LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Member Engagement Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 6, 2026
10:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Member Engagement Committee | La Plata Electric Association

CALL TO ORDER (10:03 a.m.)

The Member Engagement Committee of the La Plata Electric Association Board of Directors was held on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, via Zoom webinar. Committee Chair Mars called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. The following committee members were in attendance:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Director Dusty Mars, Board Vice President & Committee Chair
Director Nicole Pitcher, Board President
Director Tim Wheeler, Board Treasurer
Director Jennifer Jenkins
Laura Schepis, VP Government and Community Relations

LPEA STAFF

Jessica Dunbar, Administrative Assistant
Chase LaCroix, Energy Management Program Specialist
Graham Smith, General Counsel
Steve Smith, Director of Grid Innovation and Programs
Janell Thunstrom, Executive Office & Board Governance Manager

EXCUSED ABSENCE

Chris Hansen, Chief Executive Officer

WEBINAR ATTENDEES

NONE

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA (10:03 a.m.)

Committee Chair Mars addressed the agenda for the October 6, 2026, Member Engagement Committee (MEC) meeting.

Motion: Committee Member Wheeler moved to approve the October 6, 2026, Member Engagement Committee (MEC) meeting agenda. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (10:04 a.m.)

Committee Chair Mars addressed the September 1, 2026, MEC meeting minutes.

Motion: Committee Member Wheeler moved to approve the September 1, 2026, MEC meeting minutes. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

GRIP TEAM MEMBER PROGRAMS- DIVERSE PROGRAMS THAT HELP MEMBERS ELECTRIFY AND SAVE- PRESENTATION (10:04 a.m.)

Chase Lacroix and Steve Smith presented the Local Energy Action Fund (LEAF), a program revitalized under Board Policy 303 to turn small monthly member contributions into grants supporting local clean energy projects. The program currently has approximately $75,000 in existing funds and receives about $44,000 annually in contributions. The goal is to increase participating members from approximately 1,000 to 1,500 by the end of 2027.

LEAF provides grants to eligible nonprofit and public-serving organizations within LPEA's service territory for projects in four categories: beneficial electrification, energy efficiency, local renewable energy, and electric vehicle charging and e-bikes. Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) nonprofits, municipalities, school districts, colleges, and tribal governments with accounts in good standing with LPEA.

Two grant tiers are available:

- **Standard Tier:** $2,500–$15,000, with no matching funds required.
- **Enhanced Tier:** $2,500–$25,000, requiring a match equal to 50% of the requested grant amount.

Applications for the 2026 funding cycle open October 15, 2026, and are due November 30, 2026. Staff will review applications in December and early January, with recommendations moving through the Member Engagement Committee (MEC) and a final Board vote anticipated in February 2027. Award recipients will be notified within 30 days of the Board decision and must sign a grant agreement before beginning their projects. Completed projects will be highlighted through community outreach and recipient stories to promote the program and local electrification efforts.

The presentation concluded with a request for MEC feedback on how the committee can help promote LEAF, increase member participation, and raise awareness of the funding opportunities.

Motion: Committee Member Wheeler moved to recommend the full board accept staff recommendations on LEAF project prioritization and funding. The board will have full access to submitted application and the Member Engagement committee will review submitted applications. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

Committee Chair Mars requested a motion to continue the rest of the October 6, 2026, undiscussed agenda items in the November 3, 2026, committee meeting.

Motion: Committee member Wheeler moved to continue the October 6, 2026, undiscussed agenda items in the November 3, 2026, committee meeting. Motion second and carried without dissent.

ADJOURN (11:47 a.m.)

There being no further business, this meeting of the Member Engagement Committee of the La Plata Electric Association Board of Directors adjourned at 11:47 a.m. Recorded by J. Dunbar and approved by:



Dusty Mars, Committee Chair