



## **Big Country Electric Cooperative 22nd Annual Meeting of the Membership**

One day, two events!

### **Virtual Annual Meeting**

bigcountry.coop | Tuesday, September 27

### **Member Appreciation Open House**

4-7 p.m. | Tuesday, September 27 at each BCEC office  
Snacks and door prize drawings for those who stop by!

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

# Big Country Electric Cooperative 22nd Annual Meeting of the Membership

## One day, two events!

The annual meeting of the membership of Big Country Electric Cooperative will be held virtually September 27 at [bigcountry.coop](http://bigcountry.coop) in accordance with Article V, Meetings of Members, of the cooperative's bylaws. The annual report, video and director election results will be posted by 10 a.m.

The annual meeting of the members of the above cooperative will include reports to the membership on the following:

- The reports of officers, directors and committees.
- The election of two (2) directors of the cooperative.

The following members of the cooperative have been selected to appear on the ballot for the respective districts by the committee on nominations appointed by the board of directors of the cooperative or as nominees by petition, pursuant to the bylaws:

### DISTRICT 1

**Matt Mueller** (Incumbent)

3732 Paint Creek Road, Stamford, TX 79553

Nominated by nominating committee

### DISTRICT 2

**Kenneth Buerger**

13848 FM Road 600 N., Avoca, TX 79503

Nominated by nominating committee

**Zachary Logan**

1402 S. Orient St., Stamford, TX 79553

Nominated by nominating committee

Nominees by petition require 25 members' signatures and must be submitted to the cooperative not less than 20 days prior to the meeting. As of press time, no additional nominations by petition have been received.

Each member is entitled to cast one ballot using one of the following methods:

- Mail-in ballot enclosed herein (must be received by September 23).
- Online (deadline 11 p.m. CST September 23).
- SmartHub app (deadline 11 p.m. CST September 23).

Please read instructions on the enclosed printed ballot carefully regardless of voting method. Votes received by mail after the deadline will be invalid. Electronic voting will be disabled after deadline. Ballots cannot be accepted at BCEC offices.

Each registered member will receive a \$15 energy credit with valid vote.

**David Beaver**

Secretary-Treasurer

## Why a Virtual Annual Meeting?

As a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative, we take our responsibility to wisely manage our operating funds very seriously. We anticipated significantly increased expenses to produce a traditional in-person annual meeting and barbecue meal due to the high price of meat and groceries. We also expected a decline in attendance at the traditional annual meeting due to the increased cost of fuel and folks limiting travel.

Considering these factors as well as the high rate of participation in last year's director election conducted via mail-in ballot and online vote submission, your board of directors and management agreed that a virtual annual meeting was the prudent decision. However, we value face-to-face contact with our members and know that many of you want that as well, which is why we will host an open house on the same day as the virtual annual meeting. Please cast your vote and stop by to snack and visit with us and to be part of the cooperative difference in action!



MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER/  
CEO

MARK  
MCCLAIN

## Navigating the Curves

**SINCE THE BEGINNING** of Midwest and Stamford electric cooperatives in 1938 and 1939, our co-op has fielded a lot of curveballs. Two and a half years ago, with COVID-19, we were thrown the first big curveball that I've experienced as a CEO and it seems like the curveballs just keep coming.

What's meant the most to me is that no matter how many get thrown our way, your co-op board and employees don't bunt—we hit the ball with all we've got.

Hopefully at least some of you have seen the movie *Trouble with the Curve*. The Atlanta Braves scout Gus, played by Clint Eastwood, is salty, aging and rooted in his old-school methods, teetering on the verge of being counted out by technology and a youthful replacement. "He may be ready for pasture," management said. While the Braves and other teams' scouts drool over the No. 1 draft pick pitcher Bo, Gus isn't impressed. Spoiler alert (but there's a lot more to the movie): Eventually, Gus discovers that Bo can't handle a curveball, and thanks to a chance encounter between his daughter and unlikely, unsuspecting standout Rigo, Gus finds the perfect pitcher and secures a winning future for the Braves.

I see a little of the Big Country folks—and Big Country Electric Co-op—in Gus and Rigo: We may be a little old-fashioned in some ways, but don't count us out because an old dog knows his old tricks; we are a humble organization with humble roots, but we can handle a curveball; and we know relationships matter.

- ▶ COVID-19 threw us a curveball and we hit it, adapting and operating to continue uninterrupted service to our members from home offices and vehicles—despite experiencing a few cases ourselves.
- ▶ The February 2021 winter storm threw every single one of us a curveball, pushing us to our limits in a multitude of ways, but we made our way through it.
- ▶ Supply chain and shipping issues, material shortages and delays continue to throw us curveballs daily, but we adapt and find solutions.
- ▶ System growth threw us a curveball: For the past few decades, our system growth was a steady 1%. Over the past year, we have experienced more than 50% system growth, adding more than 30 megawatts of load. For perspective, 30 MW was the load size of our entire electric system from

Lake Alan Henry to Albany until recently. We've had to tap dance when prioritizing time and scheduling work to be done, but we've done it. We've had to search far and wide to find transformers and other pieces of equipment necessary to deliver electric service, but we got creative, found new sources and made it happen. We've had to play Tetris to fit in large horsepower loads while we press on building four new substations, but we've made the pieces fit together.

- ▶ Years ago, we saw a curveball coming with the inevitable retirement of a number of longtime co-op employees in every area, but we planned ahead for that—and thank goodness we did! Our partnership with the Western Texas College Lineman Training Program is bearing fruit. The first generation of program graduates that we employed are now reaching the upper classifications of linework and becoming supervisors, teaching new apprentices the trade beyond the classroom and ensuring that our system is in good hands for decades to come. The same goal of growing our own replacements is applied in our other departments as well; I'm proud to say that this curveball is one we hit out of the park.

Like Rigo, BCEC may not be a name that you see on big screens, but that's not where our name belongs. Our name is on little league fences, in show barns and on high school scoreboards. Our name is in morning coffee conversations because one of our lineworkers helped you change a flat, or the BCEC

Percentage of members participating in 2021 voting online or mail-in ballot who were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the voting process: **93.8%**

lady you spoke to on the phone was nice and helpful. We hope that when you need our help, you call on us because you know you can count on us corporately and each of our dedicated employees to handle the curve.

Curveballs will keep coming. We're seeing them in the natural gas prices and their effect on the power cost adjustment factor that we've communicated to you about. I'm sure there will be others. But





like Gus, we've honed our senses over the years to listen and watch for curveballs so that we can continue to meet your needs. This is what you trust and expect us to do—not just supply electricity.

Now, along the lines of curveballs, why a virtual annual meeting? As a member-owned not-for-profit electric cooperative, we take our responsibility to wisely manage our operating funds very seriously. We anticipated significantly increased expenses to produce a traditional in-person annual meeting and barbecue meal due to the high price of meat and groceries. We also expected a decline in attendance at the traditional annual meeting due to the increased cost of fuel and folks limiting travel.

Considering these factors as well as the high rate of participation from last year's director election conducted via mail-in ballot and online voting, your board of directors and management agreed that a virtual annual meeting was the prudent decision. However, we value face-to-face contact with our members and know that many of you want that as well, which is why we will host an open house on the same day as the virtual meeting.

We've navigated the curves together for 84 years, proving that the co-op and member partnership work. Please cast your vote in our director election—instructions and ballot are included in this report—and stop by to snack and visit us September 27. ■

## Big Country Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### CONTACT US

1010 W. South First St., Roby

P.O. Box 518, Roby, TX 79543

**Phone** (325) 776-2244

**Web** bigcountry.coop

### General Manager

Mark McClain

### Board of Directors

Steve Moore, President

Danny Helms, Vice President

David Beaver, Secretary-Treasurer

Todd Coker

Chris Estes

Carl Marugg

Matt Mueller

## Phones Answered 24/7

Roby  
(325) 776-2244

Snyder  
(325) 573-3161

Stamford  
(325) 773-3684

Toll-Free  
1-888-662-2232

### ABOUT BIG COUNTRY EC

BCEC owns and maintains more than 5,300 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 5,300 members in Borden, Fisher, Garza, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Shackelford, Stonewall and Throckmorton counties.

### OFFICES

**Hours:** Monday–Thursday, 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Friday, 7:30–11:30 a.m.; Closed from Noon–1:00 p.m. Monday–Thursday; ; Closed to visitors on Fridays.

### BCEC Headquarters

1010 W. South First St., Roby

### Snyder Office

1600 McCowen St., Snyder

### Stamford Office

225 W. McHarg St., Stamford

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online bill payment
- Electronic check
- Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover accepted for residential accounts

### VISIT US ONLINE

bigcountry.coop

# BCEC Nominations Committee Report

A meeting of the Committee on Nominations, as provided in Article VI, section 6.06 of the Bylaws of Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc., appointed by the Board of Directors, was held at the office of said Cooperative in Roby, Texas on the 23rd day of June 2022 at 8:35 a.m.

The following members of the Committee on Nominations present were Mr. Cody Roberts, Mr. Russell Beakley, Mr. Darrell Richards, and Mrs. W. Ferdie Walker. Absent was Jackie Buske.

The Cooperative's Vice President of Office Services Linda Key provided information regarding the functions and terms of the Committee on Nominations.

Linda Key acted as temporary Chairperson and opened the nomination for Chairman of the Committee on Nominations.

Cody Roberts nominated Darrell Richards as Chairman of the committee. Motion was unanimously agreed upon. Darrell Richards appointed Linda Key as Recording Secretary of the committee.

After full and thorough discussion of the purpose of the Committee on Nominations and; with only the members and recording secretary thereof shown above to be present and; upon a motion made, seconded and unanimously adopted it was resolved: That the following members of the Cooperative be nominated as candidates for a place on the Board of Directors, to be voted upon by the members of the Cooperative at the next annual membership meeting on September 27, 2022:

**District 1**—Matt Mueller

**District 2**—Kenneth Buerger and Zachary Logan

The order in which the nominees' names appear on the ballot was determined by a blind draw where appropriate.

The committee, having served the functions for which it was appointed and upon a motion made, seconded, and unanimously adopted, the Committee on Nominations was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

These minutes are to be presented and approved by Big Country Electric Cooperative Inc. Board of Directors at its next scheduled meeting.

Cody Roberts	Mrs. Ferdie Walker
Darrell Richards	Russell Beakley
Jackie Buske	

Candidates may also be nominated by petition.

# Director Nominees

## DISTRICT 1 NOMINEE



**Matt Mueller**, incumbent director and candidate for District 1, and his wife, LeeAnn, have two children, ages 20 and 18. Mueller owns and operates L&M Farms in Jones, Haskell and Stonewall counties. He has been a member of the cooperative since 2003. Mueller has served on the BCEC Board of Directors since 2007 and is a Credentialed Cooperative Director.

Mueller is president and general manager of the Texas Cowboy Reunion, president of the Farmer's Co-op Society of Stamford and serves on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes board. He and his family are members of St. John's United Methodist Church in Stamford.

## DISTRICT 2 NOMINEES



**Kenneth Buerger**, candidate for District 2, was born in Stamford and has resided in the Ericksdahl community most of his life. He graduated from Paint Creek High School in 1977 and then attended Texas Tech University for three semesters.

Buerger returned to Ericksdahl and began his dream career of farming in 1979. In 1990, he married Gina Grand. They have three children, Courtney, Katrina and Cheyenne, and one grandchild, John Walter Schmidt.

Buerger has been a member of Big Country Electric Cooperative since 1979. He serves on the board of directors for Ericksdahl Co-op Gin and the Haskell County Junior Livestock Association.



**Zachary Logan**, candidate for District 2, and his wife, Kristi, live in Stamford. They have two sons, Kagen and Braden, who attend school at Stamford Independent School District.

Logan grew up in Hale Center and attended West Texas A&M University. After graduation, he and his wife moved to Floydada, where they both worked as teachers. They moved to Stamford, Kristi's hometown, in 2009 to continue teaching and to farm. He continued teaching science at Stamford ISD until 2015, when he began farming full time.

He is a member of the Stamford ISD School Board and the Economic Development Corporation Board of Stamford and is a deacon and active member of First Baptist Church in Stamford. He is also actively involved with youth programs as a 4-H archery coach, and he volunteers with several youth sports in Stamford.

# Board of Directors



**Matt Mueller**  
District 1



**Carl Marugg (retiring)**  
District 2



**Chris Estes**  
District 3



**Todd Coker**  
District 4



**Steve Moore**  
District 5

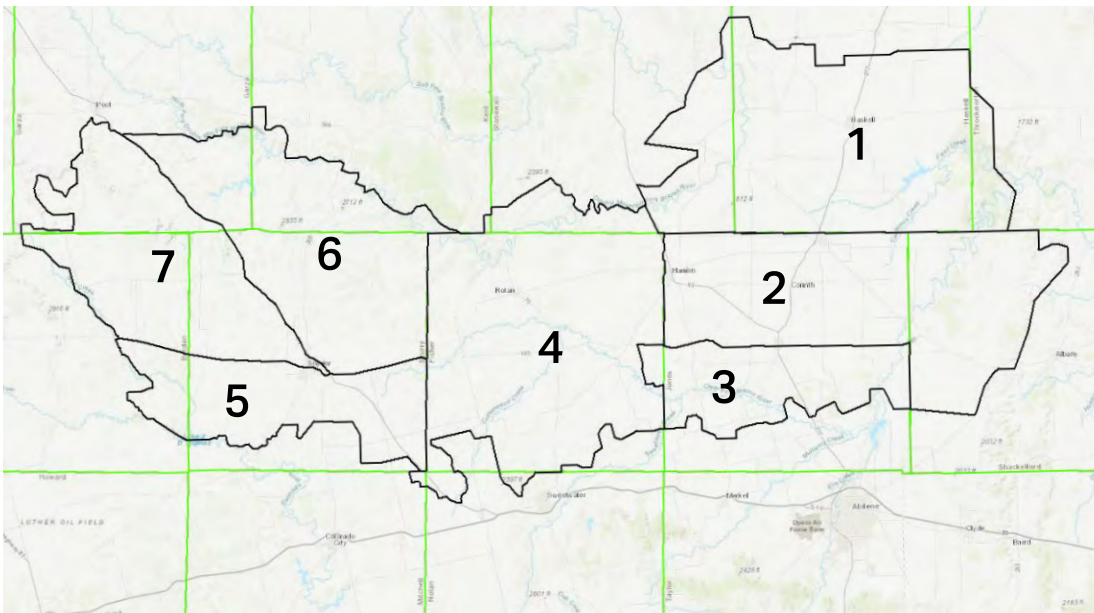


**Danny Helms**  
District 6



**David Beaver**  
District 7

# Director Districts



# Comparative Statement of Income

For the years ended December 31, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (audited)

	2019	2020	2021
<b>Revenue from the sale of our services amounted to</b>	<b>\$ 30,329,855</b>	<b>\$ 31,464,065</b>	<b>\$ 39,520,926</b>

## WHERE IT CAME FROM

Farm and Home	\$ 10,033,638	\$ 11,135,735	\$ 12,299,750
Commercial and Industrial	\$ 15,746,425	\$ 16,965,816	\$ 23,955,936
Irrigation	\$ 922,522	\$ 1,091,295	\$ 1,133,111
Miscellaneous Electric	\$ 295,013	\$ 574,291	\$ 315,750
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 26,997,598</b>	<b>\$ 29,767,137</b>	<b>\$ 37,704,547</b>
Nonoperating Revenue	\$ 289,733	\$ 135,496	\$ 1,561,651
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	\$ 3,042,524	\$ 1,561,433	\$ 254,728
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 30,329,855</b>	<b>\$ 31,464,065</b>	<b>\$ 39,520,926</b>

<b>To supply these services cost a total of</b>	<b>\$ 25,832,873</b>	<b>\$ 27,465,020</b>	<b>\$ 34,855,270</b>
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## WHERE IT WENT

Purchased Power	\$ 12,818,038	\$ 13,564,659	\$ 21,143,427
Operations and Administration	\$ 8,184,295	\$ 9,037,931	\$ 8,664,429
Depreciation	\$ 3,228,922	\$ 3,321,675	\$ 3,485,130
Interest and Other Deductions	\$ 1,579,834	\$ 1,517,421	\$ 1,535,774
Taxes	\$ 21,784	\$ 23,334	\$ 26,510
<b>Total Operating Costs</b>	<b>\$ 25,832,873</b>	<b>\$ 27,465,020</b>	<b>\$ 34,855,270</b>

Operating Margins (Operating Revenue Less Operating Costs)	\$ 1,164,725	\$ 2,302,117	\$ 2,849,277
Other Capital Credits	\$ 3,042,524	\$ 1,561,433	\$ 254,728
Nonoperating Margins	\$ 289,733	\$ 135,496	\$ 1,561,651
<b>Total Margins</b>	<b>\$ 4,496,982</b>	<b>\$ 3,999,045</b>	<b>\$ 4,665,655</b>

# Comparative Statistics

For the years ended December 31, 2019, 2020 and 2021

	2019	2020	2021
Average Monthly Bill	\$172.94	\$189.64	\$238.56
Kilowatt-Hours Sold	265,797,442	255,600,900	295,640,068
Revenue per Kilowatt-Hour Sold	\$0.1016	\$0.1165	\$0.1275
Kilowatt-Hours Purchased	290,325,568	280,224,811	322,889,919
Line Loss	8.4%	8.8%	8.4%
Average Kilowatt-Hours per Bill per Consumer	1,703	1,628	1,871
Plant Investment per Consumer	\$7,998	\$7,815	\$8,917
Net Change in Plant	\$1,439,596	\$4,816,878	\$4,942,240
Consumers per Mile of Line	2.4	2.4	2.5
Average Number of Consumers	13,009	13,081	13,171
Total Miles of Line	5,326	5,343	5,362

# Comparative Balance Sheet

For the years ended December 31, 2019, 2020 and 2021 (audited)

	2019	2020	2021
<b>ASSETS—WHAT WE OWN</b>			
Utility Plant	\$ 104,047,707	\$ 110,616,665	\$ 117,449,207
Less: Accumulated Depreciation—Lines, Buildings and Equipment	\$ 40,035,754	\$ 41,798,303	\$ 43,688,605
<b>Net Utility Plant</b>	<b>\$ 64,011,953</b>	<b>\$ 68,818,362</b>	<b>\$ 73,760,602</b>
Cash and Investments			
Cash	\$ 1,939,471	\$ 1,301,709	\$ 1,412,543
Other Investments	\$ 23,313,272	\$ 23,464,913	\$ 22,944,848
<b>Total Cash and Investments</b>	<b>\$ 25,252,743</b>	<b>\$ 24,766,622</b>	<b>\$ 24,357,391</b>
Accounts Receivable	\$ 2,979,562	\$ 3,084,216	\$ 4,443,115
Materials and Supplies	\$ 670,259	\$ 767,064	\$ 1,061,590
Deferred Debits and Other Assets	\$ 704,658	\$ 964,953	\$ 648,194
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,354,479</b>	<b>\$ 4,816,233</b>	<b>\$ 6,152,899</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 93,619,175</b>	<b>\$ 98,401,217</b>	<b>\$104,270,892</b>
<b>LIABILITIES—WHAT WE OWE</b>			
Long-Term Debt—Total Amount Borrowed and Deferred Interest	\$ 35,102,354	\$ 35,057,525	\$36,526,566
Other Liabilities and Credits			
Deferred Credits and Other Liabilities	\$ 2,932,128	\$ 5,081,155	\$ 5,570,231
Short-Term Borrowings	\$ 3,424,838	\$ 3,216,557	\$ 2,464,041
Due to Suppliers	\$ 2,380,334	\$ 1,832,953	\$ 2,390,578
<b>Total Other Liabilities and Credits</b>	<b>\$ 8,737,300</b>	<b>\$ 10,130,665</b>	<b>\$ 10,424,850</b>
<b>MEMBERS' EQUITY—OUR NET WORTH</b>			
Membership Fees	\$ 122,815	\$ 125,985	\$ 129,200
Patronage Capital and Other Equities	\$ 49,656,706	\$ 53,087,042	\$ 57,190,276
Total Members' Equity	\$ 49,779,521	\$ 53,213,027	\$ 57,319,476
<b>Total Liabilities and Members' Equity</b>	<b>\$ 93,619,175</b>	<b>\$ 98,401,217</b>	<b>\$104,270,892</b>



# Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2022 (unaudited)

## ASSETS—WHAT WE OWN

Utility Plant	\$ 121,503,732
Less: Accumulated Depreciation— Lines, Buildings and Equipment	44,800,871
<b>Net Utility Plant</b>	<b>\$ 76,702,861</b>
Cash and Investments	
Cash	\$ 2,443,499
Other Investments	22,447,274
<b>Total Cash and Investments</b>	<b>\$ 24,890,774</b>
Accounts Receivable	\$ 4,766,470
Materials and Supplies	1,092,901
Deferred Debits and Other Assets	1,137,967
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$ 6,997,337</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$108,590,972</b>

## LIABILITIES—WHAT WE OWE

<b>Long-Term Debt—Total Amount Borrowed and Deferred Interest</b>	<b>\$ 40,755,104</b>
Other Liabilities and Credits	
Deferred Credits and Other Liabilities	\$ 6,054,508
Short-Term Borrowings	0
Due to Suppliers	2,535,653
<b>Total Other Liabilities and Credits</b>	<b>\$ 8,590,161</b>

## MEMBERS' EQUITY—OUR NET WORTH

Membership Fees	\$ 131,110
Patronage Capital and Other Equities	59,114,597
<b>Total Members' Equity</b>	<b>\$ 59,245,707</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Members' Equity</b>	<b>\$108,590,972</b>

# Statement of Income

As of June 30, 2022 (unaudited)

Revenue from the sale of  
our services amounted to **\$ 23,106,135**

## WHERE IT CAME FROM

Farm and Home	\$ 7,135,198	30.88%
Commercial and Industrial	14,022,462	60.69%
Irrigation	865,776	3.75%
Miscellaneous Electric	952,305	4.12%
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 22,975,741</b>	<b>99.44%</b>
Nonoperating Revenue	\$ 105,121	0.45%
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	25,273	0.11%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 23,106,135</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

To supply these services cost a total of **\$ 20,477,728**

## WHERE IT WENT

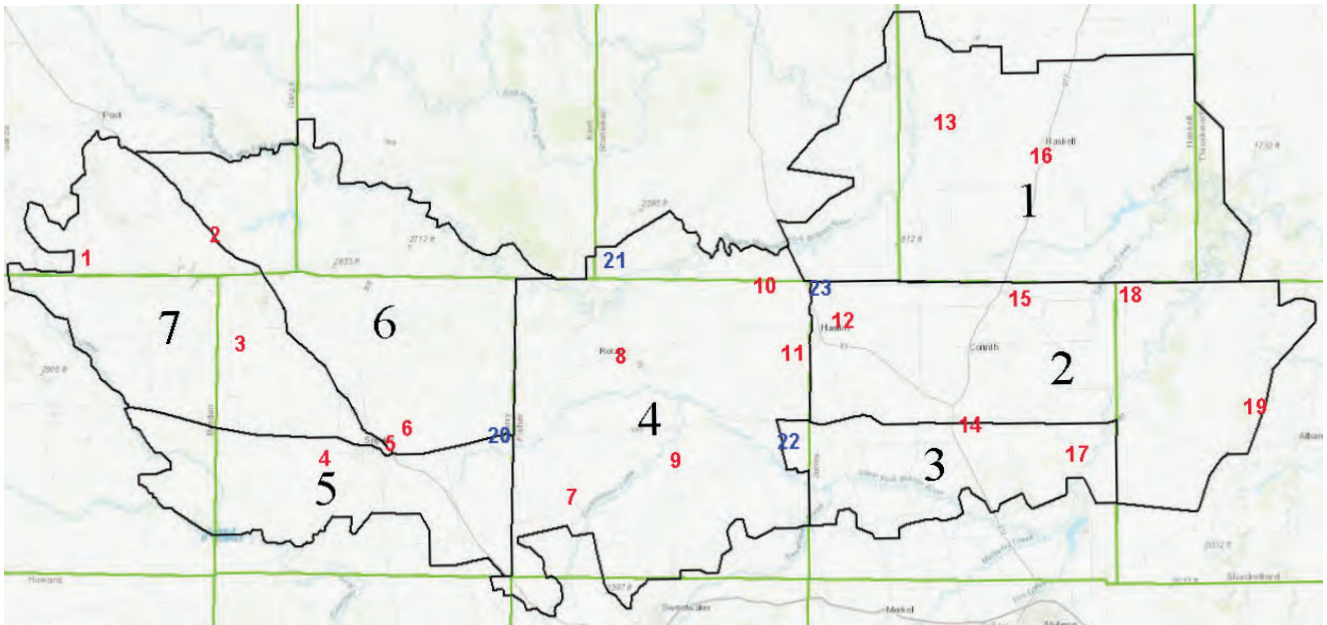
Purchased Power	\$ 13,224,601	57.24%
Operations and Administration	4,654,221	20.14%
Depreciation	1,811,262	7.84%
Interest and Other Deductions	771,524	3.34%
Taxes	16,120	0.07%
<b>Total Operating Costs</b>	<b>\$ 20,477,728</b>	<b>88.63%</b>
Operating Margins	\$ 2,498,013	10.81%
Other Capital Credits	25,273	0.11%
Nonoperating Margins	105,121	0.45%
<b>Total Margins</b>	<b>\$ 2,628,407</b>	<b>11.37%</b>

# Big Country EC Employees

## 694 Years of Combined Service

NAME	YEARS	NAME	YEARS	NAME	YEARS
Gary Adams	1.5	Mason Guerra	9	Robert Pippin	19
Andy Aldape	5	Redonna Guynes	21	Andrew Porter	3
Chase Arrendale	12	Sonja Hampton	2.5	Raul Rios	New
Latrice Baucom	6	Brian Hinkle	10	Alfred Robles	16
Robert Bohall	10	Wade Ivy	4	Ann Sanchez	39
Joe Brewer	22	Sarah Johnson	2.5	John Sanchez	15
Alex Cantu	4	Paul Jones	42	Rosa Sanchez	7
Erika Castillo	22	Linda Key	34	Fred Sharrock	7
Jakob Clawson	9	Cato Macias	17	Colton Smith	7
James Claxton	10	Mike Martinez	11	Corbin Smith	3
Brittini Cronkright	5	Jeremy McArthur	14	Mike Snead	18
Misti Davis	New	David McCarter	5	Bailey Stegemoeller	5
Arron Duniven	14	Mark McClain	9	Alec Thompson	New
Will Duniven	24	Cary McClintock	29	Tim Thompson	New
Scott Edmonds	21	Cody McClintock	7	Chris Thomson	7
Allegra Escobedo	2.5	Sean McClure	4	John VanMater	10
Baleria Frausto	8	Cedar Mclwain	New	Gabriel Vasquez	12
Leticia Fuentes	9	Sarah McLen	13	Henry Vega	13
Joe Garza	20	Brian Niedert	9	Eric Villanueva	New
Wesley Gonzales	3	Chase Perez	New	Amanda Weaver	5
Eileen Goodgame	24	Pat Pierce	33		

# Big Country EC Substations



- |                |              |              |                  |                          |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Garza       | 6. Plainview | 11. Celotex  | 16. Haskell      | 21. Wright (North Rotan) |
| 2. Justiceburg | 7. Wetsel    | 12. Hamlin   | 17. Nugent       | 22. Sylvester            |
| 3. Fluvanna    | 8. Rotan     | 13. Rule     | 18. Lueders      | 23. North Hamlin         |
| 4. Union       | 9. Longworth | 14. Anson    | 19. Albany       |                          |
| 5. SNTX        | 10. TP       | 15. Stamford | 20. Camp Springs |                          |

# Why Capital Credits?

**CAPITAL CREDITS, OR PATRONAGE CAPITAL**, are the allocation of operating margins as equity and, when appropriate, the retirement of them to the members of the co-op in the form of money or credit on their bill.

The retirement of capital credits is unique to the cooperative business model and is one of the most important things we do as co-ops.

**Why do co-ops allocate capital credits?** To retain federal tax-exempt status, co-ops are required to operate on an at-cost basis. Capital credits facilitate operating at cost.

**Whose job is it?** Your board of directors is responsible for ensuring that capital credits are handled in a manner that is consistent with federal and state laws while also ensuring the process complies with the co-op's articles of incorporation, bylaws and policies. Management can assist the board in shaping the policy, and it is management's job to implement it. The board of directors has sole discretion in determining when to retire capital credits.

## What criteria affect the retirement of capital credits?

- ▶ Co-ops can incur risk to their financial position if they retire capital credits too early. Sometimes margins are needed to build or retain co-op financial strength. This is why we retire them on a cycle after at least several years.
- ▶ Big Country Electric Cooperative balances retirement of older capital credits with the desire to include current members by selecting a hybrid first in, first out/last in, first out approach for the last few years.
- ▶ We carefully consider the balance among rate levels, equity level, capital needs and capital credit retirements, among other things, when looking at capital credits retirements.

In March 2022, your BCEC board voted to retire 15% of 2021 allocated margins of \$4,665,531, which was \$699,830, using the FIFO/LIFO method. Eighty percent of the retirement applies to the oldest first-in years, which were 1991 and a portion of 1992; the remaining 20% applied toward the 2021 last-in year. Refunds of \$30 or less were applied to the May 2022 bill for eligible active accounts. Refunds greater than \$30 or for inactive accounts were mailed.

Since our inception, BCEC has retired \$19,576,469 to eligible member accounts. It pays to be a co-op member!

## Patronage Capital

Calendar Year	Assignable		Assigned		Retired
	Distribution	G&T	Distribution	G&T	
Prior Years	\$24,786,825	\$1,194,652	\$17,838,320		
2006			289,025	\$ 1,374,292	\$ 75,796
2007			788,671	1,755,346	109,091
2008			1,980,171	1,910,066	117,542
2009			1,440,941	1,032,459	85,244
2010			1,813,992	1,642,341	87,324
2011			2,597,670	1,455,536	75,658
2012			2,170,433	1,661,449	74,586
2013			2,197,422	1,298,702	145,588
2014			1,351,317	1,073,432	27,391
2015				930,598	11,049
2016			128,440	387,390	14,981
2017			942,392	588,744	38,047
2018			848,802	1,212,181	16,539
2019			1,707,178	2,792,602	14,638
2020			2,707,108	1,289,141	3,920
2021	\$4,665,777				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$4,665,777</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$46,143,908</b>	<b>\$23,474,870</b>	<b>\$18,876,639</b>

# Your Cents Matter!

When we announced our Operation Round Up program in late 2014, we knew it would make a differ-



ence by serving local needs and making a great impact on lives in this area.

Operation Round Up is supported by members who voluntarily "round up" their electric bill to the nearest dollar. For example, if your electric bill is \$151.22, your bill would be rounded to \$152 and the change—never any more than 99 cents a month—goes into the Operation Round Up trust fund. Those funds are exclusively marked for distribution to individuals and organizations for charitable purposes only in the counties we serve: Borden, Fisher, Garza, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Shackelford, Stone-wall and Throckmorton. Food needs and food banks, shelter, health needs and rescue organizations, educational projects, child care programs, and other special needs are just a few of the ways your cents have helped our communities since December 2014. Contributions are tax deductible, and applications are handled with the utmost confidence and respect. Every penny stays right here at home, in the counties BCEC serves.

Seven and a half years later, how much difference have your cents made?

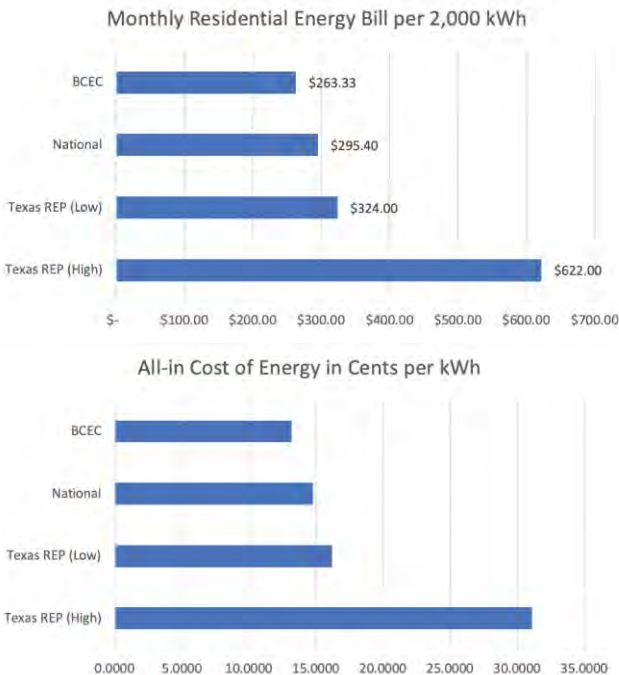
\$403,446.05!

Thank you for your cents—they matter!



# Energy Cost Comparison

**BIG COUNTRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** has mentioned in our communications to you about the power cost adjustment and why the cost of energy has risen. Although Texas has received a lot of attention for energy in the past year and a half, we are not the only state—or the only utility—affected by rising energy costs. The graph below shows how BCEC’s all-in cost of 13.1 cents per kilowatt-hour for residential usage of 2,000 kWh compares to Texas retail energy providers and the national average.



### To calculate the all-in cost for 2,000 kWh:

- 2,000 x \$0.114665 (which is our \$0.099665/kWh residential, farm and seasonal rate plus \$0.015 PCA) = \$229.33
- \$229.33 + \$34.00 facility charge = \$263.33, which would be the total bill for exactly 2,000 kWh consumption.
- \$263.33 (total bill) ÷ 2,000 (kWh consumption) = \$0.131665, or 13.1 cents per kWh.

We’ve all felt the pinch on our wallets increasingly over the last few months. As you can see below, BCEC offers competitive rates and works very hard on your behalf to manage costs, and we will continue to do so.

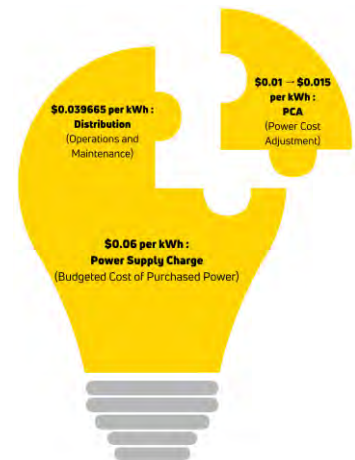
Provider	Cents per kWh, all-in	Cost, based on 2,000 kWh
Texas REP (High)	31.1000	\$622
Texas REP (Low)	16.2000	\$324
National	14.7700	\$295.40
BCEC	13.1665	\$263.33

Sources: Texas REP rates obtained from [powertochoose.org](http://powertochoose.org) July 26, 2022. National average as of April 2022 obtained from U.S. Energy Information Administration Monthly Form EIA-861M, [eia.gov/electricity/data.php#sales](http://eia.gov/electricity/data.php#sales), July 26, 2022.

# PCA: What Is It and What Drives It?

**THE PCA**, or power cost adjustment, is a rate component on electric bills that is based on our base rate, which is the average expected/budgeted purchased power cost of \$0.06 per kilowatt-hour. The exact cost of purchased power varies from month to month, which is why we base our rate on the budgeted average. Big Country Electric Cooperative’s residential, farm and seasonal rate is \$0.099665 per kWh; the difference between that and the budgeted cost of purchased power is about \$0.039665 per kWh, which is what BCEC operates on. The wholesale power supply charge from Golden Spread EC is passed on to its distribution cooperatives, including BCEC, then to its member-consumers, you. When the wholesale power supply charge is greater than the amount recovered through the base rate of \$0.06 per kWh, a PCA is added to each member’s bill. This is not for profit for BCEC or GSEC; rather, this additional amount is inclusive primarily of increased wholesale power cost due to the sustained higher-than-expected cost of natural gas for power generation, and a very small portion of deferred costs we are repaying to GSEC due to the February 2021 winter storm.

### Impact on Your Electric Bill of PCA Increase From \$0.01 to \$0.15 per kWh



BCEC Residential and Farm Rate: \$0.099665 per kWh  
 PCA: \$0.015 per kWh  
 Total Energy Charge: \$0.114665 per kWh

**Increasing the PCA from \$0.01 to \$0.015 per kWh will result in an average increase of \$10.00 per 2,000 kWh consumed.**



# BCEC Donates to Local Fire Departments

**EARLY THIS SUMMER**, it became evident that the drought and heat were going to keep our firefighters very busy and stress their resources: people, time and of course, money. To help them and to express our appreciation, BCEC presented \$500 checks to each of the 20 departments that operate within our service area, for a total of \$10,000 donated to local fire departments. These brave men and women work very hard—most often as volunteers—in scary, hazardous conditions and trying circumstances. Thank you, firefighters, for all you do.

Now let's all pray for some rain!

1. Anson VFD
2. Borden County VFD
3. Fluvanna VFD
4. Hamlin VFD
5. Haskell VFD
6. Hawley VFD
7. Lueders VFD
8. Paint Creek VFD
9. Post VFD
10. Roby VFD
11. Rochester VFD
12. Roscoe VFD
13. Rotan VFD
14. Rule VFD
15. Sagerton VFD
16. Shackelford County VFD
17. Snyder Fire Department
18. Stamford Fire Department
19. Sweetwater Fire Department
- Not pictured: Stonewall County VFD



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



11



14



16





## MEMBER REGISTRATION CARD AND TICKET FOR DOOR PRIZES

### Big Country Electric Cooperative Member Appreciation Open House

**Tuesday, September 27, 2022**

4–7 p.m. at each BCEC office

Snacks and door prize drawings for those who stop by!



**BRING THIS REGISTRATION CARD WITH YOU TO THE OPEN HOUSE.**

## Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Membership of Big Country Electric Cooperative was scheduled for April 21, 2021, but postponed until September 28, 2021, due to COVID-19 concerns. As the new date drew near, the BCEC Board of Directors elected to convert the 2021 Annual Meeting to a virtual event only out of consideration for the health and well-being of members and employees due to COVID-19 concerns at that time.

Affidavit of Publication attests that the Annual Report, inclusive of the Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Big Country Electric Cooperative, was mailed to the 5,799 members of record of the cooperative on August 27, 2021.

The 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting consisted of an annual report video posted on the cooperative's website, featuring BCEC Board President Steve Moore, GM/CEO Mark McClain, and other BCEC leadership reporting to the membership on activities, concerns, upcoming plans, and the financial status of Big Country Electric Cooperative. Balance Sheet and Statement of Income for the year ending 2020 was presented to the membership in the video, in PDF posted on the cooperative's website, and in the Annual Report mailed to each member.

Committee on Nominations was appointed by the Board of Directors. Committee members serving were:

Mr. Frank Garcia	Mr. C.D Gray
Mr. Johnny Martinez	Mr. Monte Morrow
Mr. Bruce Noble	Mr. Tommy Wright

The Committee on Nominations placed in nomination the members named below for the purpose of electing three (3) directors as successors to the directors whose terms expire this annual meeting, and to hold office for the term of 3 years and/or until their successors shall be elected and shall qualify.

Member voting was conducted in advance with three methods of voting available to each eligible member: online, through SmartHub, or mail-in ballot. Ballots were mailed to each member September 10, 2021, that included detailed instructions for voting via mail-in ballot, online, or through SmartHub. Mail-in ballots must be received by

September 24, 2021, and not permitted to be taken to a BCEC office; online/SmartHub voting deadline was 11:00 p.m. September 24, 2021. Election results, certified September 27, 2021, by Survey & Ballot Systems, were as follows, with elected candidates shown in bold:

<b>For Director District 5:</b>	
Steve Moore (incumbent)	100% Decision
<b>For Director District 6:</b>	
Danny Helms (incumbent)	100% Decision
<b>For Director District 7:</b>	
David Beaver (incumbent)	72.5%—472 Votes
Lance Jowers	27.5%—179 Votes

5,817 Eligible Voters.

696 Eligible Ballots Cast: 421 paper ballots mailed, 275 submitted online.

11.96% Voter Participation Rate exceeded minimum quorum of 2%.

Candidates were notified and results were posted on the cooperative's website September 28, 2021, to accompany the Virtual Annual Meeting reports.

Pursuant to Bylaws Article V, Section 6, a Credentials and Election Committee was appointed prior to the Annual Meeting and would have convened had there been any protest or objection filed. Members were:

Mrs. Robin Pruitt	Mr. Robert McGough
Mr. Greg Pruitt	Mrs. Anniece Trujillo
Mr. Rudy Trujillo	Mr. Jeff Branson
Mrs. Georgie McGough	Mr. Gary Sorrells
Mrs. Jennie Sorrells	

Energy credits and door prizes were drawn from the names of members who cast eligible ballots. Winning members were notified. All members were invited to stop by their local BCEC office to receive a member gift and energy efficiency kit.

**Steve Moore**  
President

**David Beaver**  
Secretary-Treasurer



Member Name  
Member Address

Member Number  
Election Passcode

## MEMBER REGISTRATION CARD AND TICKET FOR DOOR PRIZES

### Big Country Electric Cooperative Member Appreciation Open House

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

4–7 p.m. at each BCEC office



**BRING THIS REGISTRATION CARD WITH YOU TO THE OPEN HOUSE.**

## SAVE THE DATE—ONE DAY, TWO EVENTS—TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Annual Meeting *VIRTUAL ONLY* at [bigcountry.coop](http://bigcountry.coop).  
\$15 energy credit for each registered voter.

Registered voters are those who vote  
in accordance with instructions printed below.

*and*

Member Appreciation Open House  
at each BCEC office, 4–7 p.m.

Snacks and door prize drawings  
for those who stop by!

### 3 Ways To Cast Your Ballot in the Big Country EC 2022 Director Election

#### Voting by Mail

- Mark your selections by filling in the box next to the candidate of your choice.
- Detach ballot and place in the enclosed return envelope.
- Mail to Survey & Ballot Systems, PO Box 46430, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. Ballots must be received no later than September 23, 2022. Please allow sufficient time for delivery.
- Do not mail or deliver your ballot to the Big Country Electric Cooperative office.

#### Voting Online

- To access the login page of the official BCEC 2022 Election, please type [directvote.net/BCEC](http://directvote.net/BCEC) into the address bar located at the top of your internet browser (compatible with mobile, tablet and web).
- Your **member number** and **election passcode** are printed on the mailing label at the top of this page. Use both numbers to log in.
- Voting begins August 26 and ends at 11 p.m. CST, September 23, 2022.

#### Voting by SmartHub

- App: Open your SmartHub app, log in and click the "Vote Now" button.
- Online: Log in to your SmartHub online account and click the "Vote Now" button.
- Voting begins August 26, 2022, and ends at 11 p.m. CST, September 23, 2022.
- If you have any problems voting online, please email [support@directvote.net](mailto:support@directvote.net).

**Do not mail your ballot if you plan to vote online or by SmartHub.**

DETACH BALLOT ALONG DOTTED LINE AND RETURN IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE.

### Official Mail-In Ballot for Big Country EC 2022 Director Election

Mark ballot, detach and place in the enclosed return envelope. If the envelope is missing, please mail to Survey & Ballot Systems, P.O. Box 46430, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. **Ballots must be received by September 23, 2022.**

Please follow instructions shown above.

Do not mail or hand deliver ballot to any BCEC office.

#### MARKING INSTRUCTIONS EXAMPLE

DISTRICT 1 (Vote for one)	DISTRICT 2 (Vote for one)
<input type="checkbox"/> Matt Mueller (i)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kenneth Buerger
	<input type="checkbox"/> Zachary Logan

