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Casper, WY 82604  
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## MEETING MINUTES

March 19, 2026 – 1:00pm  
Zoom Meeting

### Commission Member(s) Via Zoom:

Chairman Bob King  
Commissioner Paul Ulrich  
Commissioner Eli Bebout  
Commissioner and Interim State Geologist Ranie Lynds  
Commissioner Paul Geiger

### Commissioner(s) Excused:

Vice Chairman Chad Brister  
Commissioner Rueben Tarver  
Nolan Rapp, Governor's representative

### Commission Staff Present via Zoom:

Assistant Attorney General Stephanie Sneesby

### Guest(s) Present Via Zoom:

Alex Kean, Vice President, Budget and Finance, University of Wyoming  
Tara Evans Vice President and General Council, University of Wyoming

### Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute Staff Present via Zoom:

Director Lon Whitman  
Deputy Director Roger Hillibush  
Business Manager Gabe Tullis  
Senior Geologist Nick Jones

## I. Call to Order

**\*\*1:10pm Chairman King called the meeting to order; roll was taken, and a quorum was established.**

Chairman King made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bebout seconded, and the agenda was approved.

## II. Minutes

**Motion:** Commissioner Bebout moved to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2025, Enhanced Oil Recovery Commission (EORC) meeting as published. Commissioner Ulrich seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.



### III. EORC/UW MOU Review

A review and revision of the current MOU with University of Wyoming resulted in a revised MOU between UW and the Enhanced Oil Recovery Commission. There are several adjustments to the operation of the Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute and UW. EORC is to work with UW as a collaborative partner with clarification as a separate entity and with funding through the EORC. Director Whitman met with Tara Evans, UW Vice President and General Council, Alex Kean, UW Vice President, Budget and Finance, Chairman King, and Commissioner Ulrich on March 3, 2026, in Laramie, to review and make any recommended adjustments/changes to the revised/draft MOU. These changes are included in amendment 5 in the final draft version of the MOU and are satisfactory for the participating parties. This MOU document is now up for approval by the Commission. With approval, there will be a meeting of the UW President, Ed Seidel followed by the Board of Trustees on April 15, 2026, to discuss and approve the revisions to the MOU between the EORC and the University of Wyoming.

Commissioner Ulrich expressed his approval of the MOU and conveyed that he is very pleased with the collaborative work completed with UW. He will participate in the presentation process at UW alongside President Sidel and the UW Board of Trustees. Tara Evans is also pleased with the results of the work done on the MOU. Additionally, Alex Kean from UW expressed satisfaction with the outcomes and with the collaborative work between Procurement and EORI moving forward under the revised MOU.

Commissioner Bebout asked Alex Kean about the process going forward on Sole Source and Procurement at UW and how this would look under the new MOU. Mr. Kean stated that there will most likely be one individual at Procurement that will be assigned to EORI and a template process will be created to address EORI's specific needs going forward. Commissioner Bebout requested a follow up meeting with Procurement this fall to see how the process is progressing.

Commissioner Bebout questioned how EORI and UW would address future adjustments that might be needed going forward. Alex Kean responded that with this MOU he does not foresee any difficulties with the collaborative process between UW, SER and EORI. Tara Evans stated that setting up a better communication process with SER would help. Director Whitman stated that he and Deputy Director Hillibush and Business Manager Gabe Tullis plan on more in-person work with both Procurement and SER to create more open communication. Chairman King stated that EORI is now also a signatory to the MOU, where before the MOU was only between UW and EORC. This should also help with communication.

Commissioner Bebout raised a question regarding the inclusion of a termination date in the MOU and suggested that one be specified, potentially a five-year term. Director Whitman stated that the current MOU has a six-year termination date. Chairman King asked if a six-year term was adequate and Commissioner Bebout agreed. A request for a move for a six-year term to be added to the MOU was requested by Chairman King. Commissioner Bebout moved for a term of six years to be added to the MOU; Commissioner Ulrich seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval for the addition. Chairman King then called for a move for the approval of the MOU as it stands. Commissioner Bebout moved that the MOU be approved. Commissioner Ulrich seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval of the MOU as it stands.



Stephanie Sneesby, Assistant Attorney General, will forward the MOU to the state contract department at the Wyoming Attorney General's office for approval.

Commissioner Bebout expressed his gratitude to EORI staff, UW Procurement, and UW General Council for all the work that went into the revision on the MOU.

Commissioner Ulrich clarified the next steps in the MOU approval process:

- Stephanie Sneesby will forward the approved MOU to the Attorney General contracts committee for review.
- Commissioner Ulrich will meet with President Seidel and the UW Board of Trustees Chairman Brown to familiarize them with the MOU.
- April 15, 2026, the MOU will be presented by Director Whitman to the UW Board of Trustees for approval.

There is currently a search for a new Director of SER and a new president of the University of Wyoming. Once these positions are filled, Commissioner Ulrich would like members of EORC and EORI to meet in person with the new SER director in Laramie, give an in-person thanks to Tara Evans and Alex Kean, and make an effort to focus on the collaborative process going forward with the new MOU.

#### **IV. Welcome New Commissioner**

Commissioner Paul Geiger, representing Wyoming Oil and Gas Commission, was welcomed to the commission after introducing himself.

#### **V. Director's Report**

The Wyoming State Budget session was very beneficial for EORC and EORI. All the requests EORC and EORI had were granted:

- The increase of \$558,802 to the budget for two new positions, one technical and one office assistant.
- An extension for the reappropriated \$1.9 million beyond the current end date of June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2028.
- Approval to allow EORC/EORI to be exempt from reversion of unspent, unencumbered biennium funds up to \$100,000.

There was also approval for \$377,872 to be applied to raises for EORI staff to allocate appropriately through the UW system.

Director Whitman commended Commissioner Representative Tarver for his help during the budget session. He was a very effective advocate for EORC and EORI.

Director Whitman mentioned Clifton Strengths and the overall benefits to EORI from the work with Sallie Greenberg. There is a plan to continue work with Clifton Strengths to develop a 5-year strategic plan for the Institute after July 1, 2026.

#### **VI. IT Data Technology Highlights**

Deputy Director Hillibush gave a brief overview of EORI's organizational structure, including the Technical Team and the Data, Technology and Operations Team. He referred the Commissioners to



the report provided for details and invited any of them to drop by to see the offices and the team members at any time. There were no questions for Deputy Director Hillibush.

## VII. Engagement

EOR Insights has proven to be an effective method of engagement for EORI. In the first quarter session, John Griffin's presentation on Bio Squeeze was well received. Second quarter EOR Insights will be a presentation on the Black Bank Field with an integrated approach to reservoir characterization. Stephen Whitaker (EORI), Maziar Arshadi (Piri Technologies) and Joe Corning of MT/WY Oil Company will present. Third and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter EOR Insights are in development. There is a potential opportunity for a joint presentation involving Polymer Technologies, XOil, and the Oil and Gas Commission, focused on the process required to implement their new approach.

Director Whitman highlighted the upcoming EORC Meetings. He is excited for the industry forum in the third quarter meeting and the collaborative nature of the day-long forum.

Commissioner Ulrich had to sign off early, but he commended EORI for the work we have been doing.

## VIII. Financial Report

A report was provided and no questions were asked.

## IX. Projects

CO<sub>2</sub> projects in Wyoming.

Currently there are seven active CO<sub>2</sub> projects in Wyoming. There are three new upcoming projects in seven fields:

- Sussex West, Sussex and Meadow Creek are operated by Aethel Energy
- Hartzog Draw was acquired by MI3 for CO<sub>2</sub> recovery
- Halvorsen, Raven Creek, and Dillinger Ranch are operated by TR Operating. They have proposed a CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline spur from the Greencore Pipeline.

House Bill 128 with the five-year severance tax reduction From 6% to 4% has been beneficial for the advancement of these projects.

The Bighorn Basin CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline FEED study has resulted in a collaboration between Aethel Energy and Merit Energy for a proposed CO<sub>2</sub> pipeline into the Bighorn Basin and is the most positive advancement on pipeline infrastructure in the Bighorn Basin yet.

Commissioner Bebout had a question about EORI interaction with Aethel Energy. They are new to Wyoming assets, and he wanted to make sure EORI was in contact with them. Director Whitman assured the Commission that EORI has been in contact with Aethel Energy, and he anticipates meeting with them the week of April 6, 2026, in Houston to discuss next steps. Commissioner Geiger added that Aethel Energy is an innovative group looking at various EOR methods and opportunities in its Wyoming assets.

Director Whitman gave an overview of the EOR presentation he will give to the ERC in April 2026 that highlights EORI's enhanced oil recovery efforts in the State of Wyoming. He gave a general overview of the CO<sub>2</sub> projects in Wyoming. Director Whitman also discussed the Enriched Air - EOR project at Alpha



Field, the NGL - EOR project at Skull Creek, and the two Nitrogen – EOR projects at Morton and Big Muddy in Wyoming.

EORI is involved in a study at Kitty Field and the Muddy formation and the waterflood challenges associated with it. The plan is for an oil-based mud core to be drilled late 2026 or 2027, subject to funding availability.

EORI is partnering on a study of Brooks Ranch (Frontier formation) and is currently evaluating data to determine a path forward.

Commissioner Geiger commented on Wyoming's advantage in supporting nitrogen flood projects, noting that while the process is highly power-intensive, Wyoming has ample capacity to meet the associated power requirements.

#### **X. Comments from Commissioners**

Commissioner Ranie Lynds commented that she had a conflict with the second quarter meeting and would not be able to attend in person. If she needs to attend virtually for quorum purposes, accommodation can be arranged.

#### **XI. Future Meeting Date**

##### **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: Live in Casper – EORI Conference Room**

- **Wednesday, June 10 – 11am-8 pm:** EORC Legislative Luncheon, Afternoon Field Trip, Dinner
- **Thursday, June 11:** 8am – 12noon: Breakfast and 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter EORC Meeting

##### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: Cody**

- **Wednesday Sept 9<sup>th</sup>** - Buffalo Bill Museum of the West: 10am Private Museum Tour, 11:30 Legislative Luncheon, 1pm EORC Meeting,
- **Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** - Industry Forum – (Location TBD) EORI, WOGCC, WEA and PAW

##### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter:**

- **Thursday, November 12 – 1-5pm – Virtual**

#### **XII. Adjourn**

Chairman King requested a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bebout moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lynds and the meeting was adjourned.

**\*\* Meeting adjourned at 2:30 \*\***



**XIII. Minutes Approved**

  
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Robert King, Chairman

6/11/2026  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

APPROVED