

Sun River Electric Cooperative

Ripples



Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone Numbers: 406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

Website: www.sunriverelectric.coop

After Hours & Weekend Dispatch:
406-467-2526 or 1-800-452-7516

If calling from a local number or cell phone –
please use: 406-467-2526 or 406-467-2527

Be sure to check your breakers before reporting outages.

FEBRUARY 2023

SREC EYEING FEDERAL FUNDING ACTS

AS I was contemplating what I wanted to share with our membership, I reviewed some of the topics covered in 2022. I shared some thoughts on the “base load” generation needs of our country and how we needed to be careful with the pursuit of renewables too quickly. I offered some insight into the EV – electric vehicle – build out timelines and the applicability in Montana and our members’ usage potential. Rates and system performance for 2022 was also shared. So, what next?

The most current issue that our management team is tracking is the amount of funding that is being dispersed through the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Both federal programs are pushing billions of dollars into the economy to facilitate some needed improvements and some speculative ideas that are, in some views, “save the world” programs.

One area that is getting enormous amounts of funding and press is the broadband area. I sit in meetings and watch the exchange of ideas, timelines and competitive bantering, and am so thankful that we have our neigh-

MESSAGE

FROM THE CEO

COLUMN BY **BRAD BAUMAN**



boring cooperative, 3-Rivers. They saw the need and opportunity, and had the vision to pursue fiber installations 15 years ago, and are so far ahead of the industry trend that it makes one proud to know they are a first-class telecom cooperative serving our area.

So, what will Sun River Electric Cooperative do in the pursuit of funding? We are taking a cautious approach to researching, positioning and submitting initial proposals for projects that are on our “in the future” wish list. The rules and regulations are still being written, thus the reason for our being cautious. Sometimes we need to be careful what you wish for because the results might draw you into an attachment that you wished you had never pursued. We will

put our toes in the water and see how the process unfolds. If your board and management team feel the opportunity and need match the guidelines of the programs, we will see what comes of our efforts. Tax money is your money, too, so if some of it can come back to be of help to us, then we have an obligation to do that for our members.

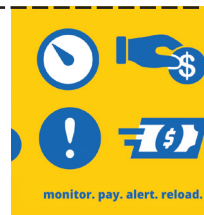
Many of the new funding resources may be programs that will allow for our members to pursue on their own. EV charging equipment, energy conservation upgrades, heat pump rebates, are examples of funding opportunities that our members may want to be a part of. The role that may be the best option for Sun River Electric is to be educated on these programs and to be available to help our members identify the proper funding source, appropriate timelines for submission and necessary information for the applications. We are watching, and if we believe that the opportunity for our members is a strong one, we will do our best to be a resource for assisting with applications.

That is all for this time around. I hope to see you all at our upcoming annual meeting. RM

REMINDER:

Bills not paid by the 10th of the month will be charged a \$10 late fee.

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SREC ANNUAL MEETING IS MARCH 31

It is time to inform our membership of our upcoming annual meeting and remind our members that cooperatives are democratic organizations that maintain their strength through member participation. Sun River Electric Cooperative's annual meeting is being planned for Friday, March 31,

2023, in the Fairfield Community Hall. We sincerely hope each of you will mark this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

This year, the two districts looking for nominations are: District 2, Upper Sun River, Simms and Augusta; and District 7, Highwood, Belt and Stockett.

The language below is taken directly from the Sun River Electric bylaws. The first section explains the procedure for nominating candidates for trustee, and the second section specifies the qualifications necessary for a member to be a trustee. ^{RM}

FROM THE SUN RIVER ELECTRIC BYLAWS:

ARTICLE III, SECTION 7: NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF TRUSTEES:

The Board of Trustees shall appoint, not less than forty (40) nor more than seventy (70) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than three members from each voting district, in which a trustee is to be elected in accordance with Article IV Section 2. No member of the Board of Trustees may serve on such committee. Each such committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative at least thirty (30) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for trustee for their respective district, which shall include one or more candidates. Any fifteen (15) or more members, residing within their respective district, acting together, may make other nominations by petition, not less than twenty (20) days prior to the meeting and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. No member of the cooperative can be nominated to become a trustee of the cooperative unless he or she has been a paying member for five consecutive years, and a resident and property

owner in the district he or she is to represent. The secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting or separately but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting a statement of the number of trustees to be elected, and the names and addresses of candidates, specifying separately the nominations made by the committee and the nominations made by the petition, if any. The ballot to be used at the election shall list the names of the candidates nominated by the committee and the names of the candidates nominated by the petition, if any. The chairman shall call for additional nominations from each respective district from the floor, and nominations shall not be closed until at least one minute has passed during which no additional nominations have been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate. Each member of the cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from each district. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be considered elected as trustee. 217010.

ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2: QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE:

At the annual meeting of the members for the year 1940, the trustees from districts 3, 4 and 5

shall be elected for a three-year term, trustees from districts 2 and 7 for a two-year term and trustees from districts 1 and 6 for a one-year term. In the years thereafter, beginning with the board members' next term, all trustees shall be elected for a three-year term. All trustees elected shall hold office during the respective terms for which they were elected, and until their successor shall have been elected and shall have qualified. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee or to hold any position of trust in the cooperative who: (a) is not a member of the cooperative and a bona fide resident of the particular district which he or she is to represent or (b) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the cooperative, or is an employee of the cooperative. (c) upon establishment of the fact that a trustee is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, it shall immediately become incumbent upon the Board of Trustees to remove such trustees from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Trustees.

APPLIANCE REBATES

Remember that SREC has appliance and water-heater rebates. Go to www.sunriverelectric.coop for details.



PRESIDENT'S DAY CLOSURE

Sun River Electric Cooperative office will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20

HIDDEN NUMBER

If you find your account number hidden in this issue, it is worth a \$50 credit on your next statement. There is one number hidden in every issue. Give us a call if you are the lucky consumer.

**406-467-2527 or
1-800-452-7516**

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Robert Pasha, V.P. 406-799-2292
Mitch Johnson, S/T 406-467-2109

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Russ Bloom..... 406-431-0168
John Burgmaier..... 406-463-2522
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