

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Broadband Committee Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2020
Durango, Colorado

CALL TO ORDER

The Broadband Committee Committee of the La Plata Electric Association Board of Directors was held Thursday, February 13, 2020 at the headquarters building in Durango, Colorado. Committee Co-Chairman, Guinn Unger called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. The following committee members were in attendance:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Guinn Unger, Committee Co-Chairman
Dan Harms, Committee Co-Chairman
Kirsten Skeehan
Tim Wheeler
Jessica Matlock, CEO

LPEA STAFF

Charis Charistopoulos, EA
Drew Timmerman, VP Information Technology
Ryne Waggoner, Staff Engineer
Monica Rodriguez, Controller
Justin Talbot

EXCUSED ABSENCE: None

GUESTS: Kelly Hebbard, General Manager of FastTrack Communications, Natambu Obleton, Manager of Network Operations, Ted Compton, Vice Chair FastTrack Communications, Eric Hittle, Archuleta County Broadband Services Manager, Holly Metzler, Jeff Christensen, President of EntryPoint Networks

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion: Committee Co-Chairman Harms moved to approve the February 13, 2020 Broadband Committee meeting agenda. Motion seconded and carried without dissent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Co-Chairman Unger addressed the January 9, 2020 Broadband Committee meeting minutes.

Motion: Committee Member Wheeler moved to approve January 9, 2020 Broadband Committee meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded and carried 4 to 0 with Director Skeehan abstaining.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PRESENTATION BY JEFF CHRISTENSEN, CEO ENTRYPOINT NETWORKS – Christensen discussed the history, evolution, virtues, complexities, and current state of open access networks around the world and in the United States; and how the open access model is overcoming barriers for new internet service providers (ISPs), opening up innovation and competition through local control of infrastructure, and improving the customer experience.

The current manual networks are not designed to support an emerging economy, and network services should be in the cloud and controlled by software. Christensen discussed cost structures and financing through a customer opt-in model and took questions.

POSSIBLE GOALS FOR LPEA – Committee members discussed defining objectives as they consider strategic broadband goal setting that is in alignment with the LPEA mission and vision statements, and as a majority owner of FastTrack Communications. Discussion ensued on motives for assisting the community and LPEA operations and finances; as well as opportunities to increase electricity usage and sales, parameters and methodologies for implementing goals, and prioritization.

DISCUSS BRINGING STAKEHOLDERS INTO PROCESS – The committee discussed meeting with stakeholders and key partners for input on goal shaping, and the efficiency of utilizing consulting services that LPEA currently has on contract; as well as, the six month timeline of the Broadband Committee and how it might not be sufficient to perform its full duty.

FUTURE MEETINGS – Co-Chairman Unger advised that committee members would be contacted to schedule the next LPEA Broadband Committee.

There being no further business, the Broadband Committee of the La Plata Electric Association, Board of Directors meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

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



Kirsten Skeehan, Committee Chair

Kirsten Skeehan replaced Guinn Unger and Dan Harms as the Broadband Committee Chair on September 16, 2020.