

# **New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority**

**Minutes of Board Meeting  
October 5, 2016  
1:30 p.m.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Porter Hall  
Wendell Chino Building  
1220 S. St. Francis Drive  
Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87505**

## **Present**

Bob Busch, Chairman  
Dr. James Miller  
Brian Moore  
Louise Martinez  
Cindy Cordova  
Jonathan Elms

## **Absent**

Robert Apodaca

## **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 1:35 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 Moore seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Chairman Busch called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

### **3. Approval of May 18, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes**

Member Cordova made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Member Moore 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 began with informing the Board that Member Elliott has stepped down as a RETA Board Member. Chairman Busch thanked Member Elliott for his commitment and years of service as a volunteer Board Member.

Chairman Busch then introduced Member Elliott's replacement, Dr. James Miller and gave a brief overview of Member Millers background.

Chairman Busch informed the Board of RETA's progress since making the decision to continue its operations. RETA is in a steady state financially, has a good audit opinion and has recovered all its history. Chairman Busch informed the Board that Ms. Selvin is preparing next year's budget.

Chairman Busch provided an update on the Western Spirit Clean Line project's progress and informed the Board that there is real potential for the project to be successful. Chairman Busch reminded the Board that there are things that can go wrong with any project, but WSCL is making the right progress. The decision to keep RETA up and going was the right thing to do in order to fulfill what the Act was intended to accomplish. Chairman Busch discussed the Special Session and that the Board was informed that RETA should have no reason to be involved with the Special Session. With Member Elliott's departure, Member Moore was appointed Chairman of the Audit Committee. Chairman Busch informed the Board that there is a need for a new Secretary and that he will review all committees and appoint members at a later date including Joint Development Committee members.

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

Mr. Keith Sparks, Project Manager with Clean Line Energy Partners updated the Board on the current progress of the Western Spirit Project. Mr. Sparks began with thanking Mr. Elliott for his years of service on the Board and welcomed Member Miller to the Board. For the benefit of Member Miller, Mr. Sparks gave a brief review of the Western Spirit Clean Line Project. The Project is designed to access renewable resources in the central part of New Mexico. Torrance, Guadalupe, and Lincoln counties were identified as very strong wind resources. Originally the Project was designed to be 1500 MW but is now 1000 MW due to a change in the market. Chairman Busch asked Mr. Sparks to explain that the line would be a single circuit 345 line that could possibly be upgraded to a higher capacity in the future it needed. Mr. Sparks informed the Board that currently the Project is focused on land, regulation, interconnection and commercial processes. Right of way with Isleta Pueblo is complete. Mr. Sparks informed the Board that the relationship between Isleta Pueblo and Clean Line Energy continues to be positive. Clean Line Energy has submitted a Right of Way application and Environmental Assessment request with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Mr. Sparks informed the Board that the Project has not yet received BIA approval. Mr. Sparks is hopeful to receive BIA approval by the end of the year/first part of next year. The Project has received negotiated rate authority approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Member Miller inquired if the Project goes through state land. Mr. Sparks said the Project does go through about 5 miles of state land and that the Project team has been in contact with the State Land Office. The Land Commissioner is aware of the Project and has expressed no objection to the proposed route. Chairman Busch thanked Mr. Sparks for updating the Board.

**6. Review and Approval of Financial Statements for the Periods ending June 30, 2016 and August 31, 2016.**

Ms. Selvin called the Boards attention to the August 31, 2016, financial statements. Ms. Selvin explained that the majority of expenses have been from legal, accounting and administrative services.

Member Moore made a motion to approve the financial statements for the above periods. Member Cordova seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Chairman Busch called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

**7. Review and Approval of FY 2016 Audit**

Ms. Selvin informed the Board that Barraclough and Associates had conducted the RETA Audit for the last 7 years and that it would be the last year that Barraclough and Associates could conduct the RETA audit per NM State Auditor rules. Ms Selvin then introduced Ms. Jan Martinez with Barraclough and Associates to present the audit. Ms. Martinez presented the FY 2016 audit to the Board for its consideration. Ms. Martinez explained that there were no material weaknesses, no significant deficiencies and no non-compliance. The audit opinion is unmodified.

Member Moore informed the Board that an Audit Committee meeting was held in which the committee went line by line through the entire audit with Ms. Martinez. The Audit Committee recommends approval to the full Board.

Member Moore made a motion to accept the FY 2016 Audit. Member Cordova seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Chairman Busch called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

**8. Consideration and approval of resolution authorizing the Chairperson of the Board and the Chairperson of the Audit Committee as the authorized signatories on the Bank of America account.**

Chairman Busch explained the need for an additional signatory for the RETA Bank of America checking account.

Member Elms made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Chairman of the Audit Committee as authorized signatories on the Bank of America Account. Member Martinez seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Chairman Busch called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

**9. Public Comments**

Mr. Elliott thanked the Board for their public service especially Chairman Busch stating that the RETA Board is lucky to have such an exceptional Chairman.

**10. Next Meeting – TBD**

**11. Adjournment**

Chairman Busch adjourned the meeting at 2:05 p.m.