



2014 Board of Director Elections Meet the Candidates

The CVEA Board of Director elections are fast approaching. Ballots will be mailed by March 24, along with candidate biographies and your official annual meeting notice.

To be counted, return ballots must be received in the designated post office box by 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 8, 2014.

You, as a CVEA member, will soon have the opportunity to exercise your right to vote. Please exercise this right.

To help you learn about the candi-

dates, they were asked to respond to three important questions.

The questions are listed here and the candidate responses follow.

Candidates were asked to limit their responses to 75 words per question.

Question 1

What knowledge, skills, and experience will you bring to CVEA's Board of Directors?

Question 2

It is the vision of CVEA to reduce or

eliminate our dependence on fossil fuel and stabilize the Cooperative's cost of generation with regional, sustainable resources. What ideas do you have to help the Cooperative reach this goal?

Question 3

Keeping energy rates affordable is a primary concern for CVEA, yet it is a difficult task as the majority of the power bill is the cost of fuel. What ideas do you have to lower the cost of energy?

Copper Basin District



Jason Hoke

Jason is the Executive Director of the Copper Valley Development Association, a position he's held for over three years.

Question 1

As Executive Director of CVDA I have attended multiple energy conferences, co-hosted the Copper Valley Regional Energy Conference, and administered alternative energy/energy efficiency grants. I have seen the energy issues

residents and businesses face here and throughout the state. I am President of the Board for Alaska Partnership for Economic Development and a Director for Copper Valley Telecom. My experiences as administrator, director, and business owner allows me to effectively look for solutions.

Question 2

Allison Creek holds promise and will benefit members for a larger part of the year and possibly neighboring regions as well. This and other alternative energy sources should be explored. I would revisit the Copper Valley Regional Energy Plan, elaborate on the goals, and pursue some of the potentials in the Valley. I think an intertie could ultimately benefit CVEA and its members. I will foster staying current with potential alternative energies in our region.

Question 3

First, continue the completion of the Allison Creek Project. Second, revisit the equalization of power costs to members

to an average throughout the year., allowing year-round residents and businesses to receive energy at a reasonable cost. I would re-evaluate the intertie to potentially get cheaper energy here and possibly pipe our energy sources into the grid. Continued pursuit of emerging technology will provide options for eliminating our fossil fuel and providing cheaper power.



Meg Jensen

Meg is retired from the Wrangell St. Elias National Park where she was the Superintendent for 4 1/2 years.

Question 1

Building and heating a home in the Copper River Basin has given me an appreciation of the cost of electricity and challenges they present to residents.

I have experience on Safford, Arizona City Council, which owns and manages utilities for 9,000+ residents.

I have 25 years of leadership and managerial experience in organizations of up to 900 employees and experience working with individuals; local, regional, state and federal governments; and Native American Tribes.

I also bring analytical and problem-solving skills.

Question 2

If elected, I would promote:

- Additional run-of-stream hydro projects
- Continued evaluation of sites with wind potential, focusing on high elevation sites in the Copper Basin
- Evaluation of CVEA's Net Metering Program to determine if CVEA can do more to maximize Co-op member participation
- Evaluation of the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of a CVEA-owned solar powered system which expands the unit currently providing electricity to the CVEA Copper Basin office

Question 3

I will seek an electric intertie with adjoining cooperatives which produce substantially cheaper electricity. Following this, implementing the Tielke River Project would allow the Cooperative to be an electricity provider to other areas.

I would evaluate current operations to determine if there are ways to improve cost-effectiveness without sacrificing service. I will seek economies of scale: increasing Co-op membership by reducing hookup costs and expanding service areas and creating a rate structure favorable for year-round residents and businesses.



Mary Odden

Mary was the owner and publisher of the *Copper River Record* newspaper from 2005-2010. From 2009 to the present she is Co-operator of the Snowshoe Heating business owned by Jim Odden.

Question 1

I have partnered in two successful local businesses. I have worked as a public-sector employee, and am a long-term volunteer director and administrator for a non-profit operating a public facility and service.

I understand basic principles of communications, financial operations, and state regulatory structures. I am willing to listen and learn. I believe in the Rural Electric Co-op model which has been in place since 1935 and has proved itself flexible and far-sighted.

Question 2

I am particularly interested in extending our generation capacity from hydro-electric sources. Increased cooperation with Ahtna and other land owners may bring us more opportunity to explore hydro, wind, solar, and bio-mass energy sources.

Member-generated power through net-metering presents both challenges and opportunities.

While elimination of diesel-generation is an obvious goal, the door needs to be left open for natural gas availability, if it occurs, and can be put to service economically and long-term.

Question 3

Wildly fluctuating fuel costs brought the present seasonal swings in members'

bills. I hope the billing structure can be revisited in some way to restore a seasonal balance.

In terms of overall costs, though, we have to look at efficiencies in fuel supply and storage, power generation, and the maintenance of transmission and distribution systems. The challenge is to also bring cheaper long-term energy sources online without elevating present costs.

Valdez District



Jeff Saxe *Incumbent

Jeff is self-employed and has been the owner of Eagle's Rest RV Park and Cabins, Captain Joe's Gas, and CJ's Tesoro for over 22 years. Jeff has served on the CVEA Board for 9 years.

Question 1

I have over 22 years of experience as a business owner of three successful local businesses. I also bring nine years of experience serving on the CVEA Board of Directors.

Question 2

I have been a supporter of the Allison Creek Hydro Project since 2007.

Question 3

Again, I think the Allison Creek Hydro Project. And if the State of Alaska ever does a natural gas line to Valdez, CVEA will need to take advantage of that resource.