



PRECorp News

OCTOBER 2022

New CEO welcomed, Board members elected at 77th Annual Meeting in Gillette



PRECorp photo

Outgoing PRECorp CEO Mike Easley, left, and departing Board President Reuben Ritthaler, middle, are recognized by PRECorp CEO Brian Mills, right, during the 77th Annual Meeting.

New PRECorp CEO Brian Mills laid out his vision for the 77-year-old electric cooperative during his first address to the cooperative membership at the PRECorp Annual Meeting Saturday, August 27.

Mills discussed how the cooperative makes long-range strategic plans that take a measured approach to adapt to changes in the economy, technology, and the energy

industry overall. Mills will lead the next round of strategy development in the coming months to “re-snap the line” on the direction of the cooperative. Part of that development is the integration of the Shoot for the Moon logo into the everyday business of the cooperative.

“We’re going to take a step back and reassess the needs of the organization and the environment that we’re doing business in,” Mills said.

During the meeting, Mills thanked departing Board President Reuben Ritthaler after 38 years of service to the cooperative. “Every decision we make there is a lot of research and consideration,” Ritthaler said. “Our staff and employees are the ones who run the coop. Our employees have come through declining sales, harsh conditions, retirements, and other stressful economic things going on.”

The event signaled change for PRECorp with Mills taking the helm and the Board in transition to a new president, Jim Purdy, when the Board voted him in at its reorganizational meeting September 20.

During the Annual Meeting, members re-elected incumbent directors Gerry Geis and Purdy, and elected Ty Miller to the Weston County seat Ritthaler vacated.

Continued on page 4.

In This Issue

CEO Straight Talk

Time of Use hours change

Ritthaler scholarships awarded

Surplus vehicle auction set



BRIAN MILLS,
CEO

Our Vision:

We will be pioneers of excellence in the Cooperative Network while delivering extraordinary value to our members, embracing a visionary outlook, leveraging accelerating technologies, empowering our team and engaging our membership.

Our Purpose:

Positively influencing and improving lives for those we serve by providing reliable energy and services while paving the way for access and affordability.



Our Moonshot:

Drive down costs so that the first megawatt hour of energy usage is at or near zero cost by 2050.

Each October, cooperatives across the nation highlight their business model to help the public better understand the benefits of member-owned companies.

If you received this PRECorp News in your WREN Magazine in the mail, you are one of our member-owners. While electric distribution utilities generally have the same purpose of delivering power to customers who need it, not all are the same. Investor-owned utilities often refer to their clientele as customers, consumers, or rate-payers. Their bottom-line financial goals are to earn a reward for their shareholders and investors with profits derived from revenues exceeding operational expenses.

Cooperatives, on the other hand, view their clientele as members, owners, and neighbors. Our bottom-line financial goals are to deliver electricity at the lowest cost. Any revenue in excess of operational expenses, are returned to the member-owners over time in the form of Capital Credits.

Those who attended the Annual Meeting, or watched the video on YouTube, heard me discuss the benefits of being a member of a cooperative in these uncertain financial times. Our cooperative partners at Basin Electric work with us to make decisions that can help soften the impacts of inflation, keep rates stable, and control the costs in producing reliable power.

While we have highlighted a few ways a cooperative model can provide benefit to its member-owners, I wanted to take a moment to share with you the seven principles that guide the cooperative model. The PRECorp Board of Directors, leadership team, and employees are guided by these cooperative principles in carrying out the core business of safely delivering power to you. I'll list these principles below. Most of them appear to be common-sense ideas that preserve our independence as local power providers, but also allow us to choose

when to join forces with other cooperatives, and who we can partner with to best benefit the PRECorp membership.

- 1. Open and Voluntary Membership** – PRECorp is obligated to serve power to those who request it in our service territory.
- 2. Democratic Member Control** – PRECorp members elect their fellow constituents and neighbors to serve on the Board of Directors, who carry out the duty of making the policy and financial decisions for the cooperative.
- 3. Members' Economic Participation** – PRECorp members can earn capital credits based on their power usage over time. Essentially, each member owns their respective piece of the cooperative.
- 4. Autonomy and Independence** – PRECorp chooses its own long-term strategy, based on what is best for the PRECorp membership.
- 5. Education, Training, and Information** – PRECorp provides information to its members on the safe and efficient use of electricity and associated energy technologies.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives** – PRECorp is a member of a variety of cooperatives who provide wholesale power, as well as insurance, financial, and communications services.
- 7. Concern for Community** – PRECorp employees share their time and the PRECorp Foundation provides funds to local non-profit organizations that support education, veterans, seniors, families in crisis, community development, and other local development efforts.

The cooperative model has proven over time its ability to grow and serve its membership through many types of challenges. It is you, the member-owners, working together that provides the strength of the model. On behalf of all the employees, thank you for your active participation in your Powder River Energy Corporation.



PRECORP photo

Bob Cobler of Pine Haven stands with his new Polaris Ranger side-by-side he won in the Apprentice Lineman Scholarship fundraising drawing August 27. Thanks to everyone who supported this effort.

Events Calendar

The list of PRECorp events includes Board meeting dates, holidays, telephone town hall meetings, and more.

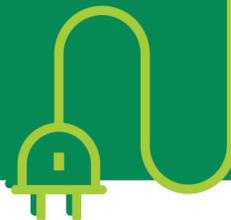
- **Tuesday, October 18** - PRECorp Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Sundance.
- **Tuesday, October 25** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, 9:00 a.m., Gillette.
- **Friday, November 11** - Veterans Day Holiday, PRECorp offices closed. Call 1-888-391-6220 with an outage.
- **Tuesday, November 15** - PRECorp Board of Directors Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Gillette.
- **Tuesday, November 22** - PRECorp Foundation Board meeting, 9 a.m., teleconference.
- **Thursday and Friday, November 24-25** - Thanksgiving Holiday, PRECorp offices closed. Call 1-888-391-6220 with an outage.
- **Wednesday, November 30** - PRECorp CEO Telephone Town Hall meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- **Monday, December 26** - Christmas Day Holiday observed, PRECorp offices closed. Call 1-888-391-6220 with an outage.
- **Monday, January 2** - New Year's Day Holiday observed, PRECorp offices closed. Call 1-888-391-6220 with an outage.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

With winter weather on the way, now is the time to seal drafty windows. If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed.

Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weatherstripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials. Visit www.energy.gov/energysaver to learn how and where to seal air leaks.

Source: energy.gov



Annual Meeting...

from page 1.



PRECorp photos

Above, PRECorp Secretary-Treasurer Gerry Geis discusses the financial performance of the cooperative and its member-focused long-range planning.

Below, departing PRECorp Board President Reuben Ritthaler delivers the President's report at the Annual Meeting.



There were 143 PRECorp members officially registered, with another 165 voting in advance. While Miller and Geis were unopposed, Purdy was re-elected over Tom Cash in the Johnson County race by a vote of 174-105.

Mills said that Ritthaler is well-known in the state, region, and nationally. "He always put the membership first. That is the cooperative way, for all of those who have worked with him," Mills said.

Mills took another moment when he thanked his mentor and retiring CEO Mike Easley. "One of the things he has done is keep a list of things 'not to do as CEO' and I'm going to get a hard copy of that," Mills said. "More impressionable for me is your persistence to know himself and lead himself."

Easley commended the PRECorp Board of Directors, past and present, for their service to the membership. He particularly recognized past board presidents Tom Davis, Walt Christensen, and Reuben Ritthaler.

Mills also touted the benefits of the cooperative model and the real benefits PRECorp members see in capital credits, power cost controls, and rate stability.

PRECorp Board Treasurer Geis delivered the cooperative's financial report. "After a few years of shrinking, last year we grew. It is really nice to see," Geis said. "We increased 2.4% last year, which is huge."

Jordyn Crews, Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp attendee representing PRECorp, also gave a brief update of her experiences.

Following the meeting, members were treated to a barbecue lunch and 43 door prize drawings. Thank you to valued PRECorp partners JW Services of Sundance, and K and K Auto Repair of Gillette for sponsoring many of these prizes. Prior to the meeting, members were offered free wellness blood draws. During the afternoon, a limited group toured the Dry Fork Station power plant north of Gillette.

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, August 26, at Buffalo High School.



PRECORP photos

Above, PRECorp members viewed some new technological tools ranging from a weather station to remote meter communications and drone technology during the annual meeting at Gillette Cam-Plex Energy Hall.

Right, PRECorp members serve as election judges as they tally the votes from the hundreds of ballots cast in the 2022 director elections.



Time of Use discount hours extended

PRECorp's Time-of-Use Rate is being extended two more daytime hours from October through May.



Members can achieve lower off-peak rates for electricity usage from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning in October. Previously it was 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

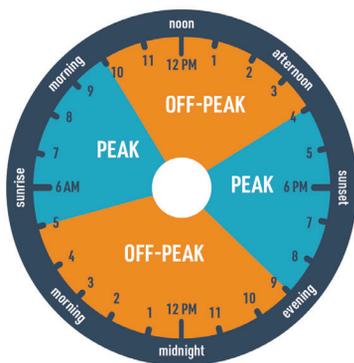
This rate option is one more way PRECorp provides members with affordable rates and options that fit their individual energy needs. The concept behind this program is fairly simple: rather than a single flat rate for each unit of energy used (e.g. kWh), you pay different rates for the electricity you use based on the time of day and season. Under this vol-

untary rate option, *when* you consume electricity is just as important as the amount of electricity you use.

On Time-of-Use, rates are lower during midday and overnight because of the decreased demand for electricity during those times. To help lower costs, you can shift energy use to off-peak periods (when electricity prices are lowest). Our Time-of-Use Rate also changes seasonally, because electricity demand differs between summer months and the rest of the year. These rates can make a big difference for members particularly in the areas of heating and cooling; major appliances; and water pumping equipment.

To learn more contact your Member Service Representative at 800-442-3630.

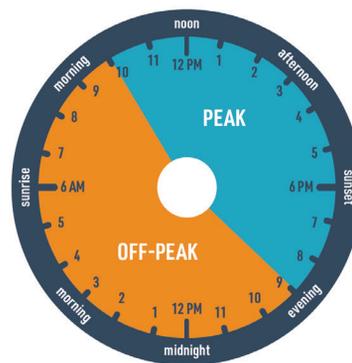
TIME OF USE - OCTOBER THROUGH MAY



THE TIME OF USE RATE PLAN HAS TWO PERIODS:

- \$ **Lowest price (OFF-PEAK):**
14 hours each day
- \$\$ **Highest price (PEAK):**
10 hours each day

TIME OF USE - JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER



THE TIME OF USE RATE PLAN HAS TWO PERIODS:

- \$ **Lowest price (OFF-PEAK):**
13 hours each day
- \$\$ **Highest price (PEAK):**
11 hours each day

Budget Billing can shave the seasonal peaks

Did you have high power bills during this year's extended cold spell or heat wave? Unless you had Budget Billing, you likely aren't looking forward to going through that again. Budget Billing smooths out the peaks and valleys caused by seasonal fluctuations in usage.

PRECorp offers a Budget Billing program for residential members to help even out seasonal spikes in power usage over an 11-month period. Your account must be current and have at least 12 months of service history to enroll.

Annual billing is averaged - with a 5% buffer built in - to enable members to budget and pay a fixed amount for their power bill each month. The monthly budget amount needs to be paid for 11 successive months with the final, or 12th

month's, payment being a settlement (or clearing) amount equal to the difference between the total payments made during the prior 11 months and the actual amount due for the 12-month period. The clearing month will always be the October-dated billing for September usage, regardless of what month the plan was made effective. The October statement will reflect the new monthly budget amount, which is recalculated based on the average usage over the past 12 months.

October is a great time to sign up, before winter sets in. If you are interested in signing up for Budget Billing, please contact a Member Service Representative at 1-800-442-3630 to help get you set up.

Foundation provides preschool tuition assistance in memory of Shayna Ritthaler

The Powder River Energy Foundation awarded preschool tuition scholarships totaling \$3,450 to students at five preschools in Crook and Weston counties. This is the third distribution in a sustaining preschool tuition assistance program as part of the Shayna Ritthaler Memorial Scholarship.



The Powder River Energy Foundation (PRECorp Foundation) Board of Directors awarded funds to Weston County Children's Center/Region III Developmental Services, Sundance Kids Prints Preschool, and Sundance Little Ones Preschool.

The scholarship fund was established after the tragic 2019 homicide death of Shayna Ritthaler, a high school student with ties to Moorcroft and Upton high schools. Shayna (pictured above) enjoyed her life with her sister Josalyn, and their grandparents Reuben and Shelly Ritthaler, on their ranch near Upton.

Region III provides early intervention and special education services for birth to school-age children. Their

service areas include Crook and Weston counties, with preschools in Newcastle, Upton, and Moorcroft. The Sundance preschools provide preschool education and kindergarten readiness to children ages four and five.

"This distribution of scholarship funds is part of an ongoing effort to support early childhood education in memory of Shayna," said Foundation Executive Director Jeff Bumgarner.

"In 2021 we raised more than \$50,000 in the raffle of a donated '72 Mustang Mach I. According to the wishes of the car's donor, we have expanded the scholarship to more students in more preschools. This is a critical part of the Foundation's overall mission to help working families in need in northeast Wyoming. These students will benefit from extra days in their preschool programs to help them be ready to start kindergarten on Day 1."

Bumgarner said the scholarship fund is being managed to last until at least the year 2040 to provide for future generations of students.



**Where can a career with PRECorp take you?
If you're ready to reach new heights, consider Powder River Energy.**

Go to www.precorp.coop/employment-opportunities for more information.

PRECorp vehicles up for sale on eBay Oct. 21-31

Retired PRECorp surplus vehicles will be up for auction on eBay on October 21, 2022.

Beginning at 8 p.m., one unit will be listed every 15 minutes until all units are listed. This will allow for one closing every 15 minutes beginning at 8 p.m. on October 31, 2022, in the event an individual is bidding on more than one unit.

The units pictured and described at the right will be listed in the vehicle auction October 21 through October 31.

These vehicles were used for field service work. They have been regularly serviced and records are available. The truck was actively working in the field until the day it was retired from the fleet. All decals will be removed prior to sale, and trucks will be cleaned.

All units can be viewed at PRECorp Fleet office in Gillette if desired.

How to access PRECorp unit information on eBay:

1. Starting October 21, go to www.ebay.com
2. At top of page to the far right click on "Advanced"
3. On the "Advanced Search Page", scroll down the page to "Sellers"
4. Check the box titled "Only items show from:"
5. In the blank box, type in: *vehiclesinwyoming*
6. Click on "Search", or hit "Enter"
7. The PRECorp vehicles for auction will appear on the start date and time of the sale.

Once the auction ends, eBay will send out a notification to the winning buyer and PRECorp. At that point, PRECorp will e-mail the buyer with information on how to make contact, payment, and where to pick up the unit.



Unit 4008: 2013 Ford F-350 Superduty; 6.2L V8 gasoline engine; 4x4 automatic, super cab; 144,963 miles



Unit 4017: 2017 Ford F-550; 6.7L V8 diesel engine; 4x4 automatic, single cab; 112,119 miles



Unit 4021: 2014 Ford F-350 Superduty; 6.2L V8 gasoline engine; 4x4 automatic, super cab; 127,748 miles



Unit 4034: 2015 Ford F-250; 6.2L V8 gasoline engine; 4x4 automatic, extended cab; 208,918 miles



Unit 4047: 2015 Ford F-350 Superduty; 6.2L V8 gasoline engine; 4x4 automatic, super cab; 130,461 miles



Unit 4056: 2015 Ford F-550; 6.7L V8 diesel engine; 4x4 automatic, single cab; 162,576 miles

Note to bidders:

Prior to the opening of the sale on October 21, please obtain more information via e-mail at fleet@precorp.coop. This is the only source of information on these items prior to the opening of the sale. Please do not inquire with our offices or outposts because they do not have information on these vehicles. Details of each unit along with pictures will be on eBay at the start of the sale.

Regular business: 1-800-442-3630 Report an outage: 1-888-391-6220

www.precorp.coop

Powder River Energy Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.