for
SmartHub
@ rrvcoop.com



COLD-CLIMATE HEAT PUMPS

Your perfect winter accessory

The last 10 years have seen great leaps in air source heat pump technology - especially with advances in cold-climate heat pumps (CCHPs).

CCHPs take the design of an air-source heat pump and kick it up a notch. They integrate a variable speed drive compressor into the technology, keeping CCHPs highly efficient even when the thermometer hits zero. In fact, they've been given higher Heating Season Performance Factor (HSPF) ratings than standard air-source heat pumps.

JUST HOW EFFICIENT ARE CCHPS?

- At 47 degrees, CCHPs can run at 400% efficiency.
- At zero degrees, they still perform at 200% efficiency.
- Some companies even say their models remain efficient as low as 20 below zero.
- Research has shown that CCHPs have been able to supply up to 90% of a home's heating needs with a 250% overall seasonal efficiency. That's pretty great, and it will save you a lot of money – especially with the volatile pricing of propane these days.

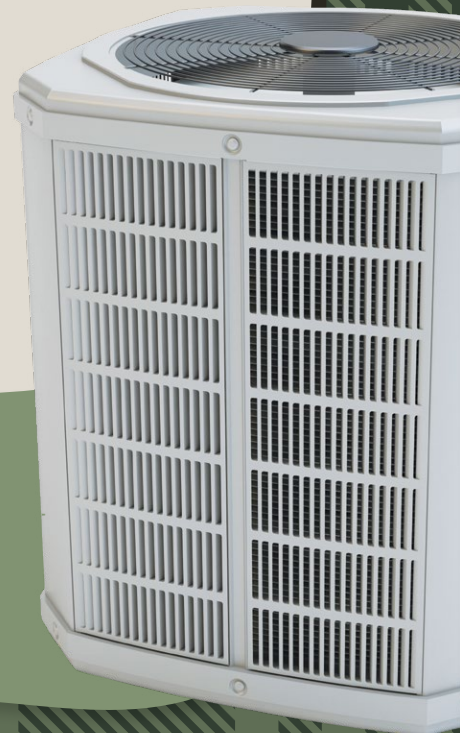
Red River Valley Co-op Power also offers a nice rebate and a reduced electric rate if you install your CCHP on the off-peak program. To be on off-peak, all you have to do is include an automatic backup fuel source for the times when electric demand peaks – usually around 100-150 hours a year.

The added bonus of a CCHP is, like a standard air-source heat pump, the unit also provides your home cooling in the summer. The process is the same whatever the season. The heat pump pulls heat out of the outside air and pushes it inside in the winter, and pulls heat out of your home and expels it outside in the summer. Your house remains consistently comfortable during any wild Midwest temperature swings.

Contact Red River Valley Co-op Power today to learn how you can save big and stay warm with a cold-climate heat pump!

**UP TO \$500 PER
TON IN REBATES!**

**Heat pumps do not need to be on
off-peak to receive the rebate!*



Save money and energy in 2022 with energy efficiency rebates!



Energy efficiency rebates for members remain in effect for 2022. Please see the chart for a sample of incentives.

All incentives, criteria and guidelines for resident and business members can be found at

rrvcoop.com

or by calling

800-788-7784

All criteria are listed on the rebate form.

Sample 2022 Electric Rebates for Members

Equipment	Specifications	Rebates
Air-source heat pump	≥ 16 SEER	\$500/ton*
Ground-source heat pump	Energy Star-rated	\$500/ton*
Electric water heater	Min. 80-gallon capacity, must be on load management program	\$300-\$650 per unit
Off-peak electric heat (plenum, baseboard, hanging heater, etc.)	Must be resistance electric on off-peak program	\$25/kW*
Electric boiler, brick storage, slab storage	Must be on off-peak program	\$45/kW*
Electric vehicle (EV) charger	240V-rated Level 2 charger on load control	\$50/kW/limit \$500 per account

*Every install must be new equipment and provide proof of purchase unless site verification is approved.
These amounts include a rebate from Minnkota Power Cooperative, which has a capped rebate, so call for details.



**RED RIVER VALLEY
CO-OP POWER**

Outage viewer live at rrvcoop.com

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Save Energy](#) [Programs](#) [Service](#) [Safety](#)

Members can see current power outage information live at www.rrvcoop.com.

To view the outage map, just click Outages on our website. Depending on whether you are using your phone, tablet or computer, you can either view the map embedded on the screen or click the link for a stand-alone map.

The outage viewer is the external face of our internal outage management system to help crews with the efficient restoration of outages.

Please remember this map does not replace the need to call dispatch or the office if you are out of power. The map will simply help you understand current conditions on the system in the event of widespread outages due to nature, etc. The outage viewer will also help members see progress on outages.

