

**LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, September 18, 2024**  
**12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**  
**In-person with Electronic Attendance Option**  
**LPEA Headquarters**

**Call to Order**

The 2024 Annual Meeting of La Plata Electric Association, Inc., was held in person on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, with an electronic attendance option. President Ted Compton called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m. and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Official Welcome**

President Ted Compton officially welcomed members attending both in person and virtually, marking the cooperative's 85th year of service. He emphasized the importance of the annual meeting for sharing accomplishments from 2023 and reaffirming LPEA's commitment to serving its members. Special thanks were extended to Zia Taqueria for catering and all staff involved in the event's organization.

**Attendance Report**

Interim CEO Graham Smith reported that 5 members were in attendance virtually and 78 members in person, establishing a quorum per Article II, Section 4 of the LPEA Bylaws, which requires 50 members to conduct business. An additional nine members joined via Zoom.

**Appointment of Acting Secretary and Parliamentarian**

President Compton appointed Executive Assistant Janelle Thunstrom as Acting Secretary and General Counsel Graham Smith as Parliamentarian. Both accepted the appointments.

**Final Notice of Meeting and Standing Rules**

Parliamentarian Graham Smith reviewed the official notice of the annual meeting and standing rules, confirming that the notice was posted per LPEA's bylaws. Printed copies of the standing rules were available for in-person attendees, and a copy was available online for virtual participants.

**Motion:** Member and Director Joe Lewandowski moved to approve the Standing Rules and Procedures. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

**Approval of Agenda and 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Interim CEO Smith requested a motion to approve the 2024 LPEA Annual meeting agenda.

**Motion:** A Community Member moved to approve the 2024 LPEA Annual Meeting agenda as posted. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

Interim CEO Smith requested a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented.

**Motion:** Member and Director Joe Lewandowski moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

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## **Reports**

### **Board President's Report – Ted Compton**

President Compton reflected on LPEA's significant milestones in 2023, including improving the power supply strategy, increasing local energy control, and enhancing flexibility in wholesale energy contracts. He also thanked former CEO Jessica Matlock for her contributions before her departure in March 2024. He introduced Interim CEO Graham Smith, who would provide further updates on strategic progress.

### **CEO Report – Interim CEO Graham Smith**

Interim CEO, Graham Smith, provided an update on the organization's progress in 2023. He highlighted the current power supply arrangement, noting that 95% of electricity is purchased from Tri-State, which handles generation and transmission, while the organization is responsible for distribution to members. Smith outlined the three options under evaluation regarding the future relationship with Tri-State: (1) staying with Tri-State while negotiating for more flexible terms, (2) fully exiting the 50-year contract early, and (3) considering a partial exit. These options were reviewed considering the restrictive nature of the current contract, which runs through 2050, limiting control over rates and clean energy projects.

Smith also introduced the North Star framework, which consists of six priority areas guiding the organization from 2021 to 2025. He provided specific examples, such as the focus on safety, demonstrated by the lineworker families decorating glove bags, and community engagement efforts, including hosting a STEM booth and building robots with children at the La Plata County Fair.

### **Power Supply Report – Dan Harms**

Dan Harms, VP of Grid Solutions, gave an update on the power supply strategy and discussed clean, local, low-cost energy initiatives. Highlights included LPEA's construction of the Sunnyside Solar Garden, battery storage, and heat pumps.

### **Operations Report – Jerry Sutherlin**

VP of Operations Jerry Sutherlin presented LPEA's operational achievements, highlighting the total hours worked to restore power during outages. He emphasized LPEA's commitment to minimizing downtime, with an impressive average outage restoration time of 102.94 minutes over the past year. In addition to restoration efforts, VP Sutherlin also highlighted the company's proactive fire mitigation strategies, which have been crucial in preventing potential fire hazards during high-risk seasons. These measures not only protect the community but also ensure a more resilient grid. Member feedback further underscored the positive impact of these efforts, especially during adverse weather conditions, when quick responses were most appreciated.

### **Financial Report – Patrick Berry**

Patrick Berry, VP of Finance, provided an update on the previous year's financial performance, reporting that the organization maintained strong financial health throughout the year. A detailed review of revenue and expenses

demonstrated stable income and well-controlled costs, with a total of \$5M invested in capital contributions to members and infrastructure projects. Long-term debt per member decreased, showing sound financial management. Berry also highlighted key operational metrics, including margin performance, supply chain challenges, and the impact of inflation on the electric industry, all of which were closely monitored over the past year. The comprehensive financial statements, including balance sheets and income reports, confirmed that the organization successfully met its financial targets for 2023.

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### **Election Results**

President Compton introduced Sarah McKee, who is with Survey and Ballot Systems, to announce the 2024 Board of Director election results.

Ms. McKee reported 3,209 ballots were returned among the 18,479 mailed in the 2024 Board of Directors election. There were no bylaw amendments on the ballot for this election term.

The detailed election results are as follows.

- **District 1 (Archuleta County):** Candidate Kirsten Skeehan won with 990 votes. Candidate Dusty Mars received 466 votes.
- **District 4 (North & East La Plata County):** Candidate Tim Wheeler won with 1,030 votes. Candidate John Purser received 718 votes.

As no challenger applications were received in Districts 2 and 3, the following candidates were seated unopposed:

- **District 2 (South & West La Plata County)** Incumbent Kohler McInnis was seated.
- **District 3 (City of Durango):** Incumbent Ted Compton was seated.

### **Q&A Session**

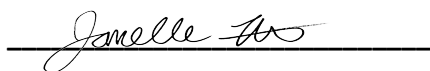
President Compton facilitated the Q&A session, with questions directed to appropriate staff members. Following the meeting, unanswered questions will be posted on [LPEA's website](#).

### **Door Prizes**

President Compton announced the winners of the door prizes, which included two \$50 Home Depot gift cards donated by NextEra and a smoker donated by Tri-State.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, President Compton thanked all attendees, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.



Acting Secretary: Janelle Thunstrom