

MEETING MINUTES

**LIGNITE RESEARCH COUNCIL – Special Meeting – Appointment of CSEA Representative**

Monday, July 19, 2021, 2021 - 11:30 a.m. (CT) via WebEx

**LRC VOTING MEMBERS (or their authorized alternates) PRESENT:**

Jason Bohrer – Lignite Research Council, Chairman  
John Bauer – Great River Energy  
Randy Christmann – North Dakota Public Service Commission  
Rita Faut – ND Farm Bureau  
Ed Steadman - Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC)  
Jay Kost – Falkirk Mining Company  
Don Hochhalter - North Dakota Department of Commerce  
Gavin McCollam – Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
Ed Murphy – North Dakota Geological Survey  
Gerry Pfau – Minnkota Power Cooperative  
John Phillips – Coal Conversion Counties  
Jay Skabo – Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.  
Kai Xia – Great Northern Properties LP  
Dale Johnson – Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Dakota Gas  
Dave Glatt – ND Dept of Environmental Quality  
Bryan Walther - North American Coal - Coteau  
Bill Sawyer – ALLETE Energy  
Mike Heger- BNI Coal, Ltd.  
Charlie Gorecki – Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC)  
Mark Hager – IBEW 11<sup>th</sup> District ND  
Brad Tollerson- Otter Tail Power Company

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Karlene Fine – North Dakota Industrial Commission  
Andrea Pfennig – North Dakota Industrial Commission  
Angie Hegre - Lignite Energy Council  
Mike Holmes – Lignite Research Council  
Jonathan Fortner – Lignite Energy Council

**GUESTS:**

Chris Friez

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Meeting called to order:**

Lignite Research Council (LRC) Chairman, Jason Bohrer, called the LRC meeting to order at 11:36 a.m. (CT) on July 19, 2021, via WebEx conferencing.

**II. REVIEW OF CSEA**

Bohrer spent a little time looking at the draft of recommended qualification’s list for the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority (CSEA) representative positions.

Bohrer shared the history of how the LRC, was able to participate in this process. The CSEA being the next step in the incremental increase of available research and development dollars for the state of North Dakota in

general and some of our industries specifically. He shared that this concept goes back to 2013 & 2014 EmPower Commission work which outlined the gaps of the research and development apparatus, identifying the need for money greater than the amount that was available as the Lignite Research Council. Taking this to the last Legislative Session culminated into something real.

### **III. Discussion and approval of the Lignite Research Council Clean Sustainable Authority Representatives qualifications policy**

Bohrer shared that six weeks ago, when this process started, we had an objective in mind to comply with the statutory guidelines to make appointments to the CSEA that would represent the lignite industry. Bohrer wanted to include that statutory language as part of the process to identify the knowledge, skills and abilities that we were looking toward and wanted to make sure the committee members had the opportunity to provide input. Bohrer shared the results of that document have been compiled over the past six weeks. Bohrer wanted to share the culmination of that work before we officially incorporate that into our governance. The committee received the compiled qualifications list and a link to the statute. <https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/67-2021/documents/21-0904-08000.pdf> prior to the meeting as well as resumes of interested representatives. Bohrer provided a note that because the CSEA is so new, there will remain work to be done on our governance process moving forward if needs arise.

Chairman Bohrer asked for a **motion** to accept those knowledge, skills and abilities as part of governance process. Jay Kost made a motion that the Lignite Energy Council qualifications policy for the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority (CSEA) be approved. Kost said he thinks it is a well put together document and well thought out. Second, John Bauer. All in favor. (A copy of the policy is available in the LRC files.)

With all in favor the Lignite Research Council adopted those and Bohrer will work with Karlene Fine, NDIC to make sure those are incorporated into whatever governance documents that we need.

### **IV. Appointment of the Lignite Research Council Clean Sustainable Energy Authority's two representatives**

Bohrer shared that the Council has had the opportunity to review the resumes of the applicants, knowledge, skills and abilities requested of these positions. The Chairman moved to agenda item number four appointment of the LRC CSEA representatives. Chairman recognized Jay Kost with his hand up for a motion. Jay Kost made a motion that Mr. Christopher Friez be appointed as one of the two representatives. Seconded by Bryan Walther. Jason Bohrer left time for the opportunity to debate both pro and con. Hearing none. All in favor. None opposed.

Next, Chairman Bohrer recognized Gerry Pfau with his hand up. Gerry Pfau motioned to the Chairman to approve Mac McLennan to represent LRC in the CSEA. Motion seconded by Don Hochhalter. Same process, Bohrer asked for debate both pro and con. Hearing none. All in favor. None opposed.

Karlene Fine will be reporting this to the North Dakota Industrial Commission at the meeting on July 27, 2021. Fine stated if there are any comments at that meeting on the policy, she would bring them back to the Council.

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**V. Adjournment:** There being no further business, Jason Bohrer requested a motion for adjournment of the LRC meeting. Randy Christmann so moved; seconded Gerry Pfau. Motion carried.

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Angie Hegre, recording secretary