



NMPP

MEAN

NPGA®

ACE



Annual Report



2021-2022



NMPP **MEAN** **NPGA** **ACE**

- Member Driven
- Service Driven
- Economic Value Driven
- Values Driven
- Staff Driven

Nebraska Municipal Power Pool
NMPP
Utility Services

Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska
MEAN
Wholesale Electric

Public Alliance for Community Energy
ACE
Retail Natural Gas

National Public Gas Agency
NPGA
Wholesale Natural Gas

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Public Alliance for Community Energy

For more information visit us at www.NMPPEnergy.org

From the Executive Director...



Fiscal year 2021-22 was marked with some of the same challenges as the previous year when COVID-19 hit the U.S. and significantly impacted our nation.

The NMPP Energy staff spent most of the year in a hybrid telework environment. Many of the strategies developed in the previous fiscal year to ensure staff maintained a sense of togetherness, both internally as a team and externally with our member communities, had to remain in place. Business travel was limited and our team could not spend as much time with our members as we have preferred. Our Pandemic Response Team continued to meet regularly throughout the year as we proactively established health guidelines for the safety of our team.

However, toward the end of the fiscal year as COVID cases began to fall we started to see some normalcy return. We held the NMPP Energy Annual Conference in person in downtown Lincoln, Neb. in late March 2022.

Despite the challenges thrown at us, the organizations of NMPP Energy had a productive year. Below are just some of the highlights:

- MEAN completed a bond refunding that will save its long-term power supply participants \$8.6 million over the life of the bonds;
- The MEAN Board of Directors expanded MEAN's energy efficiency programs by adding a high-efficiency heat pump program to its existing suite of programs;
- NPGA celebrated its 30th anniversary;
- The NPGA Board approved another 30-year prepay natural gas supply agreement, which will result in annual savings to benefit its members;
- The ACE Board of Directors approved a \$200,000 revenue distribution to its member communities. ACE has now returned more than \$3.3 million to its member communities through its revenue return program;
- The NMPP Energy rebranding initiative was completed. The initiative included new logos, redesign of the organization websites and our monthly newsletter NMPP Energy News.
- Two digital applications were developed to streamline and enhance communication to members regarding mutual aid requests and energy market emergency conditions;

These are just a few of the many highlights of our organizations during the fiscal year. Reflecting on the year, I'm reminded of the many dedicated individuals who make the organizations of NMPP Energy successful.

I'm extremely proud of our internal team and their passion to serve our member communities as well as the dedicated people who serve on our Boards and Committees. It's their leadership that drives the successes of NMPP Energy's organizations.

Thank you for taking the time to read through the NMPP Energy 2021-2022 Annual Report. I look forward to building upon the successes of our organizations in 2022-23.

Robert Poehling,

Robert Z. Poehling
Executive Director,
NMPP Energy



The Nebraska Municipal Power Pool is the utility-related services organization of NMPP Energy, providing nearly 200 member communities a variety of valuable services across Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wyoming.

NMPP Board of Director Officers 2021-22

- **President:** Mike Palmer, electric superintendent, Sidney, Neb.
- **Vice President:** Darrel Wenzel, chief executive officer, Waverly (Iowa) Utilities
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Bill Hinton, electric superintendent, Kimball, Neb.

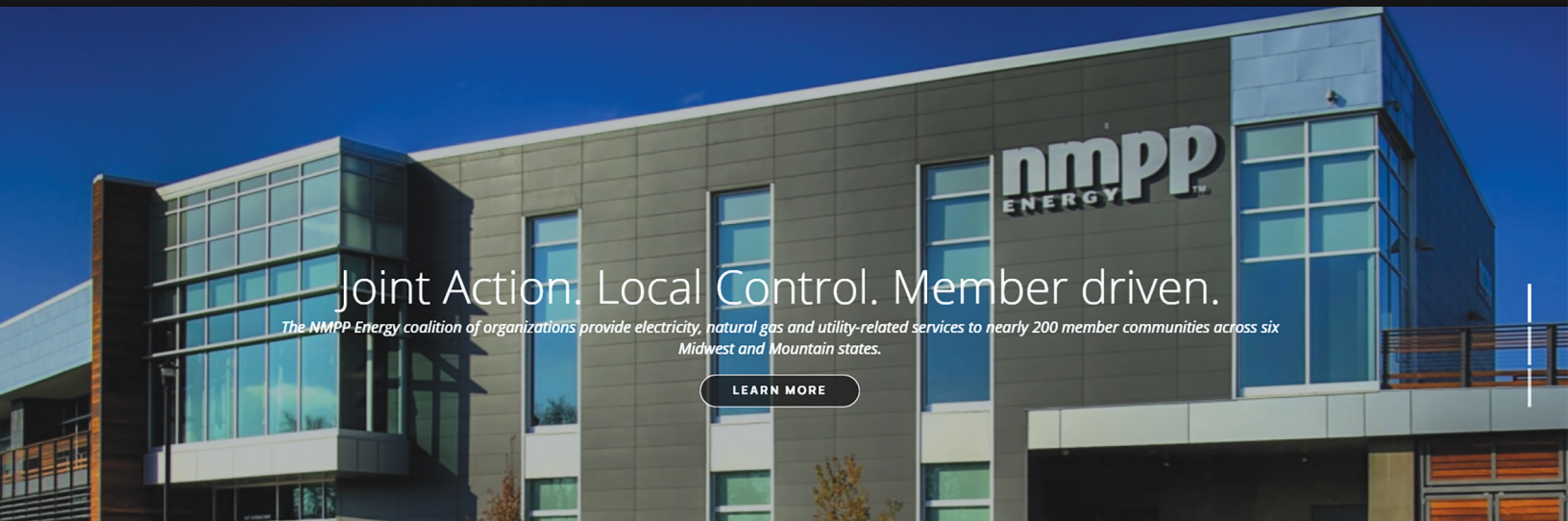
NMPP Energy rebranding effort

The organizations of NMPP Energy completed a rebranding initiative that included new logos, redesign of the NMPP Energy website and organizational websites and monthly newsletter “NMPP Energy News”.

NMPP Energy’s in-house team worked with a local marketing agency on the initiative

and announced the completion of the rebranding effort at the NMPP Board of Directors meeting in September.

The rebrand provides a fresh, modern new look and identity for each NMPP Energy organization that distinguishes each entity while unifying each organization under the NMPP Energy umbrella.

[About](#)[Members](#)[Services](#)[Energy Education](#)[Contact](#)[Careers](#)

The redesigned NMPP Energy website includes a member's log-in portal, where each organizations' member representatives can log in and gain access to all boards and committee information pertinent to them.

The portal serves as a tool to stay connected to each organization as well as to share information in a timely manner.

Annual Conference held in-person

The 2022 NMPP Energy Annual Conference was held in-person in March for the first time in two years after COVID-19 cases finally dropped to lower levels. The event, which included the NMPP Members Council and Annual Meeting, was attended by more than 60 member community representatives in downtown Lincoln, Neb.

PowerManager Software

PowerManager software continues to be popular among municipal utilities to handle utility billing and other functions. The software is being used by 189 users in 13 states and two countries. There are 179 users participating in PowerManager's Value Support Plan, which provides annual software upgrades, ensuring users are always using the most current software version.

The plan also provides top-level customer support and training. This year three virtual PowerManager training conferences were conducted with approximately 155 PowerManager users in attendance. An in-person training conference was held in Wayne, Neb., with 10 PowerManager users participating.



City of Hebron Becomes Newest Member

The City of Hebron, Neb., became the newest member of NMPP in January. As a member, the City of approximately 1,600 in southeast Nebraska has access to NMPP's suite of cost-based utility services such as utility cost of service studies, regulatory reporting services, electric distribution services, the mutual aid program and more.

Generation Workshop

A two-day Generation Workshop was held in October in Kearney, Neb. for NMPP/MEAN member participants and personnel from non-member municipalities. The workshop, geared toward power plant operators, maintenance personnel, utility superintendents and any personnel working with generation units, covered a variety of topics related to local generation units.



Nebraska Energy Efficiency Partnership group

Seeking Solutions Through Partnerships

NMPP continued its active involvement with many other organizations to find solutions and efficiencies for members. Some of these partnerships include:

- Nebraska Energy Efficiency Partnership
- Nebraska Economic Developers Association
- Nebraska Department of Economic Development Certified Communities Program
- Nebraska Electric Vehicle Task Force
- Midwest Municipal Utilities Group
- Colorado Municipal League
- Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities
- League of Nebraska Municipalities
- American Public Power Association
- And many more...



New Digital Tools Streamline Communication

Two new digital tools were developed in-house during the year for the benefit of NMPP members: NMPP Energy Alerts and the NMPP Operations Mobile App.

NMPP Energy Alerts, a real-time alerts status emergency communication notification system, is used by members of the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska and the National Public Gas Agency. The notification system sends emergency status notifications by email or text messaging to MEAN and NPGA board representatives regarding emergency events impacting the wholesale electricity and natural gas industries.

Alerts for MEAN are set up for Energy Emergency Alerts for the regional wholesale electricity regions that MEAN

participates in, which includes the Southwest Power Pool, Midcontinent Independent System Operator and Western Interconnection, and board notices. NPGA alerts are set up for weather events, pipeline alerts and board notices.

The NMPP Operations App helps to streamline communications between participating communities and NMPP/MEAN regarding mutual aid requests, outages, electric generation notification and equipment and material needs.

These digital tools enhance communication with MEAN and NPGA member representatives, especially during times of emergencies that could significantly impact communities.



Northeast Community College Training Workshop

Electric Safety Training Workshop Assistance

NMPP/MEAN staff assisted teaching a three-day workshop, held by Northeast Community College and the Nebraska Rural Electric Association, focusing on electrical theory and working on energized electric distribution lines. Utility personnel from NMPP/MEAN member communities in Nebraska participated in the event, including crews from Auburn, Grand Island, Lyons and Curtis.

Annual NMPP Utility Training Sessions

Utility training sessions were held during the Summer and Fall of 2021 on a variety of topics at three different locations in Nebraska: Sidney, Broken Bow and Lincoln. Nearly 70 participants from 31 member utilities attended the sessions. Topics included vendor presentations, accident reports, near miss reports and equipment maintenance schedules.

Services by the Numbers...

41 Electric Distribution System program participants

32 Champion businesses

64 Federal/State environmental emissions reports

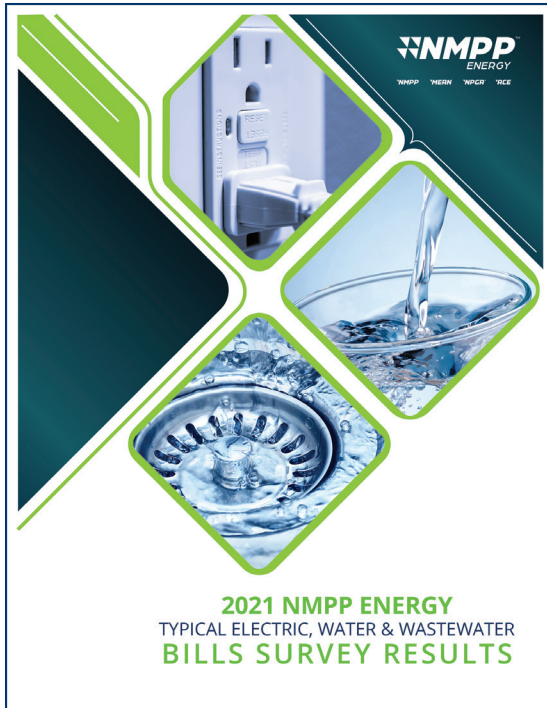
189 PowerManager users

71 Utility Rate Cost of Service Agreements

31 Utilities participating in annual safety/training sessions

Typical Bill Survey Assists Regional Utilities

Staff completed its 38th year of conducting its annual Typical Bill Survey for participating member and non-member utilities in the region regarding electric, water and wastewater retail rates. There were 128 utilities that participated, including 100 NMPP members.



New Champion Businesses

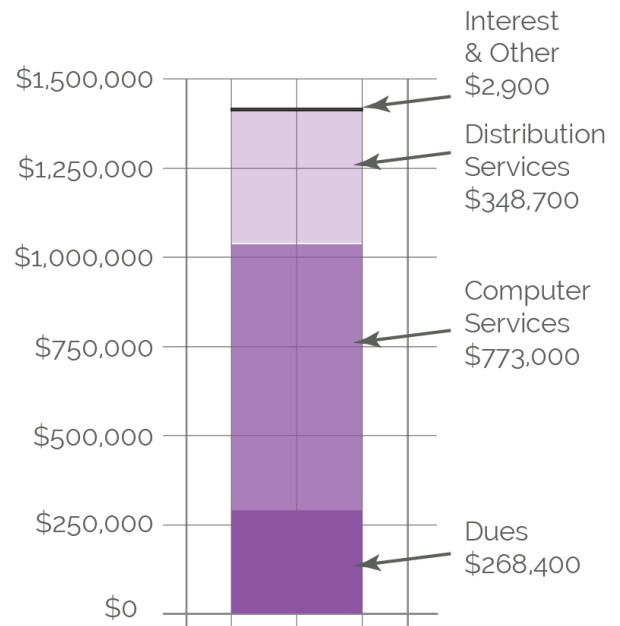
The NMPP Board approved three new Champion businesses during the year: Bluestem Energy Solutions, Piper Sandler and Sapp Bros. Inc. The program currently includes 32 total Champion businesses that support NMPP Energy's efforts to provide products and services to members.

Regulatory Assistance

NMPP continued to assist many communities with Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy regulatory filings. Reports included forms EIA-860, 861 and 923. These reports can be complicated and time-consuming, especially for small utilities with limited staff.

NMPP Revenue Sources

Total: \$1,393,000



*Detailed information regarding NMPP's revenue sources is available on page 4 of NMPP's Audited Financial Statements (www.NMPPEnergy.org/about/financial-information).

NMPP Presents Service Award

NMPP awarded Jerry Fales, electric commissioner for the City of Cozad, Neb., with the Bob Arraj Service Award at the 2022 NMPP Energy Annual Conference. The award is presented annually to an official or employee of a NMPP member utility system who has excelled in service in the utility industry. The award is a memorial tribute to Bob Arraj, former city administrator and utilities superintendent of Kimball, Neb.

Named the City's electric commissioner in April 2021, Fales has brought strong leadership and vision to the electric department. Through Fales' leadership, the Cozad Board of Public Works and City Council have a clear vision for the electric department with a high priority placed on the safety of its employees. His award nomination cited his proactive management style to successfully tackle projects to keep the city moving forward.



The Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska provides wholesale power supply to 62 participating communities in Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska and Wyoming.

MEAN Board of Director Officers 2021-22

- **Chair:** Tom Goulette, city administrator/utility superintendent, West Point, Neb.
- **Vice Chair:** Tom Ourada, city administrator, Crete, Neb.
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Darrel Wenzel, chief executive officer, Waverly (Iowa) Utilities

Bond Refunding to Save \$8.6 Million

MEAN completed a bond refunding of \$38.7 million of outstanding power supply system revenue 2012 Series A bonds that will save MEAN long-term power supply participants \$8.6 million over the life of the bonds.

S&P Global Ratings assigned its 'A' long-term rating to the 2022A power supply system revenue refunding bonds. S&P also affirmed the 'A' rating on MEAN's bond obligations outstanding. The rating outlook is stable.

Fitch ratings assigned an 'A+' rating to the 2022A bonds and affirmed MEAN's 'A+' rating on MEAN's bond obligations outstanding. The rating outlook is stable.

Fitch's key ratings drivers for MEAN included:

- Strong revenue source characteristics
- Low operating cost and diverse power supply, and
- Strong financial profile, including healthy liquidity metrics.

MEAN's continued positive bond ratings result in overall lower bond interest rates which benefits MEAN's long-term power supply participants.

New Associate Class Created

A new Associate class of participation was created as part of MEAN's governance restructuring initiative. The first utilities to pass resolutions to join as new MEAN Associates included the Arkansas River Power Authority, Grand Island Utilities, Spencer, Neb., Holyoke, Colo., Rockford (Iowa) Municipal Light Plant and Lake View, Iowa. The Associate class is a non-member level participant of MEAN.

Board Approves Rate Adjustments

MEAN's Board of Directors in January approved an overall three percent rate adjustment as part of its total revenue requirement for fiscal year 2022-23 for wholesale power supply participants.

The overall three percent rate adjustment included a six percent increase in MEAN's energy rate and a two percent increase in the wind energy rate for energy sales from MEAN's wind-generation resources. The adjustment also included a two percent reduction to the overall fixed cost recovery charge allocation to participants. Prior to this year MEAN had five straight years of either lowered or no increase to its energy rates and fixed cost recovery charge while also refunding credits totaling \$22.2 million to Schedule M and Schedule K and K-1 participants.

MEAN's energy rates for long-term (Schedule M) and shorter-term (Schedule K- and K-1) participants and the fixed cost recovery charge are the main components in MEAN's rate structure for collecting revenue.

Facilitating Community Solar Projects

MEAN worked on behalf of several communities interested in obtaining energy from solar facilities to be built in their respective communities. Facilitating these projects is an effort by MEAN to bring economically priced solar energy to interested MEAN participant communities.

The projects would allow each participating community to purchase up to five percent of their electric generation through renewable solar generation, which maintains compliance with MEAN's Renewable Distributed Generation Policy.

Participating communities in the original RFP included Alliance, Ansley, Crete, Pender, Shickley, Stuart and West Point in Nebraska, and Delta in Colorado and Sergeant Bluff and Waverly in Iowa. The project could potentially include up to 20 communities.

MEAN issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the joint projects and ultimately awarded the contract to Sandhills Energy LLC. Sandhills Energy is working on signing power purchase agreements with participating communities and intends to have each community project online within one year of signing an agreement.



MEAN Expands Suite of Energy Efficiency Programs

The MEAN Board approved expanding MEAN's energy efficiency programs by adding a high-efficiency heat pump program to its suite of energy efficiency programs for local residential utility customers of long-term wholesale power participants.

The new program provides cash incentives to upgrade or convert to a high-efficiency heat pump. Along with the heat pump program, MEAN also continued its other energy efficiency programs for smart



thermostats, attic insulation, commercial LED lighting and cooling system tune-ups.

2021-22 Energy Efficiency by the Numbers...

1,005
MWhs

**Estimated
annual energy
savings**

8,327

**Light fixtures
retrofitted**

29

**Participating
MEAN
Communities**

70

**LED Projects
funded by MEAN**

Work Continues on Potential AMI Service

Work continued on a potential project to bring Advanced Metering Infrastructure to interested participants. The project would include a shared Meter Data Management system and ongoing administration and monitoring of the system. With multiple utilities interested, the project could benefit from lower equipment costs through economies of scale.

Staff continues to gauge interest among members and perform further due diligence before moving forward with the project.

Reliability from Local Generators Remains High

MEAN completed its annual reliability testing of local generators with member participants' generators earning high marks for reliability. Staff tested 60 generation units in 19 communities and 58 of those passed on the initial test for more than a 96 percent passing rate.

These local units serve as part of MEAN's energy capacity portfolio and serve as backup electric generation for the respective communities that have committed total capacity and energy output of their units to MEAN.

Market Opportunities in Western Interconnection

Staff continued its evaluation of potential market expansion opportunities in the Western Interconnection through the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). Currently, MEAN along with several other regional utilities, is a participant in SPP's Western Energy Imbalance Service (WEIS), which went live in February 2021. The WEIS is a real-time energy imbalance market that balances generation and load regionally for participants.

SPP is working toward expanding electricity market opportunities that could include a full Regional Transmission Organization in the Western Interconnection. Another potential option is SPP's Markets+ initiative, which would be a real-time and day-ahead market offering. MEAN will continue to monitor developments of potential beneficial market opportunities for its participants.

Risk and Compliance Program Activities

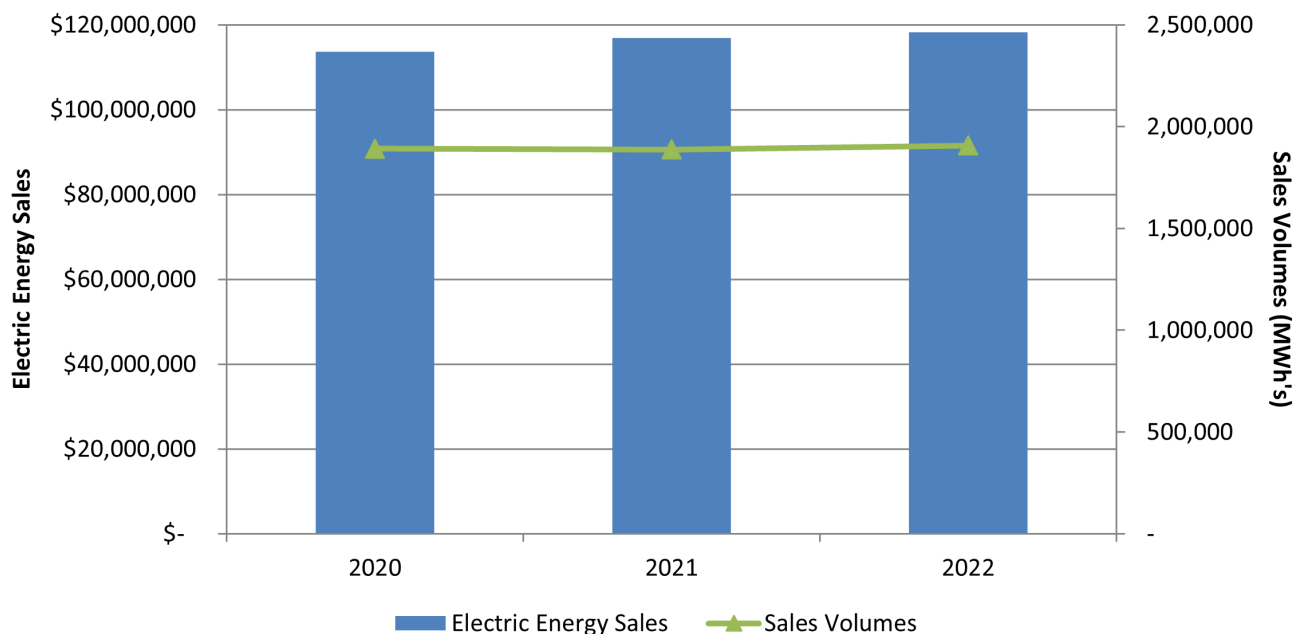
MEAN continued to formalize its Enterprise Risk Management Program (ERM). The project is wrapping up the second phase of a four-phase process focusing on identification, assessment, mitigation and implementation and monitoring of organizational risk.

The MEAN Risk Management Team, comprised of management level employees, meets to review risk issues related to MEAN. The Risk Oversight Committee of the MEAN Board meets throughout the year.

For North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) purposes, MEAN operates in the Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) and Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) Regions.

MEAN has participated in training for NERC's Align software change which impacts how MEAN will receive and respond to NERC compliance requests. MEAN received and responded to two NERC Alerts during the fiscal year.

Electric Energy Sales



*Detailed information regarding MEAN's electric energy sales is available on page 7 of MEAN's Audited Financial Statements (www.NMPPEnergy.org/about/financial-information).



Celebrating 40 Years of Working Together

MEAN celebrated its 40th anniversary in June. MEAN formed in 1981 after the passage of the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act by the Nebraska Legislature. Since forming, the organization has experienced tremendous growth through the decades and remains a member-driven organization.

MEAN Presents Service Award to Curtis' Tanner McCall

Tanner McCall, utility superintendent of the City of Curtis, Neb., was presented with MEAN's Rudy Hultgren Dedicated Service Award.

The award is presented annually to an individual of a MEAN member utility who has displayed commendable efforts in promoting the use of public power and its ideals. The award is a memorial tribute to Rudy Hultgren, a utility consultant and well-known and respected citizen of Lyons, Colo., who played an active role in community service and leadership.

McCall has been instrumental in looking at ways to help improve the City's electrical system capacity and reliability while minimizing expenses to the overall system. Through his leadership, the City's utilities have overcome numerous challenges to ensure new commercial business areas are attached to the city's utilities.

His award nomination cited his willingness to work with customers and his dedication to work after-hours to ensure the city is meeting the needs of its citizens.

IRP Process Continues Throughout the Year

Work continued on the development of MEAN's 2022 Integrated Resource Plan, which is submitted every five years to fulfill a requirement of the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA).

Integrated resource planning is a planning process for new energy sources that evaluates the full range of alternatives, including new generating capacity, power purchases, energy conservation and efficiency and renewable resources.

The IRP process was discussed at MEAN committee and board meetings open to the public throughout the year, including a public workshop held in April 2022. The IRP will incorporate MEAN's board-driven 2050 carbon neutral vision initiative, which was approved in 2020.

The completed IRP is expected to be submitted to WAPA during the summer of 2022.





The National Public Gas Agency provides wholesale natural gas supply to 13 member communities in Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska and five customers in Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming.

NPGA Board of Director Officers 2021-22

- **Chair: Chris Anderson, city administrator, Central City, Neb.**
- **Vice Chair: Bob Lockmon, utility superintendent, Stuart, Neb.**
- **Secretary/Treasurer: Randy Woldt, city administrator, Wisner, Neb.**

Utilities Receive Financial Aid from Extreme Weather Event

NPGA utilities impacted by the February 2021 extreme weather event saw some financial relief after the Nebraska Legislature in May 2021 passed the Municipal Natural Gas System Emergency Assistance Act.

The Act allowed municipalities to apply for a grant to cover up to 80 percent of the extraordinary costs incurred by the municipality because of the February 2021 extreme weather event, which caused natural gas market prices to skyrocket during extreme cold that covered the entire Central U.S. for several days.

NPGA was among several Nebraska gas suppliers that provided testimony at the bill's hearing to the Legislature's Urban Affairs Committee.

Pipeline Rate Case Advocacy

NPGA continued its advocacy efforts on behalf of its members in multiple pipeline rate cases with the goal of minimizing impacts to NPGA members.

Staff participated in a shipper's group to negotiate a settlement with Southern Star Central Pipeline on their modernization rate case. A settlement in principle was reached and is awaiting final approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Staff also participated in a shipper's group for negotiation efforts pertaining to the Colorado Interstate Gas pipeline rate case. A settlement in principle was also reached in that case.

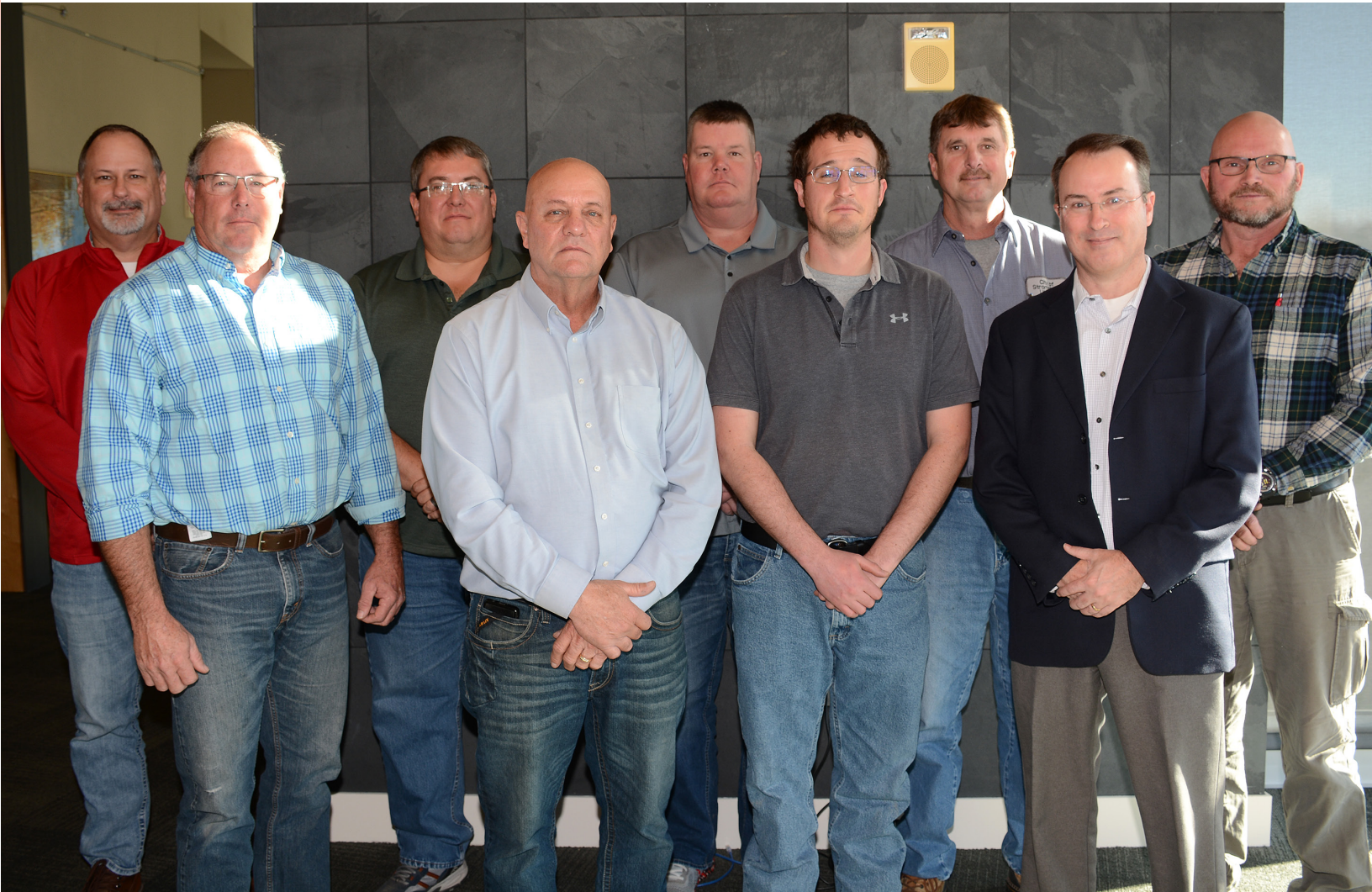
A rate case on the Northern Natural Gas pipeline is anticipated sometime ahead of a proposed filing later this summer.

NPGA Celebrates 30th Anniversary

NPGA celebrated its 30th anniversary in November. The organization's first meeting, known then as the Nebraska Public Gas Agency, was held on Nov. 14, 1991 and included the Nebraska communities of Central City, Falls City, Nebraska City and Superior as charter members.

Prepay Agreement to Yield Savings

The NPGA Board in late September approved another 30-year prepay gas supply agreement with the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia. The agreement will yield a discount of \$0.33 per MMBtu on 500 MMBtu/day. The transaction will yield approximately \$60,000 in annual savings.



NPGA Board representatives (front row L-R) Bob Lockmon (Stuart, Neb.), Randy Woldt (Wisner, Neb.), Andrew Brittenham (Superior, Neb.), Chris Anderson (Central City, Neb.). (Back row L-R) Russ Piroutek (Belleville, Kan.), Brent Nation (Fort Morgan, Colo.), Chris Brader (Pender, Neb.), Lenard Schaefer (Stromsburg, Neb.), Terry Ueding (Lyons, Neb.). Not pictured: Russ Pfeil (Alma, Neb.), Candi Temple (Auburn, Kan.), Merle Veigel (Falls City, Neb.), Steve Curro (Trinidad, Colo.), Greg Daniels (Walsenburg, Colo.).

Finding Value Through Asset Management Arrangements

NPGA continued to find value using Asset Management Arrangements (AMA) on Southern Star and Northern Natural Gas pipelines to save approximately \$95,000 for NPGA members served on those pipelines.

Digital Tools Enhance Communication

Two new digital tools were developed in-house to streamline and improve communications for NPGA members.

A new digital application was developed in-house that sends real-time emergency notifications regarding natural gas energy markets and pipeline and storage curtailments to NPGA members. The second digital application, the NMPP Energy Operations app, streamlines communication for mutual aid requests from participating NPGA member municipalities.

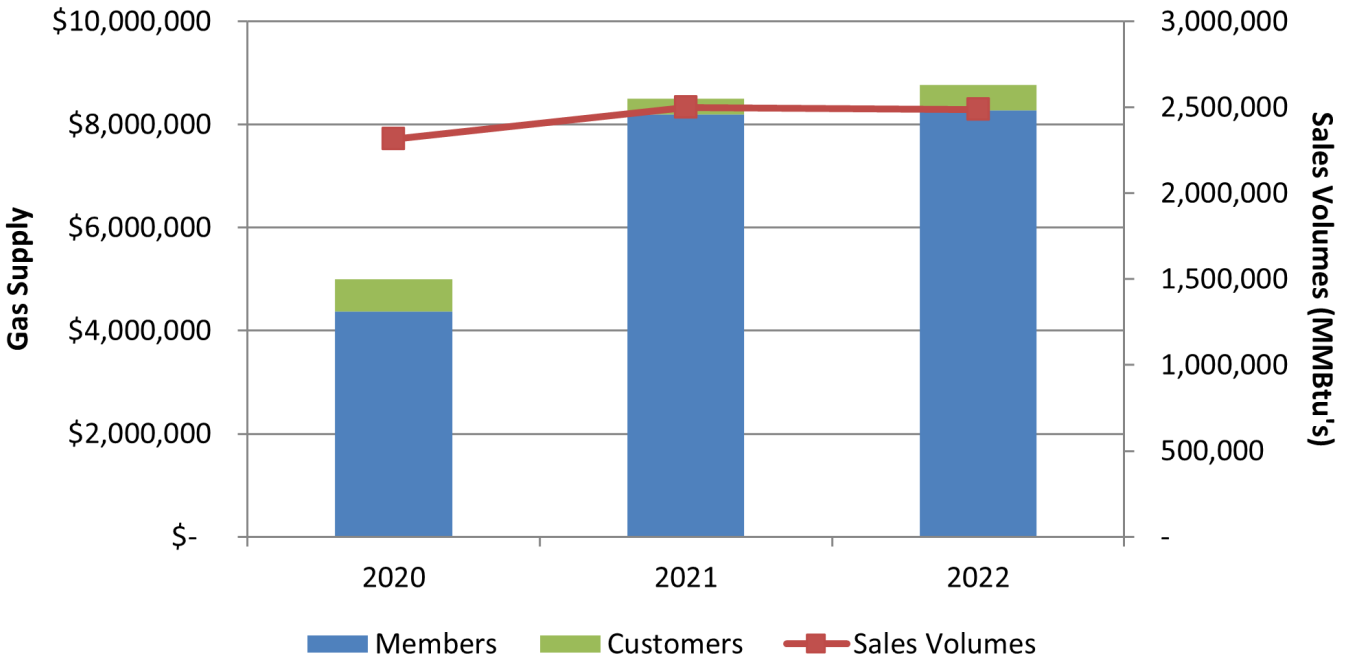
Market Year in Review

Fiscal year 2021-22 came in like the metaphorical lamb with relatively mild natural gas pricing but started to gain steam heading into summer and never looked back.

Rather dramatic market hikes started to occur during the fall and continued into spring 2022. Market signals were already sending a lot of uncertainty into the market and were only exacerbated by the Russian invasion of Ukraine in late February 2022. Ultimately fiscal year 2021-22 would go out like a lion with year-over-year natural gas prices rising approximately 59 percent for spot pricing at the national benchmark Henry Hub in Louisiana, beginning 2021 at \$2.87 and ending at \$4.56 per MMBtu.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration natural gas inventory report for March 25, 2022, total working gas in storage was below the five-year historical range. Further driving up demand, in 2021, EIA also reported that U.S. natural gas exports set a record high for the seventh consecutive year driven by both increases in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) capacity and exports to Mexico.

Gas Supply



*Detailed information regarding NPGA's sales volumes and operating revenues is available on page 4 of NPGA's Audited Financial Statements (www.NMPPEnergy.org/about/financial-information).



The Public Alliance for Community Energy (ACE) is the community-owned retail natural gas supplier in the Nebraska Choice Gas program. Formed in 1998, ACE's membership includes 75 member communities and one public power district in Nebraska.

ACE Board of Director Officers 2021-22

- **Chair:** Andrew Devine, city administrator, Albion, Neb.
- **Vice Chair:** Jeremy Tarr, city administrator, Plainview, Neb.
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Mike Palmer, electric superintendent, Sidney, Neb.

Year of Change in Choice Gas Program

Fiscal year 2021-22 was marked by significant change in the Nebraska Choice Gas program, presenting new challenges for ACE. The changes in 2021 included expanding the selection period from two-weeks to five weeks (March 18-April 22), eliminating pre-enrollment selections, and going to all-remote operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to staffing concerns, all calls were migrated to a third-party call center.

Competition High During Selection Period

Competition among suppliers continued to be extremely high as seven natural gas suppliers participated during the selection period. ACE maintained its market share by capturing 13,200 selections for a 17 percent market share of total Choice Gas customers. ACE's market share was the second highest among the seven suppliers.

Overall, the Choice Gas program continued its trend of having an increased number of natural gas suppliers and fewer overall customer accounts. There were 80,100 total customer accounts and seven competing gas suppliers in 2021, compared to 84,200 accounts and three competing suppliers in 2007.

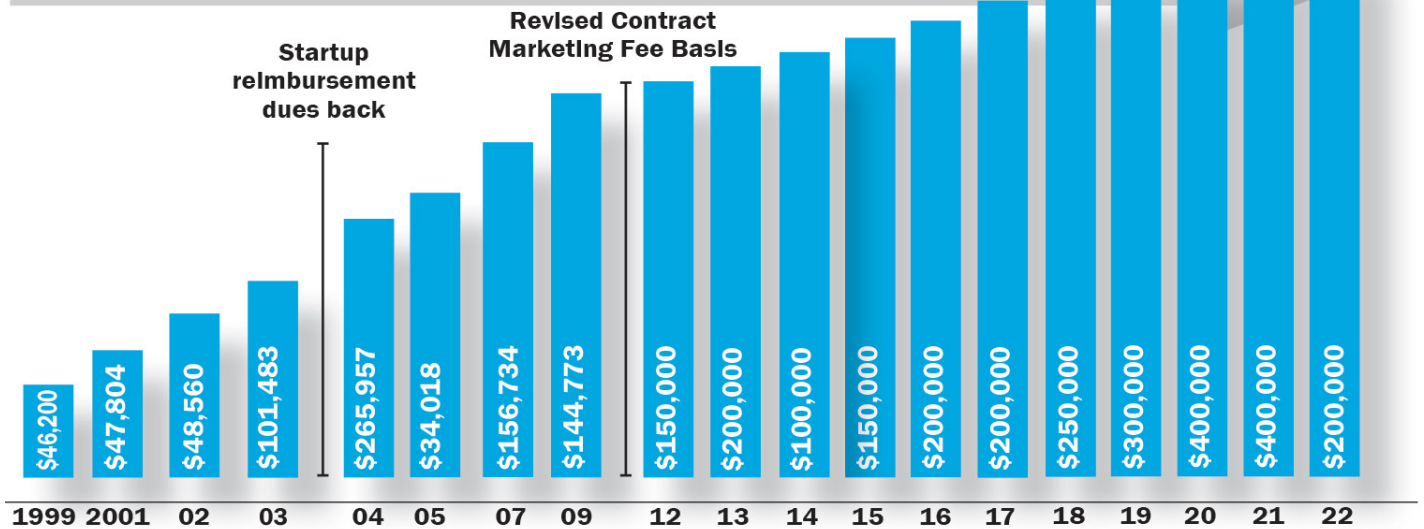
Grassroots Marketing

ACE member communities once again spearheaded a grassroots marketing campaign to share the benefits of choosing ACE as a natural gas supplier. Marketing included radio and newspaper ads developed in-house by the communications department, social media campaign on multiple platforms, letters/post cards, customized emails, signage and promotional items.

Several Community Power Projects were held by ACE member communities to help educate Choice Gas customers about ACE and its role in the Choice Gas program. Projects included a pancake feed, coffee talks/webinar, event booth, open houses, radio spots and a Facebook Live event.

ACE Distribution Returns by Year

Total: \$3.3 million to Nebraska ACE Communities



Revenue Distribution Tops \$3.3 Million to Communities

The ACE Board of Directors in January approved a revenue distribution of \$200,000 to ACE member communities. Through the revenue return program, the ACE Board may vote to return revenue to its member communities. Since forming, ACE has returned more than \$3.3 million back to its Nebraska member communities.

These funds are used in various ways to benefit each ACE member community, including helping fund recreational trails, community swimming pools and park improvements.



Strategic Planning Session Held

The ACE Executive Committee and ACE staff in January held a two-day strategic planning session at NMPP Energy.

The session focused on the current environment of the Choice Gas program and ACE's future role in the program.



ACE Projects of the Year

ACE awarded three Project of the Year Awards to ACE member communities that used its respective ACE funds for community improvement.

Communities submitted project nominations and winners were determined through voting on ACE's Facebook page. The awards were presented in three population categories: Under 500, 500-1,500 and more than 1,500.

The winners were:

- Village of Lyman (Under 500) for its Mantis Zip Line Project;
- City of Franklin, Neb., (500-1,500) for its Fill the Theatre Seating Project; and
- City of Sidney, Neb., (more than 1,500) for its Youth Baseball Field Lights Project.

Each winner received a plaque and \$200 to be used toward future community betterment projects.



Supporting Communities Through ACE's Clean-Up Program

ACE supported 19 community clean-up events in member communities. Through the program, ACE provides equipment, safety vests and a financial donation to volunteer groups for their efforts in keeping their community clean.





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