

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

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

**Wednesday, May 3, 2023
8:30 a.m. MT**

Board Members

Robert (Bob) Busch, Chairman
Jeremy Lewis, Member
Noah Long, Member
Louise Martinez, Member (designee)
James Miller, Member
Laura M. Montoya, State Treasurer, Member
Phoebe Suina, Member (absent)

RETA Staff

Fernando Martinez, Executive Director
Ginny Selvin, Financial Director
Valerie Moquino, Administrative Services
Lynn Mostoller, General Counsel, Sutin Thayer & Browne
Mariposa Padilla-Sivage, General Counsel, Sutin Thayer & Browne

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Busch welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members that member Suina would be absent this meeting. Chairman Busch called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. A quorum was present for the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Busch presented the recommended agenda to the Board. Member Montoya made a motion to approve the agenda as recommended. Member Long seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

3. Approval of March 29, 2023 minutes

Chairman Busch asked if there were any comments or changes to the March 29, 2023 minutes as presented. There was a discussion about noting when Board members are absent from meetings, and Ms. Mostoller stated that RETA could adopt that procedure going forward. Member Montoya requested changes to the minutes with respect Item No. 9 regarding to the amendment of the North Path Signature Authority Resolution

("Resolution"). Ms. Mostoller confirmed that the draft minutes accurately reflected the amendment to the Resolution with respect to the approved signature process, and the changes to the minutes requested by Member Montoya accurately reflected the Board's discussion during the March 29, 2023 meeting. Chairman Busch and Member Montoya had a discussion regarding the amendment to the Resoltuion. Member Long made a motion to approve the minutes with the requested amendments to Item No. 9. Member Lewis seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, the motion passed on a voice vote.

4. Public Comments

No public comments were given.

5. Report of the Chairman

Chairman Busch reported on the following:

- Chairman Busch distributed five articles from the Economist that he found to be informative and readable the impact intermittent renewable energy sources have on the reliability of the transmission grid. He highlighted some of the problems Europe has been having and the importance of the development of utility-scale storage.

6. Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director Martinez reported on the following:

- Colorado Guests: Mr. Martinez shared with members that RETA staff will be hosting meetings with Colorado Transmission Authority ("CETA") executive director and board members on May 14-15. CETA will also be meeting with EMNRD Secretary Propst and her staff and will coordinate efforts and share ideas on grid modernization.
- Strategic Planning Meeting: Mr. Martinez updated the Board on a recent strategic planning session held with RETA staff for the upcoming Energy Storage Workshop in October. They have successfully contracted with La Fonda Hotel to host the event and have drafted an agenda. RETA's staff aims to nail down key speakers and topics within the next couple of months.
- Grid Resilience and Innovations Partnership Program: Mr. Martinez reported on efforts between RETA, EMNRD and Invenergy staff on the ongoing coordination and completion of a DOE grant application, which is due by May 19th, 2023. RETA will keep the board updated.
- Energy Emergency Workshop: Mr. Martinez updated that RETA staff attended the 2-day Energy Emergency Workshop hosted by EMNRD at La Fonda, Santa Fe. Mr. Martinez thanked member Louise Martinez for hosting the event.

7. SunZia- Line 1 Project Update- Jeremy Turner

- Mr. Turner gave the Board an update on the SunZia line-1 Project: He briefed the Board on the development timeline, starting in 2006 when the project originated with Southwest Power Group. (Pattern has recently purchased one of the project's two-lines.)
- In 2015, The project received a final Environmental Impact Statement in the NEPA process. However, amendments were requested by the Department of Defense related to the route through the call-up area. An amended route was proposed and the NEPA application was resubmitted. BLM continuing to lead the NEPA review process. Governor Lujan Grisham sent a letter of concurrence a few weeks ago and applauded BLM for their good work. They are expecting the Record of Decision by May 19, 2023. In anticipation and preparation of the Record of Decision, they have started site grading at the sites for the converter station and expect construction to start in October.
- Mr. Tuner gave a brief update on the Wind side of the project and spoke about the pros and cons of the Inflation Reduction Act and the upcoming financing.
- For SunZia wind, Pattern has received all permits and approvals from the PRC. Currently, there are 113 private/state leases covering 718 thousand acres.
- Mr. Turner highlighted the \$20 billion economic development, mostly in New Mexico, with the IRBs \$303 million will be paid to counties and school districts.
- Questions: Member Dr. Miller inquired if this project has any impact on Cannon Air Force Base. Mr. Turner acknowledged that the base's flight path is in the area of the wind farm but the wind farm will be outside of Cannon's borders.
- Member Treasurer Montoya asked how many banks are needed for financing. Mr. Turner stated they need about 10 leading banks and have about 60 bank representatives reviewing the project. Member Treasurer Montoya offered assistance in outreach if needed.

8. Review and Consider Approval of Draft Financial Statements for the period ending March 31, 2023 – Ginny Selvin

Ms. Selvin gave a review of the financial statements for the period of July 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023. She highlighted cash in bank, CD's, investments, revenue earned from developers, expenses, net income, and budget variances. Ms. Selvin noted two-thirds of the budgeted income for the fiscal year is received in December.

Chairman Busch called for a motion to approve the financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2023. Member Montoya made a motion to approve the financial statements ending March 31, 2023. Member Long seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. Review and Consider Approval of Draft FY24 Budget-Ginny Selvin

Ms. Selvin presented the draft FY24 Budget to the Board, highlighting anticipated decreases or increases in revenues & expenses categories.

Chairman Busch called for a motion to approve the draft FY24 Budget as presented. Member Montoya moved to approve the draft FY24 Budget. Member Long seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

- 10. Closed Session:** Confidential discussion of: (1) the acquisition of real property and proprietary technical or business information as it relates to several RETA projects, 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 NMSA 1978, § 62-16A-16 (confidential discussion of proprietary technical or business information related to a RETA project), *see also*, NMAC § 17.8.2.9; and (2) litigation related to a RETA project, as permitted under NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1(H)(7) (meeting for attorney-client privileged discussion of litigation in which RETA is a participant).

Member Miller made a motion for the Board to go into closed session. Member Montoya seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into closed session at 9:36 a.m.

Member Long made a motion to come out of closed session. Member Montoya seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. The Board returned to its regular meeting at 10:10 a.m.

The Chairman announced that there was no other discussion held during the closed session other than what was set forth in the agenda.

11. Next Meeting

After brief discussion, the Board members agreed to hold the next Board meeting on June 22, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

12. Adjournment

Member Treasurer Montoya moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Long seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.