

Energy Resources Council (ERC)

MINUTES

April 5, 2019

BP Center

7:30 AM – 2:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson, Cindy Crane, called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM.

ATTENDANCE:

ERC Members Present

WY Senator James Anderson, Carl Bauer, Cindy Crane, Mindy Benson, Tom Botts, WY House Representative Mike Greear, Jeane Hull, Laurie Nichols, Dave True, and Vello Kuuskraa (via phone).

ERC Members Absent

Dave Emery, Rob Wallace, and Eli Bebout (alternate).

SER Staff in Attendance

Mark Northam, Rob Hurless, Trish Steger, Pam Henderson, Rachel Ferrell, Richard Horner, Scott Quillinan, Andrew Florita, Brandon Hinze, Emma Jane Alexander, and Carrie Ver Burg.

Members of the Public

Marc Bogliotr

MEETING ITEMS BY DETAIL:

Approval of Agenda

Action: A motion was made by Senator Anderson to accept the agenda with the following changes: Move item New Business to directly after approval of minutes and to eliminate 3D Visualization discussion. Mr. Bauer seconded it. Motion passed without objection.

Approval of November 2018 Minutes

Action: A motion was made by Senator Anderson to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Bauer seconded it. Motion passed without objection.

New Business

Summary: Mr. Quillinan provided a brief update on the CarbonSafe project. The site pad was set up on April 12, 2018. It will be a 30-day drill and will be completed by the May ERC meeting in Gillette. ERC members are still encouraged to visit the site. At present, it appears there will be a three hundred fifty thousand dollar cost overrun, which has been driven by oil costs. This has been accounted for within budget adjustments. Ms. Steger provided copies of the draft agenda for the May ERC meeting to the members. Mr. Kuuskraa and Mr. True requested that copies be sent to them for their review.

SER Budgets

Summary: The operating budget presented showed over expenditures. Dr. Northam explained the over expenditures were due to incorrect personnel costs in the system. These costs would be corrected and funds restored to SER. Any remaining over expenditures would be resolved through re-allocation of the current budget. Looking forward, SER anticipates decreasing the amount of support for graduate assistants. This adjustment is expected to occur at the beginning of the new fiscal year and should bring personnel expenditures back into the 40% range. Neil Theobald has been apprised of the continuing issues with the WYOCloud system and is meeting weekly with Dr. Northam to make corrections and find solutions. He is working on a project management solution, which should be available after July 1, 2019. Expenditures in the foundation accounts are currently on target, but it is anticipated that expenditures will increase in 2020. Dr. Northam continued to inform the council members of additional needs that are upcoming for FY2020. He was tasked with creating a full report of the financial needs for FY2020 and presenting it at the ERC May meeting. Dr. Northam was also directed to create a brief white paper for the Joint Mineral Committee to be held in May 2019. Ms. Ferrell was asked to update the grant report and add any new grants, and to explain in detail all the UW programming aspects that SER funds on campus for the legislators.

Commercialization of Carbon Engineering

Summary: Mr. Horner directed members to his report within the ERC April 2019 Notebook (Full copy available by request). He recommended that a taskforce be developed, a private/public partnership, that would explore 1) how commercialization moves forward; 2) spinning out all patents and IP; 3) creating a venture vehicle; or 4) explore aspects of the first three. Mr. True encouraged SER to work with or engage in discussions with the UW Office of Research and the US Office of Legal Counsel regarding UW's process for handling patents. Mr. Horner stated that he was currently working with the UW Office of Research staff and would continue to do so.

Legislative Update

Summary: Senator Anderson provided a brief overview stating that revenue enhancement was not enough, but it would be pushed again in the next year session. He strongly encouraged SER to continue to meet the new legislators and provide information on the role that SER has played in the past and the service that it can continue to provide for the future. He stated that there was a need to improve the University of Wyoming's budgeting process, specifically requesting all budget requests be accompanied by a summary of tangible results that provide a model of the benefits, which will come back to the State. Investment and value will be the focus of 2019 presentation to the Joint Mineral committee by Dr. Northam.

Recess for Executive Session

Action: Mr. Bauer moved to recess for the purpose of an executive session to discuss personnel. Senator Anderson seconded the motion. There were no objections. The council moved into executive session at 9:07 AM.

Adjournment

The council reconvened the regular meeting at 12:01 PM for the following actions:

Action: Ms. Hull made a motion to memorialize in a letter the new hiring process for the SER executive director, which was agreed upon by members of the Energy Resources Council, the Chairman of the UW Board of Trustees, and the UW President. Mr. Bauer seconded the motion. Motion passed without objection.

Action: Ms. Hull made a motion to hire an outside search firm, an internal search committee, and an ERC working committee by mid-year 2020. The search firm will make recommendations of potential candidates to the search committee. The search committee will make three recommendations to the ERC working committee based on the candidates' strengths and weaknesses. The ERC working committee will put forth one candidate for hiring to the UW President. Representative Greear seconded the motion. Motion carried without objection.

Action: Mr. Bauer motioned for the meeting to adjourn. Dr. Benson seconded the motion. The meeting was formally adjourned at 12:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Cindy Crane
ERC Chairwoman

WY Senator, Jim Anderson
ERC Vice Chairman