

Wyoming Energy Authority (WEA)
November 10, 2022
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
7:00 am MT
Virtual

Zoom Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85822060525>

A regular public meeting of the Wyoming Energy Authority was convened at the above time. The meeting was held in-person and also by simultaneous video and conference call. Presiding was Paul Ulrich, Chairman of the Wyoming Energy Authority.

Roll-call, Establish Quorum, Approve Agenda

Ch. Ulrich noted, without objection or comment, that a quorum of the voting members was present and that the meeting was properly noticed. Meeting was called to order at 7:06 a.m.

Name	Position	Present	Absent
Paul Ulrich	Chair, Voting Member	X	
Wendy Hutchinson	Vice-Chair, Voting Member	X	
Wanda Burget	Secretary, Voting Member	X	
Mark Stege	Voting Member	X	
Donna Lawrence	Voting Member	X	
Ken Miller	Voting Member	X	
Kara Choquette	Voting Member	X	
Randall Luthi	Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Member, WY Gov's Office	X	
Holly Krutka	Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Member, UW SER	X	
Lon Whitman	Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Member, UW EORI	X	
Josh Dorrell	Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Member, WY Bus Council		X
Tom Kropatsch	Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Member, WOGCC	X	
Glen Murrell	Executive Director, WEA	X	
Jami Blosmo	Accounting Manager, WEA		X
Kaeci Daniels	Program Coordinator, WEA		X
Anja Bendel	Program Director, WEA		X
John Masterson	Counsel to WEA		X
Pat Tolley	Counsel to WEA		X
Honora Kerr	3Elephants – PR/Comms Consultant to WEA	X	

The meeting was open to the public and attended.

Opening Comments

Ch. Ulrich welcomed participants to the meeting.

Approve Consent Agenda Items Minutes

- MOTION: Move to approve agenda of the November 10, 2022 meeting. Miller/Hutchinson. Approved by acclamation.
- MOTION: Move to approve minutes from the meeting held October 20, 2022. Choquette/Lawrence. Approved by acclamation.

Director's report – Murrell

- Permitting Guides
 - No updates
- Hydrogen
 - Coal to Hydrogen RFP closed and review complete. Working on approval process via ERC Exception Committee (11/17 and 18)
 - Western Interstate Hydrogen Hub (WISHH) colab. Concept paper submitted 11/3. WISHH Team meeting Fort Collins 11/8&9. Now have Jenn Thomson (Gov's office) supporting.
 - Planning and structuring work for proposal submission on April 7, 2023
 - Also commencing work on how to support and encourage work we do to grow the hydrogen value chain across the region for all companies. This means, companies that aren't seeking DOE hub funding, but are active in seeking hydrogen opportunities.
- SaaS
 - No update.
- Advanced Reactors
 - Marcio has been doing the circuit with agency by agency briefings. Really good progress and support. Final 'hard' launch will be soon, probably before the end of month.
 - Presenting results (soft launch) for agencies and UW
 - 10/31 - Gov's Office
 - 11/1 - Wyoming Community College Commission and DEQ
 - 11/2 - DOT and WBC
 - 11/3 - Wyoming State Geological Survey and UW
 - 11/4 - Gov's Office and Wyoming Game and Fish
 - 11/7 - WIP and UW
 - 11/8 - Key partners
 - 11/9 - Workforce Services and Public Service Commission
 - 11/11 - UW

- Early December - Scheduled a reactor developer visit to Wyoming
- January - Working on another reactor developer and White House OSTP microreactor stakeholder visits to Wyoming
- State Energy Program (SEP)
 - New Hire resigned. Job description posted again. This has seriously impacted the SEP. Particularly with IRA programs coming soon.
 - Participated in NASEO meeting to discuss how 'small' agencies are managing the workload. Solution seems to be to staff up and/or avoid anything with any significant compliance or administrative burden. (Kansas 1, Maine 12, Utah 12 with 2 dedicated SEP, Montana 15, hiring 2 more, Michigan 6, Maryland 37).
- Wyoming Energy Strategy Update
 - BOD review 10/25 and 26. Went quite well. Thank you to the board members who participated (Mark, Wendy, Kara, Ken, Donna). Now drafting an executive summary that will serve as an interpretation of the analysis.
 - Hutchinson asked that clean final documents from GCA be forwarded to the full board.
- Infrastructure Bill
 - Hydrogen program. Anja Bendel is leading this. Support from SER/WBC and many others. FOA released, concept paper submitted, full application in process.
 - Grid Resiliency. On hold after DOE postponed due date to March 2023.
 - Participating, with a light touch, in the various CCUS Programs (FOA's also released)
 - Direct Air Capture. Working with SER and WBC on this. Sarah Fitz-Gerald (WBC) is lead and Murrell is supporting. WY in strong position.
- Other
 - Inflation Reduction Act - Considerable expectations regarding WEA's role in community coordination and deployment. Unable to execute at this point (given difficulty backfilling SEP manager role). Will work to get that position filled ASAP. Glad to hear Mr. Dorrell's comments during previous board meeting describing how the WBC was focused and dedicated to building capacity within communities and assisting communities with various activities.
 - Assisting Cheyenne LEADS with some large recruitment and ED projects.
 - The WEA is planning a Legislative lunch meeting for the session in (January 18)
 - Next Frontier Energy Action Team - Regional Economic Development Officer funding from US EDA. Funding has been awarded and 'kicked off'.
 - Communication Strategy - WEA is re-building the communication strategy, including a website restructuring. Social media growth. Messaging.
 - Governor's Matching funds

- Expect to provide updates for applicants in the second part of November.
- Started working with Susan and Randall to decide the next steps.
- Opportunity Tracker
 - Started working with Manufacturing Works and UW Econ Dev to develop a solution to track energy projects in different levels of completion
 - This solution will also aim to inform and benefit the broader energy economy actors and firms (fabrication, construction, communities, etc.)

Ex-officio updates

- Randall Luthi - Governor's Office
 - Mr. Luthi provided a brief overview of activities at the Governor's Office, including a brief review of the election and reference to the upcoming supplemental budget request process.
- Holly Krutka – SER
 - Dr. Krutka provided an overview of funding opportunity prusuits by the SER (~ 8 separate and distinct efforts).
 - Also, mentioned efforts to establish a Uranium fuel cycle R&D program
 - Updated board on Mowry project (supported by WEA).
- Lon Whitman - EORI
 - Dir. Whitman provided a brief update on activities at EORI, including development underway for a CO2 pipeline federal grant application.
- Tom Kropatsch – Wyoming Oil and Gas Commission
 - Sup. Kropatsch provided a brief overview of activities at the WOGCC and IOGCC. Included an update on orphaned well program. Some discussion around emissions reduction impact from plugging wells.
- Jason Begger - Wyoming Integrated Test Center
 - Mr. Begger updated the board on activities at the ITC. He reported out on his attendance at the GHGT meeting and the ITC joining the International Test Center Network.

New Business

- None

Calendar

- Catalyst H2 meeting – Long Beach 11/14-17
- What is a hydrogen hub DEQ+ agency workshop 12/6 - Anja
- Next board meeting, virtual 12/8

Public comment opportunity

- Zach Isler – Energy Conservation Works provided brief introductory comments. Also, expressed appreciation for capacity constraints (re: SEP and IRA) and offered support where possible.

- Paul Martin – Pronghorn Clean Hydrogen Center provided a brief overview of the Pronghorn Clean Hydrogen Center project. Mr. Martin asked for the Pronghorn Clean Hydrogen Center DOE Concept Paper Submission to be forwarded to the full board (Murrell forward the document on adjournment of the meeting).

Adjournment: Lawrence/Miller. Approved by acclamation – Adjourned at 8:08am

Recording Secretary,

Wanda Burget
Supported by Glen Murrell