

**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**

**Thursday, July 27, 2023
9:00 a.m. MT**

Board Members

Robert (Bob) Busch, Chairman
Sarah Cottrell Propst, Cabinet Secretary, Member
Noah Long, Member (via phone)
Steve Marsico, Member (designee for Treas. Montoya)
James Miller, Member
Phoebe Suina, Member

RETA Staff

Fernando Martinez, Executive Director
Ginny Selvin, Financial Director
Valerie Moquino, Administrative Services
Christopher Hyer, Project Development Manager
Lynn Mostoller, General Counsel, Sutin Thayer & Browne

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Busch welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members that member Long was present via conference call. Chairman Busch announced member Louise Martinez's retirement and welcomed EMNRD Cabinet Secretary Cottrell Propst to the meeting. Chairman Busch called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. A quorum was present for the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

Chairman Busch presented the recommended agenda to the Board. Member Miller 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 May 3, 2023 minutes

Chairman Busch asked if there were any comments or changes to the May 3, 2023 minutes as presented. Member Long made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Member Marsico 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 highlighted the materials in the board packet for board members: He reviewed a letter sent to board member, Cabinet Secretary Propst from state public utility commissioners and other state regulators concerning the formation of a western RTO. He gave an introduction to regional transmission organizations and RETA moving forward with the number of large transmission projects. Chairman Busch spoke on the misunderstanding between capacity and energy.
- Member Cabinet Secretary Propst added that there is a lot of conversation on regional transmission organizations right now. New Mexico is getting coordinated with other states. Cabinet Sec. Propst also added that the new PRC Commissioners have been great since day one. Chairman Busch added PNM has complete control of what they dispatch. Member Long added he agrees with Cabinet Sec. Propst and noted the letter and conversations are important. He appreciates all the efforts and has received the RTO documents.

6. Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director Martinez reported on the following:

- RETA Initiatives: Mr. Martinez shared that RETA is actively engaged in a lot of transmission planning working groups, including: California Energy Transmission, Regional transmission, electric power committee, IRP processes, meetings with Colorado, California, and Nevada. RETA is working with independent power producers, and having success with RioSol, SunZia and North Path projects. Chairman Busch gave a brief description on transmission lines cables. Chairman Busch added the need for more understanding and that the National Secretary of Energy has spoken about at this.
- Other meetings: Executive Director Martinez recently presented at the Water and Natural Resources Committee in Las Vegas, NM. Mr. Martinez will also be participating in the Kirtland Sustainable Committee meeting today where RETA has a standing place on the agenda. There is also an EMNRD representative who also attends. Mr. Martinez is happy to provide project updates to that committee. Cabinet Sec. Propst added that North Carolina is interested in how RETA was setup and how it works, highlighting how RETA is a model that receives national attention.
- Sponsorship: NMRETA is sponsoring and participating in the Advanced Renewable Energy Conference in September 2023.
- Energy Storage Workshop: Mr. Martinez stated that RETA staff are continuing to make progress on the workshop agenda and speakers are being lined up. He stated

there will be national participation and will the workshop will focus on emerging technologies in long-duration energy storage.

7. North Path Project Update- William Consuegra

- Mr. Consuegra gave the Board an update on the North Path Project: He briefed the Board on the progress since the last update in January. He gave a description of the project route and explained the AC to DC technology conversion.
- Mr. Consuegra noted they have engaged with a third-party group for support in the SF-299 filing.
- Mr. Consuegra updated on efforts of survey access on the eastern side. They have commenced negotiations and are working on survey letters. They have one easement and look forward to starting inspection in the coming weeks. They are also working on right of ways and allotted lands with landowners on the western side.
- Mr. Consuegra advised on federal permitting and their efforts on preliminary consultations. On the state side, they plan to engage with various state agencies in the fall. RETA would be invited to participate in those meetings when scheduled.
- Mr. Consuegra briefed on the coordination efforts of RETA & EMNRD on the DOE grant that was submitted in May 2023. If awarded, they hope to hear in the fall. Mr. Consuegra highlighted the hard work with community leaders, expressing this would create community benefits throughout the state.

8. Review and Consider Approval of Draft Financial Statements for the period ending June 30, 2023 – Ginny Selvin

Ms. Selvin gave a review of the draft financial statements for the period through June 30, 2023. She highlighted cash in bank, revenue earned from developers, expenses, net income, unearned revenue, and budget variances for FY23 through the month of June. Ms. Selvin also highlighted contract services, salaries and storage workshop budget variances.

Chairman Busch called for a motion to approve the financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2023. Member Marsico made a motion to approve the financial statements ending June 30, 2023. Member Suina seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

9. Next Meeting

After a brief discussion, the Board members agreed to hold the next Board meeting on September 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

10. Adjournment

Member Miller moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Suina seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.