

Power of the People

By W. Marc Farmer,
General Manager,
West Oregon Electric Cooperative



Update on 2006 Winter Storm Damage

I was visiting with some of our members about the Co-op and the subject came up of the December 2006 storm. They wanted to know how we ended up cost-wise and how much help we received from FEMA. This sounded like a good opportunity to catch all of you up on the status of the costs, funds, and repairs remaining as a result of the storm.

The total costs we have incurred to date for all five counties is \$571,378. Four counties; Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook, and Yamhill were declared federal disaster areas. Washington County did not reach the required level of damage costs to qualify, so any damage we suffered in this county is not eligible to receive FEMA funding. The total amount of damage we submitted to FEMA for the four qualifying counties, to date, is \$434,111. FEMA reimbursed us for 75 percent

of the costs we incurred plus \$6,341 for administrative costs, so we just received this month a check from FEMA for \$331,924. This will go into our general fund to help pay back the expenditures we have already paid to repair the storm damage to our system.

The big project remains to be started. The main 16 mile transmission line that runs from Timber to Elsie and crosses four counties is severely damaged. Line is on the ground, poles and cross arms are broken or split, and equipment is damaged or on the ground. We have flown over the line and had an engineer, one of our linemen, and a forester walk the line to assess the damage. We will be receiving a report later this month that will give us the final proposal and cost estimates to repair the line. Preliminary reports put the costs over \$2 million to repair the line in a way that will make it safe and reliable. Once the final report is presented to us from the engineers, we will meet with FEMA to determine what portion of the costs they will cover. We will also ask for some help from the State of Oregon to cover a portion.

Putting it back up where it is now would be self-defeating. There are trees towering over the line, outside of our right-of-way, that come down and take out the line every year. Root rot, winds and/or rain-soaked

ground contributes to the number of trees falling into our lines. The only way to eliminate this problem is to underground as much of it as possible, or move it close the highway to allow more access and fewer trees to fall into the line. FEMA will go above the 75 percent threshold if we replace the line in a manner that will increase its reliability, and significantly reduce the possibility of future damage. They rightly don't want to invest a lot of taxpayer money into putting it back up in the previous manner, knowing it will just be knocked down again with the next storm. The good news is that we could receive funding to cover most of the replacement costs. The bad news is that it will cover costs for all of the line except for the portion of the transmission line that goes through Washington County. This three mile stretch of line will need to be paid for by WOEC. We won't know how much that will be until the final report is completed, and we determine which options make the most sense for the long term viability of the system.

I will keep you updated in a future article when the dust all settles. We will decide quickly, as we need to get it restored before winter, or we will be relying on our back-up line through the entire storm season.

Facility Committee seeks input

From page 13

for the committee be added to every board meeting so that the board can be kept up to date. Currently, the committee is meeting every other week and plans to do so until early October. The board agreed that this is a good idea.

Edison reported that the committee has asked all of the administrators to identify what they need for their schools with two different scenarios: flat enrollment and significantly increased enrollment. They are also figuring out a budget for the committee.

The board heard a first reading on several policies. Superintendent Marv Ott continues to present these updates as they are required to keep the district up-to-date legally. He pointed out that the new graduation requirements that will be adopted will affect the high school because next year's freshmen and all following students will be required to take three years of science instead of two. Currently, the science classrooms

are full and, Ott said, it will be very difficult to find enough lab time for everyone to take another science class.

The board also voted to participate in the OSBA Pension Bond program. This will allow the district to pay PERS the money they owe at eight percent with a six percent loan. Over the next two decades, this could save the district at least \$900,000, and possibly more, depending on interest rates.

The consent agenda was approved and included the following staff changes:

Resignations – Lori Dalipson, High school Language Arts Teacher, and Joseph Acuardi, Secondary Music Teacher.

Hiring – Mark Anderson, Elementary Music Teacher; JulieAnn Tommelein, fourth grade teacher; Jon Small, High School Math Teacher and Head Wrestling Coach; Daniel Mullen, High School Math Teacher.

St. Helens River City Speedway give July 7 results

RIVERCITY SPEEDWAY

July 7, 2007, Results

Sportsman – Fast Time: 15.82 Curt Nusom, Gresham. Trophy Dash: Mike Graham, Portland. Heat 1: Ken Bryan, Toledo; Derek Vorseth, Portland; Dan Freeman, Portland. Heat 2: Ed Bruce, McMinnville; Derrick Hawney, Portland; Skip Pillow, Gresham. Heat 3: Bryan Collins, Portland; Nusom; Jon Gillett, St. Helens. Main: Tim Williams, Scappoose; Gillett; Pillow; Tricia Brittain, St. Helens; Bryan; Vorseth; Bruce; Nusom; Matt Taylor, Portland; Dominick Younker, Portland.

Modified – Fast Time: 15.47 Marc Sayre, Portland. Trophy Dash: Shawn Dorie, Scappoose. Heat 1: Curtis Zelmer, Portland; Sam Jeffers, Scappoose; Skip Pillow. Heat 2: Greg Greer, Rainier; Dan Fox, Warren; Doug Lockwood, Aloha. Heat 3: Shawn Dorie; Jeremy Martin, St. Helens; Ray Elwess, Portland. Main: Fox; Elwess; Martin; Dan Smith, Scappoose; Sayre; Doug Davenport, Portland; Pillow; Scott Dorie, St. Helens; Greer; Don West,

Deer Island.

Street Stock – Fast Time: 16.25 Jeff Lovell, Portland. Trophy Dash: John Haagenson, St. Helens. Heat 1: Justin Nusom, Gresham; Todd Newton, Portland; Mark Hill, Scappoose. Heat 2: Bobby Morley, Scappoose; Todd Hardesty, St. Helens; Eddie Farness, Sandy. Heat 3: Brian Overturf, Portland; Haagenson; Lovell. Main: Farness; Haagenson; Lovell; Robert Williams, Vernonia; Mark Reser, Beaverton; Ian Lamma, St. Helens; Morley; Steven Nusom, Gresham; Terry Moss, St. Helens; Justin Nusom.

Mini Stock – Fast Time: 16.65 Eric Lindquist, Milwaukie. Trophy Dash: Justin McMullen, Deer Island. Heat 1: Marc Sayre; Michael Espil, Portland; Frank Karnath, Portland. Heat 2: Jason Partridge, Portland; Bob Wallace, Portland; Tazz Judkins, Vancouver. Heat 3: Scott McMullen, Deer Island; Lindquist; James Lutz, Portland. Main: Sayre; Joe Cherington, Vancouver; Lindquist; Judkins; Ric James, Portland; Wallace; Espil; Richard Ray, Portland; Jason Scheibel, Portland; Devon Reed, Port-

land.

Women's Division – Fast Time: 15.91 Pam Graham, Portland. Trophy Dash: Jacki Graham, Portland. Heat 1: Susan Wallace, Portland; Julie Camberg, Portland; Amber Smith, Scappoose. Heat 2: Brenda Hurley, Castle Rock; Jacki Graham; Celeste Hardesty, St. Helens. Main: Hardesty; Kathy Griffin, Scappoose; Jacki Graham; Smith; Ann Carter, Scappoose; Hurley; Camberg; Pam Graham; Wallace; Linda Holland, St. Helens.

PHRA Dwarf Cars – Trophy Dash: Mike Chadwick, Hillsboro. Heat 1: Chadwick; Charles Millar, Gresham; Stan Cook, McMinnville. Heat 2: Bryan Baxter, Forest Grove; Troy Kunas, Vancouver; Jimmy Pavel, Mollala. Heat 3: Rick Adams, Hillsboro; Richard Petty, Scappoose; Rian McVae, Scappoose. B Main: Jimmy Pavel; Corey Esteban, Gaston; Jess L. Turner, Kelso; Jess Turner, Kelso; Ron Love, Portland. A Main: Adams; Esteban; Chadwick; McVae; Love; Baxter; Jimmy Pavel; Kunas; Roger Moore Jr., Sandy; Jim Pavel, Mollala.

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