

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
<https://lpea.coop/lpea-board-directors-resources>
Wednesday, March 15, 2023
Zoom Webinar

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of La Plata Electric Association, Inc. was held Wednesday, March 15, 2023, via Zoom webinar. President Witchel called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. with the following directors present:

Ted Compton	John Lee	Holly Metzler
Dan Huntington, Secretary	Joe Lewandowski	Kirsten Skeeahan
Rachel Landis	Kohler McInnis	Tim Wheeler, Vice President
Bob Lynch	Sue McWilliams, Treasurer	John Witchel, President

LPEA STAFF

Jessica Matlock, Chief Executive Officer
Dan Harms, Executive VP of Grid Solutions and Special Projects
Elizabeth Howe, VP of Administrative Services
Hillary Knox, VP of Member Experience
Karl Ramsey, VP of Finance
Graham Smith, General Counsel
Jerry Sutherlin, VP of Operations
Janelle Thunstrom, Executive Assistant
Drew Timmerman, VP of Information Technology

EXCUSED ABSENCE

None

WEBINAR ATTENDEES

Emelie Frojen, Nicole Pitcher, Elizabeth Romere, Lori Schell

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (9:04 a.m.)

President Witchel addressed the March 15, 2023, LPEA board meeting agenda.

Motion: Director Wheeler moved to approve the March 15, 2023, LPEA board meeting agenda as amended by adding a community broadband partnership discussion in the executive session. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

MEMBER COMMENTS AND CONCERNS (9:05 a.m.)

Attorney Smith gave an overview of the ground rules for public commentary. There was no public comment.

CONSENT BOARD ITEMS (9:06 a.m.)

President Witchel addressed the Consent Board Items. Director Wheeler requested that director expenses be pulled from the consent board items for further discussion.

Motion: Director McInnis moved to approve the Consent Board Items: the February Board of Directors minutes as presented, accepting new members, the retirement of Capital Credits to estates, monthly write-offs, director travel and training requests, director expenditures, and update the title of Policy 122 to align with the policy text. Motion seconded and carried without dissent. Director Wheeler was not present for the vote.

Motion: Director Wheeler moved to approve the director expenses with the one expense report in question expected to be corrected per Policy [109](#). Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

CEO AND STAFF REPORTS

DIVISION DASHBOARDS (9:16 a.m.)

CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Matlock reported the monthly board dashboard. The dashboard reports on progress in meeting the targets listed in the [2023 Operational Plan](#). The dashboard was made public prior to the board meeting. VP Ramsey gave an update on February financials. CEO Matlock and staff members took questions and suggestions related to the discussed topics within the dashboard and appendix reports.

COMMITTEE ON POLICIES UPDATE (9:47 a.m.)

Committee Chair Compton gave an update on the committee's proposed amendments to policies [120](#), [122](#), [126](#), [128](#), and [215](#).

The Committee on Policies will consider the non-committee members' comments and present a final version for a vote at the April board meeting for the proposed changes to [Policy 215](#).

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATE (9:49 a.m.)

Committee Chair McWilliams addressed her written report. The committee reviewed February's financial information at the last meeting. VP Ramsey gave an update on the audit during the committee meeting and VP Harms gave a brief introduction on a proposed rate tariff change related to net metering.

PURPA HEARING (9:50 a.m.)

Attorney Smith addressed the PURPA (Public Utility Regulatory Policies) hearing regarding two of the most recent Federal standards under PURPA Section 111(d) (the "Standards"). These standards were added to PURPA as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, as signed into law on November 15, 2022. On November 16, 2022, [LPEA sought member input](#) and received one response on February 28, 2023. LPEA staff will create a report and present it to the full board before the November deadline.

REPORTS

ATTORNEY REPORT (9:58 a.m.)

Referring to the written report in the board packet, Attorney Smith highlighted the work done for LPEA staff and board members since the February meeting. Beginning next month, Attorney Smith's report will be included in the Dashboard. Attorney Smith took questions from board members.

DIRECTOR REPORTS – ROUND UP, TRI-STATE, TRI-STATE RATE DESIGN (9:59 a.m.)

Directors referred to written and verbal reports in the board packet and took questions and suggestions from board members and staff. Director Skeehan presented a slide presentation on the activity at Tri-State's Rate Design Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (10:42 a.m.)

President Witchel requested a motion to move into an executive session to discuss attorney updates of FERC actions and a community broadband partnership.

Motion: Director Wheeler moved to enter an executive session to discuss attorney updates of FERC actions and a community broadband partnership. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

Director McInnis recused himself from part of the FERC attorney update discussion during the executive session because of a possible conflict with his role as a Tri-State board representative. Director McInnis joined the executive session at 12:50 p.m.

The board remained in executive session from 10:44 a.m. to 1:01 p.m.

BOARD ACTIONS RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION (1:02 p.m.)

None

ATTORNEY UPDATE ON FERC ACTIONS (1:02 p.m.)

Matthew Larson, Outside Counsel for LPEA, did not give an update on FERC during the public session but did give an update during the executive session.

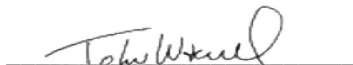
DIRECTOR REPORTS CONTINUED – FASTTRACK, CREA, WESTERN UNITED (1:02 p.m.)

Directors referred to written and verbal reports in the board packet and took questions and suggestions from board members and staff.

ADJOURN (1:22 p.m.)

There being no further business, the LPEA Board of Directors' meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Recorded by J.P. Thunstrom and approved by:



John Witchel, President



Dan Huntington, Secretary