

Eastern Slope Rural Telephone Association, Inc.

2022 Annual Meeting Highlights

June 14, 2022

We had a great turnout for our 70th Annual Meeting of the Members. Over 228 meals were served by All of It Catering, LLC.

***Legal Determination** – 126 members were registered and present. A quorum was declared by Attorney Ed Zorn.

***Proof of Legal Meeting Notice** – Affidavits were presented proving publication and delivery of appropriate notification of the annual meeting of members.

*** Annual Meeting Minutes Approved** – Minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting were approved by the membership.

***Financial Review** - Tammy Totzke of FORVIS, LLP - Ms. Totzke explained Eastern Slope is very strong financially and has seen a 73% increase in internet revenues since 2017 and a significant increase in margins for the same time period. She went on to explain that the cooperative was able to make investments in fiber upgrades of approximately \$2.4 million, and pay off over \$1.3 million in debt while maintaining a strong cash flow statement. The cooperative reported over \$2.6 Million in margins for 2021.

***Manager's Report** – Patricia White, General Manager/CEO

- **Memberships – Single or Joint?**

Manager White explained the difference between single and joint membership as provided in the bylaws of the cooperative, including the guidelines in regard to voting on cooperative business matters and the distribution of capital credits.

- **Alternative Connect America Fund II**

Manager White provided a brief explanation of the ACAMII support and the associated requirements to provide 25/3 mbps broadband to a specified number of rural locations. ESRTA has now met these requirements. The ACAMII support is set to expire in 2028.

- **Plant Upgrades**

Fiber-to-the-Home to rural areas of Hugo and Flagler - 2022 Completion

Fiber-to-the-Home in the Flagler Exchange – 2022 Completion

Fiber-to-the-Home in the Town of Eads – 2022 Completion

Fiber-to-the-Home in the Town of Hugo – 2023 Completion

- **New Service Offerings**

Business VoIP Phone Systems

Managed Wi-Fi App

Broadband Only – No Phone Line Required

Digital Signage

- **Industry Updates**

New Colorado Area Code 983 – Overlay of the Denver Metro area

Broadband Funding Opportunities are abundant

- **Retirement**

Mrs. White announced her upcoming retirement as General Manager of the Cooperative

***Service Awards and Scholarships**

Service Awards:

15 Years – Chris Stone

10 Years – Shalena Fox

A special award was announced, commemorating Larry Haller's service on the Board of Directors

Scholarships (\$1,000 Each):

Tailyn Thompson – Genoa Exchange

Rhealie Rittgers – Eads Exchange

Connor Kahn – Hugo Exchange

***Director Elections**

Thomas M. Sauter (Bennett), Charles Roger Saffer (Eads), John W. Higgins (Genoa) and Rick Chenoweth (Woodrow) were elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Directors.