



Candidate Survey

2023 Lower Valley Energy Board of Directors Election

We asked Lower Valley Energy (LVE) to email surveys to all candidates for election to available seats on its Board of Directors. The responses we received are provided below without edits.

District 1

Dan Dockstader

Did not reply

District 6

Scott Anderson

- 1. Please indicate your three highest priorities if (re-)elected to the LVE Board of Directors.**

To provide safe, reliable, and affordable energy to our member-owners

- 2. Please describe specific new actions you think Lower Valley Energy should take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of human-caused climate change.**

LVE provides our member-owners with the option to purchase green power. We will continue our work with the Energy Conservation Works collaboration with Teton County and the Town of Jackson to develop a community solar project.

3. What steps can LVE take to increase equitable access to its programs, including Green Power and its conservation offers?

We need to continue outreach about green power and conservation and make sure we are reaching the various communities in the CO-OP service territory. Continuing to keep our electric rates low is beneficial to all of our communities.

4. If (re-)elected, what steps will you take to secure a resilient future energy supply for LVE's owners in the face of climate change and a changing regulatory landscape and energy marketplace?

We are working to assure a reliable supply of power through existing resources from Bonneville Power, Horse Butte Wind, as well as our small Hydro facilities. We continue to learn about new advances in energy including Small Modular Reactor technology and how advances like that can shape our future.

Max Moran

1. Please indicate your three highest priorities if (re-)elected to the LVE Board of Directors.

As a member of the Board of Directors I will:

- 1) Leverage utility scale Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding for local clean energy projects - The bi-partisan IRA is the second largest investment in rural utilities since the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. This once-in-a-generation funding is a huge opportunity to bring clean energy projects to our area that will create jobs and provide resiliency to our rural power grid. Co-ops must submit competitive proposals and I hope to bring my technical engineering experience to help us seize this opportunity.
- 2) Prioritize low electricity costs in our re-negotiation of Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) contracts - BPA is our primary electric provider, and LVE customers are proud of our low rates and low carbon energy sources. We (LVE) are currently in the process of re-negotiating these decades-long contracts and need to insure that we continue to receive low cost, low carbon electricity for the next several decades.
- 3) Help customers lower their utility bills by accessing state issued tax credits and rebates for energy improvement upgrades – the IRA has provided the Wyoming Energy Department with millions of dollars in tax credits and upfront payments for energy improvements. Confusion around accessing these funds has consistently posed a barrier for individuals seeking to lower their energy costs. I will make sure it is as easy as possible for LVE members – renters and homeowners – to get access to these commonsense cost saving measures.

2. Please describe specific new actions you think Lower Valley Energy should take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of human-caused climate change.

Local, cooperative scale clean energy generation and storage projects are heavily incentivized by the IRA. In some cases, direct payments of up to 50% of the generation and or storage projects can be made available. In addition to lowering our emissions, these projects provide resiliency to our local grid in a time where energy volatility and inflation is a large concern.

3. What steps can LVE take to increase equitable access to its programs, including Green Power and its conservation offers?

Equity is a huge concern in the clean energy transition. It is imperative that individuals and families are not left behind (and in the dark) as we continue the nationwide trend to transition away from fossil sourced energy. Helping members lower their utility consumption through energy improvements and access to conservation programs is the best way to ensure that unanticipated volatility in the energy marketplace does not disproportionately affect certain individuals.

4. If (re-)elected, what steps will you take to secure a resilient future energy supply for LVE's owners in the face of climate change and a changing regulatory landscape and energy marketplace?

Mitigating the risks of energy marketplace volatility and the impacts of climate change both point to developing a resilient and redundant grid, supported by local energy generation and storage. Energy crises, such as the East Jackson power outage of January this year, will continue to test our energy resources and readiness. If elected, I will ensure LVE continues to prioritize the redundancy of our energy transmission systems and readiness to act when a crisis does occur. Special thanks to all LVE employees and Town response volunteers who acted quickly and responsibly to prevent what easily could have been a life threatening winter outage.

Victoria Lee

Did not reply

District 7

Ray Elser

- 1. Please indicate your three highest priorities if (re-)elected to the LVE Board of Directors.**

Affordable rates, reliability (keep outages to a minimum), resource adequacy (with the push to electrify all things the demand for power is increasing faster than supply), and our employees.

- 2. Please describe specific new actions you think Lower Valley Energy should take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of human-caused climate change.**

LVE's primary source of power is hydropower from BPA. LVE has invested in the Horse Butte Wind Farm in Idaho and is evaluating the expansion of that facility. Additionally, LVE is participating in efforts with ECW to site and build a community solar project. LVE is evaluating opportunities in small modular nuclear power, and hydrogen as sources for Tier Two power.

- 3. What steps can LVE take to increase equitable access to its programs, including Green Power and its conservation offers?**

Concern for our community is one of the basic tenets of energy co-ops. We challenge our marketing department to take advantage of all forms of media to reach our members, so they are aware of all opportunities.

- 4. If (re-)elected, what steps will you take to secure a resilient future energy supply for LVE's owners in the face of climate change and a changing regulatory landscape and energy marketplace?**

We are in negotiations with BPA for our next contract for power beginning in 2028 with a term of 20 years. Part of that agreement is authorization for "power transfer" which is the ability for LVE to purchase power from non-federal sources and have it transmitted over the BPA owned transmission lines. This is critical for LVE to have the ability take advantage of opportunities to purchase power from around the region. One of the primary and important roles of management and the directors is monitoring the regulatory landscape and evaluating the impacts any changes will have on LVE; which is accomplished by directors participating in organizations, such as, NRECA, ICUA, WREA, NWPPA and others. These organizations keep us abreast on the local, regional and national level.