

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 9, 2021  
<https://lpea.coop/broadband-committee>

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Broadband Committee Meeting of the La Plata Electric Association Board of Directors was held Tuesday, February 9, 2021 via Zoom Webinar. Committee Chair, Kirsten Skeeahan called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. The following committee members were in attendance:

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Director Skeeahan, Committee Chair  
Director Metzler  
Director Wheeler  
Jessica Matlock, CEO  
Ryne Waggoner, Staff Engineer

**SUPPORT STAFF**

Dan Harms, VP Grid Solutions  
Karl Ramsey, VP Finance  
Janelle Thunstrom, Executive Assistant  
Drew Timmerman, VP Information Technology

**EXCUSED ABSENCE** None

**GUESTS**

Webinar attendees included Ben Zimmerman, Danah Barlow, Deborah Shisler, Delbert Cuthair, Guinn Unger, Ingrid Iversen, Katrina Blair, Kelly Hebbard, Leah Miller, Mark Petrocchi, Miriam Gillow-Wiles, Nancy Van Dover, Natambu Obleton, Richard Podlesnik, and Suzanne Arms

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Committee Chair Skeeahan addressed the Tuesday, February 9, 2021 Broadband Committee Meeting agenda.

**Motion:** Committee Member Wheeler moved to approve the Tuesday, February 9, 2021 Broadband Committee Meeting agenda as modified. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Committee Chair Skeeahan addressed the January 12, 2021 Broadband Committee Meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Committee Member Metzler moved to approve the January 12, 2021 Broadband Committee minutes. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

## **BROADBAND DISCUSSIONS:**

Members addressed the committee with concerns about electromagnetic field (EMF) and electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS). Members were also concerned about the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) auction results, and the effect of funding to coop consortium. Other Community members gave examples of poor internet speeds and the preference of having fiber over wireless.

## **DISCUSS THE SCOPE OF WORK ITEMS** **REVIEW OF FEASIBLE STUDY PROPOSALS**

VP Grid Solutions Dan Harms gave an overview on LPEA's broadband market. Recommended two options for the best path forward - LPEA (or an affiliate) is to install fiber and perfects commercial ROW to every LPEA premise and entity or LPEA (or an affiliate) is to install fiber and perfects commercial ROW for operational needs only. Harms took committee members questions.

Committee Chair Skeehan discussed possible action to communicate with our congressional delegation and FCC concerning ramifications of RDOF auction. CEO Matlock discussed RDOF implications with DMEA, one of the members of the consortium that won bids in LPEA service territory. Discussion ensued on possible action to communicate with Colorado Office of Technology (OIT), Governor, State Attorney General, CREA or Tri-State concerning pursuing similar legal action taken by the "Irregulars."

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION AS NEEDED:**

Discuss Matter Subject to Non-Disclosure Agreement  
Review of Feasibility Study Proposals

The committee remained in executive session from 3:06 p.m. to 4:10 p.m.

No action was taken as a result of the discussions in executive session.

## **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION** None


## **NEXT STEPS, AGENDA ITEMS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

The committee discussed an extension of the deadline for the Broadband Committee's recommendation to the Board of Directors to August 2021.

## **ADJOURN:**

There being no further business, the Broadband Committee Meeting of the La Plata Electric Association, Board of Directors adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Recorded by J. P. Thunstrom, and approved by:



Kirsten Skeehan, Committee Chair