

**New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority
Minutes of Meeting of the Board of Directors**

In-person Meeting

**Tuesday March 8, 2022
9:00 a.m. MST**

Present Board Members

Robert (Bob) Busch, Chairman
Heather Benavidez, Designee for State Treasurer
Noah Long, Member
Douglas Howe, Member
Phoebe Suina, Member (Via Phone)
Jeremy Lewis, Member

RETA Staff

Fernando Martinez, Executive Director
Lynn Mostoller, General Counsel, Sutin Thayer & Browne
Mariposa Padilla Sivage, General, Sutin Thayer & Browne (Via Phone)
Brian Johnson, Clean Energy Engineer
Erik Aaboe, Energy Transition Specialist
Ginny Selvin, Financial Director
Valerie Moquino, Administrative Support

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Busch called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. A quorum was present for the meeting. Chairman Busch welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

Member Long made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Member Benavidez seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Chairman Busch asked for a voice vote, with none opposed, the motion passing unanimously.

3. Approval of December 1, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes

Member Long made a motion to approve the December 1, 2021, Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Member Howe seconded the motion. Chairman Busch asked if there was any additional discussion, corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes. There being no further discussion, on a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comments

No public comments were given.

5. Report of the Chairman

Chairman Busch reported on the following:

- Chairman Busch noted the State Legislative session has finished and that Mr. Martinez would give an update in his report.
- Brief update on Western Spirit: The WS Project went into service, and the transaction with Public Service of New Mexico has been concluded. A dedication event was held near Corona. RETA representatives attended. Also present were Governor Lujan Grisham, Senator Martin Heinrich, Representatives Melanie Stansbury and Teresa Leger Fernandez, Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti, Pattern's CEO Michael Garland, and several buyer representatives. Chairman Busch stated the completion of the WS project is a very significant and positive achievement for RETA.
- Study update and completion: A brief background was given on RETA's 2020 Transmission Study, which was very detailed and had a lot of technical analysis. The new Transmission Study Update has been completed and is much more readable and digestible. Mr. Martinez explain the three major recommendations from the Study Update in his report. Mr. Martinez will give presentations on the Study update to EMNRD Secretary Sarah Cottrell Probst and SLO Commissioner Garcia Richard. RETA is already seeing more developer interest in New Mexico because of the Study Update and the success of the WS Project.
- With the completion of the WS Project, RETA is more financially stable and is working on longer-range planning. The Project and Planning Committee is recommending creating more visibility for RETA, particularly its ability to work on storage projects. RETA is planning an energy storage workshop for later this year. Chairman Busch also talked about hydrogen technology, expansion of transmission, grid reliability, and firm transmission.

6. Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director Martinez reported on the following:

- Transmission Study Update: The Study Update has been completed, will go live today, and is a good follow-up to the 2020 Transmission Study. Mr. Martinez gave a brief review of the key points of the Study Update: (1) recommends creation of a Regional Transmission Organization (RT); (2) highlights the importance of additional transmission and utility scale storage; (3) discusses the need to streamline federal and state permitting.
- WestConnect: RETA will become a member of WestConnect. RETA staff are continuing to participate as stakeholders.
- Energy Storage Workshop: Mr. Martinez gave a brief overview of the workshop and planning.
- Streamline Permitting Processes at State and Federal levels: Mr. Martinez touched on Federal lands, stating the current EIS process slows transmission development. RETA has been working with the Biden Administration to explore streamlining the

process, without cutting corners. Mr. Martinez added that working on permit reviews concurrently—to reduce the overall timeline in months, not years—would be quite useful. Chairman Busch also noted that the average EIS report is four to six years.

- Climate Change: Mr. Martinez explained the overarching issue and what needs to be done: a) thousands of transmission line miles need to be built; b) more efficient permitting process without cutting corners; and c) RETA is working on entering into memorandums of understanding with federal and state agencies to work on these issues.
- Four Corners Hub: Mr. Martinez gave a brief review of exporting energy out of New Mexico and the need to add another export hub. Member Howe provided Board members with an overview of Independent System Operators and Regional Transmission Organizations (RTO).
- Legislative Session: Mr. Martinez spoke briefly on the recent session, which went fairly well with nothing impacting RETA. RETA will continue to monitor and participate in legislative initiatives as needed.
- Questions or Comments: Member Long restated the need for RETA's involvement regarding export of renewables, environmental rights, identification of critical corridors, and starting permitting early to minimize wasted effort. Mr. Martinez confirmed RETA is working on these issues.

7. FY2021 Audit Presentation

Joel Cameron, Audit Manager, SJT Group, LLC.

- Mr. Cameron gave a presentation and overview of the completed FY2021 Audit to the Board. The FY2021 Audit found no material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or noncompliance material to RETA's financial statements.

8. Review and Consider Approval of Draft Financial Statements for Period Ending January 31, 2022

Ginny Selvin, Financial Director, RETA

- Ms. Selvin gave a brief review of financial statements ending January 31, 2022. She highlighted financial activity which excluded advance lease payments.
- Chairman Busch called for a motion to approve the financial statements for the period ending January 31, 2022. Member Long made a motion to approve the financial statements ending January 31, 2022. Member Howe seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. Closed Session

Chairman Busch noted that the Board would now go into Closed Session for confidential discussion of the acquisition of real property as it relates to a RETA project, as permitted under NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1(H)(8) (meeting for the discussion of the purchase, acquisition or disposal of real property or water rights by the public body); and a confidential, attorney-client privileged discussion pertaining to pending litigation in an administrative proceeding as it relates to a RETA project, as permitted under NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1(H)(7).

Member Benavidez made a motion for the Board to go into closed session. Member Long seconded the motion. There being no members opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into closed session at 10:14 a.m.

Chairman Busch called for a motion to come out of closed session. Member Long made a motion to come out of closed session. Member Howe seconded the motion. There being no Board members opposed, the motion passed unanimously. The Board returned to its regular meeting at 10:42 p.m.

The Chairman announced that there was no other discussion held during the Closed Session other than what was on the agenda.

10. Next Meeting

After brief discussion, the Board members agreed to tentatively hold the next Board meeting on April 19, 2022.

11. Adjournment

Member Howe moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Benavidez seconded. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.