

# Your Vote Helps Power the Good Life

By Rick Nelson

✓ CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION

✓ LEARN WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT

✓ MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

✓ REMEMBER TO VOTE



On November 3, you will be casting your vote for two directors of Custer Public Power District.

When you grow up in Nebraska, you take it for granted that you get to elect the men and women who run your electric utility. In most places, shareholders do that, and the people the shareholders elect are bound first and foremost to profit the investors.

Nebraska is the only state in which all electric utilities are locally owned and controlled by directors elected by the consumers. Their first duty is not to some far-off shareholders in the hunt for the greatest short-term gain; their first duty is to you, the consumer-owner. It makes a big difference.

It means that Nebraska has some of the lowest rates in the U.S., and I'd like to think that it also means you get better service for those low rates since the owners of the utility and the customers are one and the

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**RURAL VOTES COUNT**

**ELECTION DAY  
NOVEMBER 3RD, 2020**

same, and our employees know it!

The Board of Directors' job is to set policy at the big picture level, then leave it up to the staff to run the utility according to those policies day-to-day.

When the District promises safe, reliable electricity at an affordable rate to all customer-owners, it makes a commitment backed by the best judgment of its Board of Directors and the management hired by the Board of Directors to run the District.

The Board of Directors brings to the boardroom success in business, financial analysis, or operational activities. It is also helpful if they possess an understanding of the special challenges facing public power districts.

The business is complex and getting more so every day. We have to balance a growing array of conflicting demands like keeping the electric cost reasonable, making sure we keep the lights on, planning for the best solution for Custer in 20 years are just a few. With over 10,000 meters and 8,000 square miles, there is always something happening.

When new directors join the Board, they have quite an education curve to climb to learn

about all of those challenges, what has gone before, and what lies ahead.

We invest in training for our directors, sending them to a number of workshops, conferences, and seminars. Yes, it costs money to do that. But the alternative is worse. As one long-time leader in the public power movement put it, "If you think it's expensive to run a utility with a well-trained board, trying to run one with an ignorant board for a little while."

Following an assortment of big corporate scandals in the 1990s, Congress threw another challenge to directors. It passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. Essentially, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 compels directors to take the reins into their own hands to assure that the company operates with integrity and that its financial reports do not contain any funny business.

The Board of Directors and management operate Custer Public Power District accord-

ing to those principles. It helps us ensure adherence to the highest ethical standards in the operation and governance of the District.

Considering the speed at which the electric utility industry is changing, it is important that directors establish long-range goals. As the old saying goes, "If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." The more difficult the challenges ahead, the more we need a good roadmap and a wise set of goals to set our direction. That is the director's job.

Finding men and women who are equal to such challenges is a tall order. Fortunately, here at Custer Public Power District, we have been blessed with an abundance of such leaders. Whoever may win these elections, know that they are stepping forward to give of their time and energy to help their neighbors and help build a stronger community.

One good way you can express your appreciation of the special privileges that we as Nebraskans enjoy is to make sure you cast your ballot. There are many places in the U.S. where consumers wish they had that opportunity. ♦



# POWERING STRONG COMMUNITIES

**Celebrate  
Public Power Week  
October 4 - 10, 2020**

**#PUBLICPOWERWEEK  
#COMMUNITYPOWERED  
#POWERINGTHEGOODLIFE**

Custer Public Power District is celebrating Public Power Week (#PublicPowerWeek), the week of October 4th, along with more than 2,000 other community-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities that collectively provide electricity to 49 million Americans.

Public Power Week celebrates the reliable, affordable electricity Custer Public Power District provides to our community. Public power puts the people of our service territory first, and Public Power Week gives us the chance to emphasize the advantages of locally grown, locally owned power to our citizens.

Custer Public Power District is proud to have served rural Nebraska since 1944.

Public Power Week is an annual national event coordinated by the American Public Power Association in Washington, D.C. The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities

## PUBLIC POWER BUILDS BETTER COMMUNITIES



COMMUNITY-OWNED AND  
CUSTOMER-FOCUSED



YOUR VOICE MATTERS



LOWER COSTS AND  
INCREASED RELIABILITY



PUBLIC POWER IS  
**#COMMUNITY**powered



that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide.

The Association represents public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. It advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Its members

strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.

Learn more at  
[www.PublicPower.org](http://www.PublicPower.org).



# SIERRA'S MONSTER PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES



## Ingredients

- 1 1/4 C. Peanut Butter
- 1/4 C. Honey
- 1/2 C. Quick Oats
- 1/8 tsp. Salt
- 1 tsp. Baking Soda
- 1 tsp. Vanilla Extract
- 1 Large Egg
- 1/3 C. Bake Believe No Sugar Added White Chocolate Baking Chips ~ Found at Walmart
- 1/3 C. Bake Believe No Sugar Added Dark Chocolate Baking Chips ~ Found at Walmart

## Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.
2. In a medium-sized bowl stir together the peanut butter and honey.
3. Add the oats, salt, baking soda, and vanilla extract. Stir well.
4. In a separate bowl lightly beat the egg and then add it to the mixture.
5. Stir in the baking chips.
6. Scoop out your dough with a spoon or cookie scoop. These do not spread out very much, so make them as large as you're wanting them to be.
7. Form the balls onto a cookie sheet, press down slightly and bake for 7-8 minutes depending on the size you make them.

Watch the cookies closely and remove when the bottom barely starts to brown even if they don't look completely done (they cook more as they cool).

Remove and allow to cool completely.

**\*Note\*** These are a fairly dense cookie and go great with a glass of milk or almond milk!

Recipe can be found on FaceBook look for the **Fields of Wildflour** page.

**HAPPY  
HALLOWEEN!**

# CUSTER CURRENTS

*Newsletter of the*  
**Custer Public Power District**  
Broken Bow, NE - Phone 872-2451  
[www.custerpower.com](http://www.custerpower.com)

Serving Custer, Loup, Blaine, Thomas, Hooker, McPherson, Logan and parts of Sherman, Garfield, Brown, Cherry, Lincoln, and Dawson Counties

## *Officers & Directors*

Brad Bartak, Merna.....President  
John Blakeman, Merna.....Vice President  
Greg Smith, Milburn.....Secretary  
Brad Howard, Litchfield.....Treasurer  
Tom Roberts, Loup City.....Asst. Treasurer  
Lloyd Ramsey, Broken Bow.....Director  
Wayne V. Licking, Thedford.....Director

## *Staff*

Rick Nelson.....General Manager  
Jerry Spanel.....Operations Manager  
Cheryl Taylor.....Director of Finance and Administration  
Dustin Miller.....Purchasing Agent

## *Board Meetings*

The regular monthly meeting of the Custer Public Power District Board of Directors is on the last Thursday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m.(CDT) in the main office in Broken Bow on Hwy. 2.

An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours.

In the event of matters of an emergency nature or conflicts with other meeting dates, the Board of Directors will set changes. Any change in the monthly meeting date will be posted in the legal notice at the main headquarters building at Broken Bow and at each of the District's area service centers located in Callaway, Sargent, Stapleton and Thedford, Nebraska.

