



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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#### Departments

Customer Service ..... Option 3  
Engineering ..... Option 4  
Marketing ..... Option 5  
Operations ..... Option 6

**After-Hours Outage and  
Emergencies: (541) 536-2165  
or (800) 752-5935**

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday  
7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Closed Fridays and holidays

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### President

Leland Smith, Sunriver

##### Vice President

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

##### Secretary/Treasurer

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Vic Russell, Fall River

Robert Reed, La Pine

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Ken Wilson, Chemult

Bud Kendall, La Pine

Board meets the fourth Monday  
of each month at the co-op office.

#### STAFF

##### General Manager

Dave Schneider

##### Operations/Engineering Manager

Steve Hess

##### Marketing Manager

Teresa Lackey

##### CFO/Accounting Manager

Jami Bartunek

##### Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

##### Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

## Manager's Message

### Dear Member:

The short 35-day Oregon legislative session came off as expected: a dead sprint with a nominal amount of bills able to survive the legislative gauntlet. For electric cooperatives, the mission was to look out for potential threats and set the stage for the 2019 session.

The Legislature debated whether to cap carbon emissions on utilities, transportation and industry (Senate Bill 1507, House Bill 4001). Advocates of cap and trade contend a cap on emissions will allow Oregon to meet its ambitious carbon-reduction goals. Ironically, the proposal is being undermined by the state's own policies that devalue the region's greatest carbon-free asset, the Federal Columbia River Power System.

As a customer of the Bonneville Power Administration, Midstate Electric Cooperative is proud that our electricity supply is a renewable resource that is nearly carbon-free. We are part of a multibillion-dollar effort to improve fish passage at the dams, and the results are impressive. Testing shows that federal dams exceed or meet performance standards of 93 percent to 96 percent survival of migrating juvenile fish. The decision to increase spill over current levels provides questionable benefit to the fish and may even cause them harm. Increased spill will harm the economy of rural Oregon and the environment.

To make up for lost hydropower generation, electricity will most likely be bought from carbon-emitting resources such as natural gas. Replacement power will cost BPA ratepayers an estimated \$40 million a year. Oregon's spill program will increase carbon emissions by

approximately 840,000 metric tons a year—the equivalent of putting 179,000 additional cars on Oregon's roads or the consumption of two million barrels of oil.

We want to thank our political action advocates, ORECA-Action, for their support. We asked them to urge legislators to align Oregon's carbon policies before passing cap-and-trade legislation, and they came through for us. Cap-and-trade bills were defeated during the session.

Legislators have put a process together for carbon legislation going forward in 2019. We are not sure what this will mean for Oregon's electric cooperatives, but we will continue to be proactive.

### Linemen Appreciation Day

MEC depends on its entire staff to keep the co-op running smoothly, but on April 9, we honor our linemen. Whether day or night, weekday or weekend, if the lights go out, so do they. We hope you join us in thanking them. Remember, your power works because they do.

### Scholarship Applications Due May 7

MEC is offering seven \$2,500 scholarships for persons attending accredited colleges/technical schools. The application is on our website, www.mse.coop.

### MEC's Annual Meeting

MEC's annual meeting is Saturday, May 12, at La Pine Middle School. Registration, health fair, displays and barbecue begin at 10 a.m., followed by the business meeting at noon.

See pages 8 and 25 for more information on these topics and other MEC programs and services.

**General Manager Dave Schneider**