

## Overview of Annual General Meeting – April 28, 2022

Following are excerpts from President Dean Knull's Annual Report.

For the year 2021 the REA reports the following.

- New Services: 6
- Replacement Contracts: 11
- Dismantles: 0
- Number of Members: 939
- Bi-directional meters (micro-gen sites): 13

Your Board of Directors held, and attended, the following meetings.

- Regular Meetings: 5
- Special Meetings: 13
- Meetings with Battle River Power Coop (BRPC): 7 meetings

There were several additional, non-formal meetings with FortisAlberta and BRPC.

### Change of Distribution System Operator

Significant time and effort went into the decision to change distribution system operators and engage a fellow co-operative, Battle River Power Coop. The Board and BRPC had numerous consultations regarding the benefits that would result from a change of operators. I want to assure members this decision was reached after significant due diligence and with the strategic goal to improve West Wetaskiwin REA's competitive positioning in our service area.

Apart from better new construction costs, Battle River Power Coop listened to our vegetation management concerns. They realigned our brushing cycle areas to geographic boundaries relating to townships and have been assessing problem areas that require immediate attention. We also confirmed our pole change schedule for this year.

As well, BRPC offers members the ability to access their WW REA account information on the website and

will now also offer WW REA outage information on their website outage map and via an outage App for mobile devices.

### New Services/Changes to Services

We have also instituted a New Services or Service Change process that requires the completion of a basic form on the WW REA website. This fosters a better communication with our distribution system operator and keeps both entities in the loop.

### Meters

To accommodate meter reads with Battle River Power Coop's system, it was necessary to switch over all meters to ITRON meters that are more modern and efficient. Despite the preplanning and timely ordering we did experience a glitch as supply chain issues resulting from the pandemic created a delivery delay. However, they were updated shortly after the changeover and I thank members for their patience. We will also be upgrading meter boxes that will fit the new meters and accommodate better access for service.

### Electricity Retailers

Working with Battle River Power Coop opened up our service area to more retailers wanting to provide contract electricity services to members. A complete list is available on our website.

The ATCO and ENMAX decision to cancel contracts, despite our reaching out several times, was totally unforeseen. While we were initially optimistic they would stay on, we informed members of the situation in the October newsletter to prepare them for this possibility.

### Electricity Prices

Many Albertans are expressing concerns about utility

#### For Power Troubles:

Battle River Power Coop (our distribution system operator)  
Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972

#### For RRO Billing and Account Inquiries:

Battle River Power Coop | Box 1420 Camrose, Alberta T4V 1X3  
Toll-free: 1-877-428-3972  
E-mail: [brpc@brpower.coop](mailto:brpc@brpower.coop) | Website: [www.brpower.coop](http://www.brpower.coop)

#### For REA Inquiries, New Service and Service Change Requests:

Contact West Wetaskiwin REA, RR #1  
Station Main, Wetaskiwin, Alberta T9A 1W8  
Tel: 780-335-9378 (WEST)  
E-mail: [westwet@telus.net](mailto:westwet@telus.net) | Website: [www.westwetaskiwinrea.com](http://www.westwetaskiwinrea.com)

For service requests: go to [www.westwetaskiwinrea.com/new-or-changes-to-services.html](http://www.westwetaskiwinrea.com/new-or-changes-to-services.html)

bills, including some REA members. It is important for members to realize the key components that affect rates/pricing – generation, transmission, distribution and end-use. The only rate WW REA establishes is the Distribution Tariff.

If the cost to generate increases, so does the cost of electricity. Transmission rates are approved by the AUC and are based on consumption so they vary by month. The end-user pays the electricity cost (established by generation not the REA) according to consumption.

### Scholarships

Scholarship winners for this year Emma Ewart and Aliah Meyer were acknowledged. Member reminder: the deadline for scholarship applications is August 1.

### Third Party Damages

There has been a rise in third-party damages over the last several years. Members need to realize that power infrastructure located on their land is their responsibility and they are liable for any and all costs to replace or repair components. Third party damage can include vandalism or contractor damage or livestock activities.

Members need to be aware they are liable for damage costs to distribution system components on their land. West Wetaskiwin REA is responsible for replacing system components as a result of “wear and tear” and annually pole testing and pole replacement is scheduled to ensure our equipment is in good shape.

### Challenges Ahead

I do want to make members aware of a potential impending situation that could affect rates. First, we are renegotiating the 2005 Wire Owner Agreement and we are working in partnership with the Alberta Federation of REAs, and 14 other REAS, which will assist in reducing our legal costs.

The reason this concerns all REAs is that FortisAlberta has made an application to the Alberta Utilities Commission to <charge> REAs for the use of their sections of line. This would substantially increase rates as the DT would have to compensate FortisAlberta for “using” a section of their line to reach a rural end-user. (Additional details will be provided as available.)

### Financials

MNP representatives Michelle Miller, CPA, CA (Partner,

Assurance Services) and Tahner Bowers, CPA (Senior Manager, Assurance Services) attended the AGM. Mr. Bowers reviewed the financial position, net assets, and results of operations and presented the audit opinion as follows.

*“In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of West Wetaskiwin Rural Electrification Association Ltd. as at December 31, 2021, and the results of its operations, changes in net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.”*

The financials were approved and the decision for next year’s auditor was left to the discretion of the board.

### Battle River Power Coop

Battle River Power Coop was represented by General Manager, Bill Klassen and employees, Curtis Bauman – Operations Manager, Mitch Stevenson – Vegetation Manager, Kevin Szelewicki – System Planning & Engineering Manager and Chairman, Dan Astner.

Bill Klassen presented an overview of Battle River Power Coop’s operations and reviewed how they are well positioned to provide service to WW REA. Questions from the floor were answered by all.

### 2022 Operations Budget

Jean-Anne Sjolín, Office Manager, presented the operations budget with explanations.

### Election of Directors

Two members declared interest for two vacant positions and were confirmed by acclamation for three-year terms – they are Neil Stone and Kevin Cummings. Dean Knull thanked retiring Director Ken Adair for his service.

### Association Dues

Pursuant to the presentation of the 2022 Operations Budget and identification of the impending legal costs, the membership voted in favor of increasing association dues to \$15.00 per month. The increase will cover higher operational costs, including legal fees for the Wire Owner Agreement negotiation. Any excess would be assigned to pole replacements and recorded accordingly.

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 2022, the RRO is priced at \$0.09482 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For May 2022, the Battle River Power Coop monthly RRO billing rate is \$0.11572.

**Members are free to purchase electricity services from a retailer of their choice. For a list of retailers, visit [ucahelps.alberta.ca](http://ucahelps.alberta.ca) or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).**