

Minutes of the
RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL (REC)
TEAMS Meeting Via Conference/Video Call
October 21, 2025 / 1:00 pm (CDT)
ONSITE Location: Workforce Safety & Insurance Board Room,
1600 E. Century Ave., Ste. 1, Bismarck, ND 58503

Members Present

Rodney Holth
Terry Goerger (Teams)
Tony Grindberg (Teams)
Rich Garman, Dept. of Commerce

Staff Present

Jordan Kannianen, NDIC
Brenna Jessen, NDIC
Carmen Devney, NDIC
Joleen Leier, Dept. of Commerce

Guests Present

Mat Hirst
Simon Geoff
Alison Ritter (Teams)

Xiaodong Hou
Peng Liao

WELCOME & OPENING COMMENTS

Jordan Kannianen called the Renewable Energy Council (REC) meeting to order at 1:16 pm (CDT).

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

Jordan will send minutes via email to the board for approval this week.

Renewable Energy Program Project Management and Financial Report

Jordan Kannianen provided a project and financial overview.

- **Current Uncommitted Cash Balance:**
 - The balance is just over \$2.5 million.
- **Forecasted Revenue:**
 - The biennial revenue from oil and gas extraction tax is projected to be \$3 million.
 - The first payment received was \$484,000, and at this rate, it will take about seven months to reach the \$3 million allocation.
- **Active Projects:**
 - There are 76 cumulative project; with 13 being active projects.

Declaration/Consideration of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were noted.

CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL GRANT ROUND 56 REQUESTS

Rich Garman gave an overview of project R-056-A.

R-056-A – Triple 8 LLC dba Wellspring Hydro

Project: Unlocking Lithium Carbonate in Produced Water for Battery Grade Li₂CO₃ for In-state Cathode Manufacturing

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Submitted by Mat Hirst
Total Project Costs: \$1,000,000
Amount Requested: \$500,000

Technical Reviewers' Results

- Funding May be Considered – 151/250
- Fund – 174/250
- Fund – 171/250
- Average Weighted Score – 165.33/250

Technical Advisor Recommendations:

Reviewers' recommendation is funding may be considered for this project.

Mat Hirst presented the project.

Terry Goerger asked about the limitations of water feedstock if drilling stops. Mat Hirst responded that even during low production periods, there is still significant water available, and they focus on disposals with multi-year contracts.

Tony Grindberg asked about the original funding amount and future plans. Mat Hirst explained the initial field trial and future plans to validate lithium carbonate quality and expand to multiple sites.

Tony Grindberg inquired about the scale of battery storage potential. Mat Hirst mentioned the focus on making lithium carbonate and the need to follow up on specific battery storage capacities.

Rich Garman gave an overview of Project R-056-B.

R-056-B – University of North Dakota

Project: Empowering The Critical Minerals for Novel Cathode Materials-based Drone Batteries

Submitted by Dr. Xiaodong Hou

Total Project Costs: \$1,000,000

Amount Requested: \$500,000

Technical Reviewers' Results:

- Fund May Be Considered– 147/250
- Fund – 200/250
- Fund – 205/250
- Average Weighted Score – 184/250

Technical Advisor Recommendations:

Reviewers' recommendation is to fund this project.

Xiaodong Hou and Peng Liao presented the project.

Tony Grindberg asked about collaboration with NDSU. Peng Liao confirmed ongoing collaboration with NDSU for material characterization and performance evaluation.

Tony Grindberg asked if the two projects are interdependent. Mat Hirst clarified that while the projects support each other, they are not dependent on each other for success.

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Mat added that UND is also a good partner. NDSU is also willing to partner with them. Mat stated that all parties are interested in partnering.

DISCUSSION/COMPLETION OF BALLOTS

Ballots were completed and forward/mailed to Brenna Jessen and Carmen Devney. Results are below:

R-056-A – Triple 8 LLC dba Wellspring Hydro

Project: Unlocking Lithium Carbonate in Produced Water for Battery Grade Li₂CO₃ for In-state Cathode Manufacturing

Project Duration: 9 Months

Requesting: \$500,000

Total Project Costs: \$1,000,000

Conflict of Interest: 0

Fund: 4 Do Not Fund: 0 Abstain: 0

R-056-B – University of North Dakota

Project: Empowering The Critical Minerals for Novel Cathode Materials-based Drone Batteries

Project Duration: 2 Years

Requesting: \$500,000

Total Project Costs: \$1,000,000

Conflict of Interest: 0

Fund: 3 Do Not Fund: 1 Abstain: 0

Tony Grindberg motioned to accept both proposals. Rod Holth seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jordan Kannianen will take these recommendations to the Industrial Commission meeting on October 27, 2025.

**DISCUSSION ON RENEWABLE SEAT OPENING ON CLEAN SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY AUTHORITY**

Jordan Kannianen stated Rachel Retterath with Great River Energy is a non-voting member for Clean Sustainable Energy Authority (CSEA) and stated there was interest to nominate her as a voting member. This is the recommendation.

Terry asked, since Rachel is serving on the Outdoor Heritage Fund advisory board, would she have to leave that board to join CSEA? The response was yes.

Terry Georger motioned to approve this recommendation. Rod Holth seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**TENTATIVE DATES AND VENUE FOR NEXT RENEWABLE ENERGY
COUNCIL MEETING: MARCH 2026**

Jordan Kannianen suggested mid to late March 2026 for the next meeting.

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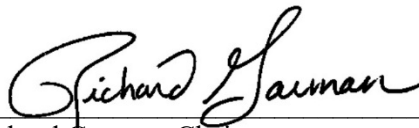
OTHER BUSINESS

Ryan Pederson was appointed to the Renewable Energy Council. He will be representing the Biomass section.

Carmen Devney started at the Industrial Commission in October and will be assisting with this committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Rod Holth motioned to adjourn the meeting. With no public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 pm.



Richard Garman, Chairman