



2026 Annual WIEB Board Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2026

1:30 pm -3:30 pm PT/2:30 pm -4:30 pm MT, via Zoom

Western Interstate Energy Board (WIEB) Member Representatives Present: Andrew McAllister (California); James Lester (Colorado); Cally Younger (Idaho); Sonja Nowakowski (Montana); Janine Benner (Oregon); Emy Lesofski (Utah); Jennifer Grove (Washington).

State and Provincial Representatives: Lee Johnson for Chris Gilmore (British Columbia), Marjorie Hilke for James Humm (Nevada).

WIEB Staff Present: Gia Anguiano, Robin Arnold, Eric Baran, Aaron Beard, Lisa Brohaugh, Sarah Hegge, Bonnie Lamond, George Lynch, Elliott Nethercutt, Marissa Moers, Laura Rennick, Melanie Snyder, Anna Strange, Chris Zawora.

Welcome and Introduction

Chair Maren Mahoney called the 2026 Annual WIEB Board Business Meeting to order and welcomed attendees. Special recognition was given to new representatives Jennifer Grove, Assistant Director of Energy for the Washington State Department of Commerce, and James Humm, Director of the Nevada Governor's Office of Energy. Marjorie Hilke represented Nevada in Mr. Humm's absence. Roll call confirmed participation from British Columbia, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington. Chair Mahoney thanked WIEB staff for fostering regional collaboration and highlighted the importance of cooperative efforts on wildfire mitigation, nuclear and geothermal development, transmission planning, and increasing electricity demand associated with data centers.

Update on CREPC Initiatives

CREPC Initiatives provided by Robin Arnold

1. CREPC Transmission Collaborative

- Reported on CREPC Transmission Collaborative activities.
- Collaborative moved to a **bi-monthly meeting schedule** due to overlap with **FERC Order 1920 Ad Hoc Committee** activities.

2. WestTEC Transmission Planning

- Members received updates on:
 - WestTEC's **20-year transmission study process**.
 - Discussions regarding a potential **permanent transmission planning cycle**.

3. FERC Order 1920 Activities

- Staff provided a summary of ongoing Order 1920 efforts.
- States voted unanimously to submit:
 - **Ex-ante cost allocation proposal** to Northern Grid and WestConnect.
 - **State Agreement Process proposal** to Northern Grid and WestConnect.

4. Resource Adequacy and Stakeholder Engagement

- Updates were provided on:
 - Resource Adequacy Advisory Group activities.
 - EDAM-related resource adequacy proposals.
 - Stakeholder workshops.
 - Ongoing opportunities for state engagement.

Update on WIEB's HLRWC and WIPP TAG

High-Level Radioactive Waste and WIPP Transportation Updates provided by Melanie Snyder

1. High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee

- Provided updates on High-Level Radioactive Waste Committee activities.
- Discussed DOE's proposed **Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campuses**, which could include:
 - Fuel fabrication.
 - Uranium enrichment.
 - Nuclear reactors.
 - Fuel reprocessing.
 - Waste management activities.

2. Spent Nuclear Fuel Research Shipment

- Members received an update on DOE's planned shipment of **high-burnup spent nuclear fuel**:
 - Origin: Virginia.
 - Destination: Idaho National Laboratory.
- Discussed associated rail transportation planning and preparations.

3. WIPP Transportation Technical Advisory Group

- Reviewed revisions to the **WIPP Program Implementation Guide**.
- Received updates on foundational WIPP transportation documents.
- Discussed engagement with the **National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)** regarding radioactive waste transportation planning.

Update WIEB Reserve Expenditure Plan Projects

Reserve Expenditure Plan Program Update provided by Aaron Beard and George Lynch

1. Reserve Expenditure Plan Program

- Reviewed the history and administration of the **Reserve Expenditure Plan (REP) program**.
- Outlined the revised **FY2027 solicitation schedule**.

2. FY2026 Project Updates

- Staff reported completion of two FY2026 projects:
 - **Electrification in the Western Interconnection**.
 - **Large Industrial Electricity Loads webinar series**.

3. Geothermal Project Update

- George Lynch provided an update on the current geothermal project proposed by Arizona.

- Discussed plans for:
 - A geothermal workshop.
 - A regulatory resource guide.

Fiscal Year 2026 Business Plan and Budget Overview

Organizational and Budget Updates provided by Laura Rennick and Lisa Brohaugh

1. Organizational and Staffing Updates

- Presented updates on:
 - Organizational structure.
 - Staffing.
 - Funding.
 - Reserve expenditure policy and aligning cycle timing to WIEB Budget development.
 - Budget planning.
- Reported that **WIEB is fully staffed** for the first time in several years.
- Highlighted the addition of **Deputy Director George Lynch**.
- Discussed:
 - Portfolio realignment.
 - Delegated authority procedures.
 - Funding diversification efforts.
 - DOE funding conditions.
 - Reserve management practices.

2. Board Feedback

- **Andrew McAllister** and **Emy Lesofski** commended staff for:
 - Strengthening organizational structure.
 - Improving transparency.
 - Enhancing financial management practices.

3. FY2027 Business Plan and Budget

- Income and expenses decrease in FY2027 due to the expiration of the NREL agreement in FY2026.
- Total Income: \$3,258,200; Expense: \$3,381,800; (intentional deficit of \$123,600 covered by the Reserve Expenditure Program).
- Addition of one full-time equivalent (FTE) position for a Markets+ Analyst
- Eight Budget 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 \$162,300 for FY2027.
6. Approve the following selection criteria for Reserve Expenditure Plan projects:
 - Does the project address an important energy issue in the West?
 - Does the issue have multi-state/province implications?
 - Is the issue being examined by other organizations?
 - Are other organizations better situated to examine the issue?
 - Are there opportunities to productively partner with other organizations to examine the issue?
 - Will work on the issue provide practical information regarding energy projects in the west?
 - Is there an opportunity to leverage additional funding to support the work on the issue?
 - 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 function as financial agents of the Western Interstate Energy Board.
8. Authorize the Executive Director to delegate authority to the Deputy Director to act on the Executive Director's behalf as needed to ensure continuity of operations, including during an absence, emergency, accident, or other circumstances that temporarily limit the Executive Director's ability to perform their duties.

4. Approval Action: Business plan and budget, and authorizations therein

- **Andrew McAllister** moved approval of the proposed actions.
- **Emy Lesofski** seconded the motion.
- **Janine Benner** expressed additional support.
- The motion **passed unanimously**.

Election of Officers

1. FY2027 Slate of Officers

- Chair Mahoney presented the proposed FY2027 slate of officers.

2. Election Process

- Emy Lesofski moved approval of the slate.
- Andrew McAllister seconded the motion.
- The motion passed unanimously.

3. FY2027 Officers Elected

- The Board elected the following officers:

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

4. Western Interstate Nuclear Board (WINB) Officers

- The Board approved continuation of the practice whereby:
 - WIEB officers also serve as officers of the Western Interstate Nuclear Board (WINB).
 - Under this arrangement: Sonja Nowakowski will serve as WINB Vice Chair.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.