

April 2021

Newsletter



82nd Annual Meeting

When:

Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7:00pm
Meeting will open to attendees at 6:30pm

Where:

Virtually on Zoom

Meeting ID: 825 440 8828 **Passcode:** ocec82

A link to the meeting will also be available on our homepage
www.ocec.coop

or Call in

1-253-215-8782

Meeting ID: 825 440 8828

Passcode: 142672

Election for the two open Board positions will be conducted. You should have already received your election package as it was mailed 3/24/21.

This year's Annual Meeting program "The Power of Fire Preparedness, OCEC's Wildfire Mitigation Efforts". This program will include the following panel of speakers:

- **Dr. Susan Prichard** – Forest ecologist with a specialty in wildfire ecology with the University of Washington. Her main interests are the effects of fire and other disturbances on forest dynamics, climatic change on forest ecosystems, and fuel treatment options to mitigate wildfire effects. Prichard lives near Winthrop.
- **Michael Lui** – Retired Forest Service District Ranger in the Methow and currently with Conservation Northwest.
- **Samuel Israel** – Contract forester and currently with Methow Valley Citizens Council.
- **David Gottula** – OCEC General Manager, David will discuss the possible use of Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) during times of extreme red-flag weather conditions.

Hours:

Monday - Thursday
7:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Office Info:

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OCEC PHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE

OCEC recently upgraded the office phones to a new VoIP system. This upgrade has allowed us to streamline our phone system operations. Our main phone (509) 996-2228 and our (800) 710-2228 numbers are now our only phone lines. If you may have saved one of our alternate phone numbers in the past you will need to update your contact saved for OCEC. We will continue to use Cooperative Response Center for all of our after-hours call processing.

REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS AVAILABLE

Okanogan County Electric Cooperative (OCEC) administers two USDA Revolving Loan (RLF) grants for economic development in the Methow Valley. As these funds are paid back OCEC is able to loan the funds out over and over again. Currently OCEC is looking for projects in our community to loan zero interest money to. The maximum loan period is 10 years with a 1% administrative fee. There is currently a total of \$160,000 available for lending.

The type of projects that would be eligible include:

- Municipal community development & service projects
- Non-profit business incubators
- Rural medical services
- Education & training to enhance economic opportunities for rural residents
- Advanced telecommunications
- Land & building acquisition
- Land & environmental improvements
- New building construction
- Building renovation
- Machinery & equipment
- Community infrastructure & facilities
- Business startup or expansion
- Civic & other types of projects approved by the OCEC board of directors which are compatible with the stated Revolving Loan Fund guidelines

The applications will be considered on the following objectives: projects impact on community, demonstrated ability to repay debt, credit worthiness of applicant, adequate collateral coverage, management capability & borrower reputation, equity commitment & adequate level of working capital, leveraging of other funding sources, job creation and/or retention, viability of marketing and/or operating plan, evaluation of project's probability of success and project readiness.

OCEC is currently accepting letters of request for loan funds through May 13, 2021.

Please mail requests to RFL Committee, Okanogan County Electric Cooperative, PO Box 69, Winthrop, WA 98862 or call Tracy McCabe at 996-2228 for additional information.