

OPERATING COMMITTEE MEETING

August 22, 2024

9:30 AM

The ARPA Operating Committee met at the Las Animas City Council Chambers, 532 Carson, Las Animas, CO., at 9:30 AM on August 22, 2024. Committee members in attendance included Randy Holland (Holly), Bill Jackson (La Junta), Lynn Wright (Las Animas) Houssin Hourieh (Lamar), and Heath Piper (Springfield). Also in attendance was Linda Vigil (Trinidad) and Chris Arguello (La Junta) and ARPA staff members Rick Rigel, Aarin Ritter and Arvenia Morris. John Krajewski (JK Energy Consulting) attended the meeting by ZOOM from 9:45 – 10:10 AM.

Call to order: Chairman Hourieh called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM.

Approval of Agenda.

The agenda was approved as received.

Approval of Minutes: May 23, 2024. The minutes of the May 23, 2024, meeting was approved as presented.

Update on Cost of Service Rate Study. a. Recommendation for ARPA Rate Structure and Future Rates. John Krajewski of JK Energy Consulting attended the meeting by zoom. He presented his recommendation for an incremental load development rate within ARPA's rate structure. **b. Update on Member's COS Studies.** Krajewski provided a proposal to prepare retail cost of service studies for the six ARPA member communities. His proposal included a high-level overview of the project, proposed scope of services, and a fixed fee price based on milestones completed. As discussed, the Cost of Service rate study contract would be with ARPA. ARPA would then, in turn, bill each member for their portion of the invoice. The billing arrangement, as proposed, will be presented to the ARPA Board of Directors for its consideration and approval at the August 29 meeting of the Board.

CLPE Distribution System Planning Services. a. Update on Engineering. Holly, Springfield, Las Animas and Trinidad have received their pre-final report. It is expected that Lamar and La Junta's reports will be completed within the next 2 weeks. The reports will be considered "final" pending any comments/questions from the Members.

Update on Federal and State Funding Opportunities. a. Discussion on Funding for Infrastructure Improvements (GRIP and Grid Resiliency). The Colorado Grid Resilience Grant Program application period opens August 27. Due dates for grant applications for grid hardening for small and rural communities, advanced grip monitoring, microgrids for community resilience planning and community resilience construction, were noted. Staff have been researching options for funding infrastructure improvements. Staff believes with the number of improvements and associated cost recommended by CLP Engineering, that ARPA should focus on the DOE-GRIP (federal) funding and "package" a group of similar projects together to submit for funding. Staff interviewed national firms that write and manage these types of grants. Next steps: identify priorities for the grant application

like any comments, or changes, to the proposal before its distribution. **d. Consideration of Equipment Purchase.** As discussed, the Committee is interested in the purchase of a high voltage demonstration utility trailer for safety training purposes.

Miscellaneous Operations. ARPA has updated the metering at Fort Lyon and is currently in the process of getting the meter at Las Animas updated. **a. Report from Dittman – Annexation Related to Service Territory.** Rick will provide the Committee with information drafted by Brandon Dittman regarding annexation. **b. Report from Dittman – Best Practices for Disconnects (CPUC Regulations).** Rick will provide the Committee with information drafted by Brandon Dittman regarding disconnection rules.

Member’s Usage Report. Usage reports were provided to the committee members.

Next Meeting Date. The next meeting of the Operating Committee will be a ZOOM meeting on September 19 beginning at 9:00 AM. The Committee also scheduled an in-person meeting on October 24 in Las Animas beginning at 9:30 AM.

Adjourn. The meeting concluded at 12:12 PM.


Submitted by Houssin Hourieh, Chairman