2020 Annual WIEB Board Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2020

Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB) Member Representatives Present: John Chatburn (ID), David Bobzien (NV), Brian Goretzki (AZ), Andrew Buffin (AB), Russell Andrews (AB), Amy Sopinka (BC), Janea Scott (CA), Keith Hay (CO), Sarah Cottrell Propst (NM), Janine Benner (OR), Lauren McCloy (WA), and Michael Stoker (U.S.).


Others Present: Brooke Tucker (Utah Governor’s Office of Energy Development), Kara Fornstrom (Wyoming Public Service Commission), Alan Zelenka (Oregon Department of Energy), Linda Cristal Barrera Clarke (California Energy Commission), Bryce Freeman (Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocate), Grace Anderson (California Energy Commission), Ken Niles (Oregon Department of Energy), Jeff Fox (Renewable Northwest), Rebecca Wagner (Wagner Strategies)

Board Actions:

I. Authorized the WIEB Board Executive Director to seek outside counsel review of proposed bylaw amendments (included within the 2020 Annual WIEB Board Meeting Consent Agenda), at a cost not to exceed $25,000.

II. Approved the WIEB FY 2020-21 Business Plan and Budget with the following authorizations:

1) Authorize the acceptance of funds in the areas of radioactive waste, regional electricity cooperation, transmission planning, distributed energy resources, and emerging energy markets;

2) Authorize the Executive Committee (Chair, First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair, and Treasurer) to approve, between meetings of the Board, the acceptance of funds in other areas, upon the written advice of members of the Board;

3) Authorize the Executive Committee to approve merit increases and the exact cost-of-living increase for employees based on the increase in the consumer price index for the Denver region;
4) Adopt a funding reserve target equal to 2 times the annual core expense of the Western Interstate Energy Board;

5) Reauthorize WIEB’s Reserve Expenditure Plan with a funding target of $113,500 for FY 2020-21; and

6) Approved the following selection criteria for Reserve Expenditure Plan projects:
   a. Does the project address an important energy issue in the West?
   b. Does the issue have multi-state/province implications?
   c. Is the issue being examined by other organizations?
   d. Are other organizations better situated to examine the issue?
   e. Are there opportunities to productively partner with other organizations to examine the issue?
   f. Will work on the issue provide practical information regarding energy projects in the west?
   g. Is there an opportunity to leverage additional funding to support the work on the issue?
   h. Will work on the issue “enhance the economy of the West and contribute to the individual and community well-being of the region’s people?”

7) Authorize the Executive Director and Treasurer to act as the financial agents of the Western Interstate Energy Board.

III. Elected the following officers of the Western Interstate Energy Board for FY 2020-21:

- John Chatburn (ID) – Chair
- David Bobzien (NV) – First Vice-Chair
- Sarah Cottrell Propst (NM) – Second-Vice Chair
- Brian Goretzki (AZ) – Treasurer

Welcome and Introductions

John Chatburn (ID), WIEB Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. (MDT), welcomed his fellow WIEB Board Members and other guests, and introduced new WIEB Board Members (Andrew Buffin (AB), Patrick Holmes (MT), Michael Stoker (US), and Brooke Tucker (UT)).

Maury Galbraith (WIEB) began roll call. John Chatburn asked if a quorum was established. Maury confirmed that seven WIEB member representatives were on the call, thereby establishing a quorum.
WIEB Consent Agenda

Having conducted two preliminary review sessions prior to the Annual Meeting, Members of the Board determined that more time was needed to consider and seek outside counsel review of the proposed Consent Agenda Items – Bylaw Amendments. Consent Agenda Items included the following:

- **Item #1A** Establish “Western Interstate Energy Board” as the name under which the Western Interstate Nuclear Board Operates
- **Item #1B** Restructure and Simplify Bylaws
- **Item #1C** Consolidate WINB and WIEB Bylaws
- **Item #2** Simplify and Improve Membership Section, Art III
- **Item #3** Update Officers Section, Art V
- **Item #4** Simplify and Improve Committee’s Section, Art VI
- **Item #5** Simplify and Improve Voting Section, Art IV
- **Item #6** Simplify and Improve Reimbursements Section, Art IX

David Bobzien (NV) moved to authorize the WIEB Board Executive Director to seek outside counsel review of the proposed bylaw amendments, at a cost not to exceed $25,000. Sarah Cottrell Propst (NM) seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

WIEB Business Plan and Budget

John Chatburn (ID) asked Maury Galbraith (WIEB Executive Director) and Lisa Brohaugh (WIEB) to provide a brief overview of key components of the WIEB FY 2020-21 Business Plan and Budget.

FY 2020-21 Budget and Work Plan

Maury opened by introducing Lisa who gave an overview of the FY 2020-21 budget.

Lisa summarized WIEB’s current and projected income and expenses. She indicated that for FY 2020-21 there was a budget decrease of 23% from 2020, and expenses are projected to exceed income by $69,000. She noted that this is attributable to the proposed extension of WIEB’s Reserved Expenditure Plan. Lisa also provided information on WIEB’s current and projected financial reserves. She stated the FY 2020-21 budget indicates that WIEB is in a strong financial position.
Maury concluded the budget overview by asking the WIEB Board to approve the proposed FY 2020-21 budget based on the seven authorizations, listed below.

1) Authorize the acceptance of funds in the areas of radioactive waste, regional electricity cooperation, transmission planning, distributed energy resources, and emerging energy markets;

2) Authorize the Executive Committee (Chair, First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair and Treasurer) to approve, between meetings of the Board, the acceptance of funds in other areas, upon the written advice of members of the Board;

3) Authorize the Executive Committee to approve merit increases and the exact cost-of-living increase for employees based on the increase in the consumer price index for the Denver region;

4) Adopt a funding reserve target equal to 2 times the annual core expense of the Western Interstate Energy Board;

5) Reauthorize WIEB’s Reserve Expenditure Plan with a funding limit of $113,500 for FY 2020-21; and

6) Approved the following selection criteria for Reserve Expenditure Plan projects:
   a. Does the project address an important energy issue in the West?
   b. Does the issue have multi-state/province implications?
   c. Is the issue being examined by other organizations?
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   f. Will work on the issue provide practical information regarding energy projects in the west?
   g. Is there an opportunity to leverage additional funding to support the work on the issue?
   h. Will work on the issue "enhance the economy of the West and contribute to the individual and community well-being of the region's people?"

7) Authorize the Executive Director and Treasurer to act as the financial agents of the Western Interstate Energy Board.

Janea Scott moved to approve the proposed FY 2020-21 budget with the seven budget authorizations listed above. David Bobzien (NV) seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.
WIEB Reserve Expenditure Plan Projects

Tom Carr (WIEB) provided an overview of WIEB’s Reserve Expenditure Plan (REP) accomplishments and current projects.

Accomplishments (Projects Completed)

1. Wind Decommissioning Policies in the West (NM) – January 2020 Issue Brief
2. Western Flexibility Assessment (WA, OR) – December 2019 Report

Projects in Progress

1. Carbon Capture Workshop (WY) (postponed due to COVID-19)
2. Resource Adequacy (CA)
3. EV Infrastructure (NV)
4. PV on a Pole (NM)
5. Clean Energy Policies Inventory (CA)

Tom then provided a timeline for soliciting new 2020-21 REP project proposals. WIEB Member states and provinces will be invited to submit project proposals to WIEB by June 26, 2020.

Lauren McCloy (WA) thanked Tom Carr (WIEB) for the great work performed in WIEB’s REP flexibility study. David Bobzien (NV) agreed and expressed his gratitude for the strong work done. John Chatburn (ID) suggested that WIEB staff follow up with a Flexibility Assessment Study webinar.

WIEB High-Level Radioactive Waste Position Paper & Amendments

Ken Niles (Chair, WIEB’s High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee (HLRWC)) and Melanie Snyder (WIEB) provided an overview of one new, proposed position paper from WIEB’s HLRWC and proposed amendments to seven position papers previously approved by the WIEB Board. HLRWC Items included the following:

- Item A 2020-1: Transportation Responsibilities Non-Delegable to Private Entities (to all papers)
- Item B Amendments to 2017-1: The “WIPP Transportation Model”
- Item C Amendments to 2017-2: Physical Protection Requirements for SNF Transport
- Item D Amendments to 2017-4: Rail Route Safety
- Item E Amendments to 2018-1: Social Risk
Item F  Amendments to 2018-2: Full Scale Cask Testing

Item G  Amendments to 2018-3: Origin Site Transportation Coordination

Item H  Amendments to 2018-4: Funding

Sarah Cottrell Propst (NM) moved to approve the HLRWC items. Brian Goretzki (AZ), seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Michael Stoker (U.S.) abstained.

Election of Officers

John Chatburn (ID), Chair of the WIEB Board, asked Janea Scott (CA) to chair the meeting during the election of officers. Janea asked for nominations to the Western Interstate Energy Board, noting that, in the past, members elected to the WIEB Board have also served in the corresponding Western Interstate Nuclear Board (WINB) Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer positions. There were no objections to continuing this practice.

Janea indicated the following board members were willing to serve as officers in the upcoming year:

- John Chatburn (ID) – Chair (WIEB and WINB)
- David Bobzien (NV) – First Vice-Chair (WIEB and WINB)
- Sarah Cottrell Propst (NM) – Second Vice-Chair (WIEB)
- Brian Goretzki (AZ) – Treasurer (WIEB and WINB)

Janea invited each candidate to provide a short statement expressing their interest in serving on the WIEB/WINB leadership team.

Lauren McCloy (WA) moved to approve the slate of officers for FY 2020-21. Keith Hay (CO) seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Janea congratulated the newly elected members of the WIEB Executive Committee.

John Chatburn (ID) thanked Janea Scott (CA) for conducting the election and the Board Members for their support.

Adjourn

Board Chair John Chatburn thanked the WIEB Board Members for their participation.

John Chatburn moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 AM (MDT). David Bobzien (NV) moved to approve. Brian Goretzki (AZ) seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion to adjourn.