

Minutes of the
RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL
Wednesday, May 20, 2020
10:30 a.m. (CST)
TEAMS Meeting via conference/video call

CALL TO ORDER

Members Present:

Michelle Kommer
Al Christianson
Mark Nisbet
Ron Day
Rod Holth
Gerald Bachmeier

Others Present:

Jonathan Russo, ND Department of Commerce	Kerryanne Leroux, EERC
Sherrri Frieze, ND Department of Commerce	John Hamling, EERC
Karlene Fine, ND Industrial Commission	Jason Ehlert, EERC
Andrea Pfennig, ND Industrial Commission	Ed Steadman, EERC
Dustin Willet, Red Trail Energy	Scott Ayash, EERC
Charles Gorecki, EERC	

WELCOME AND OPENING COMMENTS

Michelle Kommer, called the Renewable Energy Council meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Christianson and seconded by Holth to approve the January 8, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Fine presented the financial report that had been posted on the Industrial Commission/Renewable Energy Program website. As of March 31,2020, the uncommitted funds for the current biennium is \$4,007,564.21.

FINAL REPORT

R38-047: “Integrated Carbon Capture and Storage for North Dakota Ethanol Production” – Phase III; Project Award was \$500,000 with the Total Project Costs of \$2,650.000; Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC) was the applicant

Charles Gorecki, CEO of EERC provided a report on prior activities, including background information on Red Trail Energy (RTE), research funding history, and phase scope, outcomes, deliverables, and stratigraphic test well testing. Mr. Gorecki reviewed the next phase of the project which is the application being considered by the Council.

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION

R-43 A – “Research in Support of Integrated Carbon Capture and Storage for North Dakota Ethanol Production”

Project Duration: 18 months

Requesting: \$500,000

Total Project Costs: \$1.2 Million

Applicant: Energy and Environmental Research Center

Russo gave an overview of the project and stated the applicant is contributing a 58% cash match of \$700,000.

Minutes of the
RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL
Wednesday, May 20, 2020
10:30 a.m. (CST)
TEAMS Meeting via conference/video call

Project's Objective

Development of a blueprint for the first integrated North Dakota ethanol and Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) facility, compliant with the North Dakota Class VI regulations, to strategically maximize the marketability of North Dakota ethanol through evolving CCS incentive programs.

Tasks include:

- A summary of site-specific geologic evaluation steps necessary to finalize CCS designs that ensure safe injection and storage
- Contrast & compare the federal and state incentive requirements with the ND Class VI program, to establish potential business cases and ensure economic viability.
- Detailed interpretations and documentation needed to ensure regulatory compliance for CO₂ injection and storage.
- Community engagement and information dissemination, and impact assessment to ensure public knowledge sharing. A CCS Outreach Tool Kit will be developed to assist others interested in moving forward.
- Compilation of a CO₂ Storage Facility Permitting Guidance Document to assist implementation of CCS by other ND renewable energy or biofuel producers.

Reviewers' Ratings

- Fund – 227
- Fund – 225
- Fund – 231
- Average Weighted Score – 228 out of 250

Achievability

All reviewers believe the project to be achievable or most likely achievable. One reviewer commented that in the “unlikely” worst case outcome of the analysis that even if “CCS under these conditions is not economically viable, the result would be very valuable.

Methodology

All reviewers believe the methodology to be above or well above average. One reviewer commented that one thing they found missing was an attempt to emphasize the difference between this work and conventional CCS.

Scientific/Technical Contribution

All reviewers believe the project to be very or extremely significant.

Knowledge/Awareness

All reviewers recognize the applicant's knowledge and awareness was better than average.

Project Management

All reviewers said the project management plan is very good.

Value of Budget

All reviewers recognize the value of the budget to be a high value.

Overall Comments from Reviewers

- I highly recommend this proposal. The proposal reads very well, reflecting a very clear sense of project goals and methods by the principal investigator.
- It will free CCS from its firm association with coal energy and instead give it an option to be integrated with renewable energy resources.

Minutes of the
RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL
Wednesday, May 20, 2020
10:30 a.m. (CST)
TEAMS Meeting via conference/video call

- This work holds strategic importance to ND/NDIC, and the broader ethanol industry in ND and the United States.

Technical Advisor Recommendations

- No areas of concern were identified by the reviewers. While there were some suggestions, such as the rebranding of CCS to separate it from fossil fuel projects, there are no true criticisms.
- Results of the modeling/study being conducted should be given to the Renewable Energy Council upon completion. This is assuming it hasn't already been submitted.
- The main potential benefit of this project is that it would put the North Dakota ethanol industry on the cutting edge of CCS technology and implementation in ethanol, creating a first-to-market advantage.

Suggested Contingencies if Funded

- None

Gerald Bachmeier, CEO of Red Trail Energy indicated that he would abstain from voting as he is a shareholder in the project. Ms. Pfennig stated that he is only required to declare a conflict of interest.

COMPLETION OF BALLOTS

R-43 A – “Research in Support of Integrated Carbon Capture and Storage for North Dakota Ethanol Production”

Project Duration: 18 months

Requesting: \$500,000

Total Project Costs: \$1.2 Million

Fund : 5 Do Not Fund: 0 Abstain: 1

Conflicts of Interest: Gerald Bachmeier

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

There was no administrative business.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Commissioner Kommer adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.



Michelle Kommer Shawn Kessel
Chair

10/16/2020

Date

Sherri Frieze

 Digitally signed by Sherri Frieze
Date: 2020.10.15 15:02:06 -05'00'

Sherri Frieze
Recording Secretary/Boards & Commissions E.A.

Date