

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
Committee of the Whole Minutes of Meeting  
Monday, September 16, 2019  
Durango, Colorado

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of La Plata Electric Association, Inc. was held Monday, September 16, 2019 at the headquarters building in Durango, Colorado. President Lynch called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., with the following Directors present:

Britt Bassett, Vice President	Bob Lynch, President	Kirsten Skeeahan
Dan Huntington	Kohler McInnis	Jack Turner
Rachel Landis	Holly Metzler	Guinn Unger, Secretary
	Davin Montoya	Tim Wheeler, Treasurer

**LPEA STAFF:**

Jessica Matlock Chief Executive Officer  
Rachel Gilman, Interim Chief Financial Officer  
Justin Talbot, Manager of Operations  
Dan Harms, Manager of Rates, Technology and Energy Policy  
Ron Meier, Manager of Engineering, Member Relations  
Nadine Ontiveros, Manager of HR  
C. E. Charistopoulos, Executive Assistant  
Lonnie Tucker, Communications Coordinator  
Barry Spear, LPEA General Counsel

**EXCUSED ABSENCE:** Joe Lewandowski, Jerry Wills, District Manager of Pagosa Springs.

**GUESTS** (Signed in): Eric Pierson, City of Durango; Levi Lloyd, City of Durango, Miriam Gillow Wiles, SWCOG; Kelly Hebbard, General Manager, FastTrack Communications; Natambu Obleton, Manager Network Operations, FastTrack Communications; and Joe Wheeling, President, FastTrack Communications; and Kay Henze, Colorado Broadband Office

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: FASTTRACK COMMUNICATIONS** – President Lynch requested a motion to move into executive session to discuss FastTrack Communications (FTC).

**Motion:** Director Wheeler moved to enter into executive session to discuss FastTrack Communications. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

The Board remained in executive session from 9:03 a.m. to 9:36 a.m.

**BROADBAND STRATEGY** – Dan Harms presented educational first steps on LPEA’s vision for internal broadband strategy. Harms discussed issues of communications and remote access, security, reliability, and analysis capabilities. Kelly Hebbard and Natambu Obleton presented a

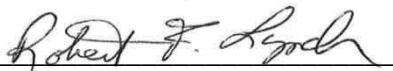
general overview of broadband, touching on various technologies, the State and local broadband landscape, and comparative statistics on speed and access, open access and regional access to telecom, funding sources and FastTrack Communications' as role in the community. Kay Henze discussed advances in broadband deployment since 2018, grant and funding options, broadband network builds, societal impacts of broadband, and parallels with rural electrification.

A short-term LPEA Broadband Committee consisting of three Directors and two Staff will be voted on for approval at the September 18 Board meeting. The Committee will draft and recommend a broadband strategy that advances LPEA in the strategic direction of the *Electric Utility of the Future*.

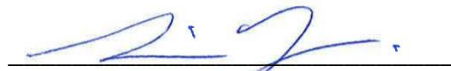
**FINANCIAL FORECAST** – Interim CFO, Rachel Gilman discussed implementation of a new operationally based budget format in 2020 that will move to Departmental Budgets, improve overall reporting, and allow more comparative data to be visible by 2021. The new format factors in Revenue requirements, wages and benefits, legal considerations and the Strategic Goal that advances LPEA in the direction of the *Electric Utility of the Future*. The Budgeting process is centered around the Strategic Plan with an eye on future power supply. The coming weeks and months will have more Budget forecasting information to consider relative to three power supply scenarios that contemplate a full buy-out, a partial buyout, or no buyout from Tri-State.

There being no further business, the LPEA Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

Recorded by C.E. Charistopoulos, and approved by:



Bob Lynch, President



Guinn Unger, Secretary