



FALL RIVER CARES
One of the seven principles of a cooperative is "Concern for Community." Fall River has provided support to Music in the Park in West Yellowstone, Montana, and the Downtown Driggs Association to help fund musical performances, art displays, Shakespeare performances, and more.



RENT AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE FOR FREE
Fall River Electric's Tesla EV is available for owner-members of the Co-op to rent for free for up to three days. Members in the Ashton and Upper Valley area can rent in August, while Teton Valley members can rent it in Driggs during the month of September. Visit www.fallriverelectric.com/test-drive-sign-up to reserve your dates.



Fall River Electric Members Elect Board Representatives



Travis Markegard



Georg Behrens



Jeff Keay

Fall River Electric's annual meeting of members was conducted on a partly sunny Saturday, June 17, at North Fremont High School in Ashton, Idaho, where approximately seven hundred and fifty owner-members joined the Cooperative for breakfast. More than 1,500 ballots were cast via three methods: online, mail-in, and in-person for a board election that featured just three candidates.

Board newcomer **Travis Markegard** of Victor was the top vote-getter with 1,518 votes. He will serve his term from District 2, West Victor.

Georg Behrens was re-elected to his District 3 board position, which includes members in the East Victor area of Teton Valley. He received 1,487 votes. Current board member **Jeff Keay**, from the northern Island Park area, District 8, was also re-elected and received 1,489 votes.

Markegard has lived in the Victor area for the last 35 years and owns and operates Teton Valley Auto Repair alongside his father. He and his wife, Megan, have five children. He volunteers much of his time toward many of his children's activities, including coaching soccer and T-ball, and providing leadership to local youth as part of the 4-H shooting sports committee and co-leading the 4-H rifle shooting.

All three elected board members will each fill a three-year term extending into mid-2026 and will join the other six members that comprise the Fall River Electric Board of Directors, charged with overseeing the business affairs of the Cooperative and ensuring it remains financially sound. All board members must live within the physical boundaries of the district seat open for election but represent all owner-members of the Cooperative.

Fall River Electric's annual meeting this year was a prelude to the Cooperative's 85th year of being in business.

2023 Energy Expo Highlights





Where Service Matters

800-632-5726
208-652-7431

ASHTON

1150 North 3400 East
Ashton, ID 83420

DRIGGS

1605 N Highway 33
Driggs, ID 83422

WEST YELLOWSTONE

436 Madison Ave
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

All Our Offices Are Open

Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Husk Crowther
District 1
Rexburg/Rigby
Vice President

Travis Markegard
District 2
West Victor



Georg Behrens
District 3
East Victor
President

Anna Lindstedt
District 4
East Driggs



Brent Robson
District 5
West Driggs/Tetonia

Dede Draper
District 6
Ashton



Jodi Stiehler
District 7
South Island Park
Secretary/Treasurer

Jeff Keay
District 8
North Island Park



Doug Schmier
District 9, West Yellowstone

Bryan Case

Fall River Electric
CEO/General Manager



Fall River's *FLASHES* newsletter is printed on recycled paper and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. Products certified by FSC directly support responsible forest management.

Want your Fall River *FLASHES* faster? Click www.fallriverelectric.com and then select the tab "My Cooperative" followed by the drop-down menu "Fall River Electric Newsletter."

Keep up to date, including on power outage information, by "liking" Fall River Electric on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fallriverrec.

www.fallriverelectric.com

Jay Hanson Ends His Board Tenure

Jay Hanson, Fall River Electric board member from District 2, was presented with a plaque for his 18 years of service on the board of directors. Hanson was not eligible for re-election this year due to reaching the term limit requirement as stated in the Cooperative's bylaws. The presentation was made at the Co-op's board meeting.

Hanson served as the board's president, vice president, and chaired most of the board committees during his years of service. Most notably, Hanson chaired the Chester hydro committee during its construction, was on the Idaho Consumers-Owned Utilities Association (ICUA) in Boise, and most recently on the national Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) board.



Pictured (left to right); Georg Behrens, Board President; Jay Hanson; and Bryan Case, CEO/General Manager.

Hanson received the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) regional award for Outstanding Service (see November '22 *FLASHES* newsletter). During his thirty-three-year professional career, Hanson was a University of Idaho Extension agricultural agent.

Protect Your Property From Wildfires

Every year, wildfires burn across the United States and more and more members of Fall River Electric are living where wildfires can strike. But by working together, members can make their own property—and their neighborhood—much safer from wildfires.

Here are some action steps you can take to improve your home's defense to a wildfire:

1. **REMOVE** leaves, pine needles, and other flammable material from your roof and on and under your deck.
2. **SCREEN** areas below decks with wire mesh to prevent combustible material from gathering.
3. **COVER** exterior vents with wire mesh to prevent sparks from entering.
4. **INSPECT** shingles and **REPLACE** missing ones.
5. **REMOVE** dead vegetation from within five feet of your home.
6. **PRUNE** tree limbs so the lowest branches are six to ten feet above the ground.
7. **MOVE** trash, woodpiles, or construction material at least thirty feet away from your home or other outbuildings.
8. Visit www.firewise.org for more info.



Fall River Electric has a wildfire mitigation plan that describes the measures your Cooperative takes to reduce the threat of Co-op equipment igniting wildfires. Measures include but are not limited to:

- **Enhanced vegetation management** and right-of-way clearances around power lines and substations.
- **Revised power line design** to include more underground services, animal guards, and line coverings.
- **Identified high-risk transmission line** areas and implemented greater monitoring of those areas.
- **Revised recloser operations**, including disabling reclosers in many areas during high-risk events that may result in some longer power outages to allow crews time to inspect affected lines.



How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows that the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, small appliances, and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for the largest percentage of electricity consumption in American homes.

