

CURRENT CONNECTION

CROW WING POWER NEWS • JANUARY 2022 • VOLUME 74, NUMBER 1

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

Community Solar Phase III - Are You Interested in Being a Co-owner in Our Third Community Solar Project? >>>

Crow Wing Power is currently gauging interest in building a third Community Solar Array. We plan to develop it similar to the second array built in the spring of 2018. Would you be interested in purchasing and being a co-owner with other Cooperative members if the price were an estimated \$1,300/share?

The first project was well received by our members that subscribed. Share with us your interest for the following on our website.

- 1/2 share
- 1 share
- 2 shares
- 3 or more shares

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Three Directors' Positions Open for Filing >>>



Doris Mezzenga

Three districts are open for Director elections this year. Doris Mezzenga is the current Director for District 1B. She lives in Crosslake.

Gordon Martin currently serves in District 2A and resides in the Pillager area.

Paul Koering is the current Director for District 3 At-Large. He lives in the Brainerd area.

Current board members have until April 12 to file as a candidate for the 2022 election if they so choose.

Filing is open from January 27 to April 12 to file as a candidate for the 2022 election positions. Members can file for any one of the positions prior to April 12 at 4:30 p.m. when filing closes, but they must live in or have real estate and receive service from us in the open positions of District 1B, 2A or 3 At-Large (3A and 3B combined).

If you are interested in running or have questions regarding the process, please contact Crow Wing Power at 829-2827 or 1-800-648-9401.

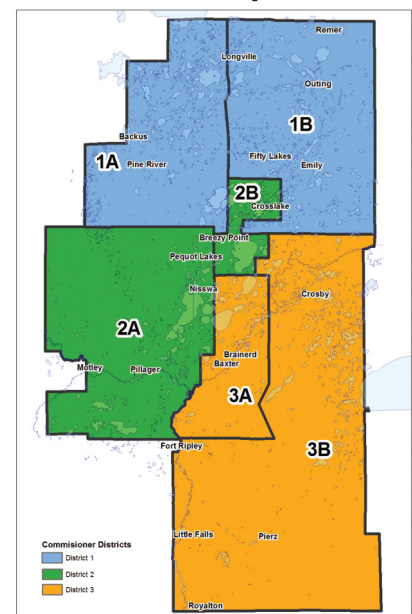


Gordon Martin



Paul Koering

District Map



 District 1  District 2  District 3



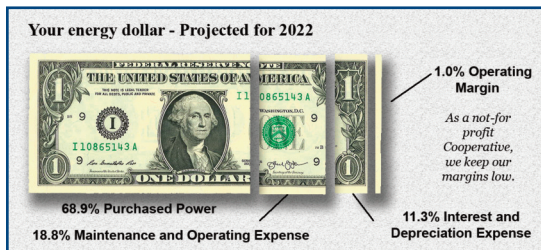
A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

Rising Purchased Power Costs Shouldn't Affect Local Electric Rates >>>

I'm pleased to report the financial condition of the Cooperative is in good shape. Technological advancements we've made in the past few years have helped us to improve service and greatly increase our efficiencies.

As we review the past year, we noted kilowatt sales were 3.6% higher than budgeted through November, due to continued booming growth in our communities and increased electric use in the summer months.

In 2021, one of our cooperative power suppliers had higher-than-expected margins. Therefore, because of their excess margins, we received a return of a portion of those, totaling \$1,020,000.



Another positive factor was that interest rates remained low. At the beginning of last year, I reported how in 2020 we were continuing to benefit from low

interest rates on loans for long-term needs and the same held true for 2021.

When we budget for long-term needs and infrastructure, low interest rates work in our favor, so today's members don't pay for something that other people will benefit from 20 years down the road. A good example is a new Shamineau substation we will be building this year. The substation will prepare us for future growth and increase reliability for the western part of our service area.

As we look to the winter ahead of us, all heating fuel costs are predicted to rise and our wholesale power costs are expected to increase significantly.

However, it's important to note in our budgeting process, the Board of Directors and all departments worked together to keep our electric rates stable, realizing the significant hardships that members are facing due to inflation and the increase in heating costs.

I'll keep you informed,

Bruce L. Kraemer, CEO

Board Meeting Highlights

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, November 18, 2021. A quorum of directors was present.

President Bob Kangas opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following reports were given:

- CEO report
- Finance Committee report
- North Star Manganese update on Emily Project

The following actions were taken:

The Board approved:

- November Consent Agenda
- Approve 2022 CWP Operating Budget
- Approve electronic voting for 2022 Director Election
- Minutes of the October 21, 2021 regular board meeting
- Director expense reports for October 2021

Members can review detailed minutes by logging into their SmartHub account. Log in is located on the homepage of our website. December minutes will be published after approval in January.

Annual Meeting Set for Saturday, June 11 Board Approves Electronic Voting >>>

The 2022 Annual meeting date was set for Saturday, June 11 at the December board meeting.

At the November Board meeting, the Directors approved adding electronic voting to the mail-in ballot format. Members will be able to vote by mail or online, through SmartHub, the personal

account management tool, or by scanning a QR code from their smart phone.

Survey and Ballot Systems, the election management company we use, has been providing this service to cooperatives throughout the United States and report about 70% of their clients now provide the option for online voting.

Community Solar Phase III >>> *continued from Pg 1*

All of the details about the Specifications and Questions and Answers can be found at cwpower.com under News and Events.

Signing up is easy. After calling our Member Service Department at 218-829-2827 or 1-800-648-9401 to determine your electric

needs and matching that to the amount of shares you desire to purchase, we will send you a twenty-year contract. You will be able to pay for your share(s) by credit card or check. Contracts area available to review online. To purchase, please call our office.

Rebates Established for 2022 >>>

Looking for ways to save energy and money?

When you're appliance shopping, look for Energy Star® labels and check to see if we have rebates. There are also some hefty rebates designed to encourage the purchase of energy efficient heating systems.

This year we are offering new rebates for battery-power yard equipment and tools. Our rebates can be found on our website at cwpower.com and with an

easy online form, you will be saving money and energy in no time.



Washington Youth Tour Contest Open to High School Juniors >>>

The Washington Youth Tour is back. Each year, with the exception of last year, Crow Wing Power joins other electric cooperatives around the nation to sponsor students.

Crow Wing Power selects three local high school juniors and pays all expenses for the trip and the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) coordinates the event for Minnesota's participants. Our local winners will join over 1,900 students from 44 states for an unforgettable week in our nation's capitol.

The 2022 Washington Youth Tour is scheduled for June 14-19 and is open to high school juniors within our service territory.

Students that attend have an experience of a lifetime, visiting all the great sights, memorials and museums, getting to spend a day on Capitol Hill with elected officials, making friends and help them stand out as leaders.

High school juniors interested in applying need to write an essay sharing their view on the future of technology. See your high school counselor for more information or go to cwpower.com/Washington-youth-tour to apply. Completed applications are due by February 11, 2022.

2022 Rebates

*please see cwpower.com for all information regarding rebates.

Air Source Heat Pumps	\$800
Air Source Heat Pumps Mini Split	\$100
(per head, up to 3 heads)	
Battery Powered Yard Tools	\$25
• Lawn Mower	
• Snow Blower	
• Chainsaw	
• Leaf Blower	
• Trimmer/Weed Whip	
Duel Fuel: (Plenum Heater/Boiler) ..	\$400
ECM	\$25
Energy Star Air Conditioners	\$25
Energy Star Clothes Washer and	
Electric Dryer	\$25
Energy Star Dehumidifier	\$25
Energy Star Refrigerator /Freezers	\$50
EV Chargers	\$350
Ground Source Heat Pump	\$1500
LED Bulb	\$1
Residential AC Tune Up	\$25
Smart Thermostat	\$20
Storage Space Heat	(\$50 per kW)

Refinance Your Car Loan!

RATES AS LOW AS 1.49%

*Current CWPCU loans not eligible for these rates. All loans subject to credit approval. Other rates and terms available based on collateral and credit.



CROW WING POWER
CREDIT UNION

800-648-9401 cwpcu.org



Women's Shelter Receives Commitment to Community Award >>>

Mid Minnesota Women's Center (MMWC) was selected as this year's winner of the Crow Wing Power Touchstone Energy Commitment to Community Award.

The Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is to keep families safe from abuse by providing safety, advocacy and empowerment to victims of abuse. The organization received nominations from three separate individuals, two of whom were not a staff or board member.

One nomination included details of a woman's recent life experience with abuse and fear.

The person submitting the nomination told the story about her abusive relationship with her husband and how she suddenly had nowhere to go. The Center took her and her two children under their wing.

She said, "As I came to know the staff I realized the courageous walk of faith that each of the ladies took every day, the purpose they felt, their empathy, lack of judgement, genuine interest and compassion for me was unmatched. I was never made to feel ashamed or at fault."

In 2020 during the pandemic, there was an enhanced need for these services. The Domestic Violence Shelter provided residential services to 410 adults and children, families with nine pets total. An additional 5,522 people received non-residential services. The Alex and Brandon Child Safety Center helped 1,860 individuals (including 564 children) with supervised visitation and safe exchange services.

The pandemic intensified many of the conditions that can fuel relationship abuse, with families facing economic tension along with the stress and uncertainty created by COVID-19. It created a shadow pandemic resulting in a 45% increase in calls. MMWC was needed more than ever. Both the Domestic Violence Shelter and the Child Safety Center remained open throughout the entire pandemic to provide services that protect the most vulnerable in our community. Another nominator said, "The lasting impact is having lifelong tools, support and peace knowing there is help. It is a service I feel every community should have but unfortunately this is not the case. I just see us as blessed having such resources in our back yard which in turn makes us stronger together and healthier as a whole."

As recipient of the Commitment to Community Award, the Women's Shelter received a plaque and \$1,000. They are also entered into a statewide competition organized by Minnesota's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, where they could receive an additional \$1,000 if selected.

>>> Back L-R: Cindy Westberg (Criminal Justice Intervention Advocate), Shannon Wussow (Executive Director), Skylar Starry (Lead Visitation Supervisor)
Front L-R: Vicki Flor (Programs Manager), Faith Rono (Office Coordinator)



She added, "I believe that because of the team at the Women's Center I get the opportunity to live my life differently. I am grateful for their strength when I had none. Now I am strong. I am one."

Men, women, children, and pets are protected by services provided through MMWC's two programs: Domestic Violence Shelter and Child Safety Center. The services include a safety shelter when there is no other place to go, counsel and assistance with navigation through legal process, and tools to empower them to get on their own in a safe environment.

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Editor: Char Kinzer

Board meetings are held the third
Thursday of each month beginning at
9:30 a.m.

Directors. Here to Help!

Following is a list of directors and their telephone numbers:

- Bob Kangas218-587-4453
- Paul Koering.....218-851-9954
- Ric Larson218-546-5781
- Gordon Martin.....218-746-3971
- Bryan McCulloch218-820-9708
- Doris Mezzenga218-692-1004
- LuAnn Nelson612-400-4627
- Gert Roggenkamp218-562-4566
- Dwight Thiesse.....218-831-8605

2022 Calendars Available

If you would like a beautiful wall calendar you can pick one up in our lobby or the drive through at our main headquarters on Hwy 371. Or, if you want one sent by mail, we offer one per household while supplies last and \$2.00 per additional mailed calendar.

2022 MEMBERS' PHOTO CALENDAR

