

Pre-Owned Power Poles Available

As a result of the pole replacements in 2016/17 there are 72 power poles that are available for repurposing. If you are interested in them, please contact Dean @ 780.352.1348.

Thank You to all our door prize sponsors!

This year saw a variety of door prizes from locally produced honey to a selection of spa goodies to cuddly throws and much more.



Pictured: Door prizes and members and presentation to one lucky member by Director Ron Stevens (top left)

Annual General Meeting Report

Once again the West Wetaskiwin REA meeting was well attended and complemented by an excellent buffet dinner.



Pictured above – lining up for a delicious buffet. Front right – Vice-Chair Ron Midtdal followed by Battle River Power Coop Chair, Dan Astner.

The first presentation, **Understanding Your Bill**, outlined the look of the current WW REA Regulated Rate Option (RRO) bill and 'where your money goes' – that is the two main charges that make up your energy bill:

1. The cost of energy consumed, and
2. The cost of delivering this energy.

Energy delivery charges include two components: transmission (cost of moving electricity from generating facilities) and distribution (cost to carry electricity to the consumer's meters).

The only component the WW REA influences is the Distribution Tariff, established annually by the elected Board of Directors. A rate comparison slide reinforced the advantages of being a WW REA member and how the cooperative REA rates leave savings in member's hands.

The second presentation, **Cooperative Billing and Communications Agreement**, was presented by Battle River Power Coop (BRPC). It outlined changes to the RRO bill including having the WW REA logo at the top and identifying your contractor Fortis, as the system operator not wire owner.

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

The presentation also introduced the BRPC utility billing team – dedicated employees who handle WW REA member billing inquiries. It confirmed the On-line Account Access availability, reviewed the easy account payment options and provided an overview of the RRO transition process.



Pictured: 2018 AGM – left Dean Knull providing Chair report.

Chairman Dean Knull's report spoke to the urban/rural annexation collaboration with fellow REAs, the significant time and financial pressures resulting from this Fortis application and advised a decision is expected on, or before, July 2018.

Expanding on the Agreement report, he noted that this Agreement allows for enhanced communication with members via a monthly newsletter and how the RRO transition produced some very valuable learning. He acknowledged that while some members were impacted during the transition, there were no financial penalties as those were graciously absorbed by our partner, Battle River Power Coop.

He spoke to the collaborative spring radio advertising campaign with BRPC and WW REA that reinforces the advantages of co-op power and being an REA member.

From a statistics standpoint, Dean reported the following.

- The Board held 25 formal meetings
- The Directors were involved in 59 site inspections and adhoc meetings.
- WW REA added 5 new services including our first 3-Phase and has a total membership of 927.

The **MNP Audited Financial Report** reviewed high level financial details via a verbal and Power Point presentation and confirmed the REA is in a sound financial position. The report was approved.

Secretary Jean-Anne Sjolín presented the **Budget for 2018/19** which included calling for a motion to approve an increase in the dues from \$4.60 to \$8.00/month. It was explained that professional fees (e.g. legal) and increased travel and administrative expenses necessitated the nominal increase, which was approved.

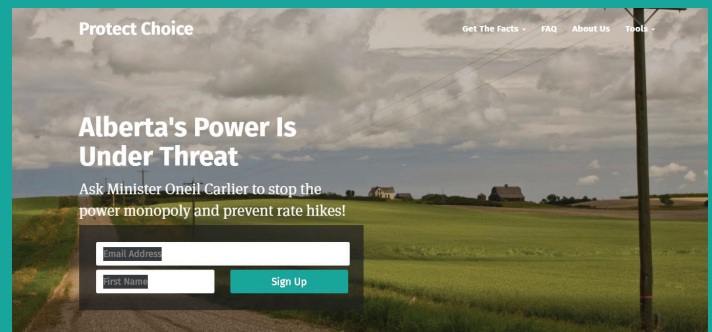
Director nominations and elections resulted in the following.

Dean Knull, elected for a three-year term.

Ron Stevens, elected for a three-year term.

Watch for final AGM details including important issues like vegetation management and member responsibility in the next newsletter.

STOP THE POWER MONOPOLY CAMPAIGN



The Stop the Power Monopoly is a movement by rural Albertans, for All Albertans because “We don't want our REAs to fall into the hands of multinational power corporations who did not want to invest in rural Alberta when we needed them.” If you want to voice your concerns to the government about this creeping monopoly, visit: www.stopthepowermonopoly.ca/

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD NOW!

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 March, 2018 RRO is priced at \$0.04561 per kWh, reflected on your enclosed orange bill. For April, 2018 the RRO is priced at \$0.06800 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