

**LOUISIANA EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION AUTHORITY
FULL BOARD MEETING
February 12, 2026 ♦ 12:00 PM ♦ LPB Board Room
7733 Perkins Road ♦ Baton Rouge, LA 70810
and
Via Electronic Means Pursuant to R.S. 42:17.2
MINUTES**

Members Present: Tracie Woods, Sonny Cranch, Dr. Laura Lindsay, Taft Kleinpeter, and Dr. Courtney Phillips (12:08).

Via Teleconference: Dan Hare, Misty Wyble, Conrad Comeaux, Jeff Thomas, and Howard White.

Members Absent: Elizabeth Crochet, William Bradford, Chris Wegmann, Dr. Sandra McGuire, Lance Harris, Sharon Reine, Sally Davis, and Erin Donnelly

Staff Present: Clarence "C.C." Copeland, Kimberly Ducote, Angela Bessix, Matt Tessier, and Terri Crockett (Friends of LPB).

CALL TO ORDER: Tracie Woods, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM.

Tracie Woods ensured that all online attendees could see and hear the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tracie Woods, Chairperson, inquired if any online comments had been received, and there were none. Ms. Woods then asked if any member of the public attending had any public comment, and there were none.

FRIENDS OF LPB REPORT: Terri Crockett, Executive Director (FLPB) gave the Friends report for Howard White, Chair of Friends of LPB (FLPB).

ROLL CALL: Sonny Cranch, Secretary, conducted a roll call vote with the following members confirming their attendance: Conrad Comeaux, Sonny Cranch, Dan Hare, Taft Kleinpeter Dr. Laura Lindsay, Dr. Courtney Phillips, Jeff Thomas, Howard White, Tracie Woods, and Misty Wyble.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Tracie Woods called for a motion to approve the minutes of the LETA full board meeting of December 11, 2025. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dr. Courtney Phillips and was seconded by Jeff Thomas. A roll call vote was taken, and with all in favor, the motion passed.

LETA FINANCIAL UPDATE: Dr. Laura Lindsay, Treasurer, presented the LETA financial update. A motion to approve the financial update was made by Jeff Thomas and seconded by Sonny Cranch. A roll call vote was taken, and with all in favor, the motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: C.C. Copeland, LPB President and CEO, reported on the following:

- Legislative session begins March 9, 2026, and ends June 1, 2026.
- LETA's preliminary FY26–27 state budget includes \$4,431,098 in acquisitions and \$575,000 in major repairs.
- In Congress, the House passed a funding bill for FY 26, which did not restore the majority of funding for public media, but did include \$31m in funding for the Ready to Learn grant program and \$48m in funding for the Next Generation Warning System grant program.
- PBS stations nationwide continue to experience layoffs.
- C.C. shared recent statistics showing 77% support among Americans for a strong public television system and showing strong public trust for PBS.
- PBS dues for FY 27 will be made available to stations in June.
- LPB's travel show LA64 has premiered, with first episodes focusing on Vermillion Parish, Sabine Parish and Jefferson Parish, with a premier event occurring March 10th with Lieutenant Governor Nungesser at the Louisiana State Capitol Park Museum.
- LPB has several productions targeting national distribution: *Capturing American: The Carol Highsmith Story*, *Zydeco Soul*, and Season 2 of *Ritual*.

LITIGATION REPORT:

Pursuant to La. R.S. 42:17(A)(2), upon unanimous roll call vote, the board entered into executive session at 12:35 pm to discuss pending litigation. Matt Tessier, Deputy Director and in-house counsel briefed the committee regarding the case *Maxwell Olson and Global Weather Productions, LLC v. Louisiana Educational Television Authority dba Louisiana Public Broadcasting; United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana; Case# 3:25-cv-00914-RLB*. The board voted to exit executive session at 1:00p.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

Tracie Woods, Chairperson, reported that the next Executive and Finance Committee meeting is March 12, 2026 and the next full LETA meeting is April 9, 2026.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Adjournment: Tracie Woods, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 1:08 PM.

Minutes prepared by Angela Bessix and Matt Tessier