



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Annual Beartooth Co-op Member Meeting could be uplifting

Red Lodge, MT – The trustees and management of Beartooth Electric Cooperative expect to have plenty of good news to impart to their members at the 77th annual meeting of the co-op, scheduled for Saturday, September 26 at Roberts High School.

“We’re about to be in charge of our own fate,” said Arleen Boyd, who serves on the Beartooth board of trustees representing the Fishtail district.

“After four years spending astonishing amounts of money and time, we are about to see the end of financial risk and high wholesale power rates that came with our membership in the Southern Montana Electric Generation and Transmission cooperative,” said Boyd. She referred to the announcement last month that Southern had approved a plan for Beartooth to exit by October 31, 2015. Southern declared bankruptcy in October of 2011. A Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization plan for Southern, which allows Beartooth to exit with approval from Southern and the noteholders of the Highwood Generating Station debt, was approved by the court in July of 2014. As a condition of departure from the wholesale co-op, Beartooth Electric is now obligated to pay their share of the remaining Southern debt.

Other topics at the annual meeting will include an election for two trustee positions, and a report from the management team that took over on April 1 of this year.

Polly Rex, a co-op member who ranches southwest of Absarokee, urges her fellow members to attend the annual gathering. “As members, we have a responsibility to be aware of what the board is doing and how money is being spent,” she said. “We’ve learned the hard way how important it is to know what contracts are being signed on our behalf,” Rex added.

Although the trustees govern the co-op on their behalf, members control policies and direction by their votes.

“Our members need to stay informed for the decisions that lie ahead,” agreed Roxie Melton, president of the Beartooth board.

The annual business meeting of the members will commence at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 26, in the gym at Roberts High School in Roberts, Montana. The high school is located on U.S. Highway 212. For more information call 406-446-2310 or visit www.beartoothelectric.com.

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