

**LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**DRAFT 2025 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 21, 2025**

**12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**In-person with Electronic Attendance Option**

**LPEA Headquarters | Truck Barn**

**Call to Order**

The 2025 Annual Meeting of La Plata Electric Association, Inc. was held in person on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, with an option for electronic attendance. Board President Ted Compton called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m.

**Safety Moment**

Trent Webber, LPEA Safety Specialist, provided a brief safety moment at the start of the meeting. He reviewed emergency exit locations, evacuation procedures, and the availability of first aid kits and trained staff. Attendees were reminded to remain within designated meeting areas and to exit the facility promptly at the conclusion of the meeting to support building security and operations.

**Official Welcome**

President Compton led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and formally welcomed LPEA members and guests to the 2025 Annual Meeting. He highlighted the significance of LPEA's 85th anniversary, reflecting on the cooperative's legacy of member-owned service and innovation. President Compton expressed appreciation for LPEA staff, volunteers, and community partners for organizing the event and emphasized the organization's continued commitment to providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

**Attendance Report**

As Parliamentarian, Attorney Smith reported the presence of a quorum, with more than 50 members present or voting as required by Article II, Section 4 of the LPEA Bylaws.

**Appointment of Acting Secretary and Parliamentarian**

President Compton appointed Executive Assistant Janelle Thunstrom as Acting Secretary and General Counsel Graham Smith as Parliamentarian. Both accepted their appointments.

**Final Notice of Meeting and Standing Rules and Procedures**

Attorney Smith reviewed the official meeting notice and standing rules. He confirmed the notice had been properly posted in accordance with LPEA's bylaws. Printed and digital copies of the rules were made available to attendees.

**Motion:** Director and Member Skeeahan moved to approve the Standing Rules. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

### **Approval of Agenda and 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes**

President Compton requested a motion to approve the 2025 LPEA Annual meeting agenda.

**Motion:** Director and Member Wheeler moved to approve the 2025 Annual Meeting Agenda as posted. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

President Compton requested a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented.

**Motion:** Director and Member Lewandowski moved to dispense with the reading of the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes and approve them as presented. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

### **Reports**

#### **Board President's Report – Ted Compton**

President Compton reported on key Board actions in 2024, including the Board's decision to formally withdraw from LPEA's existing wholesale power contract in pursuit of a more flexible, cost-effective, and sustainable power supply. He emphasized the Board's ongoing focus on system reliability, risk management, and long-term strategic planning. Compton also acknowledged Interim CEO Graham Smith for his steady leadership during a complex transition and officially welcomed Chris Hansen as LPEA's new CEO, citing his energy policy expertise and commitment to rural communities.

#### **CEO Report – Chris Hansen**

CEO Hansen began his report by introducing his family, educational background, and professional experience. He then reviewed highlights from 2024, including zero lost-time safety incidents, capital improvements, strong financial performance, and continued investment in local renewable projects like the Sunnyside Community Solar array. Hansen outlined LPEA's transition to new power supply agreements and reinforced the organization's commitment to affordability, resilience, and transparency. He closed by highlighting LPEA's vision for energy independence and encouraging member engagement.

#### **Scholarship and Youth Tour Award Ceremony**

CEO Hansen and President Compton recognized the 2025 recipients of LPEA's scholarship and youth tour programs. A total of \$88,000 in scholarship funds were awarded to five students pursuing higher education, and three students were selected to represent LPEA at the 2025 National Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Each recipient in attendance was invited to the stage to be recognized, receive a certificate and gift, and pose for a photo.

### **Election Results Announcement**

President Compton thanked the Election Supervisory Committee for their efforts and introduced Matt Fiala, from Survey and Ballot Systems, to announce the 2025 Board of Directors election results.

Matt reported 9,446 ballots were returned among the 37,384 mailed in the 2025 Board of Directors election. There were no bylaw amendments on the ballot for this election term.

The detailed election results are as follows.

- District 1 (Archuleta County): Candidate Dusty Mars won with 1,075 votes. Candidate Holly Metzler received 739 votes.
- District 2 (South & West La Plata County): Candidate Brad Blake won with 1,768 votes. Candidate Terry Greiner received 401 votes, and Candidate Greg Barber received 367 votes.
- District 3 (City of Durango): Candidate Joe Lewandowski won with 1,718 votes. Candidate David Peters received 640 votes.
- District 4 (North & East La Plata County): Candidate John Witchel won with 1,391 votes. Candidate Lyle McKnight received 1,337 votes.

President Compton congratulated LPEA's newly elected board members and expressed appreciation to the outgoing Directors, the Election Supervisory Committee, and Survey & Ballot Systems for their roles in facilitating the election.

### **Q&A Session**

President Compton and CEO Hansen facilitated a Q&A session, allowing members to ask questions of the Board and executive leadership. Staff responded to a range of topics, including energy projects, billing, and future member engagement opportunities.

### **Door Prize Drawing**

A door prize was awarded with an item donated by LPEA's wholesale power supplier. The winner was drawn at random from among attendees.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

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Acting Secretary: Janelle Thunstrom