

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Broadband Committee Minutes of Meeting
Tuesday, December 17, 2019
Durango, Colorado

CALL TO ORDER

The Broadband Committee Committee of the La Plata Electric Association Board of Directors was held Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at the headquarters building in Durango, Colorado. Committee Co-Chairman, Guinn Unger called the meeting to order at 1:51 p.m. The following Committee members were in attendance:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Guinn Unger, Committee Co-Chairman
Dan Harms, Committee Co-Chairman
Tim Wheeler
Kirsten Skeeahan, via conference line
Jessica Matlock, CEO
Ryne Waggoner, Staff Engineer
Monica Rodriguez, Assistant Controller

LPEA STAFF

Monica Rodriguez, Controller
Charis Charistopoulos, EA

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

GUESTS: Kelly Hebbard, General Manager of FastTrack Communications, Natambu Obleton, Manager of Network Operations; Ken Demlow, Project Manager of HR Green joined by phone.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Committee Co-Chairman Unger addressed the December 17, 2019 Broadband Committee meeting agenda.

Motion: Committee Member Wheeler moved to approve the December 17, 2019 Broadband Committee meeting agenda as presented. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

INTRODUCTION AND ROLES, REVIEW OF COMMITTEE PURPOSE, TIMELINE AND MEETING SCHEDULE – Co-Chairman Unger introduced himself and Dan Harms as Committee Co-Chairs, voting Committee members Kirsten Skeeahan, Tim Wheeler, and CEO Matlock, and non- voting Committee members, Ryne Waggoner and Monica Rodriguez.

Unger described the purpose of the Committee as being tasked to look at what LPEA might do to bring affordable broadband access to the LPEA service territory, and to provide recommendations to the Board of Directors for consideration. The Committee intends to consult area stakeholders (Towns and Cities, Counties, Internet Service Providers, etc.) for input and collaborative discussion. The Committee has a six month term and will address a meeting schedule.

Dan Harms introduced Broadband Specialist, Ken Demlow of HR Green who joined the meeting by phone. Demlow has been working on the development of a telecommunications infrastructure plan with LPEA.

PRESENTATION BY FASTTRACK COMMUNICATIONS (FTC) – Kelly Hebbard and Natambu Obleton gave an overview of broadband technologies, discussed barriers to deployment, internet access data within the outlying communities of La Plata and Archuleta Counties, open access networks, funding sources, and FTC’s role in the community as the only local middle-mile and last-mile transport service. Discussion ensued on Strategic Initiatives that direct LPEA’s broadband strategy, gaps in infrastructure, and LPEA’s role in Economic Development.

NEXT STEPS THROUGH JUNE 2020, DISCUSS BRINGING STAKEHOLDERS INTO PROCESS, FUTURE MEETINGS – The Committee discussed goal setting and leveraging LPEA’s improvements to map out areas of broadband improvement within the service territory. Committee members will come back with high level goals to flesh out, and discuss bringing stakeholder input into the planning process. The next Committee meeting will take place 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., on Thursday, January 9 in the LPEA Board Room.

There being no further business, the Broadband Committee of the La Plata Electric Association, Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

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


Guinn Unger, Committee Co-Chair


Dan Harms, Committee Co-Chair