

New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority

**Minutes of Board Meeting
May 1, 2019
2:00 p.m.**

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

Present

Robert (Bob) Busch, Chairman
Dr. James Miller, Member
Brian Moore, Member
Jonathan Elms, Member (via phone)
Noah Long, Member
Louise Martinez, Designee for EMNRD Cabinet Secretary
Yovanne Lucero, Designee for Tim Eichenberg

RETA Staff

Lynn Mostoller and Anne Browne – General Counsel, Sutin Thayer & Browne
Ginny Selvin – Consultant
Gloria Castillo – Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Busch called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m. A quorum was present for the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of October 23, 2018, February 7, 2019 and February 25, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes

Member Long made a motion to accept the October 23, 2018, February 7, 2019 and February 25, 2019 Board Minutes as presented. Member Moore seconded the motion. There being no additional discussion, corrections, additions or updates to the minutes, Chairman Busch called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

4. Report of the Chairman

Chairman Busch reported on the following:

- Several Legislative appropriations passed and RETA will receive \$275,000 for RETA Operations and \$400,000 to complete a Transmission and Storage Study of New Mexico.
 - As part of the RETA Operations, RETA will be searching for an Executive Director. A copy of the job description was handed out to Board members for their review and comment. Chairman Busch asked that the members get back with him on any suggested changes. He noted that the RETA Personnel Committee will review the submission of any applications; RETA will also be seeking to hire an analyst to assist.
- The objective of the Transmission and Storage Study is to evaluate how to utilize as many renewable megawatts as possible over the next decade NM. The Study needs to be: 1) understandable; 2) actionable; and 3) and achieved through a centralized authority (Project Manager and Advisory Committee model). Chairman Busch said he will be speaking at an EMNRD Task Force meeting on Thursday, May 9, 2019 to discuss the study.

5. Review and Consider Approval of Financial Statements for the Period Ending March 30, 2019 – Ginny Selvin

Ms. Selvin called the Board's attention to the financial statements for the period ending March 30, 2019. She informed the Board that RETA has obtained Directors and Officers Insurance.

Member Long made a motion to approve the financial statements for the period ending March 30, 2019. Member Miller seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Chairman Busch called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

6. Update on Lucky Corridor: Mora Line Transmission Project – Lynn Greene

Ms. Greene handed out several maps and updated the Board on the Mora Line Transmission Line project. She noted that Lucky Corridor currently controls 67 miles of ROW out of 110 miles. The areas they are looking at are: 1) real estate acquisition; 2) wire-to-wire connections; 3) development; and 4) financing.

7. Review and Consider Approval of Memorandum of Understanding for the Mora Line Transmission Project – Robert Busch and Lynn Mostoller

Ms. Greene explained that Lucky Corridor is looking for RETA's approval of the MOU as they go through the final steps of construction and are working on the financing for PNM who needs to build two substations.

Chairman Busch noted that the RETA Projects Committee had spent considerable time reviewing the MOU at its April 8, 2019 Projects Committee meeting. Member Elms, Chairman of the Projects Committee, stated that the Projects Committee recommends approval of the MOU. Member Long asked about the Press Release regarding the acquisition of the generator who will purchase transmission on the Mora Line. Ms. Greene replied that it will be coming out soon and had been discussed at the Projects Committee meeting.

Chairman Busch called for a motion to approve the MOU for the Mora Line Transmission Project. He noted that this is the second MOU that Lucky Corridor has brought before the Board for approval. Ms. Mostoller explained the MOU handout and noted that approval will allow the developer to continue with development.

Member Moore made a motion to approve the MOU for the Mora Line Transmission Project. Member Miller seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Chairman Busch called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

8. Update on the Western Spirit – Kim Sachtleben

Ms. Kim Sachtleben and Mr. Adam Renz updated the Board on the Western Spirit project. Ms. Sachtleben noted that completion of the development activities is going well, and Western Spirit is concentrating on the year 2020 on its efforts of land acquisition. She noted that field surveys are being done for environmental impacts and their teams will be out on the field throughout the year. Western Spirit will also bring an engineering construction team to construct the project and will be holding a public fair this Fall. Ms. Sachtleben noted that there are now two operational offices for Western Spirit: one in Albuquerque and the other in the City of Corona. Phone numbers and addresses for these offices are listed on Western Spirit's website <http://westernspiritrtransmission.com>. Western Spirit will also be conducting road shows starting in the Fall to let communities know when construction will start.

Member Moore asked when construction would start. Ms. Sachtleben responded that they are hoping by the end of the first quarter in 2020 and it will be a range of 16 months. Member Long asked whether an economic impact and analysis was being done for the Western Spirit project. Ms. Sachtleben indicated that one was being conducted by Moss Adams.

9. Public Comment

Paul Stout, Chairman for CRELA, commented that he is pleased with the funding that RETA will receive, especially the funding for the Transmission and Storage Study.

10. Closed Session

Chairman Busch called for a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of confidential discussion of a potential transaction related to the Western Spirit Project, pursuant to NMSA § 62-16A-16 (protecting proprietary technical or business information obtained by the authority as confidential); *see also* NMAC § 17.8.2.9 (same); *cf.* NMSA § 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). Member Long made a motion to go into closed session. Member Moore seconded the motion. There being no further discussion or comments, Chairman Busch called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

Chairman Busch announced that the Board would now go into closed session.

Chairman Busch called for a motion for the RETA Board to come out of closed session. Member Moore made a motion for the Board to come out of closed session. Member Long seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Chairman Busch called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

The Board returned to its regular meeting. Chairman Busch announced that the only matter discussed in closed session was the item on the agenda set forth above and that no action or vote was taken.

11. Review and Consider Approval of Resolution 2019-001 Regarding a Transaction Related to Western Spirit Project – Robert Busch and Lynn Mostoller

Chairman Busch stated that the Board had discussed Resolution 2019-001 regarding the transaction related to Western Spirit Project, between RETA and Western Spirit Transmission LLC on the one hand and Public Service Company of New Mexico on the other, during the closed session and summarized the Resolution for the public.

Chairman Busch called for a motion to approve the Resolution 2019-001. Member Long made a motion for the Board to approve the Resolution. Member Miller seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, Chairman Busch called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

12. Next Meeting

Chairman Busch suggested that a tentative date be set for Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 1:00 pm for a regular RETA Board meeting.

13. Adjournment

Chairman Busch called for a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Member Moore made a motion to adjourn. Member Long seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 4:35 p.m.