

LA PLATA ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Committee of the Whole Minutes of Meeting
Monday, July 16, 2018
Durango, Colorado

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Committee of the Whole meeting of La Plata Electric Association, Inc. was held Monday, July 16, 2018 at the headquarters building in Durango, Colorado. Vice President Bassett called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m., with the following Directors present:

Mike Alley		Kirsten Skeeahan
Britt Bassett, Vice President	Doug Lyon	Jack Turner
Dan Huntington, Secretary	Kohler McInnis	Guinn Unger
Rachel Landis	Davin Montoya	Tim Wheeler, Treasurer

LPEA STAFF:

Mike Dreyspring, Chief Executive Officer
Dan Harms, Manager of Energy Rates and Technology
Dennis Svanes, Chief Financial Officer
Nadine Ontiveros, Manager of HR
Ron Meier, Manager of Engineering and Member Relations
Justin Talbot, Manager of Operations
Jerry Wills, District Manager, Pagosa Springs
C. E. Charistopoulos, Executive Assistant
Shay Denning, LPEA General Counsel

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Bob Lynch, President

GUESTS (from sign in sheet): The following guests were present: Betsy Romere, Sarah Ferrell, Linda Ferrell, Debbie Kent, Lori Schell, Emily Bowie, John Wallace, Bill Swapp, Lori Swapp.

REVIEW OF BOARD RESOLUTION ON BOARD WORK AND COMMITMENTS GOING FORWARD – There was consensus among the Board that the June 18, 2018 Board resolution was an acceptable reference point for the strategic prioritization of Board goals and initiatives.

As we look towards the future of the Coop, the Board commits to actively honor our mission: to provide safe, reliable, environmentally responsible power, while achieving the lowest reasonable costs to our members. In doing so, we will explore and carefully vet a holistic suite of options to increase LPEA's value to the membership. Moving forward, we will continue to pursue our mission with transparency, community engagement, acknowledgement of risk, and earning the trust of our members by performing our fiduciary responsibility.

FACILITATED DISCUSSION OF HIGH LEVEL BOARD GOALS – Director McInnis spoke to the weaknesses of the current Strategic Plan and the need for a process of revision that aligns the goals of the Board and Staff, demonstrates a flow of prioritization, and has a user-friendly interface. Board and Staff broke into four groups for a Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) analysis facilitate by Director Landis. A representative from each group discussed the identified SWOT items with Directors and Staff. Landis extracted common themes, areas of focus, and strengths to leverage for strategic goal setting that aligns with the LPEA Mission statement and the Board resolution and commitments.


Directors and Staff resumed small group work to build goals and strategic initiatives and presented identified items for discussion of overlap and commonality. There was consensus on high level strategic goals of power supply, member engagement, comprehensive planning, reducing LPEA demand, local economic development, and beneficial electrification. Discussion ensued on Board responsibilities and Staff responsibilities, how the goals align with the 7 Cooperative Principles, the Mission statement, and the Board resolution. The Board’s intention is to continue the refining process, identify next steps, and approve goals at the July 18 Board meeting.

Due to the collaborative energy of small group discussion, there was consensus among the Board to participate in a system of random seating assignments at subsequent Board meetings.

RATE TOPIC: BUYBACK RATE AND REVIEW OF EXCESS NET METERING – Dan Harms discussed the buyback of excess generation from residential generation projects and community solar gardens (CSG) which accounts for 10% of net metered production. Net metering is intended to offset energy consumption with generation, and not encourage over-generation. During the interconnection procedure, LPEA limits the sizing of a net metered system to 120% of the consumers load, however LPEA purchases all excess generation produced (even if it exceeds 120%). For community solar gardens (CSG) however, LPEA limits the purchase of member generation to no more than 120% of their load. This is because a CSG subscriber can reduce their subscription at any time.

Harms presented possible solutions to address the member relations problems caused by limiting the interconnection of systems to 120% and the inconsistencies between the two policies. Discussion ensued on avoided cost, wholesale rate, interconnection limits, and the Tri-State 5% cap on distributed generation. Harms will process the feedback received from the Board for further discussion at the Wednesday July 18 Board meeting.

There being no further business, the LPEA Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m. Recorded by C.E. Charistopoulos, and approved by:



Bob Lynch, President



Dan Huntington, Secretary