



## 2024 Annual WIEB Board Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2024

9:30 am -11:00 am PT/10:30 am -12:00 pm MT, via Zoom

**Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB) Member Representatives Present:** Andrew McAllister (CA), Janine Benner (OR), Richard Stover (ID), Michael Furze (WA), Betsy Li Alward (AB), James Lester (CO), and Michael Freeman (MT).

**State and Provincial Representatives:** Lee Johnson (representing BC on behalf of, and with proxy of, Les Maclaren)

**WIEB Staff Present:** Gia Anguiano, Robin Arnold, Aaron Beard, Lisa Brohaugh, Thomas Carr, Elaine Hsu, Bonnie Lamond, Laura Rennick, Melanie Snyder, and Chris Zawora.

**Others Present:** Grace Anderson (CEC), Sienna Levine (CAISO), C.D. McLean (CEC), Rebecca Puck Stair (NM EMNRD)

### Board Actions

- I. Approved the WIEB FY 2025 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 \$123,000 for FY2025;
  - 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 (WIEB) and the Western Interstate Nuclear Board (WINB) for FY2025:

<u>WIEB Officers FY2025</u>	<u>WINB Officers FY2025</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew McAllister (CA) – Chair</li> <li>• Janine Benner (OR) – First Vice-Chair</li> <li>• Michael Freeman (MT) – Second Vice-Chair</li> <li>• Richard Stover (ID) – Treasurer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew McAllister (CA) – Chair</li> <li>• Michael Freeman (MT) – First Vice-Chair</li> <li>• Richard Stover (ID) – Treasurer</li> </ul>

### Welcome and Introductions

Andrew McAllister (CA), WIEB Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. (MT), welcomed his fellow WIEB Board Members and other guests, and welcomed new WIEB Board Member James Lester from Colorado. Chair McAllister conducted a role call of WIEB Board Members and asked for state representatives to announce themselves.

Laura Rennick, Executive Director at WIEB, thanked Aaron Beard and Elaine Hsu for running the meeting.

### Update on WIEB-CREPC Initiatives

Chair McAllister turned it over to Robin Arnold (Director of State, Federal, and International Affairs), Gia Anguiano (Government Relations Specialist-Resource Adequacy), and Bonnie Lamond (Program Manager-Wholesale Electricity Markets) for an update on WIEB-CREPC Initiatives.

### CREPC Transmission Collaborative (CREPC-TC)

Ms. Arnold discussed the background of CREPC-TC and presented updates on recent work CREPC-TC has been doing with Energy Strategies, including cost allocation methods used in the West and exploring and designing bespoke cost allocation methodology frameworks in the west. The CREPC-TC also provides state and provincial input to the WestTEC.

### Markets+ State Committee (MSC)

Ms. Anguiano reported that the MSC submitted comments to FERC on the Markets+ Tariff. The issues identified in the comments were: access to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) data, transmission opt-out provisions, and protocol development. The MSC is working on a memo to the GHG taskforce to advance the GHG data issue which is ongoing. New leadership was elected during the MSC's May business meeting: Commissioner Nick Myers (AZ) is the new Chair of the MSC, Commissioner John Hammond (ID) is the new Vice-Chair of the MSC.

### 2024 Shultz Fellowship with Stanford

Ms. Lamond discussed the Stanford fellows' project for the 2024 summer: "Transmission Use and Congestion Analysis in the Western States." The fellows will use locational margin price (LMP) data to analyze large hourly data sets at over 9,000 pricing nodes across the Western Interconnection to find meaningful trends and identify where new or upgraded transmission may be needed and beneficial. Energy Strategies is providing additional technical and analytical support to the fellows that will be needed to dive deep into the research. The results of the research will be presented via webinar in the

## Update WIEB Reserve Expenditure Plan Projects

Chair McAllister turned to Tom Carr (Program Manager – Electric System Planning and Grid Transformation) and Melanie Snyder (Program Manager – Nuclear Energy Policy) for an update on WIEB's Reserve Expenditure Plan (REP) Program. Mr. Carr provided a background of WIEB's REP Program, and summary of completed, ongoing, and future projects outlined below:

### REP Project Status



### Advanced Nuclear in the West Workshop

Mr. Carr pivoted to Ms. Snyder to discuss the successful REP project completed in late May in Boise, Idaho: "Advanced Nuclear in the West Workshop." This workshop focused on topics relevant to policy makers and public utility commissioners in the West including advanced nuclear designs, small modular reactors, and nuclear power regulation, nuclear power economics, nuclear waste, nonproliferation, national security, and international order.

### Mining Critical Minerals

Mr. Carr next discussed a project completed in FY2024: "Mining Critical Minerals for Clean Energy in the West". Mr. Carr explained that WIEB worked with the Colorado School of Mines to produce a report on critical minerals in clean energy. The key takeaways included the essential nature of critical minerals to clean energy technologies, critical minerals prevalence across the west, the difference in advanced and traditional mining methods, and the challenges in permitting new mines.

### Status Update: GHG Accounting and Reporting Requirements and Electrification Trends

Mr. Carr gave status updates on two projects: "GHG Accounting and Reporting Requirements in Western States and Provinces and Electrification Trends". The purpose of the GHG Accounting project is to inform and facilitate a dialogue among Western states and provinces on GHG accounting and reporting protocols. The project will assemble an inventory of GHG emissions reduction targets and policy frameworks for Western States and Provinces, identify states with GHG reporting requirements, meet with state air quality officials to better understand GHG accounting practices and reporting requirements, and create an inventory of GHG accounting practices for each state, culminating in a virtual convening to promote dialogue on GHG accounting practices and protocols. The targeted participants for this convenings are representatives from air quality agencies, energy office officials, and

utility commission regulators with the goal to identify opportunities to build better understanding, coordination, and potential alignment for GHG accounting in regional markets.

The purpose of the Electrification Trends project is to better understand the impacts of electrification policies on loads in the West. The project will create inventory of electrification policies across the western states and provinces, identify the potential electricity demand impacts of these policies, review the methods used to quantify the impacts of electrification and investigate whether electrification impacts on loads are being incorporated into utility IRPs, and state and regional forecasts of loads.

### **Timeline for REP Proposals and Review Process**

Mr. Carr then discussed the timeline for new Reserve Expenditure Project (REP) project proposals. States and provinces are encouraged to contact WIEB if they have an idea for a project or how to enhance a project in advance of submitting proposals. WIEB will continue to engage with the states on a regular basis and encourage their participation.

August 1, 2024	Announcement inviting WIEB member states and provinces to submit a project proposal to WIEB
September 17, 2024	Member states and provinces to submit proposal to WIEB staff
September 24, 2024	WIEB staff emails recommendations to the WIEB Executive Committee
October 1, 2024	WIEB Executive Committee meets via webinar to develop project recommendations
October 7, 2024	WIEB Board meets via webinar to consider project recommendations
October 21, 2024	WIEB Board email voting and project selection

### **Update on WIEB's HLRWC and WIPP TAG**

Chair McAllister then handed it over to Ms. Snyder for updates on the High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee (HLRWC) and Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) Transportation Advisory Group (TAG).

#### **High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee (HLRWC)**

The current policy focus areas of the HLRWC are consent-based siting of a federal consolidated interim storage facility for commercial spent nuclear fuel, full-scale “testing” of a spent nuclear fuel transportation casks (e.g., Package Performance Demonstration), new Washington/Department of Energy/Environmental Protection Agency settlement agreement on Hanford waste clean-up, and the DOE shipment of high-burnup Spent Nuclear Fuel from North Anna Nuclear Generating Station for testing.

#### **WIPP Transportation Technical Advisory Group (WIPP-TAG)**

Ms. Snyder explained that there is an emergency preparedness exercise planned for three towns along WIPP route in Nevada this coming September. The DOE Carlsbad Field Office will engage stakeholders to determine the definition of “legacy” transuranic waste. This was a topic of discussion at the recent National Transportation Stakeholders Forum 2024 Annual Meeting in Denver.

### **National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF)**

Ms. Snyder shared that WIEB will be hosting the 2025 Annual NTSF Meeting in Las Vegas on May 19-22 in 2025. NTSF which is DOE's mechanism for engaging with the state and tribes on the Department's shipments of radioactive materials.

### **WIEB Business Meeting**

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Chair McAllister thanked Ms. Snyder for her work with the High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee and turned it over to Executive Director Rennick for WIEB's Business Meeting. Executive Director Rennick discussed the changes in staff this past year including her role as Executive Director, Robin Arnold as the new Director of State, Federal, and International Affairs, Aaron Beard as the new Project Support Specialist, and Chris Zawora as the Wholesale Electricity Market Analyst. Executive Director Rennick discussed support in hosting the Pathways' Initiative materials on the WIEB website to promote transparency and information sharing, the various projects with Gridworks, WestTEC, Markets+, the NREL funding, the increased CREPC funding WIEB secured, and beyond that the WIRAB, COSR, WEIM-BOSR, and HLRWC support our staff continues to provide. Executive Director Rennick ended by thanking the leadership for their continued engagement and support which allowed WIEB to provide the quality of work and events they continue to produce. Executive Director Rennick turned the meeting over to Director of Finance and Administration Lisa Brohaugh to provide an overview of the 2025 Fiscal Year Business Plan and Budget.

### **Fiscal Year 2025 Business Plan and Budget Overview**

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Ms. Brohaugh introduced the FY2025 budget by briefly summarizing the WIEB Projects, Programs, and Committees that will be covered in the FY2025 budget. Ms. Brohaugh noted the major budget drivers impacting the FY2025 budget:

- Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office (DOE-GDO) annual funding for 5-year agreement: \$712,000 year one, \$512,000 in each of the remaining 4 years
- Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management (DOE-NTSF) funding increase to host 2025 annual meeting: \$100,000
- WRAP-COSR budget approved April 4, 2024 included in consolidated budget: \$149,400
- MSC funding and support continues through various WIEB funding sources, predominately NREL funding, and was removed from WIEB Board Activities in FY2025
- Indirect rate decrease from 95.1% to 95%
- Total FTEs: 12, no change

Ms. Brohaugh also provided information on WIEB's current and projected financial reserves. She stated the FY2025 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 FY2025 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 FY2025 budget with the seven budget authorizations listed above. Richard Stover (ID) seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

### **Election of Officers**

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Chair McAllister then turned to Michael Furze (WA) to chair the meeting during the election of the 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 offices of the Western Interstate Nuclear Board (WINB). Mr. Furze 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

Betsy Li Alward (AB) moved to approve the slate of officers for FY2025, and Janine Benner (OR) seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Chair McAllister thanked Mr. Furze for taking over and conducting the vote, then congratulated the elected members of the WIEB Executive Committee. Chair McAllister thanked the officers for continuing in their roles as the Executive Committee slate.

### **Adjourn**

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Chair McAllister encouraged everyone to Save the Date for the Fall 2025 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting in San Diego on October 22-24. He then thanked everyone for their participation in the Annual Board Business Meeting and adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m. (MT).