

# **New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority**

**Minutes of Board Meeting  
March 7, 2018  
2:00 p.m.**

**NM State Capitol – Room 317  
490 Old Santa Fe Trail  
Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501**

## **Present**

Bob Busch, Chairman  
Dr. James Miller  
Robert Apodaca  
Cindy Cordova  
Jonathan Elms  
Louise Martinez

## **Absent**

Brian Moore

## **RETA Staff**

Lynn Mostoller – General Counsel, Sutin Thayer & Browne  
Ginny Selvin – Consultant  
Angela Gonzales - Consultant

### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairman Busch called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. A quorum was present for the meeting.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

Member Elms made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Member Apodaca seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Chairman Busch called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

### **3. Approval of October 11, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes**

Member Miller made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Member Cordova seconded the motion. There being no other discussion, corrections, additions or updates to the minutes, Chairman Busch then called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

### **4. Report of the Chairman**

Chairman Busch informed the board that a presentation was given to the New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee in early November. The presentation given was to update the committee on RETA and its operations. Chairman Busch stated that Representative McCamley requested RETA to participate in a memorial he would sponsor on the importance of renewable energy and RETA. The memorial was well

received, it passed the house but did not make it to the Senate due to timing. Chairman Busch informed the committee that RETA's appropriation request of \$100,000 for its operating budget passed both the house and senate but unfortunately was line itemed vetoed by the Governor.

Chairman Busch stated that a meeting was held at the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (PRC) to discuss the need of a document that associates the reliability of the Western Spirit Project and how it enters into the grid. A study has been completed by the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) in which PNM studied the effects that the Western Spirit Project will have on the transmission system. PRC plans to review the document as part of its due diligence to make their determination as required by statute.

#### **5. Update on Western Spirit Project**

Mr. Sparks, Director of Development with Clean Line Energy Partners, provided an overview on the Western Spirit Project. Clean Line Energy is currently working with the PRC on ongoing proceedings for Project reliability on the grid; no issues are anticipated. Mr. Sparks provided an update on the commercial aspects of the Project and stated that discussions with potential customers have been continuous and are going quite well.

#### **6. Review and Consideration of Financial Statements for the Period ending January 31, 2018**

Ms. Selvin called the Boards attention to the January 31, 2018 financial statements. Ms. Selvin explained that the expenses consist of legal, accounting, audit and administrative services.

Member Miller made a motion to approve the financial statements for the period ending January 31, 2018. Member Apodaca seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Chairman Busch called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

#### **7. Update on the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project**

Mr. Getts, General Manager of the SouthWestern Power Group, provided an overview of the SunZia Transmission Project. Mr. Getts provided a PowerPoint presentation that will be available on the RETA website. The presentation provided the background of the company, project summary, and a map of the selected route. Mr. Getts informed the board that SunZia is working with Pattern Energy as a partner on the Project. Pattern is planning on developing wind generation in the area of the Project and are planning on using SunZia as their transmission provider. Member Apodaca inquired as to when construction would begin. Mr. Getts stated that it is anticipated that construction will begin in late 2018.

#### **8. Review and Consideration of Agreement to Finance a Portion of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project**

Ms. Mostoller informed the board on the specifics of the Memorandum of Understanding with SunZia. SunZia has expressed interest in the possibility of RETA financing a portion of the Project. Ms. Mostoller stated that a Projects Committee meeting was held in which the financial specifics of the SunZia Project were reviewed, and a draft finance agreement was created. The document will be presented to the board today to consider

and vote on. Chairman Busch stated that within RETA's act, RETA has the ability to protect this type proprietary information. Due to sensitive commercial terms in this document the Board will need to go into closed session.

Chair Busch requested a motion to go into closed session. Member Miller made the motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing proprietary financial information related to the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project. Member Cordova seconded the motion. Chairman Busch called for a roll call vote and each Board member voted for the motion.

At 3:05 p.m. the Board returned to its regular business meeting. Chair Busch noted that the only topic discussed in closed session was commercially sensitive terms associated with an agreement to finance a portion of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project and that no action or vote was taken.

Member Miller made a motion to approve the Agreement to Finance a Portion of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project. Member Elms seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Chairman Busch called for a vote and it passed unanimously. Member Apodaca abstained from the vote.

## **9. Public Comments**

Mr. Tom Lee expressed concerns about the SunZia Project. Mr. Lee has concerns about the Project's financial ability, county access, a terminus, potential lawsuits and interfering with the pristine environment of New Mexico. Mr. Lee gave an open invitation to any board member to visit his family's ranch to see the spectacular views.

Mr. Mel Chaney informed the board that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has a report that describes the effects on views and applied numbers on these affects of transmission line visual effects. Mr. Chaney stated that he would give the board a reference to the Report.

Mr. Jeremy Lewis, Bureau Chief of EMNRD informed the board that EMNRD has given the BLM comments on the West-wide energy corridor study and wanted to share those comments with the board. Mr. Lewis stated that the NM Energy Road Map mentions transmission and would be a good document for the board to review. Chairman Busch invited Mr. Lewis to present the Road Map at a future RETA Board meeting.

Ms. Heather Lee stated that she had pictures of the area that may be affected by the SunZia Project and would like to share them with the board.

## **10. Next Meeting**

Chairman Busch stated that the next meeting will most likely be sometime during the summer.

## **11. Adjournment**

Chairman Busch requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Cordova so moved, and Member Apodaca seconded. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn.