



Energy Resources Council

Draft Minutes

August 15, 2025

7:30 AM - 1:30 PM

ATTENDANCE

Energy Resources Council (ERC)

Chairman Cindy Crane, Sen. Ed Cooper, Rep. Scott Heiner, Charlene Russell, David Emery, Chad Teply, Bill Miller, Peter Gottfried

Ex. Officio and Liaisons

President Ed Seidel, Trustee Paul Ulrich, Randall Luthi

School of Energy Resources (SER) and UW

Holly Krutka, Scott Quillinan, Fred McLaughlin, Christine Reed, Jerry Evans, Lon Whitman, Kyle Summerfield, Kristi Russow, Eugene Holubnyak, Trina Igelsrud Pfeiffer, Matt Fry, Erin Phillips, Kami Danaei, Rachel Ferrell, Marie Dudgeon (online), Heather Chandler (online) Thang Tran (online), Kimi Takaki (online), Angela Ver Ploeg (online), Carrie Ver Burg (online), Ayla Carncross (online), Tiffany Bishop (online), James Christensen (online), Sarah Buckhold (online), Pat McLean (online), Esther Wagner (online), David Lucke (online)

Guests

Rob Creager, Raul Ochoa (online), David Madison (online), Jamie Blosmo (online)

ERC REGULAR MEETING: ITEMS BY DETAIL

Call to Order

Chairman Crane called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM

Approval of Agenda

Two amendments were requested to the agenda. The first, that President Seidel give a brief update on UW prior to the Executive Director's report, and the second, that Wyoming Energy Authority Executive Director Rob Creager provide an update on his recent visit to Washington, D.C., to follow the exception funding request review portion of the agenda.

Motion – Chairman Crane made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Bill Miller seconded the motion.
The motion was approved without objection.

Approval of May 2025 Minutes

Motion – Rep. Heiner made a motion to approve the May 2025 Minutes. Chad Teply seconded the motion.
The motion was approved without objection.

Update from President Seidel

President Seidel highlighted key accomplishments at UW under his tenure including:

- UW being recognized as a Carnegie Tier 1 Research Institution and a Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement,
- UW continues to demonstrate a significant economic impact, contributing over a billion to the state’s economy based on a recent study,
- Student enrollment and retention are slowly experiencing increases,
- UW is working to grow capacity in critical mineral research, and
- The UW budget request will include salary raises and state matching funds for endowments.

SER Executive Director Report

Overview and Updates - Holly Krutka

Dr. Krutka provided an update on upcoming events in the fall, and an overview of the total expenditures from FY25, demonstrating the impact of SER’s research programs executing projects in the state. She also presented the proposed budget request for the 2026 legislative session for the FY27-28 biennium as follows:

1. Standard Budget (reoccurring) – \$21,107,808 (no change compared to enacted FY25-26 biennium)
2. Coal Pyrolysis Demonstration Plant (one-time, accounting for inflation costs) – \$2,090,000
3. Matching funds for both philanthropic and research matching (one-time) – \$10,000,000 with the following conditions:
 - a. These matching funds require 1:1 match from a non-state source (no in-kind).
 - b. For the research funding, the match is limited to research focused on the production or consumption of Wyoming coal, oil, natural gas (as defined by the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission), rare earth elements and critical minerals (as defined by the US Secretary of Interior). Uses of matching funds must be approved by the Energy Resources Council and the legislative Management Committee.

Motion – Peter Gottfried made a motion to approve the budget request as presented for advancement to the Governor’s Office. David Emery seconded the motion.
The motion was approved without objection.

WEA Exception Funding Request Review

Wyoming Energy Social License Survey

In 2022 and 2023, SER replicated a study on Wyoming residents' perspectives on energy. This replication allowed SER to conduct a comparison to the findings from the 2019/2020 study and to begin tracking how Wyoming residents' perspectives about energy are evolving over time. The current request is a proposed follow-up study that will also follow the same methodology used in the first two studies, and update the survey and interview questions to reflect relevant energy topics and technologies.

The ERC Exception Review and Recommendation Committee (ERRC) recommends the project be funded for the requested amount of \$16,177 out of the Economic Innovation Subaccount to fully encumber remaining funds in that account.

Motion - Charlene Russell made a motion to approve the funding request for \$16,177 out of the Economic Innovation Subaccount. David Emery seconded the motion. The motion was approved without objection.

WEA Update - Rob Creager

Reports/Motions

Full copies of the following SER reports are available in the August ERC Folio or upon request.

Presenting Director Reports

- Research - Scott Quillinan and Erin Phillips
- CEGR - Fred McLaughlin
- CCCC - Trina Igelsrud Pfeiffer
- CERPA - Matt Fry
- H₂ERC - Eugene Holubnyak
- EORI - Lon Whitman
- COIFPM - Mohammad Piri

SER Financial Report - Rachel Ferrell and Holly Krutka

New Business

Energy Resources Council Bylaws

Draft bylaws were created to enhance governance and structure, and to ensure best practices. These bylaws define the council's purpose, scope, and authority, ensuring that all members are aligned with its core mission as outlined by Wyoming Statute § 21-17-117.

Chairman Crane emphasized the importance of including a Code of Conduct and requiring Council members to complete an annual Conflict of Interest disclosure. She requested that they be included in a future ERC meeting for review and adoption.

Motion - Sen. Ed Cooper made a motion to approve the ERC Bylaws as edited. Chad Teply seconded the motion.
The motion was approved without objection.

Other new business

Peter Gottfried proposed appointing a task force to explore the possibility of UW developing a nuclear engineering degree program. The Council discussed the efforts that SER has already made in developing nuclear-related curriculum - informed by industry partners - and determined that efforts should remain focused on growing opportunities for UW students in other disciplines to enhance employability.

Dave Emery was interested in whether there is any tracking of the utilization of UW's K-12 curriculum.

Executive Session

No executive session.

Adjournment

David Emery made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Charlene Russell seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 PM.

TASKS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Craft a Code of Conduct form as well as a Conflict-of-Interest form for review and adoption at the next ERC meeting.

NEXT MEETING DETAILS

November 20-21, 2025, in Laramie, Wyoming
Joint with the UW Board of Trustees

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Cindy Crane
Chairman

Ed Cooper
Vice Chairman