

Enhanced Oil Recovery Commission



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MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2019 – 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

Renny MacKay, Representing Governor Mark Gordon (via Telephone)

Senator Drew Perkins

Dave True, University of Wyoming Trustee

Commission Staff Present:

Eric Easton, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Micah Christensen, Attorney General's Office

Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute Staff Present:

Steven Carpenter, Director

Rob Hurless, Deputy Director

Steven Whitaker, Technical Manager

Chana Conley, Commission Support

Lon Whitman, Technical Outreach Manager

I. Call to Order

****1:09 AM Chairman Hendricks called the meeting to order; quorum present**

II. Minutes

Motion: Commissioner King moved to approve the minutes from May 31, 2019 Enhanced Oil Recovery Commission (EORC) meeting as published. Wyoming State Geologist Campbell seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Motion: Senator Perkins moved to approve the minutes from June 26, 2019 Enhanced Oil Recovery Commission (EORC) meeting as published. Commissioner Brister seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

III. Financial Report

Deputy Director Hurless presented the Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute (EORI) spending report through June 30, 2019. A small amount of funds remaining from fiscal year 2019 would be rolled over into fiscal year 2020, which is acceptable between fiscal years within the same biennium.

Projected budget estimates for fiscal year 2020 would include partial funding for payroll from two DOE federal grants. Commissioner King asked if moving expenses for new staff to handle the additional work related to grants would be partially covered by EORI funds. Deputy Director Hurless acknowledged that some reimbursement would be provided based on current University Policy, however recent changes to tax laws would mean any reimbursed amount would be considered as taxable income to the employee.

Wyoming State Geologist Campbell inquired on funding for the positions once the grants ended. Deputy Director Hurless stated any staff hired with funding from the grants only had contracts that lasted the duration of the grant funds and would have a contract review at the end of the grant period. Director Carpenter confirmed, stating the engineer hired to fill the position created when a former engineer separated was a permanent hire.

Deputy Director Hurless informed the commission that no requests for additional funds were requested for the 2021/2022 biennium (e.g. Supplemental Request). There would be a possibility of overhead adjustments applied to all State Budgets to compensate for increased costs related to state employee health insurance, but EORI did not request any direct changes from the previous biennium budget (e.g. Standard Budget).

IV. Reports and Updates

Director Carpenter updated the commission on current projects being completed by EORI. Included in these projects were two that had been awarded grant funding from the Department of Energy (DOE) Fossil Energy. One project is funded through the National Energy Technology Laboratory and another through Oil and Gas Division.

****11:39 AM Senior Assistant Attorney General Eric Easton enters the meeting.**

Mr. Whitaker presented the commission with an update on the Kitty Field project.

V. New Business

Chairman Hendricks updated the commission and staff on the merger between the Wyoming Pipeline Authority (WPA) and the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority (WIA). The newly formed Wyoming Energy Authority (WEA) would be holding a meeting in Cheyenne. A representative from the EORC was requested to be a part of the WEA, as a nonvoting member. Chairman Hendricks would not be able to fill this representative role as he already sat on the WEA as a representative of the WPA.

Deputy Director Hurless updated the commission regarding the Wyoming Oil and Gas Fair (WOGF) happening the week following the meeting. EORI was again partnering with the WOGF and would be presenting speakers on the second day of the conference. The first day of the conference would include a State Legislative Leadership Panel and additional speakers.

Deputy Director Hurless also informed the commission of a JMC meeting that had taken place the week prior which he and Chairman Hendricks had both attended. Chairman Hendricks described a proposed rule change from the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (WOGCC) regarding permits to drill (e.g. APD) and the drilling of the wells in a reasonable amount of time. The rule change would increase the number of wells drilled and producing oil, rather than being able to be held indefinitely by companies.

VI. Executive Session

No executive session was held.

VII. Open Discussion

Commissioner King inquired about the retirement of Mark Northam, Director of the School of Energy Resources (SER). Deputy Director Hurless responded that a committee established by the University of Wyoming had contracted the services of a firm that specialized in locating candidates appropriate for the position. The desire of the committee was to have candidates identified and possibly a new director on board as soon as April of 2020 in order to allow for some overlap of the position prior to Director Northam's departure. While members of the EORC did not want to sit on the search committee, the commissioners did agree that SER and the EORC would have to work closely together and it was important to attend any meetings regarding potential candidates for the director position.

Action Item: Representatives from the EORC will attend meetings with any candidates for Director of the School of Energy Resources.

VIII. New Action Items

Action Item: Representatives from the EORC will attend meetings with any candidates for Director of the School of Energy Resources.

IX. Future Meeting Dates

The commission will meet again on December 9, 2019 in Casper, Wyoming. Commissioner King suggested that proposed dates for EORC Business Meetings in 2020 be submitted to the commission instead of trying to choose dates as a group. Director Carpenter agreed to set tentative quarterly meeting dates for the year 2020 and email to all commissioners to place on schedule, or offer alternative dates if conflicts existed.

X. Adjourn

Motion: Commissioner King moved to adjourn the meeting. Wyoming State Geologist Campbell seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

****Meeting adjourned at 3:04 PM****



Ken Hendricks, Chairman