



## June 2025 Newsletter

### CONTRACT CREWS

Outside contractors are hard at work assisting OCEC with the fiber build-out, pole testing and right-of-way clearing. There may be sporadic power outages as the fiber project progresses. OCEC will attempt to notify members affected in advance of the day and estimate the duration of the planned outage. The contractors will be working from 7am through 4pm, if you experience an outage \*outside\* of this time frame, or you were not contacted regarding a planned outage please call our office at 509-996-2228. If you have any questions, please contact the OCEC office and not the contractors themselves.



Photo: OCEC, Olympic Electric and Northwind Aviation worked together to set poles for the fiber build-out

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### REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS AVAILABLE

OCEC administers two USDA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) grants for economic development in the Methow Valley. As these funds are paid back OCEC can loan the funds out over and over again. Currently OCEC is requesting loan applications for community projects. The maximum loan period is 10 years with a 1% administrative fee assessed per year. There is currently one loan fund with \$100,000 and one loan fund with \$65,000 available for lending.

The type of projects that would be eligible include:

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|--|---|
| • Community development & service projects   | • Machinery, equipment & leasehold improvements   |
| • Establish a new business   | • Community infrastructure & facilities   |
| • Education & training to enhance economic opportunities for rural residents                       | • Feasibility Studies   |
| • Land & building acquisition (easements, rights of way, buildings, facilities, leases, materials) | • Expansion, acquisition or conversion of a business (particularly when jobs will be created or retained) |

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**Board of Directors:** **Alaina Burtenshaw** [aburtenshaw@ocec.coop](mailto:aburtenshaw@ocec.coop) | **Alan Watson** [awatson@ocec.coop](mailto:awatson@ocec.coop)  
**Dale Sekijima** [dsekijima@ocec.coop](mailto:dsekijima@ocec.coop) | **John Rogers** [jrogers@ocec.coop](mailto:jrogers@ocec.coop) |  
**Linda Schoemaker** [lschoemaker@ocec.coop](mailto:lschoemaker@ocec.coop) | **Michael Murray** [mmurray@ocec.coop](mailto:mmurray@ocec.coop) |  
**Rick Johnson** [rjohnson@ocec.coop](mailto:rjohnson@ocec.coop) |

# REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS, CONTINUED

The type of projects that would be eligible include:

- Start-up costs and working capital
- New building construction
- Building renovation
- 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 June 19, 2025**

Please mail requests to Okanogan County Electric Cooperative, Attn: Tracy McCabe, PO Box 69, Winthrop, WA 98862. For additional information please visit [www.ocec.coop](http://www.ocec.coop) or call 509-996-2228.

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## 86TH ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The 86th Annual Meeting was held at the Winthrop Barn on May 5th. 32 members attended. After the general business and review of financials, Greg Mendonca provided a review of the accomplishments of the OCEC staff and board in 2024 that included converting to a new enterprise software system, acquiring assets from Methownet.com and standing up Methow Fiber and Methownet LLC, completing an electric rate design study for implementation in 2026-2028, signing a 20-year power purchase agreement from a solar project located in central Oregon, and updating OCEC's strategic plan.

He also discussed two important projects OCEC is working on in 2025, constructing the grant-funded fiber network, and designing and engineering the grant-funded battery energy storage system project. Greg also discussed the plans for a potential rate increase starting in October 1, 2025, due to anticipated increases in the cost of wholesale power purchases.

Members asked questions about the new 20-year solar power agreement, the new grant funded battery storage facility and fiber installations.

### ELECTION RESULTS

There were three open positions on the Board of Directors for the 2025 elections. All positions are for three-year terms.

The voting tally was completed on May 7, 2025. The results of the 2025 election were:

John Rogers, Incumbent: 361 votes

Charles "Rick" Johnson, Incumbent: 359 votes

Linda Schoemaker, Incumbent: 357 votes

368 valid ballots were received.

75 Ballots Disqualified (void due to missing, incomplete or inaccurate signature or membership information, bad mailing address or received after the deadline).

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**Our mailing address is:** PO Box 69, Winthrop, WA 98862

**Contact us:** Toll Free: (888) 710-2228 | Local: (509) 996-2228

Email: [info@ocec.coop](mailto:info@ocec.coop) | Web: [www.ocec.coop](http://www.ocec.coop)