

77th Annual Meeting Highlights

Upcoming Projects, Strong Margins, and Ongoing Challenges Discussed

Thank you to the members who braved the cold and traveled to attend our 77th annual meeting!

Members of Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative learned about new communication systems, found out there will be no wholesale power rate increase for 2014, and re-elected two incumbent directors at their 77th annual meeting Saturday, February 22.

A crowd of about 175 members and guests gathered at the Cornell High School Auditorium and learned from President and CEO Todd Howard that plans for the coming year include resolving building issues—with deteriorating garage walls the key concern—and as the cost is expected to be substantial in any case, repair options may include a complete office rebuild.

Howard also discussed maintenance needs addressed during the past year, including brush-clearing, unjacketed line replacement, and other construction.

Board Chairman John Petska's report included information about the deployment of new remote-read meters by co-op crews over the coming two years. The meters will be able to automatically report outages, triggering a call for a crew to respond. In addition, a communication system to the co-op's substations will allow remote line-switching and restoration.

Ongoing challenges include the battle over coal use in power generation and impending retirements in an ag-

ing workforce. The co-op needs to find ways to train new employees before more experienced workers retire, and to do so without overstaffing, Petska reported.

Office Manager Dean Ortmann reported record kilowatt-hour sales for 2013 provided adequate margins to meet the co-op's financial ratios, complete various projects, and retire more than \$350,000 in capital credits during the past year.

The co-op's Chippewa Valley Satellite Corporation subsidiary ceased providing DirecTV service as of the first of the year, a move expected to generate positive operating margins for 2014.

Dairyland Power Cooperative vice president and CFO Philip Moilien reflected on 2013 operations at Dairyland and informed members of projects they will be working on for the coming year.

Tom Larson, Wisconsin's 67th Assembly District representative addressed the members.

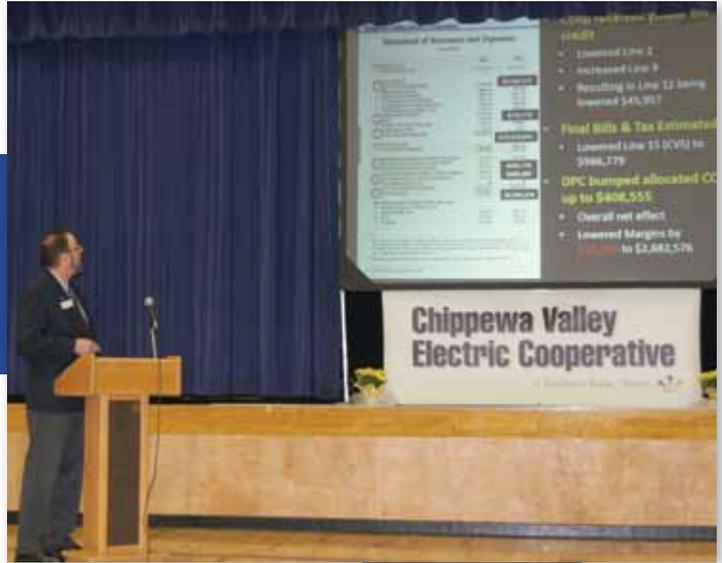
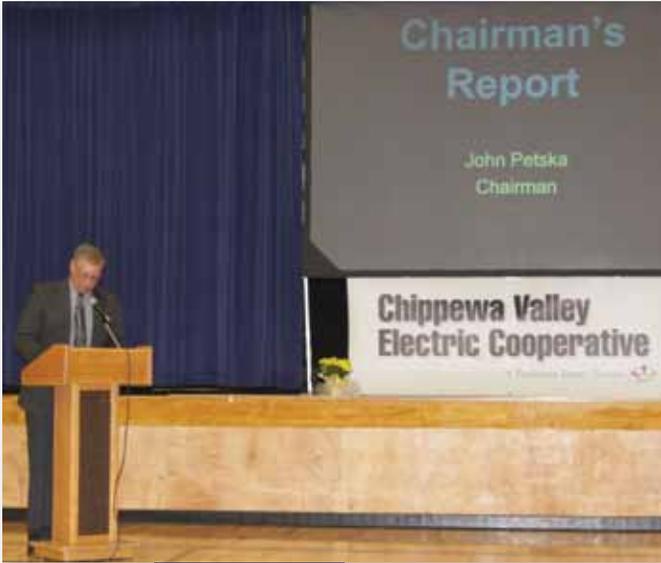
Voting members in two districts re-elected incumbent directors to three-year terms. Clyde Shipman was re-elected in District 3 and Deone Goettl in District 5, both without opposition.

The lineup of officers remained unchanged in a reorganization of the board. Petska continues as chairman and Dairyland Power Cooperative director, Don Frei as vice-chairman and alternate Dairyland Power Cooperative director, Shipman as secretary-treasurer, and Goettl as assistant secretary-treasurer.

Following the meeting, members and guests enjoyed a lunch provided by the Holy Cross Parish Ladies. ■

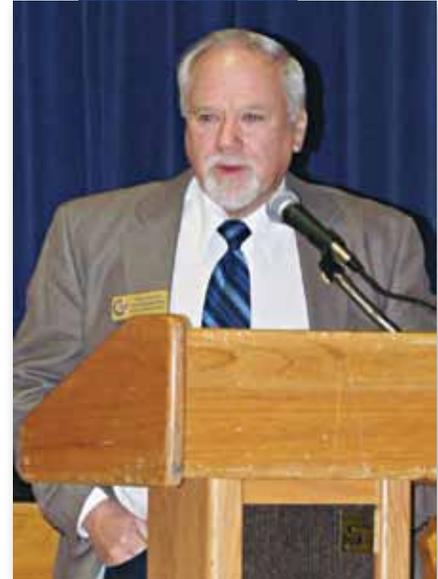


Approximately 175 members and guests gathered at the Cornell High School February 22 for Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative's 77th annual meeting.



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative 77th Annual Meeting

Clockwise, starting upper left: Board Chairman John Petska presents the chairman's report; Office Manager Dean Ortmann presents the financial report; Tom Larson (67th Assembly District) greets the members; Philip Moilien, Dairyland Power Cooperative vice president and CFO, presents his report; Early bird prize winner Gary Lazarz receives the 40-inch LED flat-screen TV from Chairman John Petska; and President/CEO Todd Howard speaks to the members.



A Coal to Action

Following a failed attempt at cap and trade legislation by the current administration, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began public hearings to cut carbon dioxide emissions from new coal plants.

The new rule would limit emissions to 1,100 pounds per megawatt hour, a limit the coal industry says is technologically unattainable.

On February 11, 2014, Dr. Julio Friedmann, the deputy assistant secretary for clean coal at the Department of Energy, told House lawmakers that the first generation of carbon capture and storage technology would increase wholesale electricity prices by “70 or 80 percent.” This is in line with the president’s statement to *The San Francisco Chronicle* in a 2008 interview in which he stated, “Under my plan of a cap and trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket.”

While new power plants will most likely be powered by abundant natural gas, 88 percent of the power currently generated by Dairyland Power Cooperative, the sole source of energy for Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative members, is from coal.

The president has ordered the EPA to issue a draft of a regulation that will set a national standard for carbon pollution by June 1, 2014.

On February 6, 2014, John Novak, executive director of environmental issues at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), testified before the EPA on the Standards of Performance for Greenhouse Gas Emissions for New Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units. Novak spoke on behalf of the more than 900 not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperatives, including Dairyland Power Cooperative. Novak warned the EPA about the impact of effectively removing coal as a hedge against the volatility of gas and wholesale market prices. Electric cooperatives serve 93 percent of the “persistent poverty counties,” in the United States, and co-ops remain concerned about the effect of this new rule on their Members’ electric bills, especially low or fixed income. Additionally, natural gas pipelines do not serve

all regions of the country, and therefore are not a viable alternative to coal.

The current administration is operating on the premise that global warming is occurring at an alarming rate. This claim has not been proven, or accepted by the scientific community. Since the term “global warming” has lost traction, the administration has more recently been using the term “climate change.” This is more accurate, as the climate does in fact change. How much climate change is human induced? Nobody knows. One may wonder what good does it do for the United States to invest billions of dollars into curbing carbon emissions to combat climate change when much of the rest of the world simply ignores it.

Our collective voices must be heard. If you are concerned about rising electric rates, CVEC urges you to contact your representatives and senators and express your opinion regarding the proposed EPA rules and the impact they will have on our electric rates. ■



Send a message directly to the EPA through the NRECA Take Action Website:

[http://www.nreca.coop/political-action/
cooperative-action-network/epa/](http://www.nreca.coop/political-action/cooperative-action-network/epa/)

or write your local senators and representatives:

Senator Tammy Baldwin
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Ron Johnson
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Sean Duffy
1208 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

February 20 Storm Wreaks Havoc on Power System

A major winter storm blew through our service area beginning February 20 and continued into February 21. The heavy snow and ice caused a number of outages. The outage calls began at 6 p.m. on the 20th and we had everyone back on by 5 p.m. on the 21st.

Overall, we recorded 40 outages affecting approximately 1,000 of our members. Ice forming on the wires and trees breaking and bending from the weight of the ice and snow were the primary cause of the outages. Luckily we did not have any broken poles from the additional weight of the wires. Hopefully winter is now behind us and we can look forward to warmer weather.

We thank all our members that were affected during the storm for their patience and understanding. ■



Nancy Plagge

A February ice/snowstorm caused many of Chippewa Valley Electrics power lines to stretch and sag under the weight of the ice, similar to the lines shown here.

Happy Easter!

*CVEC's office will be closed
for Good Friday, April 18.*



Solving Stray Voltage Problems

Stray voltage is the common term used to describe neutral-to-earth voltage in a cow or livestock contact area, usually in the barn. When a cow makes contact between two points with a difference in voltage, such as a watering cup and the concrete floor, an electric current may flow through the cow, which the cow may feel. Such situations can be caused by a variety of electrical problems both on farm and off the farm.

Neutral-to-earth voltage may never be completely eliminated because it is present on all grounded electrical distribution systems. However, much can be done to resolve stray voltage concerns. There are fairly simple electrical tests that can be performed by qualified individuals to determine whether stray voltage is present at

unacceptable levels on your farm.

If you believe you may have stray voltage, please contact Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative. We have the equipment and trained personnel to offer assistance and advice pertaining to stray voltage. ■



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

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