



Purpose, Vision and Objectives

(Revised in Long-Range Planning Committee Meeting 10/29/08, presented and approved by the Board 12/02/08)

TMEPA Purpose:

Per our Certificate of Charter from the State of Tennessee and our Bylaws as voted on and approved by our members, as amended, TMEPA's primary purpose shall be to promote the interest and welfare of the municipal electric power systems and their customers in the State of Tennessee. Furthermore, TMEPA's purpose shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. To foster and promote legislation and policies that will enhance the operation, development, and progress of such electric power systems.
2. To render assistance and service in the promotion of any interest common to the members of the association.
3. To render to the members certain services in technical engineering, legal, accounting, financial, management, marketing, customer service and other phases of electric utility operations.
4. To assist and encourage cooperation and exchange of information and ideas among its members in order to promote higher standards and efficiency in all phases of the electric utility business.
5. To sponsor, encourage and coordinate the active participation of subsections of this association comprised of the municipal power distributors of Tennessee.
6. To maintain an exchange of ideas and information, extend assistance and service, and to cooperate in joint committee and projects with similar associations in the TVA service area to promote the interest and welfare of all municipal power distributors in the TVA area.
7. To join with any and all individuals, groups, agencies, and associations in the promotion and development of the TVA area/Public Power and the maintenance of an adequate power supply.

TMEPA Vision:

To be a respected, influential organization representing all municipally owned power systems in the State of Tennessee by creating and influencing legislation that benefits our members and their customers and, evolving our activities and services to complement the changing environment of our members and their common betterment.

TMEPA Objectives:

1. Legislative Activities
2. Coordinating
3. Marketing

TMEPA Objectives Plan:

1. Legislative Activities

- a. Introduce and/or support legislation that would allow public power systems to become providers of additional utility-related business services and/or enhance existing electric system service(s).
- b. Monitor and evaluate Tennessee legislative action that could impact public power system customers and implement, when appropriate, a plan of action to strengthen local involvement and influence of local elected officials, managers and/or board members.
- c. Utilizing the Legislative Committee to increase system manager/staff involvement in the legislative process.
- d. Formulate and present recommendations regarding legislative positions.
- e. Work with the member systems in scheduling receptions and/or events for legislators, in accordance with TN law regarding lobbyist expenditures.
- f. Continue working with TECA in areas of common concern as it relates to Public Power in Tennessee.
- g. Monitor and evaluate Federal legislative action that could impact public power system customers and implement, when appropriate, a plan through common actions with APPA and TVPPA.
- h. Coordinate efforts of TMEPA System Lobbyists.
- i. In coordination with the Executive Director/CEO, the Legislative Committee will give an annual report to the Board evaluating the Committee's legislative efforts.
- j. Continue the current organizational structure as it pertains to legislative activities with an Executive Director and Contract Lobbyist. The Contract Lobbyist will have the primary responsibility as the lead lobbyist. The Executive Director shall also have lobbying responsibilities in support of the Contract Lobbyist; as well as, the oversight of all objectives contained within the Long Range Plan. The Executive Director will continue to supervise the Contract Lobbyist and direct the legislative/lobbying activities of the Association.
- k. The Long Range Planning Committee shall meet in the fall of each year to evaluate the staffing needs and operational procedure of TMEPA; making recommendations to the Board of any suggested changes.

2. Coordinating

- a. Establish and maintain effective coalitions with other organizations which share common interest such as APPA, TVPPA, Tennessee Fiber Optic Communities and other statewide associations and vendor associations.
- b. Provide adequate resources through dues and assessments to support the objectives plan of TMEPA as approved by the Board of Directors.
- c. Work closely with TMEPA Legal Counsel to achieve accurate opinions regarding applications of law and interpretation of policies, rules and opinions published by various state departments and committees. Supplemental legal counsel shall include members of the bar as chosen by the Executive Director and may vary based on the area of expertise in question.

- d. Coordinate services with TEPAC Board as appropriate.
- e. Support and assist the Engineering & Operations (E&O) section with their program needs, goals and administration.
- f. Identify, develop and administer training and other programs of interest to municipal power including evaluation of expressed needs of the membership.
- g. Continue to enhance and expand the scheduled member meetings of the Association.
- h. Share best practices by developing a members' only password protected site to gather and store information such as policies, practices and employee benefits.
- i. Provide a "What do you do in this scenario" service to our members. Request this information from the membership on a voluntary basis and post the results on the website under a password protected page.
- j. The TMEPA Long Range Planning Committee will meet annually to review this document and make any recommended changes to the TMEPA Board of Directors for approval. In addition, the results and association effectiveness of the Long Range Plan shall be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Membership.
- k. The Executive Director and Contract Lobbyist will work with the Long Range Planning Committee and Legislative Committee to develop a succession plan and unavailability plan, for the Executive Director and TMEPA's contract lobbyist, to present to the Board for approval.

3. Marketing

- a. Promote public power interests through media formats conducive to the overall goals of the association.
- b. Select and recognize individual/system award winners at the annual meeting. Consider developing additional awards of recognition involving key governmental officials at both the local and state levels.
- c. Enhance, maintain and administer the official TMEPA website.