

Minutes

WYOMING INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY PUBLIC BOARD MEETING CONFERENCE CALL—7:00am September 24, 2010

- I. Roll-call, Establish Quorum
Board Members in attendance included Mike Easley, Kyle White, J.M. Shafer and Bryce Freeman, Bret Jones. A quorum was established. Also participating were Loyd Drain, Executive Director, Holly Martinez, Administrative Manager, Rob Hurless, Steve Ellenbecker and Tom Dennis with Cassidy and Associates.
- II. Approve Agenda
Bryce made motion to approve agenda as amended. Bret seconded that motion. The agenda was approved by unanimous assent.
- III. Approve Minutes from August 27, 2010 meeting
J.M. made a motion to approve the minutes from August 27, 2010. Kyle seconded that motion. The minutes were approved with unanimous assent.
- IV. DC Update
Tom Dennis gave an update to the Board on climate change and transmission developments in Washington.
- V. Items for Discussion and Possible Formal Action
 - **Joint Minerals Committee meeting on 9/20:**
Staff has distributed a summary of the meeting to the Board for discussion. A discussion ensued with a suggestion that a face-to-face meeting with the Board prior to the next Joint Minerals Committee meeting on 9/29 & 9/30 in Casper.
 - **Board Retreat:**
Staff distributed a draft Strategic Plan last week for comments. Discussion is suggested on whether the Board is in a position to formally adopt the Plan or delay such to the next Board Call. Comments would be made by COB on 9/29.
 - **WAPA/ICF Meeting relative to integration issues and operation of DC converter stations:**
Staff is working on a meeting date.

- **Letter to the Gubernatorial Candidates:**

Staff has received comments from the Chairman, Tom Dennis and Steve Ellenbecker; those comments were incorporated and an amended draft has been distributed to the Board for discussion and approval. It was agreed that comments would be made by COB on 9/29 in order that the letter can be sent under the Chairman's signature on 9/30.

- **WCI Management Meeting via conference call:**

Kyle, J.M., Loyd and Adam Gassaway had a conference call on 9/14 to discuss WCI's budget for the remainder of 2010. The Management Committee has the following recommendation to the Board:

- 1) In April, 2010, the WIA Board agreed to extend the then budgeted amount of \$310,000 through June, 2010---it is recommended that the amount be extended through August 31, 2010 and whatever balance which is remaining will expire as well---the current remaining balance is approximately \$45,000 with no major expenditures having been made through such date. \$265,000 was expended from May, 2009 through July, 2010. This amount does not include a monthly allocation of WIA's overhead which is part of a running grand total for reimbursement at such time that the Project goes to the financing stage.
- 2) For the period from September 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, the Committee recommends the approval of \$140,000. The majority of the activity is the WECC path rating process---we expect that a study plan will be developed for approval by the study group which has been formed as part of the path rating process. In addition, funds will be required relative to CPUC proceedings which include the recent NOPR released by the Colorado Commission. We are currently in Phase 2 of the process and waiting on the outcome of the rating process for Tri-States' Archer expansion.

The Board approved both recommendations Bret made a motion, Bryce seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. WIA staff and LS Power are working on a possible panel discussion at the WIA's November Board meeting which would address the WCI Project.

- **State Authorities Meeting in Salt Lake City on 9/15:**

The meeting was held with Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Utah and Wyoming in attendance. Bryce was in attendance as well. Staff plans to post the presentations from each state on the WIA website by the end of next week. Of particular interest is New Mexico's expertise on bonding which could be an asset to the WIA's future bonding activities. RETA is currently

working on a \$68 million financing package relative to a \$98 million project. Also, Colorado has done an excellent job attracting a significant amount of renewable-oriented manufacturing facilities to their state. Each of the states agreed to start meeting on a regular basis (once or twice a year) to pursue and support common objectives.

- **Bonding opportunity with a current supplier of power:**

J.M. has had some subsequent conversations to better quantify the project cost which is in the \$35 million range. Bret has been doing some research on the WIA's past bonding arrangement and plans to meet with the State in the near future. A meeting with RETA in the near future could take place in the next few weeks provided such would fit with Bret's and J.M.'s calendars. The Board agreed to continue to pursue the opportunity.

- **Pathfinder/University of Wyoming Economic Study:**

Pathfinder described this socio-economic study on wind generation at the Board Retreat and asked the Board to consider contributing to such. Staff recommends that the Board authorize a \$1,000 contribution to the study paid directly to the University. Contributors will be acknowledged by the University in the study results. The Board authorized WIA staff to contribute \$1,000.00 to the Study.

- **Collector System:**

Staff has placed the MOU negotiations on hold pending Board instructions. A meeting with WAPA/ICF is being scheduled (see prior agenda item) and more clarification from California on the sourcing of renewable energy. Staff has sent an email to Craig Knoell to get the contact with South Dakota who has also petitioned WAPA for stimulus funds. Montana has a collector system interest as well. Staff will amend the draft Strategic Plan relative to the discussion.

- **HPX Executive Committee Meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for 9/11 & 9/12 in Denver. Loyd has plans to attend and will report to the Board following the meeting.

- **Carbon Capture and Sequestration Summit:**

Staff is planning to attend the meeting in DC next week and will report on such. Loyd plans to meet with Tom Dennis while in DC.

- **Board Meeting on November 9, 2010 in Cheyenne:**

Staff has sent a recommended list of speakers for consideration and comments by the Board. To date, staff has acquired comments from

sponsors for the luncheon and the reception totaling \$4,000. Comments on proposed agenda will be made by COB on 9/29

- **Board Meeting on February 1, 2011 in Jackson:**

Staff is starting to assemble an agenda which, subject to approval by the Board, will include an update on all six of the transmission projects under development; an update from GE on the coal gasification efforts with the University of Wyoming; a presentation from Luca Technologies (a summary of a recent meeting with Luca was distributed to the Board on 9/12); an update on the ICF Phase 2 Collector System Study; the roll-out of the NREL Economic Benefits & Job Creation Study which has been commissioned by the WIA; some of the latest developments in gas-fired generation to address the integration issue with wind; and a possible presentation from DKRW on their coal-to-liquids facility near Medicine Bow provided their petition to the DOE for funding is successful (word has it that they expect to hear from the DOE by the end of the year). In addition, staff will be working with Tom Dennis to possibly attract a luncheon speaker from California which would address the State's posture on sourcing renewable energy which should have more clarity by the end of the year. Staff has indentified the venue for the meeting as the Snow King Resort.

VI. New Business

No new business was offered.

VII. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comment was offered.

VIII. Adjournment

J.M. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bryce seconded that motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:00am.