

**Wyoming Energy Authority (WEA)**

**February 09, 2023**

**PUBLIC BOARD MEETING**

**7:00 am MT**

**Zoom Meeting link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85822060525?pwd=dWtiY1JzSEMxNllmcS9pN3dNanM1UT09>

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

**Roll-call, Establish Quorum, Approve Agenda**

Chairman. 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 7:05 a.m.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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	
Patrick Millin	Program Coordinator, WEA	X	
Anja Richmond	Program Director, WEA	X	
Marcio Paes-Barreto	Industrial Development 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.

Kevin Killough  
Mike Noonan  
Breann Bates – 3Elephants

### **Opening Comments**

Chairman Ulrich welcomed participants to the meeting.

### **Approve Consent Agenda Items Minutes**

- MOTION: Move to approve agenda of the February 9, 2023, meeting. Hutchinson/Lawrence. Approved by acclamation.
- MOTION: Move to approve minutes from the public meeting held January 18, 2023. Choquette/Lawrence. Approved by acclamation.

### **Director's report**

#### Permitting Guides

- No updates

#### SaaS

- No update.

#### State Energy Program (SEP) - Patrick

- Patrick is coming up to speed.
- Beginning to coordinate with various state-wide organizations in preparation for Inflation Reduction Act programs. Many programs are community centric and will likely pass through SEP.

#### Wyoming Energy Strategy Update

- Executive summary is making progress. Glen will finalize his comments this week. The summary will be sent out to the board for review.

#### Inflation Reduction Act

- Patrick is coordinating a working group with state partners WOC, PRBRC, ECW et al., (plans to reach out to TNC, WEDA, WACC and WAM) on two programs: 1) Whole house rebate Program and 2) High efficiency electric homes rebate Program

#### Director Transition

- Glen has prepared a project and responsibility spreadsheet
- Delegation of authority or identification of interim director is needed
- Job description is out

#### Legislative Session

- HB0003 State assessment of independent power producers. (clarifies that the state assesses ad-valorem) on general file
- HB0069 Coal-fired facility closures litigation funding-amendments. (Broadens Gov's power to use) passed 2nd
- HB0106 Eminent domain-wind energy collector systems. (Moratorium on use of ED thru 2032) passed to senate
- HB0124 Electricity generation-taxation (Gen tax on Solar) passed to senate
- SF0081 Monthly ad valorem tax revisions. (Timing)

- HB 190 Value added energy and infrastructure passed to senate
- SF 154 WEA Refineries passed to house
- SF 142 Carbon Capture and Seq. passed to house

Other

- Energy Summit – May 8 and 9, 2023
  - Glen reported that the agenda is set and presenters are booked

**Staff updates**

Anja

- Western Interstate Hydrogen Hub (WISHH) full application in process. The redacted concept paper is available on our website. Submission of full application due Apr 7, 2023 . There are elements across all the partner states. Wyoming's element is with Tallgrass; they are working on a blue hydrogen proposal in SE Wyoming in partnership with Xcel Energy of Colorado.
- Regional Economic Development Office funding from US EDA. Anja has made the final selection from proposals and is in negotiation.

Marcio

- Completed first draft of nuclear roadmap to assist in business development.
- Governor's Matching funds.
  - One carbon capture firm has received RFP. A second firm working in nuclear will receive another.
- Planning small legislative meetings to educate on nuclear and hydrogen road maps.
- Project Tracker to launch in May

Patrick

- Infrastructure Bill
  - Grid Resiliency. Public hearing occurred January 31 with PSC. Application due March 2023.
- Inflation Reduction Act programs
  - WEA will contract with the Weatherization Assistance Program (WEAP) located in Powell DFS.
    - Whole house rebate for \$34MM
    - High efficiency electric homes rebate also \$34MM.

**Ex-officio updates**

- Holly Krutka – SER
  - Dr. Krutka provided an overview of activities at SER
    - SER was awarded a grant to look at CO2 storage in Oregon (Utility using WY natural gas)
    - Peabody - \$500K gift +\$0.01/ton from coal mined in WY indefinitely.
- Lon Whitman - EORI
  - Dir. Whitman provided a brief overview of the EORI activities
    - MOU with WEA to support pipeline functions
- Josh Dorrell– WBC

- Undergoing the Pathways to Prosperity (Harvard Group) process – (There is an energy workstream associated with this.)
- Tom Kropatsch – Wyoming Oil and Gas Commission
  - Sup. Kropatsch provided a brief overview of activities at the WOGCC
    - Comments on two federal rules
      - Venting/Flaring
      - EPA Air Quality Rule
  - Orphan Well Grant Guidance Document
    - Preparing Comments
  - Currently plugging wells in NE WY under initial state grant.

### **Old Business**

- Kara Choquette attended BLM Solar Programmatic EIS public meeting on 1/31/23
  - Thinks it appropriate that state should comment.
  - Comment deadline – February 28, 2023
- Kara Choquette shared EIA data on electric generation for Wyoming.
  - Discussion ensued on mapping existing and future plans for installed electrical power capacity in Wyoming and what is the cumulative impact?

### **New Business**

- MOU with EORI – Pipeline Functions
  - Current legislation is underway to appropriate \$355K to Wyoming Energy Authority to contract with EORI to support the pipeline functions under the WEA authority.

MOTION: Motion to approve MOU and transfer of \$335k from WEA to EORI on an ongoing basis for services related to pipeline development in the state. Contingent on final passage of supplemental budget request in the current legislative session and final Chair approval.

Lawrence/Choquette. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Calendar**

- Executive Director last day in office 2/14
- Last day of executive authority- Feb 28
- Energy Summit – May 8 and 9

### **Public comment opportunity**

No public comment

### **Executive Session**

MOTION: To enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.  
Lawrence/Hutchinson. Passed by acclamation

Meeting entered Executive Session at 8:07 am

Lawrence/Burget moved to return to Public Session. Passed by acclamation.  
Meeting entered Public Session at 8:36

**Adjournment:** Lawrence/Hutchinson moved to adjourn the regular public meeting.  
Approved by acclamation – Adjourned at 8:37 am

Recording Secretary,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wanda L. Burget". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Recording Secretary,".

Wanda Burget  
Supported by Wendy Hutchinson