



Big Horn Rural
Electric Company

HIGHLIGHTS

LOOK FOR US ONLINE AT WWW.BIGHORNREA.COM



DISTRICT MEETINGS, >>> PLEASE JOIN US!



Each meeting is set to start at
5:30pm and dinner to be served at
6:00pm!

Watch the website and postcards
providing more information for
your specific districts.

05 MAY 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May 14th Shell Community Hall
May 15th Burlington Fire Hall
May 20th Ten Sleep Cafeteria
May 21st Meeteetse School
Cafeteria
May 22nd Deaver Town Hall



INSIDE

- District meetings
- Your candidates
- Energy tip of the month
- Attention Irrigators
- Use caution when burning
- Cyber Security

May



- 1- Bills Sent Out
- 11- Mother's Day
- 14-15, 20-22- District Meetings
- 26- Memorial Day (Closed)
- 27- May Bill Due
- 28- Mail-in Ballots Sent Out

June



- 2- Bills Sent Out
- 15- Father's Day
- 20- First Day of Summer
- 25- June Bill Due
- 27- Ballots Due

YOUR CANDIDATES

You are a member, not a customer. Cooperatives are unique businesses because they are owned by you, the member. This means you have a voice in the way we run the co-op. Members elect the co-op's board of directors and can run for a seat on the board if they wish to do so. Your vote and participation help shape the direction of the cooperative. Mail-in ballots will go out in May and you will have the opportunity to elect a board member from this district:

Mike Miller District #2



I was born and raised on my family's farm between Basin and Greybull. After graduating from Riverside High School in 2012, I attended Northwest College in Powell where I received a degree in engineering. From there, I attended MSU in Bozeman to further my engineering degree but ultimately ended up back on the farm. I worked on the family farm and in construction before landing at J&E Irrigation in 2016. Since then, I have worked through the ranks, and I am now the General Manager. I support our customers with the design and construction of various irrigation projects that help increase efficiency and productivity on their farms. My job at J&E has also led me to an interest in electricity. I hold a Limited Wells and Irrigation License through the state of Wyoming that allows me to do electrical work on center pivots and pumps. I also work closely with local electric coops and companies to support my irrigation customers with new and existing services. My wife Kirbi and I were high school sweethearts and married in 2017. We have since welcomed two girls to our family, Oaklie and Jersey. They both attend Laura Irwin Elementary in Basin and really enjoy the time they spend there. As a family, we enjoy weekend trips to Billings and the occasional trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota. I have served as a volunteer fireman at the Greybull Volunteer Fire Department since 2018.

Steve Helburn District #2



I was born and raised on a small farm outside of Bozeman, Montana, participating in 4-H and spending summers and vacations on various ranches.

I spent over four years in the Navy where I qualified as a First Class Diver and was discharged as an E-6. I attended Oregon State University on the GI Bill obtaining an engineering degree with highest honors.

I worked for 10 years with CBI Industries as a welder/diver and engineer and eventually Manager of the Underwater Construction Division. I then went to Oceaneering International for 20 years starting as General Manager of the Gulf Coast Division moving through General Manager South America, VP Special Projects, VP Americas to Sr VP Worldwide Operations responsible for over 4,000 employees and \$750 million annual revenues. CBI and Oceaneering gave me the opportunity to live and work all over the world including extended periods in places like Scotland, Brazil, the Middle East and Asia as well as Houston, California and Louisiana.

I served for over a decade on the Board of the Association of Diving Contractors International and was Editor of "Underwater" magazine for several years, Then I was Executive Director for a year and President for two years.

During that time, we increased our membership from about 40 members to over 400 and were the only industry to get OSHA to accept our safety regulations as their official rules.

I was awarded the Galletti Award for significant achievements in the field of commercial diving (awarded annually to one person worldwide) in 1998 and was inducted into the Commercial Diving Hall of Fame in 2005.

In 1998 I opted for a complete change of pace and moved to Bear Creek Ranch

north of Shell becoming a member of BHREA. I believe I was the first person to have renewable power (mini- hydro) on BHREA during which time I worked with most of the management and employees and gained a high appreciation for the organization. In 2019 I sold Bear Creek Ranch and built a house in the Scharen subdivision between Greybull and Shell.

Since 2019 it has been my honor to serve on the Board of the Big Horn REA. During that time, I have attended about six weeks of school earning my Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership and Director Gold certifications.

I have been BHREA's representative on renegotiating the wholesale power contract between Tri- State and the member co-ops and attended various meetings and training sessions with Tri-State, our power supplier and NRECA.

John Joyce District #3



I live in the Manderson area where I farm and ranch. with my wife Nancy, We have raised two sons, Sam and Jeff. Nancy and I are both UW graduates and have lived here on the farm since we were married in 1980. In addition to our farm operation, I manage a water utility that supplies drinking water to the southern Big Horn Basin.

I have been fortunate to serve six terms on the Big Horn Rural Electric board.

During my time on the board I have learned a great deal from the staff, my fellow board members and the training classes I have attended. It has been my pleasure to represent the members in the Ten Sleep/Hyattville area. I feel that

I have a good understanding of the needs of my district and that I would be an asset to Big Horn REA. I would appreciate your vote for another term on the board. Thank you.



April is National Safe Digging Month, a great reminder to always contact 811 before you dig! No matter how small your next home digging project is, remember to keep yourself and your community safe by contacting 811 to have the approximate location of buried utilities marked with paint or flags before breaking ground. Visit <https://www.onecallofwyoming.com> for more info.

USE CAUTION WHEN BURNING

Each spring, all across Big Horn REA's territory, members prepare to burn ditches and fields for the upcoming growing season. And, every spring, Big Horn's employees witness damage being done to co-op poles and equipment by "controlled" burns. Please be aware that burning or even scorching a pole will compromise the integrity of the structure.

Power poles are treated with a protective coating that prevents moisture from entering the core of the pole and causing deterioration. If a pole is scorched or blackened, the protective coating is damaged. Though it may appear as just a discoloration or slight burn, this is in fact, damage to the pole. This will significantly shorten the life of a power pole. This pole may then become a hazard and could cause an outage.

Big Horn once again reminds members to plan burning before you begin. It is much cheaper to prevent a pole from catching fire than to pay for a new pole. Members will be held liable for the replacement cost of pole(s) and/or equipment due to fire damage. This cost may vary from \$1,000 to more than \$2,000 depending on the structure of the pole and equipment. It only takes a little extra effort to prevent pole damage and help control costs for you and your cooperative.

Burning of pastures and ditches does not have to result in the burning/scorching of power poles. If there are power poles in the area to be burned, clear the vegetation/weeds at least four feet around the base of the pole and wet the base of the pole with water before beginning to burn.

If the fire does get away from you and a pole becomes engulfed in flames, immediately call the fire department and Big Horn REA. Do not spray water close to the power lines! Water and electricity do not mix! This may cause a short circuit. You and/or the firefighters could be in the path of that current and serious injury or death may result.

ATTENTION IRRIGATORS

You will see your annual Horsepower Charge on the bill you receive the first part of May. The minimum annual charge under the irrigation rate will be the highest of the following:

The horsepower multiplied by \$30.

For example - a service with a 25 HP motor would be billed $25 \times \$30 = \750.00

A minimum charge of \$200.00.

If you have made any changes to your irrigation, or have any questions please call our office at (800)564-2419.

Report any fire-damaged pole to Big Horn REA immediately. Not reporting the damage may cause a serious accident to happen later. A pole that has been burned through is likely to fall over. This can leave the energized lines about a foot off the ground. If a person comes into contact with the line, they most likely will be seriously burned or even killed. This carelessness could cost a life!

»»» ENERGY EFFICIENCY: TIP OF THE MONTH

Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time.



According to the Merriam Webster Dictionary can be defined as: measures taken to protect a computer or computer system (as on the Internet) against unauthorized access or attack. If you are playing Scrabble this word is worth 25 points alone and if you work in the cooperative world its value is priceless.

Big Horn REA is engaged in efforts to mitigate cyber-attacks and improve security overall of its computer systems and facilities. Member data, employee safety, electric systems and reliability are just a few of the things at the forefront of Big Horn's concern when it comes to cybersecurity.

Several "layers" of security have been implemented to protect the data and sensitive information of our members and our system as a whole. Examples of "layers" are password protection and two factor authentication. If you are a new member and have filled out a membership application recently Big Horn is requesting, you place a password on the account. If someone calls claiming to be you and requests information about your service, we would request the password. If you have been a member of Big Horn's for a long time and would like a password placed on your account please contact our office. If you call the office to pay your bill, we typically ask for your service address or account number to confirm identity. The payment information is encrypted, and Big Horn employees don't have access to the checking account number or credit card number on file once entered. Our employees are logging in with two factor authentication, backing all work files up to a physical and cloud based backup server and have annual training on what to look for in phishing schemes via email. One of the benefits of being a small cooperative is our employees work closely together and can quickly "sniff" out something if it doesn't seem right. Some typical examples of phishing would be an employee requesting another employee to make a wire transfer or a payroll change, in our office these examples don't make the cut, none of these would be done over email!

Physical cyber attacks can happen at substations and on equipment in order to cripple the electric grid for a multitude of reasons. Big Horn has cameras installed at most of its facilities. Big Horn continues to monitor its physical locations as closely as possible and continues to build stronger defenses for our infrastructure.

Lastly, with spring showers brings May scammers. Typically this time of year we get an uptick in reported scam calls. Please report any strange activity regarding your account to Big Horn directly. Take measures to protect your own data and don't hesitate to call us with any questions.



WANTED

We would love to hear from our members!



Got a scenic photo of a place on our grid or a recipe created by you?

Please email us at jazmin@bighornrea.com to have your photo or recipe added to our monthly newsletter!



If your submission is chosen to be published in our newsletter you will receive a \$25 bill credit!

>>> BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Joyce, President
Manderson: 568-2514
jnjoyce56@gmail.com

Willie Bridges, Vice President
Cowley: 548-2545
willieb@pryormtneng.com

Steve Helburn, Secretary
Greybull: 765-2900
stevehelburn@gmail.com

Sara Schlattmann, Treasurer
Otto: 921-2024
hortonwyo@gmail.com

John Fernandez, Director
Meeteetse: 272-1553
john.fernandez8614@gmail.com

FOR OUTAGE OR TROUBLE

Call the office number: ANYTIME
(307) 568-2419 or 1-800-564-2419

After 5 p.m., weekend and holidays all calls will be answered by our professional answering service, who will contact the appropriate person(s)



Big Horn Rural Electric Company

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

PO Box 270, Basin, WY 82410
(307) 568-2419
FAX (307) 568-2402
1-800-564-2419

bhrec@bighornrea.com
www.bighornrea.com

Staff and Crew

Dotti Brown	Jazmin Jara
Rusty Burden	Bret Klopp
Stacy Cortez	Wade Koehn
Clint Getzfreid	Anthony Nelson
Todd Herman	Bill Phillips
David Honeycutt	Tristen Snyder
Carrie Hunt	Greg Tharp

Manager: Jeff Pillow
(307) 272-0748
pillow@bighornrea.com

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
7:00am-5:30pm

Make sure to check out our QR Code to reach our website quicker, and follow us on Facebook for any outage updates!



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