

**Energy Resources Council (ERC)**

**MINUTES**

*June 15, 2018*

*BP Center*

**8:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Vice Chairman, Senator Anderson

**ATTENDANCE:**

**ERC Members Present**

Carl Bauer, Vello Kuuskraa, Dave Emery, Tom Botts, WY Senator James Anderson, and Cindy Crane, WY House Representative Mike Greear, Dave True and Rob Wallace

**ERC Members Absent**

Jeane Hull, Mindy Benson, and Laurie Nichols

**SER Staff in Attendance**

Mark Northam, Steve Carpenter, Rob Hurless, Trish Steger, Pam Henderson, Rachel Ferrell, Richard Horner, Scott Quillinan, Andrew Florita, Trish Steger, Cindy Ishkanian, Kim Shannon and Carrie Ver Burg,

**Others in Attendance**

John Small

**MEETING ITEMS BY DETAIL:**

**Approval of Agenda**

*Action:* A motion was made by Carl Bauer to accept the agenda as presented. It was seconded by Cindy Crane. Motion passed without objection.

**Approval of November 2017 Minutes**

*Action:* A motion was made by Cindy Crane to accept the minutes as presented. It was seconded by Carl Bauer. Motion passed without objection.

## **SER Budgets**

*Summary:* Ms. Ferrell addressed changes to the Grant report. Going forward the report will be broken down in even more detail to explain and list out cost-share. Senator Anderson expressed his appreciation for the new grant report and encouraged the SER staff to continue to develop a thorough report, which could be presented to the state legislators. SER may make an additional funding request in FY19-20 from the State of Wyoming. This will be a subject of conversation at the August 2018 Joint Minerals Committee meeting. Mr. True spoke to the Council Members regarding the WYOCloud system and the many challenges the university has had in implementing the system. The Board of Trustees feels that training for end users should have been given more attention and certainly will be as the system moves forward and new components are added in. He asked for everyone's patience as the implementation of the new system moves forward as there is a huge learning curve for all involved. He also indicated that indirect charges (SER 44.5%) will be more judiciously adjudicated for use as cost share in the future. The Office of Research has requested the ability to retain the indirect charges to make those decisions going forward. FY19 SER Operating budget will be presented for discussion at the August ERC meeting. There will be very few changes from the previous financial year with most of the changes coming in the line item for Carbon Engineering.

## **DIVISION UPDATES**

Full copies of all SER division reports are available in the **June 2018 ERC Notebook** or upon request.

### **Academics**

*Additional Comments and highlights:* The development of the SER Academic Career & Advising Center is well underway. It is anticipated that the offices will be moved by early July to the south wing of the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in the Energy Innovation Center. Ms. Henderson has received a promotion and will now be the Manager of the Advising Center. A search for the new position for an Academic Advising Professional is ongoing. The new hire should be in place by the beginning of the Fall Semester. Ms. Henderson advised the council that 10 of the 17 graduates had job offers; three were graduating with honors and one graduate was a finalist for the prestigious Tobin Award. Current enrollment is projected for fifty students. Ms. Henderson would like to improve the enrollment by placing a strong emphasis on recruitment for FY19. SER Professional Land Management (PLM) students have not been represented in the past on the ASUW Senate. The students successfully lobbied for a seat on the senate and will be represented next year. An articulation agreement with Southern Alberta is under review, but has not been finalized due to challenges with the program taking five years to complete.

## **EORI**

Dr. Carpenter deferred his report to the special section reporting of EORI later in the agenda.

## **CEGR (formerly EE&P/CMI)**

*Additional Comments:* Mr. Coddington addressed the two current projects near the Dry Fork. Mr. True disclosed that his company is providing services to CEGR. Mr. True is a non-voting member of the Energy Resources Council, and therefore would not have a conflict of interest.

## **Executive Session**

WY Representative Greear moved to adjourn into Executive Session. It was seconded by Mr. Emery. There were no objections. The Council entered Executive Session for the purpose of personnel discussion at 11:05 AM.

The regular ERC meeting recommenced at 1PM.

## **Carbon Engineering**

*Additional Comments:* No comments

## **3D Visualization Lab**

*Additional Comments:* No comments

## **Research & Outreach**

*Additional Comments & Highlights:* Mr. Scott Quillinan was introduced to the Council as the new SER Director of Communications and Research filling the recently vacated position held by Ms. Hulme. Mr. Quillinan has been formerly employed as a research scientist with CEGR and is very familiar with SER research. His knowledge and skills made him an excellent candidate for promotion to this position. Mr. Quillinan thanked the Council and acknowledged his assistant, Ms. Shannon, for helping him to get settled into his new position. Important outreach events that are upcoming are as follows:

- September 12<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> – WY Oil & Gas Fair
- September 15<sup>th</sup>- Energy Day @ UW
- September 14<sup>th</sup> - SER Fall Speakers Series
- Coming in October – Energy Law Conference

## **EORI OVERVIEW & MOU**

*Summary & Comments:* Dr. Carpenter provided a PPT overview of the Enhanced Oil Recovery Institute to the Council. A copy of the PPT is available upon request. A discussion with the council ensued regarding the possibility of the State of Wyoming legislators developing a “one- stop energy shop” to address all the inquiries regarding the state’s energy resources. This

discussion stems from the fact that the State of Wyoming does not have a Department of Energy and there is a growing need for a central location to direct inquiries. The Wyoming Infrastructure Authority has broadened its scope, but this is not enough. Early discussions amongst legislators included the possibility of consolidating existing agencies to create a broad overview of Wyoming energy. The EORI commission was not favorably inclined to accept this suggestion; however, the commission did support the need for more collaborative work and communication between the existing agencies. EORI suggested that an annual meeting between all the agencies take place prior to the Fall FY18 Joint Mineral Committee (JMC) meeting and then have representation at the JMC meeting to provide information. Another suggestion was to have the group of agencies hold monthly zoom meetings to enhance their communications with one another. WY House Representative Greear lent support to the idea of having the existing agencies provide better support to each other and ultimately the State of Wyoming through collaboration and improved communication as opposed to consolidating existing agencies.

Dr. Northam provided background on the current memorandum of understanding (MOU) that exists between the University of Wyoming and the EORI. The EORI commission was originally created by the WY State legislators. The EORI commission receives its funding from the WY State legislators to carry out their mission under the auspice of the University of Wyoming. There are two existing MOUs setting the operational terms and conditions for the EORI. Both of these have been in place for approximately twenty years. They have been amended twice. Once to extend the terms and the second time to clarify that the UW administrators had put EORI under the management of SER rather than treat it as a separate entity. A third version of the MOU is under development. It is being designed to address specific issues. Those issues include:

- Clarifying that EORI is a separate state agency with the EORI director reporting operationally through the executive director of SER. The EORI commission will remain the ultimate authority for the EORI;
- Developing a special category for EORI personnel that will allow the EORI to hire in a more efficient manner. Currently EORI staff are hired as academic professionals, which is a category and job description that does not accurately reflect the positions or actual work of the EORI staff. Dr. Carpenter and Dr. Northam are collaborating with UW Human Resources to develop a separate class category which clearly defines the EORI staff;
- Addressing fair and beneficial administrative support that is provided in a timely manner. UW provides administrative support to the EORI. Currently there are issues related to indirect charges. *Example: EORI pays UW rent for office space. EORI is also charged indirect fees which cover overhead i.e., rent for space.* Therefore, EORI is charged twice for office utilization. Negotiations are underway to change the indirect percentage that is being charged to EORI to alleviate any double charging or unnecessary charges. UW provides legal oversight and liability coverage to EORI, which is a benefit, but it becomes a liability when UW is not able to provide support within a timeframe that works with EORI's needs.

It often takes four months or longer to complete a contractual agreement. This length of time can be deadly for contracts with industrial partners, and lead to EORI's inability to complete their work. There has not been a resolution to this issue yet.

In conclusion, UW and EORI recognize that changes need to be made to the MOU, but the changes need to adhere to appropriate regulations, policies and legal requirements. A draft of the proposed MOU has been developed and provided to UW counsel for their review. It will then go the UW President for her review. The final step will be presentation of the MOU to the UW Board of Trustees and the ERC for their endorsement.

Dr. Carpenter concluded his presentation by suggesting the ERC meet annually with the EORI Commission. The meeting could take place in either Casper or Laramie. He encouraged the ERC to take this into consideration when planning their annual calendar of meetings.

### **Foundation Update**

*Summary and Comments:* Dr. Northam introduced John Small who will be replacing Brett Befus as the foundation partner for SER. Mr. Small has a long history of corporate development, research and industry partnership. Prior to coming to UW, he worked extensively with the College of Engineering at Texas A & M. Mr. Small expressed his interest in becoming the new unit representative for SER. He informed the council that he had just returned from several meetings with other universities within the mountain west region and in his opinion, the UW Foundation was hitting its mark and comparing very favorably to the other universities. He added that he would like to see UW tout its own horn more and share its many successes. Along these lines would be setting priority goals for SER that will incorporate into the UW Strategic Plan and the UW Foundation Strategic Plan especially in regard to the development of chair positions and professorships. This focus has already begun with the re-designation of the Anadarko chair position and discussions with the Wold family to broaden and strengthen the currently vacant Wold chair position. Another area of interest is developing a senior position, which would lead the faculty and carbon engineering project in the future as well as other undetermined goals.

Mr. Coddington mentioned his interest in re-establishing communication between the Foundation and CEGR. Previous discussions with Mr. Befus included three areas of interest:

- Private sector funding for policy research;
- Corporate funding for research and;
- Assistance with fundraising via offering local geological fieldtrips to potential donors. Mr.

Small agreed to meet with CEGR in the near future.

### **New Business**

*Summary:* Mr. Coddington asked the council for assistance in finding an industry partner to

support a proposal application that will be submitted in July 2018. Specifically, CEGR is searching for a partner to help evaluate the economic viability of large-scale thermal energy storage. Ms. Crane offered to make some suggestions.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Bauer moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Ms. Crane. There were no objections. The meeting was formally adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

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Jeane Hull  
Chairwoman

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James Anderson  
Vice-Chairman