

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 23, 2021
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
<https://lpea.coop/broadband-committee>

CALL TO ORDER

The Committee of the Whole of the La Plata Electric Association Board of Directors was held Monday, August 23, 2021, via Zoom Webinar. President Witchel called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. The following people were in attendance:

LPEA DIRECTORS

Ted Compton	John Lee	Holly Metzler
Dan Huntington, Secretary	Joe Lewandowski	Kirsten Skeeahan
Bob Lynch, Treasurer	Kohler McInnis	Tim Wheeler, Vice President
Rachel Landis	Sue McWilliams	John Witchel, President

LPEA STAFF

Jessica Matlock, CEO
Ryne Waggoner, Systems Engineering Manager
Dan Harms, VP of Grid Solutions
Karl Ramsey, VP of Finance
Graham Smith, Board and Staff Attorney
Drew Timmerman, VP of Information Technology

EXCUSED ABSENCE

None

COMMITTEE GUESTS

John Honker, CEO -- Magellan Advisors, LLC
Jessica Zufolo, VP of Rural Broadband Strategy -- Magellan Advisors, LLC

GUEST ATTENDEES

Ben Zimmerman, Chris Stebner, Elizabeth Romere, Emilie Frojen, John Beebe, Mary Jo Coulehan, Meade Harbison, and Nancy Van Dover

SUMMARY OF MAGELLAN FEASIBILITY STUDY

Director Skeeahan called on Magellan Advisors to present the results of their study. John Honker and Jessica Zufolo introduced themselves and outlined their qualifications. Next Honker presented an overview of five broadband options for LPEA. Honker, Zufolo, VP Harms, and CEO Matlock fielded questions from LPEA directors.

DISCUSS BROADBAND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Director Skeeahan began a discussion on the work the Broadband Committee has completed. Systems Engineering Manager Waggoner outlined the LPEA operational requirements for fiber communications. Director Metzler spoke of the need for robust communications to accomplish the LPEA Utility of the Future goal. Directors Skeeahan and Wheeler addressed why LPEA should be involved in broadband. CEO Matlock and VP Harms spoke to grant availability and modeled how strategic partnerships would enable securing such grants. Attorney Smith outlined Senate Bill 107 and the opportunities it provides for perfecting rights-of-way.

Director Skeehan presented the recommended resolution adopting a strategic goal on broadband communications from the Broadband Committee to the LPEA Board of Directors. After discussion about the intent and verbiage of the proposed goal, the board decided to have a smaller group finalize the language of the resolution and be prepared to present the result at the regular Board of Directors meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 25, 2021.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Board determined there was no need for an executive session to discuss the Broadband Committee's recommendation.

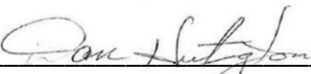
EXECUTIVE SESSION – BOARD STRATEGIC RETREAT

Motion: Director Wheeler moved to enter executive session for the Board Strategic Retreat discussion. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, the Committee of the Whole of the La Plata Electric Association Board of Directors adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Recorded by Drew Timmerman, and approved by:



Dan Huntington, Secretary