

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Committee on Policies Meeting Minutes
<https://lpea.coop/lpea-board-directors-resources>
Monday, August 25, 2025
Zoom Webinar
LPEA Headquarters | Durango, Colorado

CALL TO ORDER

The Committee on Policies of the La Plata Electric Association Board of Directors was held via Zoom webinar on Monday, August 25, 2025. Committee Chair Witchel called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. The following committee members were in attendance:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Director John Witchel, Committee Chair
Director Joe Lewandowski
Director David Luschen
Chris Hansen, Chief Executive Officer
Elizabeth Howe, Chief Operating Officer

EXCUSED ABSENCE

NONE

LPEA STAFF

Graham Smith, General Counsel
Janelle Thunstrom, Executive Office & Board Governance Manager
Jessica Dunbar, Administrative Assistant

WEBINAR ATTENDEES

Directors Brad Blake, Dusty Mars, and Nicole Pitcher

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Director Lewandowski moved to approve the presented agenda for the August 25, 2025, committee on policies meeting. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

CONSENT BOARD ITEMS

Committee Chair Witchel addressed the Consent Board Items.

Motion: Director Lewandowski moved to approve the following consent board items: July 21, 2025, Meeting Minutes.

POLICY IDEAS OR REVISIONS BY COP MEMBER OR STAFF - PSPS

Attorney Smith reviewed industry practices and confirmed that LPEA already has authority under Electric Service Regulations to de-energize lines during emergencies. Best practice is to leave this authority at the operational level, supported by staff-developed parameters. The committee agreed that a new board-level PSPS policy is not necessary at this time. Staff will prepare operational guidelines for board awareness.

POLICY FOR REVISION: POLICY 105 REVISION IN LIGHT OF 2025 ELECTION

Attorney Smith reviewed feedback on proposed updates to Policy 105. Members supported eliminating the Teller Committee in favor of a professional third-party administrator. Additional recommendations included requiring an oath of office and/or a conflict-of-interest disclosure for the Election Supervisory Committee. Staff will draft a disclosure form for review by the committee.

The committee discussed possible term limits for Election Supervisory Committee members but agreed to defer a decision until a roles and responsibilities document is developed. Questions regarding compensation were resolved, with consensus to maintain the current per diem approach. Staff will also refine policy language to reference bylaws directly.

POLICY FOR REVISION: POLICY 107: CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Committee members reviewed proposed clarifications to Policy 107, including expectations for campaign finance reporting. Discussion emphasized the importance of clear requirements to ensure transparency in board elections. Staff will prepare draft revisions for further committee review at a subsequent meeting.

POLICY IDEAS OR REVISIONS BY COP MEMBER OR STAFF – LPEA-HOSTED CANDIDATE FORUMS

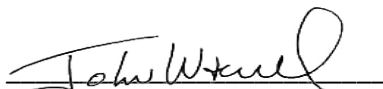
The committee briefly discussed whether LPEA should host candidate forums. The topic will be developed further in a future meeting, with staff directed to provide options and best practices for structure, neutrality, and compliance with cooperative principles.

POLICY IDEAS OR REVISIONS BY COP MEMBER OR STAFF – REVISION TO CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST DISCUSSION

The committee had a broader discussion about conflicts of interest, prompted by proposed ESC disclosure forms. Members agreed that LPEA should take a comprehensive review of conflict-of-interest considerations across board, staff, vendors, and appointed committees over the next several months. For the immediate term, the committee supported requiring a simple COI disclosure form for ESC members.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting of the LPEA Board of Directors adjourned at 10:04 a.m.
Recorded by J.P. Thunstrom and approved by:


John Witchel, Committee Chair