

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Broadband Committee Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, January 9, 2020
Durango, Colorado

CALL TO ORDER

The Broadband Committee of the La Plata Electric Association Board of Directors was held Thursday, January 9, 2020 at the headquarters building in Durango, Colorado. Committee Co-Chairman, Guinn Unger called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m. The following Committee members were in attendance:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Guinn Unger, Committee Co-Chairman
Dan Harms, Committee Co-Chairman
Tim Wheeler
Jessica Matlock, CEO
Ryne Waggoner, Staff Engineer
Monica Rodriguez, Controller

LPEA STAFF

Charis Charistopoulos, EA

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Kirsten Skeeahan

GUESTS: Kelly Hebbard, General Manager of FastTrack Communications, Natambu Obleton, Manager of Network Operations; Jasen Bronec, CEO of DMEA, and Ken Watson, Chairman of Elevate Internet

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Committee Co-Chairman Unger addressed the Broadband Committee meeting agenda.

Motion: Committee Member Wheeler moved to approve the January 9, 2020 Broadband Committee meeting agenda and advised that an executive session discussion with DMEA Elevate would take place following the public discussion. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Co-Chairman Unger addressed the December 17, 2019 Broadband Committee meeting minutes and advised of corrections to be made for clarification.

Motion: Committee Member Wheeler moved to approve the December 17, 2019 Broadband Committee meeting minutes with approved modifications. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PRESENTATION BY DMEA-ELEVATE – DMEA CEO, Jason Bronec introduced DMEA Director and Elevate Internet Services (EIS) Board Chairman, Ken Watson. Bronec gave an overview of the history, formation, and deployment of EIS – a wholly-owned, for-profit subsidiary which serves over 7,000 DMEA members. Watson discussed the evolutionary process of ascertaining workable business models, funding sources, and the formation of partnerships; as well as, embracing member and community demands for service, technological advances and economic development.

The marketing, branding, and vision of EIS meets three goals of serving a remote workforce, promoting telemedicine to support rural communities, and distance learning and education. Discussion ensued on legal processes, sales, marketing and billing, operations, and governance; and questions were taken on take rates, competition, video solutions and phone service, and legislative considerations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: DISCUSSION WITH DMEA-ELEVATE – Co-Chairman Unger requested a motion to enter into executive session.

Motion: Director Wheeler moved to enter into executive session for further discussions with DMEA-Elevate. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

The committee remained in executive session from 1:30 p.m. to 2:09 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS – Co-Chairman Unger advised that the next LPEA Broadband Committee meeting would take place from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m., February 13, prior to the LPEA Finance and Audit Committee meeting

DISCUSSION OF LPEA BROADBAND GOALS, AND DISCUSS BRINGING STAKEHOLDERS INTO PROCESS – Due to time constraints, these discussion items were not addressed.

There being no further business, the Broadband Committee of the La Plata Electric Association, Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

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


Guinn Unger, Committee Co-Chair


Dan Harms, Committee Co-Chair