

**CITY OF WEST RICHLAND  
SPECIAL JOINT CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
WITH BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2022**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

West Richland City Council

Mayor Brent Gerry  
Mayor Pro Tem Fred Brink  
Councilmember Richard Bloom  
Councilmember David Fetto  
Councilmember May Hays  
Councilmember Kate Moran  
Councilmember John Smart  
Councilmember Ken Stoker

West Richland City Staff

Police Chief Thomas Grego  
Finance Director Erin Gwinn  
Comm. Dev. Director Eric Mendenhall  
Public Works Director Roscoe Slade  
IS System Administrator Brad Borton  
City Clerk Stephanie Haug

Benton REA Board of Trustees

Vice President Bob Evans – District #3  
Secretary/Treas. Catherine Russell– District # 8  
Mike Freepons – District #2  
Ron Johnson – District #4  
Scott Fisher – District #6

Benton REA Staff

General Manager Mike Bradshaw  
V.P. of Engineering Einar Offerdahl  
V.P. of Member Services Troy Berglund  
V.P. of Finance Steve Catlow  
V.P. of Internet Technology Jeff Bastow  
Engineering Manager Derek Miller  
Assist. V.P. of Member Services Shannon Olsen  
Pat Dunn/Benton REA Lobbyist

2. **SR 224 / Red Mountain Transportation Improvement Project Update** – Roscoe Slade provided a history and an update on the status of the SR 224 / Red Mountain Transportation Improvement Project
3. **WR Economic Development Update** – Eric Mendenhall provided information on the current growth patterns within the city for residential housing, as well as commercial. He also spoke about the beneficial impacts of the Red Mountain Event Center.
4. **Cooperative Way Project Update** – Roscoe Slade provided a history and an update on the status of the Cooperative Way Project.
5. **BREA Main office relocation Update** – Mike Bradshaw provided an update on the new BREA building, to be constructed in West Richland, off of Cooperative Way
6. **Power Supply/Snake River Dams/Reliability Update** – Troy Berglund provided information on the Snake River Dams, the impacts of electric vehicle charging on the grid, and how Benton REA will address those concerns moving forward.
7. **Future outlook for BREA electric Rates** – Steve Catlow presented information on the Bonneville power supply, and the current power costs.
8. **Electric System Project/Upgrades** - Derek Miller spoke about REA's recent projects and the improvements to substations in order to prevent "squirrel" outages. Einar Offerdahl added that they are following the new developments closely and are ensuring there will be power to them all.
9. **Meeting Conclusion**- The meeting concluded at 7:24pm.



Brent Gerry, Mayor



Stephanie Haug, MMC, City Clerk