



Tomahawk
Rural Electrification Association

**April 2020
Newsletter**



POSTPONEMENT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Due to health concerns around coronavirus - COVID-19 the Annual General Meeting for Tomahawk Rural Electrification Association scheduled for April 15, 2020 has been postponed until further notice.

Under the Rural Utilities Regulation, (Schedule 3, Standard bylaws, section 3) the requirements of the AGM are described:

The AGM must be called within 120 days of the fiscal year end;

The primary purpose (at a minimum) of the AGM is to:

- Review and approve the financials and other pertinent reports,
- Appoint an auditor,
- Elect directors.

The Director Of Utilities has waived the 120-day requirement until further notice. The audited financials that were to be presented at the AGM have been prepared and are ready for viewing on our website (www.tomahawkrea.com) or you may call (780-514-8732) or email (office.trea@gmail.com) the office and have them mailed or emailed to you.

STOP THE SPREAD!! The Tomahawk Board of Directors is taking the threat of this pandemic seriously and urge all REA members to be diligent in **SOCIAL DISTANCING, WASHING YOUR HANDS, STAYING HOME** and **HELPING YOUR NEIGHBOURS!** As a community, we have to come together and help those that can't help themselves! This is a very strange and uncertain time, let's get through this together!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

WE HOPE YOU'RE WELL!

I hope that this newsletter finds everyone healthy and you're able to carry on life in somewhat of a normal capacity while practicing social distancing and increased sanitization habits. All extra precautions to keep your loved ones safe from this virus.

As a business owner, I am feeling the effects of this virus not only in my daily business but in the operations of this business, the Tomahawk REA. I receive several emails daily from my suppliers in both businesses on what they are doing at this time to help "flatten the curve".

One of my suppliers shared his thoughts and I perceive them as positive during this time of uncertainty I am going to share his thoughts. (Thank you Alex Jovetic – President of PPPC).

I came across these words from the first inauguration speech of Franklin Delano Roosevelt the other day, and they ring true as a means to put into perspective the way people are feeling in the wake of the outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

"So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself - nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance." - FDR.

The pace and volume of information we readily consume can make the hair on the backs of your neck stand up and cause your heart to skip a beat or two. I know it is hard to escape. But...do limit the time you spend on social media and the news on television, as they are the purveyors of persistent stories that can often take us deeper into the rabbit hole. Remember a few things if you will!

Your best social network is FAMILY! Yes, those at home (where many of us now work), and of course your family of peers within this industry. To ease anxiety, at home, do spend time with those closest to you, where your time and thoughts are focused on other activities and subjects. With your work family, think of this as a time to strategize collectively about how to capture the opportunities of the future, and those which still exist in the present.

"This too shall pass." Know that it will, and it ALWAYS has. Our darkest hours come before the light of dawn on the other side.

TREA will work to ensure that you have information from many sources to aid and enlighten you in this troubled time. We will keep you abreast of government offerings and other resources to help guide us all to that dawn which has always come.

PERSPECTIVE is key to keeping our sanity and making it through this in a line of crises we have faced throughout our existence. Remember to heed the advice of government and health professionals, we will come through this largely unscathed. As a nation and stockholders in the human race, we have faced down much worse in our history. We stand a better chance today because of all we have in an arsenal to fight back with.

Yes, this too shall pass...and we will do so together as a work community...stronger...and with a greater realization that our wealth is assessed not by dollars and material gain, but by those to whom we may look back upon who helped lift us up and past our fears.

Tomahawk's office administration, Melanie will be posting any new information that we get to assist you on our website and Facebook pages, hoping that it can help you in any way.

When the provincial government had requested that gatherings be limited in number, we had reached out to the Director of Rural Utilities and expressed our concerns about the large number of persons that attend our AGM and the number of our members that are in the at-risk group. This resulted in the legislation being relaxed and that the 120-day requirement for AGM was postponed until we can safely have social gatherings again. Once we receive the go-ahead from the Provincial Government that we can have group meetings we will reschedule our AGM. In the interim, the Draft Audited Financial Statements are available by email or mail to any member that wishes to review these. The current Board of Directors, including those who's terms, were up, will continue to operate the REA in the best interests of our members.

We have been in contact with our DSO EQUUS who is implementing policies and procedures to ensure that the lights stay on while ensuring not only their employee safety but that of the members.

For the safety of our administration, TREA Board has implemented a policy that any contact with the administration be done by phone or email and request that you do not attend the TREA office in person. So effective immediately the TREA office is closed for in-person contact.

Our wishes to everyone to stay safe and healthy.

Cheryl Thomas
TREA Chair

REGULATED RATE OPTION

April Regulated Rate Option (RRO)

Energy is: 6.912 cents/kwh

Variable (non-energy) is: 0.951 cents/kwh

for a total of 7.863 cents/kwh

90-DAY UTILITY PAYMENT DEFERRAL

The following information was taken from the Alberta Government website at <https://www.alberta.ca/utility-payment-deferral.aspx>

“Albertans who are experiencing financial hardship directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic can work with their utility retailer to defer electricity and natural gas bills until June 19, 2020 without any late fees or added interest payments.

No Albertan can be cut off from these services or see their services reduced during this period.

You are eligible if you are experiencing financial hardship and cannot make your regular payments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, you:

- have been diagnosed with COVID-19
- have been directed by health authorities to self-isolate
- have lost your job
- are taking care of a family member

This applies to bills for residential, farm and small commercial: electricity consumers, who consume less than 250,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year and natural gas consumers, who consume less than 2,500 gigajoules per year.

Albertans who are able to pay their utilities are strongly encouraged to do so to allow greater support for those in need.

Albertans in arrears or behind in payments before the deferral program launched on March 18 are also eligible for a deferral.

To arrange for a deferral and repayment plan, contact your natural gas or electricity provider directly.

You can sign up for the deferral at any time; however, the deferral ends on June 19, 2020. After June 19, the agreed upon repayment plan will be implemented.

In situations where rent and utilities are combined, contact your landlord directly to discuss the circumstances.

Payments will be required at the end of the deferral period, but you will not be required to pay for the entirety of the deferral on June 19.

Contact your utility provider to discuss repayment plan options.

In addition to the agreed repayment plan, consumers may:

- put down additional payments towards their balance
- pay one month and defer the next during the period between March 18-June 19
- make changes or amendments to a payment schedule – including automatic payments

For support in negotiating a repayment plan that fits your budget or in resolving any service or billing issue, contact the Utilities Consumer Advocate at 310-4822, or email them directly at UCAhelps@gov.ab.ca.”

Note to All Members

All members are free to purchase electricity services through TREA's regulated rate tariff or from a retailer of their choice. The delivery of electricity to you is not affected by your choice. If you change who you purchase electricity services from, you will continue receiving electricity from TREA. For a current list of retailers you may choose from, visit <http://www.ucahelps.alberta.ca> or call 310-4822 (toll free in Alberta).

And the people stayed home.

**And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised,
and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of
being, and were still. And listened more deeply.**

**Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met
their shadows.**

**And the people began to think differently. And the people
healed.**

**And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous,
mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.**

**And when the danger passed, and the people joined together
again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and
dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal
the earth fully,
as they had been healed**

by Kitty O'Meara

Beginning May 1, 2020, monthly meter reads will no longer be the responsibility of the member. The Board is aware that meter reading has been an issue amongst members since TREA first signed on with EQUUS and they wanted to relieve you from that burden. As part of the new DSO Agreement with EQUUS, each member's meter will be read monthly by a meter reader.

Feedback/ Suggestions/Inquiries

We would like to hear from you! Please let us know if you have questions you want to be answered or topics covered in the upcoming newsletters. The office would be more than happy to receive emails, phone calls or texts with all of your suggestions!

We value your feedback and are always looking to improve our communications with members.

Email: office.trea@gmail.com

Phone/Cell: 780-514-8732