

Hello, I am Susan Alexander and I am enthusiastic about a second term on the Washington Electric Coop Board. My membership in WEC began 27 years ago when we moved to Cabot (from Woodbury) to raise our then little kids. Those kids are now adults and are also WEC members, although one has a property served by both WEC and GMP; a striking example of the random organization of Vermont utilities.

My professional endeavors have spanned both public and private sector positions and I also founded and sold a locally crafted beverage company (Vermont Switchel). I have been self-employed (Mullandmor, LLC) for the past 16 years. More recently, I managed the siting, construction, and operation of a composting facility to annually divert 500 tons of food scraps from the Coventry landfill. It's an interesting juxtaposition given that WEC draws about 65% of its power from methane gas produced in that same landfill and one that gives me a 360-degree perspective.

I have served on other local Boards (Woodbury School Board, Cabot Wastewater, Cabot Coalition) and have a great appreciation for the time and commitment it takes to be a productive and effective board member. My first term on the WEC Board can be best described as a 3-year orientation into the very dense and complex utility industry where I forged a solid understanding of the political, financial, and evolving technical landscape. Having gained this traction I am poised to provide informed and objective guidance as a Board member as WEC navigates the waters of both the Department of Public Service and the quasi-judicial Public Utility Commission, a regulatory framework that is unique to Vermont.

What lies ahead for WEC and all of Vermont are the opportunities afforded by exciting advancements in renewable energy, battery storage, load management technology and grid resiliency all while moving forward on parallel tracks with boots-on-the-ground line clearing, infrastructure renovations, and affordable rate designs. These are all highly desirable outcomes but not necessarily all highly compatible. My goal is to keep the ratio of cost-to-reliability favorable for all of our members as is the premise of any cooperative. I am optimistic we have the talented staff and Board support to reach that horizon with time, effort, and positive regulatory policies and I hope to be a strong contributor to that mission.

Regardless of the upcoming election I think it's worth reminding members and/or educating news ones that there are a number of somewhat fixed parameters that work against our best efforts at economy of service. This is what we have to work with: WEC covers part or all of 41 towns, covering 2,728 square miles of rocky glacial landscape, with approximately 11, 800 members (almost exclusively residential), connected by 1200+ miles of wire, resulting in an exceptionally low density of less than 9 members per mile. No amount of innovative technology or state policy is going to make WEC as economical as a similar utility in a flat, densely populated area with a more temperate climate. I mention that because it is an important consideration when we are tempted to try and make comparisons with other utilities rates and programs.

That said, we have a very diverse and sophisticated membership and the door for making opportunities out of these constraints is wide open and welcoming. So, if you would like to continue this conversation contact me at : [mullandmor@gmail.com](mailto:mullandmor@gmail.com), or 802/522.5898, or if you prefer, we can meet at The Den on a Sunday from 12-2 when they host the weekly jam session.

