



2435 King Blvd, Suite 313  
Casper, WY 82604  
307-315-6441

## MEETING MINUTES

Dec. 3, 2024 – 1:00pm

EORI Conference Room, Casper, Wyoming

### Commission Members Present:

Commissioner Nolan Rap – Office of Governor Gordon  
Chairman Robert King - Casper  
Commissioner Dave True - Casper  
Commissioner Ken Hendricks - Casper  
Commissioner Don Burkhart - Casper

### Commission Member(s) Via Zoom:

Commissioner Eli Bebout – Riverton  
Vice Chairman Chad Brister – Dallas, TX  
Commissioner and State Geologist Erin Campbell - Laramie

### Commissioner(s) Excused:

None

### Commission Staff Present via Zoom:

Assistant Attorney General Stephanie Sneesby

### Guest(s) Present:

Supervisor WOGCC Tom Kropatsch

### Guest(s) Present Via Zoom:

Scott Ellingson – consultant for Zion Energy  
Scott Dobson – Principal Petroleum and ATR Partners

### Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute Staff Present:

Director Lon Whitman  
Deputy Director Roger Hillibush  
Business Manager Gabe Tullis  
Senior Geologist Nick Jones  
Data Architect Shane Singleton

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

Operations and Technology Kellie Cairns Vlastos  
Senior Geologist Paul Davis



## I. Call to Order

**\*\*1:04 pm 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 moved to approve the agenda, Commissioner True seconded, and the agenda was approved.

## II. Minutes

**Motion:** Chairman King moved to approve the minutes from the Sept. 27, 2024 Enhanced Oil Recovery Commission (EORC) meeting as published with the addition of a thank you to Peter Wold for hosting the September meeting. Commissioner Hendricks seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

## III. Director's Report

- Senior Petroleum Engineer search is progressing. There were 24 initial candidates that were narrowed down to six potential interviews, three of which were particularly interesting to EORI. First round interviews will be moving forward and EORI hopes to be hiring after the beginning of the year.
- The EORC has requested a Supplemental Budget Exception of \$558,802 (Biennium) to ultimately fill the vacant Manager of Strategic Partnerships and Office Manager positions. The Budget hearing will be held Dec. 10, 2024 with the Joint Appropriations Committee. The initial meeting with the governor was very positive.

Commissioner Bebout inquired whether the salary for the new petroleum engineer position had affected the quality of the candidates applying. Director Whitman stated that the candidates were aware of the salary range offered. The largest request of concern was regarding working remotely, which EORI is not supporting for a new hire.

- Return on Investment Report: Eric Robertson is working with EORI on a report on the Institute's Return on Investment (ROI) to the State of Wyoming over EORI's 20-year history. Dr. Robertson will have the report finished by January 1, 2025. There will be a more comprehensive tax percentage used to determine the ROI. Initial numbers are approaching \$600 million in revenue to the state.
- EORI is also developing a 20-year "review" report that will be a thorough review of the history of EORI, the types of projects we work on, successes and the not so successful and why they had that outcome. It will cover why certain projects did not move forward, even if EORI was in favor of them.
  - It will also include the history of the Commission and the commissioners who have served.
  - This report is expected by first quarter of 2025.



- Commissioner terms overview:
  - By Statute:
    - Wyoming State Governor (Gov. Mark Gordon) - Ex-Officio
    - Wyoming State Geologist (Erin Campbell) - Ex-Officio
    - Wyoming State Legislative Member—Appointed by the Management Council of the Legislature (Representative Donald Burkhart, Jr) - Ex-Officio
    - Governor Appointments: (Confirmed by the WY Senate)
      - Oil and Gas Industry Representative (Robert King, Consultant, Chairman)
    - Oil and Gas Industry Representative (Chad Brister, Merit Energy, Vice Chairman)
    - Wyoming Oil and Gas Commission Representative (Ken Hendricks, Flint Creek Consulting)
    - Member at Large (Eli Bebout, Nucor Drilling)
    - University of Wyoming Representative (Dave True, True Companies)
  - The Governor Appointments have varying terms from 2-3 years and then can be reappointed by the governor or a new commissioner can be appointed by the governor at those times.
  - There are two Commissioners that are leaving the EORC. Representative Burkhart and Commissioner True were thanked for their dedicated service and time they spent with the EORC.

Chairman King commented that both the Attorney General's office and the EORC believe that all eight members of the EORC, whether ex-officio or appointed, are voting members of the EORC. Vice Chairman Chad Brister's term officially ends March 1, 2025. There is a request to Randal Luthi that his term be renewed, and a request to Nolan Rap to check on the timing of the application process to ensure it moves forward.

Commissioner Bebout expressed his appreciation to both Representative Burkhart and Commissioner True for their service and time with the EORC and the State of Wyoming.

An invitation to the EORI Christmas party, DEC. 18, 2024, at Raccas in Casper Wyoming, was extended to the commission members.



#### Project Highlights:

- EORI Pipeline Services has been focused on the revised and updated Wyoming Pipeline Corridor Initiative report. The report has been thoroughly reviewed to confirm the information included is correct and up to date.
- CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR Projects
  - The Minnelusa three-field cluster with TR Operating is moving forward, they are working with Exxon on a letter of intent to deliver CO<sub>2</sub>.
  - The two field CO<sub>2</sub>-EOR project with Juno Energy is moving forward in the Shannon and Frontier formations. Randi Martensen has been brought in as a consultant to add her expertise in those formations.
  - EORI continues to monitor the Glenrock Energy South Glenrock B unit. While we have no direct involvement, we are keeping an eye on developments there.
- Work on the Kitty Field is advancing. The core study by Piri Tech is almost complete. Core work and sequence stratigraphy are ongoing to identify a compatible water source for the Muddy formation to facilitate water flooding.
- EORI RFP's and Pilot Projects:
  - The Polymer Cost-Share Pilot Project with Merit Energy and Polymer Technologies has yielded very successful results in casing hole repairs.
  - Data regarding the project investigating polymer treatments for water control issues will be available in early 2025.
  - The Minnelusa 3D seismic project is advancing. Eight Minnelusa fields are participating and EORI is cost sharing on two fields, Principal Petroleum/ATR at Stewart Field and TR Operating at Raven Creek field.
- NGL EOR Projects with Sunshine Valley Petroleum, Surtek, and XOil are underway at two fields.
  - At Skull Creek, a waterflood is being designed, and following its analysis, an NGL pilot will be initiated.
  - At the Jiggs Thompson field, the use of NGLs for near well bore cleanup is underway.
    - One benefit of NGLs is that what you purchase to use can then be separated out after use and recycled and resold or used in other places. This has sparked quite a lot of interest in these two pilots.
- DOE funded Projects: Refer to Nick Jones Deep Dive Presentation.

#### IV. IT/ Data Technology Highlights

Deputy Director Hillibush:

- The library section of the EORI website has been refined to improve searchability and viewing of documents. There is a new section for the pipeline services and market pricing. Brian Jefferies provides the monthly and daily pricing charts and graphs.
- Conference Room update is complete. The facilities worked well for the EORC meeting.



- Wyoming Online Reservoir Information Tool is close to publishing with only minor adjustments and editing remaining.

There were no questions or comments on the IT Data Technology updates.

## V. Engagement

- EOR Insights:
  - Nov. 13, 2024 Insights featured Polymer Technologies and Merit Energy. They presented successful pilot projects in the Big Horn Basin that utilized polymers for casing leak repairs. This was a very successful Insights, there were in excess of 60 attendees (live and online).
  - Planning is moving forward for the next EOR Insights to be held Jan. 8, 2025. Robert Downey will present CycleStim technology that potentially improves recovery and production.
- Quarterly check ins with both the WOGCC and State Geology partners continues for data coordination and refinement.
- EORC meetings for 2025 have been set:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2025 Meeting - March 28, 2025, 1-5pm – Remote
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2025 Meeting – May 14, 2025, 1-5pm – Casper
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2025 Meeting – September 10, 2025, 1-5pm – Gillette
    - Follows an EORI Industry Symposium also in Gillette
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2025 Meeting – November 13, 2025, 1-5pm – Remote
  - 1/2-Day EORI Industry Symposium in development for September 10, 2025, in Gillette

There was no comment from the commissioners on the Directors Report.

## VI. Financial Report

Business Manager Gabe Tullis presented the financial report. Vice Chairman Brister reviewed the report and had a question regarding the audit performed at the University of Wyoming that discovered an additional account that was added to EORI's non-state funded account. The audit at UW is performed annually and Commissioner True said that this year's audit, done in October 2024, was a clean audit. Vice Chairman Brister asked whether the audit was EORI specific or UW specific. Commissioner True replied that the audit was an annual procedure conducted at UW. Director Whitman confirmed this, adding that since EORI is affiliated with UW, we were also involved in the audit. Chairman King questioned the \$105,000 that was discovered in the audit, and it was confirmed by Gabe Tullis that the money was added to the non-state funded account.

## VII. Deep Dive DOE Funded Projects

Senior Geologist Nick Jones presented an in-depth look at the DOE Funded Projects.

## VIII. Operator Project Update – Alpha & Stewart Fields

Scott Dobson, Principal Petroleum/ATR Partners presented an Update on Alpha & Stewart fields.



#### **IX. Executive Session**

An executive session was called at 2:25 pm.

Commissioner Hendricks called for adjournment of the public session, Commissioner True seconded.

Public Session was reconvened at 3:32pm.

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

Commissioner Burkhart made remarks on the end of his term of service and commented on the challenges of the incoming legislature and the Freedom Caucus and how mostly inexperienced the incumbent legislators are. He stressed education of EORI's mission and projects in the state of Wyoming will be key to moving forward. He acknowledged that EORI is a great institution and will be needed going forward. He thanked EORI and EORC for all the help and support during his tenure with EORC.

Commissioner True served for 9 years with EORC and feels that EORI is integral to aiding in producing the vast majority of the remaining oil in the reservoirs in Wyoming. He stated that a highlight of his time with EORC was the new or deepening friendships he developed. Commissioner True particularly enjoyed the technical presentations and mentioned that he learned a lot about the advancements in the industry.

Commissioner True expressed that he believes both former Director Carpenter and current Director Whitman were the right individuals for the tasks assigned to EORI during their respective tenures. Commissioner Bebout agreed with Commissioner Burkhart on the importance of educating new legislators and building relationships with them.

#### **XI. Future Meeting Dates**

The First Quarter meeting of the EORC is scheduled for March 28, 2025. This meeting will be a remote meeting.

#### **XII. Adjourn**

Chairman King requested a motion to adjourn. Commissioner True motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hendricks.

**\*\* Meeting adjourned at 3:54pm \*\***



**XIII. Minutes Approved**

*Robert A. King*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert King, Chairman

*3-28-24*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

APPROVED