



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

16755 Finley Butte Road  
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La Pine, OR 97739

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541-536-2126 • 800-722-7219

#### Departments

Member 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

Alan Parks, Fort Rock

##### Vice President

Gordon DeArmond, Crescent

##### Secretary/Treasurer

Vic Russell, Fall River

Diana Cox, Christmas Valley

Bud Kendall, La Pine

Dick Luebke, Sunriver

Robert Reed, La Pine

Ron Sommerfeldt, Gilchrist

Tanna King, Chemult

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 Steinhauer

##### Information Services Manager

J.D. Powers

##### Attorney

Raymond Kindley

OR-23

## Manager's Message

Dear Member,

Happy New Year! 2020 is behind us, and we are moving forward. As we prepare for 2021, I am pleased to report your board of directors approved a 2021 working budget that did not include a rate increase and did not reduce any of our services to you, our members.



#### 2021 Annual Meeting

The 2021 MEC annual membership meeting is planned for Saturday, May 8. We are hopeful for an in-person meeting this year. We will keep you updated.

District 1 (Lazy River), District 2 (South La Pine), District 8 (Christmas Valley) and District 9 (Sunriver) are up for election this year. Candidates to represent those districts may be nominated for director by filing a petition signed by at least 15 members of the cooperative who reside in that district. Petitions are available at MEC's office and must be filed on or before Tuesday, March 9.

For more information about directors' qualifications and duties, call 541-536-2126, option 5. See page 8 for detailed descriptions of Districts 1, 2, 8 and 9.

#### Oregon Threatens Lawsuit Over Columbia and Snake River Dam Operations

Last July, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bonneville Power Administration and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation—with input from tribal nations and Northwest states—released the Columbia River System Operations Final Environmental Impact Statement. The report concluded the best option for fulfilling the objectives of improving salmon survival, providing a reliable electric grid and reaching the Northwest's clean energy future is to maintain the four lower Snake River dams with monitoring flexible operations.

During Thanksgiving week, the state of Oregon filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue the federal government again on the Columbia River System Operations. The hushed nature of this filing—there is no press release or public notice on its website—is disconcerting because only the month prior, Gov. Kate Brown joined the governors of Washington, Idaho and Montana in signing a letter declaring their commitment to a collaborative effort with regional stakeholders.

Unfortunately, Oregon seems intent to break from this collaborative approach and barrel ahead with dam breaching, which will have a significantly negative impact on the environment and communities of the Northwest.

We urge Gov. Brown to reconsider the threat of litigation and set an example showing she is committed to leading the region in a new, collaborative direction for the good of our state and region.

**Dave Schneider**  
General Manager