

ANNUAL REPORT

From electricity to connectivity,
High West Energy is your trusted solutions partner.

20 23



EMPOWERING TOMORROW LIGHTING THE WAY

We are excited to announce our 87th Annual Meeting that will be held virtually on Thursday, June 20, 2024, beginning promptly at 6 PM. High West Energy has had a transformative year, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to empowering tomorrow and lighting the way for our members. Thank you for being a member-owner of High West Energy and staying connected with our operations.

At High West Energy, we believe in the power of every voice to shape our future. This year we are holding elections for District 11 and 13. Members in District 11 have received their ballot included in this annual report since those members are the only members allowed to vote for that district. There was one candidate nominated, Jessica Crowder, for District 13 upon Director Prosser's retirement. Crowder is deemed elected by acclamation. For more information on each candidate, please see the following page or visit our website at www.highwest.coop.

Members can mail in their ballots, drop them in one of our drop boxes, or drop them off at our office in Pine Bluffs. Ballots must be at the Pine Bluffs headquarters no later than 3:30 pm on June 20, 2024. For your convenience, you can drop your ballot in one of our drop boxes by the end of the day on June 19, 2024. Ballots must be in the provided envelope.

By actively participating in the upcoming elections, you can empower our community, influence important decisions, and light the way for a brighter tomorrow. Your involvement is essential in ensuring that our cooperative continues to thrive and evolve in alignment with our shared values. As the electric industry undergoes transformative shifts, High West Energy remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering tomorrow and lighting the way for our members. Together, we embrace innovation and community engagement as we pave the path towards a brighter future. Join us as we continue to empower tomorrow and illuminate the way forward for generations to come. We hope to see you virtually for our 87th Annual Meeting!



Kevin Thomas
Board President



Jared Routh
CEO/General Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION CANDIDATES

It has been my pleasure to serve as your representative on the High West Energy Board of Directors over the past 8 years. I would be honored to continue to be able to serve as your representative.

A little about myself. My wife Diane and I have five children. Stuart is studying Ag/Business at the University of Wyoming. Justin is a junior, Hattie a sophomore, Kenny and Anna are twins in the seventh grade at Pine Bluffs High School. They are all very active in school and productive members of our family operation. I am the fourth generation on our family farm/ranch in the Albin area. We have a mix of irrigated and dryland farm as well as a cow/calf operation.

My time on the board has been very rewarding in learning more about the industry and advocating on behalf of our members. During the time I have served on the High West Energy board, we have been very fortunate to experience major growth that has helped fund an extensive maintenance program resulting in increased

reliability while keeping our members rates steady in a time that inflation has been a very big issue. Our reliability and quality of service has been increasing over the past several years and we are continually improving the metrics. The electric industry has and will continue to face major challenges such as supply constraints and firm capacity of power production. We as a board have been diligent in protecting our members' interest within our three-state area. I have had the privilege to serve as the representative from High West Energy on the Wyoming Rural Electric Association (WREA) board. I served a two-year term as president of the WREA board and through that time we strengthened the members voice on critical issues facing the industry on not only a statewide level but national level as well.

We as a board continue to explore new opportunities and provide services that improve our members' lives. We



MICHAEL LERWICK
DISTRICT 11 CANDIDATE

have been fiscally responsible within each of these areas including the wiring and computer/IT services that we provide. We ensure the services are not subsidized by our members for those receiving the additional benefits.

Our most important task as a board is to support and guide a system that ensures safety, reliability, and competitively priced electricity to our members.



MIKE ROMSA
DISTRICT 11 CANDIDATE

Mike Romsa is a lifelong resident of the Albin, Wyoming area. Since 1978 he has been a self-employed farmer/rancher. He's been married to his wife, Heidi, for 39 years, has 2 grown sons, Lukas and Levi, and has 4 grandchildren. Mike is still actively engaged in the family farming and ranching business raising wheat, corn, hay and running a small feedlot operation. In the past, Mike has served on the Wyoming Wheat Marketing Commission as a Board Member and as Chairman. He has also served on the Laramie County FSA Committee and on the Wyoming State Engineer Water Advisory Board.



JESSICA CROWDER
DISTRICT 13 CANDIDATE

Jessica Crowder has been a member of High West Energy since 2016. High West Energy is involved in the communities it serves, providing more than energy to its members. Jessica is excited to serve our rural communities as a member of the board of directors and understands the important role local electric co-ops play in keeping these communities connected and economically viable.

Jessica was born in Victoria, Texas and spent her childhood on a cattle ranch in central New Mexico. She graduated from high school in Comfort, Texas. Jessica's early years and education built an interest in agriculture and stewardship of the land. She holds a M.S. in Range Science and a B.S. in Range Management from Texas Tech University. Her M.S. research focused on prescribed summer fire and grazing management in the Northern Great Plains.

Jessica is currently the Executive Director of the Wyoming Stock Growers Land Trust. The Land Trust is focused on conserving agricultural lands in Wyoming for future generations. Prior to joining the Land Trust, Jessica was the policy director and a policy associate for the Western Landowners Alliance. She served as a policy advisor for former Wyoming Governor Matt Mead, a position she held for over four years. Jessica has also worked as a policy analyst for the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, as a technician for the Agricultural Research Service and as an instructor at Northwest College in Powell, WY. Much of her work has focused on natural resource management with an emphasis on keeping working lands intact and economically viable across varied land ownerships. Jessica has experience working closely with landowners, federal partners, state agencies, local governments and non-governmental organizations to develop policy and natural resources management options that benefit Wyoming citizens and Wyoming landscapes.

Jessica has been in Wyoming for almost 20 years. She enjoys spending time outdoors, riding horses, gardening, fishing, hiking and traveling, with her husband Jason and their daughter Adelynn.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

High West Energy, Inc. operations are carried out under the policies established by the Board of Directors. Each member of the Board of Directors is an active member of the cooperative and obtains electricity from the cooperative. Our directors share your interest in the quality of services High West Energy provides.



Michael Lerwick
District 11



Damon Birkhofer
District 15



Gary Smith
District 12



Kosha Olsen
District 16



Ed Prosser
District 13



Kevin Thomas
District 17



Jerry Burnett
District 14

Please plan to virtually attend our 87th Annual Meeting!

Members that attend will receive a \$20 credit on your electric bill and you will also be eligible for some great prizes.

Official Meeting Notice:

Notice of annual meeting of the members of High West Energy, Inc. This annual meeting of the members of High West Energy, Inc. will be held virtually this year on Thursday, June 20, 2024 beginning promptly at 6 p.m. to take action on the following:

1. The reports of officers, directors, and committees.
2. The election of one director for a 3-year term in District 11.
3. All other business which may come before the meeting, or any adjournment or adjournment thereof.

In connection with the election of two directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated by the Nominating Committee, which is appointed by the Board of Directors of the cooperative, pursuant to the bylaws

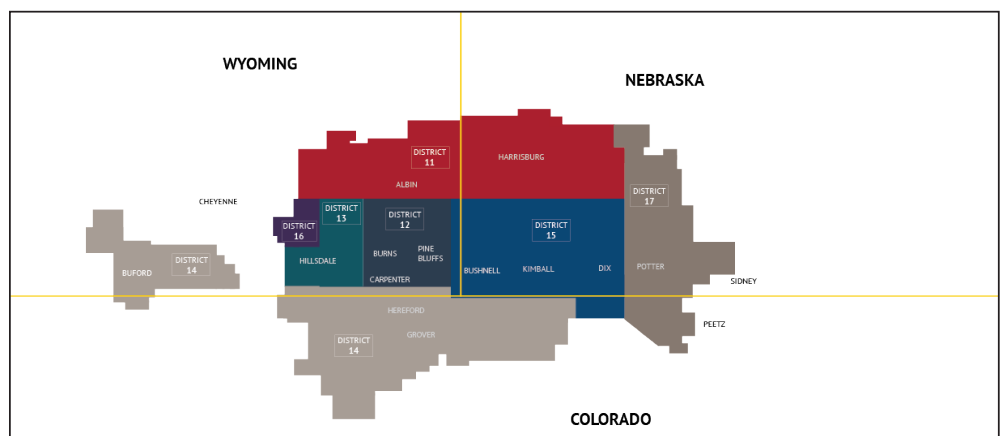
District 11 3-year term Michael Lerwick
Mike Romsa

District 13 3-year term Jessica Crowder

Dated this 22nd day of April 2024.

Michael Lerwick
Secretary of the Board

To register, please go to www.highest.coop.



2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

High West Energy, Inc.
2023 Annual Meeting Minutes
Pine Bluffs, WY
June 15, 2023

The 86th Annual Meeting of the members of High West Energy, Inc., was held from High West Energy's headquarters in Pine Bluffs, WY at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, 2023. The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Thomas who serves the members in District 17.

The invocation was given by Dave Crouse, Chief Information Officer of High West Energy.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Thomas welcomed the members, employees, and fellow board members attending virtually. He discussed how the Rural Electrification Act enacted in 1936 was a landmark piece of legislation that provided federal loans for the development of rural electrification projects in the United States. The funding of the act played a crucial part in improving the standard of living for many Americans and remains an important part of the development. The members in our service territory allow us to be able to give back to the communities. In total, we donated more than \$39,000 last year to different organizations including but not limited to the Wyoming Children's Society, the Kimball Hospital Foundation, and the Potter Volunteer Fire Department. High West also supported eight students with \$8,000 in college scholarships allowing us to invest in the future of individuals, communities, and the nation. One program that sets us apart from other electric utilities is that we provide aid through Operation Round-Up. Thank you to our members that volunteer to be a part of the program. In 2022, over \$32,000 was given to members navigating through different hardships. The board voted to distribute approximately \$764,000 in patronage dividends which indicates the financial strength of High West Energy. He thanked everyone for their

support and trust over the last year. He also thanked the board members, CEO/Manager, and employees for their guidance, dedication, and hard work.

OFFICIAL MEETING NOTICE

The reading of the 2023 Notice of Annual Meeting was given by Hank Bailey, Attorney at Law and General Counsel for High West Energy, Inc., whose firm has represented the cooperative for 45 years. It was determined that a quorum was present, and that the business of the meeting could move forward. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to dispense with the reading of the 2022 annual meeting minutes and to approve them as presented.

By-Laws.

A. The Nominating Committee submitted the names of Gary Smith from District 12 and Damon Birkhofer from District 15 as nominees for three-year terms. Because there were no additional candidates for District 12 and District 15, Gary Smith and Damon Birkhofer were automatically elected to the board in accordance with High West bylaws, Article II Section 5, and Article III Section 3.

CEO's REPORT

CEO/General Manager Jared Routh thanked everyone for being a member of High West Energy. He and his wife have enjoyed being part of the community and getting involved with the local communities. He thanked the employees and the board of directors for embracing the positive and effective changes that have been made to ensure safe, reliable, and affordable energy. By doing the annual meeting virtually, we have been able to reallocate the funds to other areas due to increasing costs. It is in the best interests of the members to continue to host the annual meeting virtually, however, we will be providing Power Hours in person throughout the year at various locations to engage with us.

In 2022, we combined High West Wiring and High West Digital Solutions back under High West Energy. By doing this we saved exponentially on income taxes and help to maintain competitive pricing. We also moved to 10-hour workdays, which provided us with many opportunities that have been beneficial with time management and have shown cost savings. In addition, we started to design The Sparks Newsletter in-house at a savings and would love to highlight businesses in our territory so if you are interested, please contact us.

Many utilities have had to increase rates due to multiple factors including supply chain, emission regulations, natural resource prices, and labor to name a few. We continue to brainstorm to continue to provide affordable energy and competitively priced energy and services, we are not immune to inflation. A price increase from our power supplier is unavoidable in 2024 causing us to increase our rates. The last base increase went into effect in 2017 and we feel fortunate to have been able to maintain our rates steady for seven years.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS & GENERAL DISCUSSION

There was no new business.

MISCELLANEOUS

CEO/General Manager Jared Routh announced door prizes would be drawn tomorrow and the winners will be contacted.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no other business brought before the membership, Hank Bailey called for adjournment. There was a motion and a second. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at

DATED: This 15th day of June 2023.

Michael Lerwick
Secretary of the Board

2022 & 2023 Financials

REVENUE AND EXPENSES

2022

2023

Total Operating Revenues

\$65,865,539

\$70,782,706

Operating Expenses

Purchased Power

\$38,558,334

\$47,837,679

Operation & Maintenance Expense

\$6,692,465

\$6,440,554

Customer & Collection Expense (Sales)

\$899,310

\$766,727

General & Administrative Expense

\$4,459,854

\$4,504,296

Taxes

\$487,628

\$575,287

Depreciation & Amortization Expense

\$4,385,476

\$4,607,913

Total Operating Expenses

\$55,483,067

\$64,732,456

Margins from Operations

Net Electric Revenue

\$10,382,472

\$6,050,250

Less: Interest on Long Term Debt

\$2,715,172

\$2,463,682

Interest Expense Short Term

\$2,218

\$3,482

Other Expenses

\$3,909

\$5,441

Total Margins from Operations

\$7,661,173

\$3,577,645

Other Margins

Non-operating Margins Interest

\$666,236

\$701,585

Other Investments, Margins & Capital Credit

\$811,397

\$819,549

Tri-State Generation & Transmission

-\$1,166

\$338,430

Total Other Margins

\$1,476,467

\$1,859,564

2022 Total Margins
\$9,137,640

2023 Total Margins
\$5,437,209

BALANCE SHEET

2022

2023

Assets

Total Utility Plant

\$141,618,882

\$151,048,642

Depreciation

-\$47,649,739

-\$50,585,599

Total Depreciated Value

\$93,969,143

\$100,463,043

Utility Plant

Current Assets

Cash

\$3,064,197

\$2,937,989

Receivables

\$15,208,163

\$15,955,903

Materials

\$9,205,673

\$9,880,508

Prepayments

\$457,070

\$455,705

Total Current Assets

\$27,935,103

\$29,230,105

Other Assets

Deferred Debits

\$170,902

\$120,053

Investments

\$31,930,589

\$30,650,776

Deferred Revenue

\$0

\$0

Total Other Assets

\$32,101,491

\$30,770,829

Liabilities & Capital

Patronage Capital

\$44,596,044

\$48,430,222

Other Equities

\$5,959,691

\$6,654,400

Total Capital

\$50,555,735

\$55,084,622

Long Term Debt

\$86,137,323

\$81,349,011

Equity

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

\$3,901,139

\$6,632,616

Other Liabilities

\$3,419,500

\$3,526,277

Customer Deposits

\$820,732

\$2,512,567

Total Current Liabilities

\$8,141,371

\$12,671,460

Other Liabilities

Regulatory

\$0

\$0

Deferred Credits

\$9,171,308

\$11,358,884

Total Other Liabilities

\$9,171,308

\$11,358,884

2022 Total Assets

\$154,005,737

2022 Total Liabilities & Credits

\$154,005,737

2023 Total Assets

\$160,463,977

2023 Total Liabilities & Credits

\$160,463,977

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, June 20, 2024, 6 PM

Held Virtually

Find more information regarding our
annual meeting in Sparks, on our website,
and on our social media platforms.

20
23

