

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
<https://lpea.coop/broadband-committee>

CALL TO ORDER

The Broadband Committee Meeting of the La Plata Electric Association Board of Directors was held Tuesday, May 4, 2021 via Zoom Webinar. Committee Chair, Kirsten Skeeahan called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. The following committee members were in attendance:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Director Kirsten Skeeahan, Committee Chair
Director Holly Metzler
Director Tim Wheeler
Jessica Matlock, CEO
Ryne Waggoner, Systems Engineering Manager

SUPPORT STAFF

Dan Harms, VP Grid Solutions
Karl Ramsey, VP Finance
Graham Smith, Board and Staff Attorney
Janelle Thunstrom, Executive Assistant
Drew Timmerman, VP Information Technology

EXCUSED ABSENCE

None

COMMITTEE GUESTS

Miriam Gillow-Wiles, Executive Director--Southwest Colorado Council of Governments
John Honker, CEO--Magellan Advisors, LLC
Jessica Zufolo, VP, Rural Broadband Strategy--Magellan Advisors, LLC
Kelly Hebbard, General Manager--FastTrack Communications, Inc.

WEBINAR ATTENDEES

Mary Jo Coulehan, Jason Cox, Delbert Cuthair, Meade Harbison, Eric Hittle, Leah Miller, Natambu Obleton, Mark Oppegard, and John Witchel

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Committee Chair Skeeahan addressed the Tuesday, May 4, 2021 Broadband Committee Meeting agenda.

Motion: Committee Member Metzler moved to approve the Tuesday, May 4, 2021 Broadband Committee Meeting agenda. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Committee Chair Skeehan addressed the April 13, 2021 Broadband Committee Meeting minutes.

Motion: Committee Member Matlock moved to approve the April 13, 2021 Broadband Committee minutes. Motion seconded and carried 4 to 1, with Committee Chair Skeehan, Director Wheeler, CEO Matlock, and Systems Engineering Manager Waggoner in favor; Director Metzler abstaining.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

UPDATE ON STATE AND FEDERAL GRANT MONEY – MIRIAM GILLOW-WILES SWCOG

Committee guest Miriam Gillow-Wiles gave an update on State and Federal Legislation which included an update on NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) funding and House Bill 1289 funding. Gillow-Wiles took questions from committee members and staff.

KICKOFF PRESENTATION BY MAGELLAN CONSULTANTS ON BROADBAND ROADMAP STUDY AND TIMELINE

Committee guests John Honker and Jessica Zufolo gave a presentation overview on the LPEA broadband roadmap study. Topics discussed during the presentation included broadband planning, design engineering, turnkey implementation, funding, and grants. Honker and Zufolo took questions from committee members and staff.

UPDATE ON FIBER TO THE HOME – KELLY HEBBARD, FASTTRACK

Committee guest Kelly Hebbard gave a brief update on stimulus money and/or grant funds that may come available for broadband. FastTrack has been operating as a private based service provider since 2002. Hebbard mentioned barriers that FastTrack has faced regarding the moratorium on underground infrastructure and right of way (ROW) issues with homeowners. Hebbard also gave an update on Fiber to the Home, the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) auction, and grant funding. Hebbard took questions from committee members and staff.

SUMMARY OF CONEXON PROPOSAL

Topic not discussed due to time restraints.

NEXT STEPS, AGENDA ITEMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

None

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, the Broadband Committee Meeting of the La Plata Electric Association, Board of Directors adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Recorded by J. P. Thunstrom, and approved by:



Kirsten Skeehan, Committee Chair