

Energy Resources Council Meeting (ERC)

Approved Minutes

November 20, 2015

Energy Innovation Center

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 AM. by Vice Chairman Tom Lockhart.

ATTENDANCE:

ERC Members Present

Sen. Jim Anderson (Natrona), Carl Bauer, Sen. Eli Bebout (via phone), Tom Botts, Rep. Tom Lockhart, Indy Burke, Rob Wallace, Dave Emery, Cindy Crane and Jeane Hull

ERC Members Absent

Paul Lang, Dick McGinity, Dave True

SER Staff in Attendance

Mark Northam, Mary Byrnes, Diana Hulme, Don Roth, Rob Hurless, Trish Steger, Richard Horner, Pam Henderson, Kipp Coddington, Steve Carpenter and Rachel Ferrell

Others Attending

Chris Boswell, Brett Befus, Michael Pishko,

MEETING ITEMS BY DETAIL:

Approval of Agenda

Action: A motion was made by Senator Anderson to accept the agenda as presented and seconded by Senator Bebout. Motion passed without objection.

Approval of August 2015 Minutes

Action: A motion was made by Senator Anderson to accept the minutes with the following change: add Dave True as present. This was seconded by Mr. Bauer. Motion passed without objection.

Joint Session with University Board of Trustees

Dr. Northam provided a status update and an overview of accomplishments for the School of Energy Resources (SER), inclusive of Carbon Management Institute (CMI) and Enhanced Oil Recovery (EORI). (PPT available on request) The joint session was hosted at the Energy

Innovation Center. Minutes are available through the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees website: http://www.uwyo.edu/trustees/_files/docs/2015-board-meeting-materials/2015_november_board_of_trustees_regular_meeting_report-final.pdf

SER Personnel/Organization Update

Summary: Rachel Ferrell has been promoted to Business Manager. SER will conduct a search to fill the vacated accountant position. Shanna Dahl has departed her deputy director position at Carbon Management Institute (CMI). Diana Hulme, Kipp Coddington and Rachel Ferrell have taken over the responsibility for grant management of CMI. Abby Scott, Research Scientist, has also departed her position. There is no current plan to seek replacement for this position. Kelly Wiseman has been hired as the Business Manager for the Piri Group. A search continues for the Director of Operations. The University of Wyoming (UW) has instituted a hiring freeze policy. SER is taking actions to ensure positions are filled as needed.

DIVISION UPDATES

Academic

Summary: The new student dashboard is available and was presented as part of the ERC notebook. This will be updated regularly and contain all the academic statistics for the SER programs. Dr. Roth indicated there was a remaining focus on dual majors and internships to assist students during this energy downturn. Placements for graduates continue to go well. There will be two new graduates in December 2015. One will pursue a master degree and the other plans to work in China. Dr. Roth announced his intention to retire in January 2016.

Research

Summary: Legislation funded two separate pots of money for Rare Earth Element research. One was roughly \$324,000 of redirected abandoned mine land funds from two previous separate AML funded projects, the balances of those projects were merged together and directed to Rare Earth Element Research. The second pot of money was from the state general fund, \$250,000, but had a matching requirement for dollar for dollar non-state funds. Seven or Eight proposals from University of Wyoming faculty were received, but none of them were able to bring non-state matching funds to the table. Three research proposals on various topics have been chosen: Carbon Management Institute which will research recovery of rare earth elements from coal fly ash and produced water from oil and gas, Dr. Susan Swapp, Geology and Physics department, research to include how to separate out rare earth elements in the process of uranium mining and Idaho National Lab, hoping to use this as leverage to get a larger Department of Energy (DOE) grant, looking at some processing of rare earth elements through the conventional mining process. There is a one year completion date for the projects. SER is using some funds from matching grant fund program to fund the remainder of the CMI project.

Outreach

Summary: Ms. Byrnes provided a copy of upcoming events for SER. Important events for SER include: ISO meeting in Laramie, Wyoming, May 1-6, 2016. Renewable Energy Symposium in Laramie, Wyoming, June 13 & 14, 2016. CO2 conference to be held in Casper, Wyoming. August 23 and 24, 2016.

CMI

Summary: Mr. Coddington reported the recent activities of Carbon Management Institute. CMI has hired UW graduate, Evan Egenolf as a full time reservoir engineer. CMI also hired two temporary non-benefited UW Geology graduates to assist on the Rare Earth Elements project. CMI is one of five institutions that were selected by the DOE for the pressure management drawing resource project that is funded through next August. A second project is the Rare Earth Element Project. A private sector consulting contract has been initiated; a UW law student has been hired to do the analysis. Mr. Coddington went over the new road map for future CMI plans. (Road map available upon request)

Comments: It was suggested by several board members that the College of Law should be involved with policy research and that CMI should look for opportunities to create relationships with other colleges.

Special Projects

Summary: Mr. Horner provided a Power Point presentation: Carbon Engineering (copy available by request)

New Construction Update/Engineering Building and High Bay Research Facility

Summary: Dr. Pishko provided an update on the College of Engineering. Petroleum Engineering and Chemical Engineering have split. The college has candidates for three positions and offers will be made around the first of the year. The design phase for the new engineering building is progressing rapidly. It will be named The Energy Education and Research Building. The High Bay Research Facility construction is moving forward. A few problems were encountered with finding new vendors for the instruments used. This has changed the design and cost.

SER Budgets

Summary: Dr. Northam reported the SER operating budget is on target. SER will use strategy money to service the large new grant from FEI. Budgets for FY17-18 continue to be developed. SER is waiting on any further announcements regarding expenditure reductions that will be needed to assist with meeting the state's projected short fall. Current projections demonstrate a budget short fall between 100 and 150 million dollars. SER is already making reductions to the operating budget; however it has requested 2 million dollars to support the Carbon Engineering program and 15 million dollar for additional matching funds.

EORI Update

Summary: Mr. Carpenter spoke to the board regarding changes at the Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute (EORI). Current projects are undergoing a stringent evaluation looking at the scope, schedule and cost of each project and its anticipated outcomes. EORI will continue to work on the data platform and will be looking to hiring a GIS technician to assist. Additionally, there is a need to hire several petroleum engineers and this search is ongoing. There were approximately fifteen responses to the request for proposal of the lab equipment. A meeting will be held in the next week to determine awards.

New Business/Directions for Next Meeting

Summary: There was no new business for discussion.

Adjournment

Due to the pending snow storm and road closure concerns, the meeting concluded rapidly with Mr. Bauer making a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wallace. Motion passed without objection and the meeting ended at 12:30 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Jeane Hull
Interim Co-Chairman

Tom Lockhart
Vice-Chairman