



2025 Annual WIEB Board Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2025

1:00 am -3:00 am PT/2:00 am -4:00 pm MT, via Zoom

Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB) Member Representatives Present: Andrew McAllister (CA), Janine Benner (OR), Betsy Li Alward (AB), James Lester (CO), Cally Younger (ID), Emy Lesofski (UT), Glenn Blackmon (WA), Maren Mahoney (AZ).

State and Provincial Representatives: Lee Johnson (representing BC on behalf of, and with proxy of, Chris Gilmore), John Jenks (WY), Melanie Kenderdine (NM).

WIEB Staff Present: Gia Anguiano, Robin Arnold, Aaron Beard, Lisa Brohaugh, Bonnie Lamond, Sarah Hegge, Laura Rennick, Eric Baran, Melanie Snyder, Chris Zawora.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was officially called to order by Chair Andrew McAllister. Laura Rennick conducted a roll call and confirmed a quorum, noting she had proxy for Mike Freeman. It was noted the meeting was being recorded for internal documentation purposes only.

Chair Andrew McAllister opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and emphasizing the importance of collaborative energy policy in the Western Interconnection. The Chair acknowledged new members and underscored WIEB's role in harmonizing state and provincial perspectives on regional energy issues.

Update on WIEB-CREPC Initiatives

Robin Arnold provided an in-depth overview of the CREPC Transmission Collaborative and the FERC Order 1920 Ad Hoc Committee. The Transmission Collaborative was created to allow state-only discussions about transmission issues across the Western Interconnection. Participation is encouraged for all state agencies, and several non-WIEB state agencies have participated as guests. Major work has included:

- A cost allocation study focused on equity and alternative frameworks.
- Ongoing coordination with the Western Power Pool on the Western Transmission Expansion Coalition Study.
- Updates from the Western Transmission Consortium and exploration of new transmission financing mechanisms.

The FERC 1920 Ad Hoc Committee is more formal and involves designated voting representatives from states in NorthernGrid and WestConnect. It is actively drafting a state agreement process and discussing ex ante cost allocation methods. The goal is to provide feedback and alternatives

to utility filings due December 2025. Robin emphasized that states can offer alternative methodologies even if not endorsed by utilities, and FERC is obligated to consider them.

Gia Anguiano discussed WIEB's continued participation in Stanford's energy policy fellowship. Two Stanford fellows, Henry Daniels-Koch and Maya Arengo, will work with WIEB over 10 weeks this summer, focusing on harmonizing Resource Adequacy (RA) approaches across Western regions, particularly comparing CAISO's Slice-of-Day with WRAP. They will assess policy compatibility, explore resource adequacy impacts on planning and reliability, and identify opportunities for coordination. A public presentation of their findings is planned for late summer.

Update on WIEB's HLRWC and WIPP TAG

Melanie Snyder updated the Board on WIEB's nuclear committees: the High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee (HLRWC) and Waste Isolation Pilot Plant Transportation Technical Advisory Group (WIPP TAG).

Key highlights included:

- Recent meetings and tours of Diablo Canyon and the Nevada National Security Site.
- WIEB's coordination role in DOE's shipment of a high burnup spent nuclear fuel cask from Virginia to Idaho National Lab by 2027.
- Introduction of the WIPP TAG Charter, outlining membership, voting, leadership, and how the committee interacts with the Energy Board. This document will be circulated for formal review and approval post-meeting.
- A new policy brief and webinar on fusion energy.

Update WIEB Reserve Expenditure Plan Projects

Aaron Beard described the purpose and scope of the Reserve Expenditure Plan (REP), which was created in 2017 to reduce reserves by funding member-proposed energy projects. The FY25 allocation is \$123,000, with \$50,000 awarded to a project on large industrial electricity loads. The project will explore planning issues associated with energy-intensive load growth through a five-part webinar series. Topics will include demand forecasting, rate design, economic impacts, and interconnection planning, concluding with a final report.

Electrification Trends Study

Eric Baran provided a status update on a second REP project examining electrification trends. The study defines electrification as the replacement of fossil-fuel-based systems with electric technologies (e.g., heat pumps, EVs). Goals include evaluating the impact of electrification on electricity demand forecasts and resource adequacy.

Fiscal Year 2026 Business Plan and Budget Overview

Lisa Brohaugh presented the FY2026 Business Plan and Budget. Highlights included:

- Return to baseline DOE funding after FY25.

- Addition of one full-time equivalent (FTE) position for a Deputy Director.
- Planned reserve reduction of \$80,286 to reach a reserve target of \$940,000 by FY2032.
- Total income: \$3.6M; Total expense: \$3.63M (intentional deficit of \$24,700 covered by REP).

Election of Officers

The Board approved the slate of officers for FY2026:

- Chair: Michael Freeman (Montana)
- First Vice Chair: Maren Mahoney (Arizona)
- Second Vice Chair: Janine Benner (Oregon)
- Treasurer: Emy Lesofski (Utah)

Adjourn

Outgoing Chair McAllister concluded the meeting by thanking all members and WIEB staff. The meeting was formally adjourned following votes on the business plan and officer elections.