

Enhanced Oil Recovery Commission



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MEETING MINUTES

March 09, 2020 – 1:00 PM

Wyoming Technology Business Center, Casper, Wyoming

Commission Members Present

Ken Hendricks, Chairman
Erin Campbell, State Geologist
Ron Baugh
Chad Brister
Robert King
Randall Luthi, Representing Governor Mark Gordon (via Telephone)
Dave True, University of Wyoming Trustee

Commission Members Excused:

Senator Drew Perkins

Commission Staff Present:

Micah Christensen, Assistant Attorney General

Guests Present:

Matthew Fry, Governor Mark Gordon's Office

Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute Staff Present:

Steven Carpenter, Director
Rob Hurless, Deputy Director
Chana Conley, Commission Support
Colleen Rippeth
Roger Hillibush
Kellie Vlastos
Eric Robertson
Christopher Allen
Lon Whitman

I. Call to Order

****1:01 PM Chairman Hendricks called the meeting to order; roll was taken and a quorum was established.**

II. Minutes

Motion: Commissioner King moved to approve the minutes from December 9, 2019 Enhanced Oil Recovery Commission (EORC) meeting as published. Commissioner Baugh seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

****1:03 PM Lon Whitman enters the meeting.**

III. New Staff Introductions

Director Carpenter asked to move the Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute (EORI) Staff update up in the agenda. Chairman Hendricks agreed to the agenda modification.

Director Carpenter distributed a new staff roster that included staff photos and better defined the different areas staff fulfilled within the institute. Director Carpenter stated the new staff chart with organization would replace the current staff page on the EORI website. Commissioner True requested that the staff roster with pictures be delivered with meeting packets in the future to help Commission members be abreast of any staff changes and to also help familiarize themselves with the staff faces.

New staff members briefly introduced themselves to EORC members.

****1:09 PM Micah Christensen from the Attorney General's Office entered the meeting. Roger Hillibush, Eric Robertson, Kellie Vlastos, and Christopher Allen left the meeting.**

IV. Financial Report

Deputy Director Hurless presented the EORI spending report through January 31, 2020. Deputy Director Hurless stated federal grants that had been awarded but were still being processed by the University of Wyoming Accounting Department did not appear on the spending report. As of the time of this meeting, only one month of grant spending, from July 2019, had been processed by the University. Once there was a better history and pattern of spending, grants would be included in the financial report.

Deputy Director Hurless also stated that going forward there would be a new report layout based on reports generated by the WyoCloud Accounting System recently adopted by the University of Wyoming. The new report format would allow for more granular examination of spending. Funding for the institute would still come in the form of two block grants approved by the Wyoming State Legislature and the Governor's Office, the changes would only reflect how that money was allocated after award.

Commissioner King asked if EORI was fully staffed at the time of meeting. Director Carpenter responded for current projects and grant awards, EORI was fully staffed. However, there were two grant proposals still being reviewed by the Department of Energy and staff needs may change if either of those grants were awarded to EORI.

Deputy Director Hurless stated the meeting with the Joint Appropriations Committee to present the budget for EORI went well and the existing EORI budget had been approved. At the time of meeting, the final budget only had to be signed by the Governor to become official. Because there were no requests for supplemental budget funds or any increase to budget, no objections were foreseen.

V. Reports and Updates

Director Carpenter informed the EORC that a new president for the University of Wyoming had been selected. Edward Seidel was chosen by the Board of Trustees to take office July 1, 2020. Commissioner True described Seidel as very energetic and interested in promoting economic development for the State of Wyoming.

Action Item: Director Carpenter proposed that with a new University President and a new director for the School of Energy Resources, it would be in the commission's best interest to schedule time with both parties to introduce themselves and explain how EORI and the EORC relate to the University of Wyoming.

Director Carpenter announced that Chuck Peterson would be stepping down from the EORI Technical Advisory Board (TAB). To take his place Keith Shanley, a well-respected geologist who had worked with EORI in the past, was extended an invitation.

Matthew Fry presented a short PowerPoint on the Wyoming Pipeline Corridor Initiative. The project started in 2011 with the goal to facilitate development of a pipeline corridor to connect sources of CO₂ with Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) fields and sites for carbon sequestration. Once completed, the Initiative would attract development to the state by reducing the time and cost for permitting pipeline construction within the defined corridor.

VI. New Business

Deputy Director Hurless updated the commission and staff on the merger between the Wyoming Pipeline Authority (WPA) and the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority (WIA). With the merger, former WPA staff members Roger Hillibush and Kellie Vlastos were hired by EORI. It was also agreed that EORI would manage the servers containing the GIS information for the WPA webpage and would ensure the information remained available for public access.

****1:42 PM Randall Luthi enters the meeting.**

Deputy Director Hurless updated the commission on amendments to house bill 3 (HB0003) regarding the merger of the Wyoming Pipeline Authority (WPA), and the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority (WIA) into the Wyoming Energy Authority (WEA). The bill had passed the House and the Senate, but still needed to be signed by the Governor. Amendments included changes to the language for organizing and funding the board to set up the newly formed authority.

Deputy Director Hurless also presented HB0200 which related to reliable and dispatchable low-carbon energy standards.

VII. Executive Session

No executive session was required at this time.

VIII. Open Discussion

Deputy Director Hurless announced EORI would not partner with the Wyoming Oil and Gas Fair for the 2020 Fair. EORI would still be a sponsor of the fair, and will have a booth at the event, but decided instead to focus on other outreach opportunities that were more targeted.

IX. New Action Items

Action Item: EORC members would make arrangements to meet with the new UW President and new Director of SER.

X. Future Meeting Dates

The commission decided to reschedule the proposed June 8, 2020 meeting to sometime in July due to scheduling conflicts. Proposed dates included July 7, 2020 to align with the existing TAB meeting, or July 13 to align with the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission meetings.

XI. Adjourn

Chairman Hendricks stated that a motion to adjourn was not necessary, and he called the meeting adjourned.

****Meeting adjourned at 2:02 PM****

Ken Hendricks, Chairman