



2023 Annual WIEB Board Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2023

9:30-11:00 am MT/8:30-10:00 am PT, via Zoom

Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB) Member Representatives Present: Andrew McAllister (CA), Janine Benner (OR), Richard Stover (ID), Anna Tovar (AZ), Michael Furze (WA), Sarah Cottrell Propst (NM), Betsy Li Alward (AB), Greg Todd (UT), and Dwayne McClinton (NV), Chris Gilmore (BC)

State and Provincial Representatives: Ben Brouwer (representing MT on behalf of, and with proxy of, Michael Freeman)

WIEB Staff Present: Gia Anguiano, Eric Baran, Lisa Brohaugh, Thomas Carr, Elaine Hsu, Bonnie Lamond, Laura Rennick, Melanie Snyder, Alan Zenagui, and Jack Rehnborg.

Others Present: Jennifer Benally (AZCC), Erin Ford Faulhaber (AZCC), Grace Anderson (CEC)

Board Actions

- I. Approved the WIEB FY 2024 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 a cost-of-living increase for employees based on the increase in the consumer price index for the representative cities in the West;
 - 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 \$150,200 for FY 2024;
 - 6) Approve 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 financial agents of the Western Interstate Energy Board.

II. Elected the following officers of the Western Interstate Energy Board and the Western Interstate Nuclear Board for FY2024

- Andrew McAllister (CA) – Chair, WIEB and WINB
- Janine Benner (OR) – First Vice-Chair, WIEB
- Michael Freeman (MT) – First Vice-Chair, WINB
- Michael Freeman (MT) – Second Vice-Chair, WIEB
- Richard Stover (ID) – Treasurer, WIEB and WINB

Welcome and Introductions

Andrew McAllister (CA), WIEB Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. (MDT), welcomed his fellow WIEB Board Members and other guests, and asked new WIEB Board Members (Dwayne McClinton (NV), Commissioner Anna Tovar (AZ), Chris Gilmore (BC) Greg Todd (UT), and Ben Brouwer as proxy to MT for Michael Freeman) to introduce themselves.

Chair McAllister asked any other state representatives on the call to introduce themselves and then had Laura Rennick, Director of State, Federal, and International Affairs at WIEB, introduce the WIEB Staff. He had the two interns from Stanford briefly introduce themselves.

Update on WIEB Executive Director Search

Chair McAllister announced that, after an extensive search and interview process, Laura Rennick accepted WIEB's offer to be Executive Director and will start on July 1, 2023. He expressed his gratitude to the Executive Director Search Committee for their hard work and time commitment to the selection process, and Eric Baran (Interim Executive Director of Finance and Banking) for sharing duties with Ms. Rennick during the interim and keeping WIEB operating and effective. State reps thanked Chair McAllister for his leadership and guidance through the selection process and welcomed Ms. Rennick to her new position.

Update on WIEB-CREPC Initiatives

Chair McAllister turned it over to Gia Anguiano (WIEB Staff) and Ms. Rennick for an update on WIEB-CREPC Initiatives.

MSC Market Expert

Ms. Anguiano discussed the MSC Market expert concept presented to the WIEB Board during the Spring 2023 Board Meeting and approved on April 14, 2023. The MSC Market experts are David Boyd and Edward Garvey of AESL Consulting. They are providing technical expertise and support to MSC during Phase One of the Markets+ development.

CREPC Technical Advisor

Ms. Rennick reported on the CREPC Technical Advisor, for which the funding will come from the new 2023 NREL-CREPC Agreement. She discussed the scope for this advisor: Technical and analytical expertise to support CREPC activities for member states to engage in Western regional electricity market and transmission forums. Ms. Rennick also noted that WIEB is hosting a summer CREPC webinar for the first time in July 2023.

Western States Transmission Initiative

Ms. Rennick discussed this initiative that is led by Gridworks for the benefit of CREPC members. Through this initiative, Gridworks aims to increase understanding of transmission issues among Western regulators and state energy policy leaders and identify actionable steps for CREPC to address. The goal is to grow, understand and foster discussion of recommendations and observations for CREPC's exploration of expanded regional transmission efforts.

WIEB Reserve Expenditure Plan Projects

Ms. Rennick turned to Tom Carr (WIEB Staff) for an update on WIEB's Reserve Expenditure Plan (REP) Program. Mr. Carr provided a background of WIEB's REP Program, and a timeline of completed, ongoing, and future projects.

REP Project Status

Timeline for REP Proposals and Review Process

Mr. Carr then discussed the timeline for the Reserve Expenditure Project (REP) project proposal and review process from start to finish. He encouraged the states and provinces to contact WIEB if they have an idea for a project or how to enhance a project. WIEB will continue to engage with the states on a regular basis and encourage their participation.

July 10, 2023	Announcement inviting WIEB member states and provinces to submit a project proposal to WIEB
August 18, 2023	Member states and provinces to submit proposal to WIEB staff
September 1, 2023	WIEB staff emails recommendations to the WIEB Executive Committee
September 15, 2023	WIEB Executive Committee meets via webinar to develop project recommendations
September 29, 2023	WIEB Board meets via webinar to consider project recommendations
October 6, 2023	WIEB Board email voting and project selection

WIEB Business Plan and Budget

Chair McAllister then asked Eric Baran (Interim Executive Director of Finance and Banking), Ms. Rennick, and Lisa Brohaugh (WIEB Director of Finance and Administration) to provide a brief overview of key components of the WIEB FY 2024 Business Plan and Budget.

FY 2024 Budget and Work Plan

Mr. Baran introduced the FY 2024 budget by briefly summarizing the WIEB Projects, Programs, and Committees that will be covered in the budget and then introducing Ms. Brohaugh who gave an overview of the FY 2024 budget. Ms. Brohaugh summarized WIEB's current and projected income and expenses. She indicated that for FY2024 there was a budget increase of 30.8% from 2023, and expenses purposefully exceed income by \$122,000. Ms. Brohaugh noted the major drivers behind the FY 2024 budget increase:

- Additional three-year NREL – CREPC contractual agreement in the amount of \$2,070,000; annual budget increase = \$690,000
- Additional WIEB Board activities to support COSR and MSC start up
- Indirect rate decrease from 96.7% to 95.1%
- 2 FTE additions
 - Project Support Specialist: 1
 - Wholesale Electricity Market Specialist: 1

Ms. Brohaugh also provided information on WIEB's current and projected financial reserves. She stated the FY2024 budget indicates that WIEB is in a strong financial position.

Chair McAllister concluded the budget overview by asking the WIEB Board to approve the proposed FY2024 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 a cost-of-living increase for employees based on the increase in the consumer price index for the representative cities in the West;
- 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 \$150,200 for FY 2024;
- 6) Approve 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 financial agents of the Western Interstate Energy Board.

Janine Benner (OR) moved to approve the proposed FY 2024 budget with the seven budget authorizations listed above. Michael Furze (WA) seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Election of Officers

Chair McAllister then handed the virtual gavel to Michael Furze (WA) to chair the meeting during the election of the WIEB Board Officers. Mr. Furze first noted that the WIEB by-laws provide that the elected WIEB Chair, First Vice-Chair, and Treasurer have traditionally also served as the chairs of the Western Interstate Nuclear Board (WINB) and asked if there were any objections to this practice. There were no objections to continuing this practice.

Mr. Furze indicated the following board members were willing to serve as officers in the upcoming year:

- Andrew McAllister (CA) – Chair, WIEB and WINB
- Janine Benner (OR) – First Vice-Chair, WIEB
- Michael Freeman (MT) – First Vice-Chair, WINB

- Michael Freeman (MT) – Second Vice-Chair, WIEB
- Richard Stover (ID) – Treasurer, WIEB and WINB

Sarah Cottrell Propst (NM) moved to approve the slate of officers for FY 2024, and Greg Todd (UT) seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Chair McAllister thanked Mr. Furze for taking over and conducting the vote, then congratulated the newly elected members of the WIEB Executive Committee. Chair McAllister thanked Michael Freeman and Richard Stover for stepping into their new roles and completing the Executive Committee slate.

Adjourn

Chair McAllister encouraged everyone to Save the Date for the Fall 2023 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting in Seattle on October 4-6. He then thanked everyone for their participation in the Annual Board Business Meeting and adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m. (MDT).