

Board of Director Change

At a special Board meeting following the AGM, Ron Midtdal tendered his resignation and the Board appointed Neil Stone to a one-year term. The Board wishes to thank Ron for his 22 years of commitment and contribution to the West Wetaskiwin REA.

Annual General Meeting Updates



Members at the 2018 AGM

Member Responsibility

The AGM report also confirmed member responsibility as it relates to any landlord/tenant agreement; that is **the member is responsible for the REA service and payment for the service**. Chair Knull reinforced that in the event of any third party damage, the member is responsible and it is their obligation to obtain financial reimbursement from that third party – **it is not the REA's responsibility**.

He encouraged members to call the REA at 780-335-9378(WEST) if they see any third party damage. It is not acceptable that the membership be penalized for damage that is particular to a single member service.

Vegetation Management

Dean Knull reported, "Again this 2017 year, I must report that brushing continues to be a significant expense.

Additionally in the 2018 report from our distribution system operator there is projection of \$600K for the 2018/2019 year.

We have had many meetings with our system operator to discuss this issue. In an effort to be proactive on behalf of the members, the Board took it upon themselves to research potential solutions for a more cost effective vegetation management. We presented alternate approaches to what FortisAlberta was offering us. Last year we directed them to increase mulching and they complied. Furthermore, as a result of our research they have agreed to a pilot/trial project in six locations which will incorporate spraying after mulching. We firmly believe this will be more cost effective and we look forward to being able to report that to the membership once the trials are complete."

Dean went on to explain a PowerPoint presentation showing numerous examples of trees in the Right of Way and shelterbelts that are too close to powerlines. Slides showed examples of how topping conifers weakens the trees which can eventually lead to them toppling into a power line causing power disruptions and costs to repair. As the photos below demonstrate, these conifers start out small but eventually can grow into the lines.



Small trees in the right of way



But...they grow – into the powerline see upper right.

For power troubles or service requests, contact: FortisAlberta (the distribution system operator for West Wetaskiwin REA): Toll-free: 1-855-333-9473 or 780-310-9473

For REA inquiries contact:
West Wetaskiwin REA
R.R. #1 Station Main,
Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 1W8
Phone: 780-335-9378 (WEST)
E-mail: westwet@telus.net
www.westwetaskiwinrea.com

For billing or account inquiries contact:
Battle River Power Coop
Box 1420
Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X3
Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972
E-mail: brpc@brpower.coop
www.brpower.coop

He then introduced the Rehome a Tree program – a unique way to reduce vegetation management costs and save trees. With this unique program, West Wetaskiwin REA has worked with the County of Wetaskiwin to implement an environmentally responsible way to save these trees – you can take them home and eliminate the future cost to remove them if they are allowed to grow.

Best of all, the Rehome a Tree is open to non-members as well and Rehoming a Tree is fairly easy.

- Get the land location of the tree (s) you would like to Re-Home (range road/ township road). It is recommended to choose trees no taller than 6 feet as the root would be too large to remove without equipment and a severely damaged root would negatively affect a transplant. The tree does not need to be outside your property, it can be located in another rural area in the County.
- Stop by the County of Wetaskiwin Office and complete a permit form. It takes only a few minutes and usually the permit is approved while you are waiting. Note permits are not available for trees along primary or secondary highways.
- Permits are issued at no-charge for the ‘shoveling’ – no equipment removal – of young trees and are valid for 14 days. (Note: permits can be extended if need be.) Within that 14 days, and with your permit in hand, you can shovel out the tree (s) that you wish to bring to a new home.
- Once the tree and root is removed, you must fill in the hole and return the area to its original state (no holes).



ReHome a Tree

it's easy as 1-2-3

- 1** Get the land location of the tree(s) you would like to ReHome (range road/ township road). The tree does not need to be outside your property, it can be located in another rural area in the County.
- 2** Stop by the County of Wetaskiwin Office and complete a 14-day permit form. It takes only a few minutes and permits are issued at no-charge for the ‘shoveling’ of trees.
- 3** Within that 14 days, and with your permit in hand, you can shovel out the tree(s) that you wish to bring to a new home.

For more information on the Re-Home a Tree program and details on how to successfully transplant trees, visit www.westwetaskwinrea.com.

ReHome a Tree is an environmental program developed by



**Regulated
Rate
Option**



The Regulated Rate Option (RRO) may increase or decrease from month to month as it is priced on the open market and subject to many factors relating to supply and demand. It is not a ‘regulated’ rate, rather is a default rate. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you are on the RRO. For April, 2018 RRO is priced at \$0.06800 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For May, 2018 the RRO is priced at \$0.05358 per kWh.

It is very important to note that your electrical distribution system provider will always be the West Wetaskiwin REA, regardless of who supplies your electricity. Members will not be disadvantaged in any way based on their retailer choice.

For a list of energy retailers, contact the Utilities Consumer Advocate: 310-4-UCA (310-4822) or www.ucahelps.alberta.ca. If you do not have a contract with an electricity retailer, then you are on the default Regulated Rate Option (RRO). The RRO rate is listed on www.westwetaskiwinrea.com

Information on West Wetaskiwin’s Code of Conduct Regulation Compliance Plan can be found on our website: www.westwetaskiwinrea.com