

Minutes of the
RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL (REC)
Monday, November 6, 2023
9:00 am (CT)
TEAMS Meeting Via Conference/Video Call
ONSITE Location: Workforce Safety & Insurance Board Room,
1600 E. Century Ave., Ste. 1, Bismarck, ND 58503

Members Present	Staff Present	Guests Present
Josh Teigen, TEAMS	Reice Haase, NDIC	Yun Ji, UND
Gerald Bachmeier	Brenna Jessen, NDIC	Surojit Arm, UND
Al Christianson	Rich Garman, Commerce Dept.	Kevin Connors, EERC
Terry Goerger, TEAMS	Joleen Leier, Commerce Dept.	Brian Kalk, EERC
Tony Grindberg, TEAMS		Eric Murphy, CamBioGene (ND Legislator)
Rodney Holth		Zack Thobe, Marathon Petroleum
		Joey Harris, Bismarck Tribune
		Michael Standaert, TEAMS
		Amanda Parent, TEAMS
		Simon Geoff, TEAMS

WELCOME & OPENING COMMENTS

Josh Teigen called the Renewable Energy Council (REC) meeting to order at 9:00 am. Teigen welcomed the members and guests in the meeting room and on the TEAM video/audio platform.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the June 22, 2023, meeting was presented to the board. **It was moved by Bachmeier and seconded by Christianson to approve the June 22, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Teigen asked if there were any conflicts of interest to declare. Christianson stated he has a conflict of interest with project R-052-A. He consults for company and former employee provided a letter of support for them.

Teigen stated he would entertain a motion to allow those Al Christianson the ability to vote. Holth moved to allow Al Christianson the ability to vote. Bachmeier seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Renewable Energy Program Project Management and Financial Report

Reice Haase provided an update from the Industrial Commission. Last week they made an employment offer, which was accepted. This will fill an additional grant administrator position. We will also be filling a business office manager position as well.

There were no changes to the Renewable Energy Council’s \$3M appropriation from the Legislative Special Session held last month. Something the council may be interested in is the program run through the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority. There was a an additional \$125 million that was passed by the legislature for a forgivable loan for a new fertilizer facility in North Dakota. The fertilizer facility is required to produce hydrogen by electrolysis and the facility is required to be up and running before the loan is forgiven.

Haase provided an overview of all the funds managed by the Industrial Commission. The Renewable Energy

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Council has \$994,658 available today for commitments. REC’s financial overview follows:

Description	Funds
Cash Balance	\$6,658,140.70
Grants w/Outstanding Payments	\$5,180,482.19
One-time Grant Management Software	\$250,000
Administration (cost for Industrial Commission to manage program)	\$130,000
Legislative Directed-Carbon Capture Education Project	\$100,000
Meeting Expenses	\$3,000

The Legislature directed that \$100,000 will be taken from each Council (REC, Oil & Gas, and Lignite) to be used for the Carbon Capture Education and Outreach program.

REC’s funding source is from oil production taxes through the Resources Trust Fund at \$3M a biennium. REC has funded 70 cumulative projects. We currently have 18 active projects that represent \$6.9M awarded dollars (\$1.8M paid to date and \$5.1M payable).

Haase also presented the forecasted income for 2023-2025. He stated we are currently slightly above the OMB forecast and anticipate that by the end of this calendar year we will have the \$3 million available.

Carbon Capture and Utilization Education and Marketing Special Grant Round Update

Reice Haase gave update on the carbon capture education program. House Bill 1014 directed the Industrial Commission to use \$100,000 from the Renewable Energy Council, Lignite Council, and Oil & Gas Council for this education and outreach program. All three councils will need to come together in one grant round to agree on which grants to approve. He anticipates the meeting will be in January 2024.

CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL GRANT ROUND 52 REQUESTS

Rich Garman gave an overview of project R-052-A. Reviewers’ recommendation is to consider funding.

R-052-A – Smart Holistic Zero Waste Utilization Paradigm (SH0WUP)

Principal Investigator: Surojit Gupta

Project Duration: 3 years

Requesting: \$500,000

Total Project Cost: \$3,780,360 (DOE Funding Requested: \$3,000,000)

Reviewers’ Ratings

- Fund – 192/250
- Fund – 187/250
- Funding May Be Considered – 147/250
- Average Weighted Score – 175.33/250

Surojit Arm presented on the project. Yun Ji was also present to answer questions.

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Grindberg asked for details on DOE award and the success of the award. Also provide more explanation on partner and market potential

Competed at the national level for the DOE award which is contingent on REC award. Surojit explained that they are going to use the blades that are retired and then recycle it as there is no room in the landfills. Partnering with other agencies to recycle products and have other companies in mind for Phase II.

Bachmeier clarified financial support overview: \$3M from DOE, request for \$500,000 from REC, \$200,000 from industry itself (5%). Surojit explained that Industry is contributing 20% of their cost share, Tri Steel is contributing 20% and UND 20%.

Rich gave an overview of Project R-052-B. Reviewers' recommendation is to consider funding.

R-052-B – Prairie Horizon Carbon Management Hub

Principal Investigator: Kevin C. Connors

Project Duration: 24 months

Requesting: \$100,000

Total Project Costs: \$3,225,000

Reviewers' Ratings

- Funding May be Considered – 140/250
- Fund – 230/250
- Fund – 174/250
- Fund – 239/250
- Average Weighted Score – 195.75/250

Kevin Connors presented on the project. Zack Thobe from Marathon Oil spoke about how this project affects their company.

Bachmeier asked if pipelines will be identified. Connors stated that yes, reports will be created. He feels this project will help with the narrative for North Dakotans.

Grindberg asked to please confirm the DOE \$2.5 million in federal funds for Prairie Horizon is not part of the recent Heartland Hydrogen Hub financial award. Connors stated DOE funding is not part of the Heartland funding, thus does not create a conflict for Mr. Grindberg.

Rich gave an overview of R-052-C project. Reviewers' recommendation is to consider funding.

R-052-C – Use of Bioengineering to Enhance the Agronomic Potential of Camelina for Use as a Source for Biofuel Feedstock and Meal for Livestock

Principal Investigator: Eric J. Murphy

Project Duration: 3 years

Requesting: \$500,000

Total Project Costs: \$1,151,250

Reviewers' Ratings

- Funding May be Considered – 161/250

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- Fund – 197/250
- Funding May be Considered – 158/250
- Average Weighted Score – 172/250

Eric Murphy presented on the project. He also disclosed that he is a ND Legislator in the House.

Bachmeier asked about the anticipating match of \$543,000; how sure are you of receiving that? Murphy stated it is rock solid. Looking for another \$250,000 from Commerce for the match.

What is the yield on per acre basis? Murphy responded it is highly variable. It could be between 800-1200 lb per acre. It is variable. It is key to get 2,500 and inputs are low.

DISCUSSION/COMPLETION OF BALLOTS

Ballots were distributed in the room and also emailed to members online. Reice reminded board members if they don't agree with the amount of the request members can make a recommendation.

R-052-A – Smart Holistic Zero Waste Utilization Paradigm (SHOWUP)

Project Duration: 3 years

Requesting: \$500,000

Total Project Cost: \$3,780,360 (DOE Funding Requested: \$3,000,000)

Conflict of Interest: None

Fund: 4 Do Not Fund: 1 Abstain: 0

Chairman Teigen entertained motion for project R-052-A. Christianson made a motion to fund at full amount. Bachmeier seconded the motion. Roll call vote all approved.

R-052-B – Prairie Horizon Carbon Management Hub

Project Duration: 24 months

Requesting: \$100,000

Total Project Costs: \$3,225,000

Conflict of Interest: None

Fund: 5 Do Not Fund: 0 Abstain: 0

Chairman Teigen entertained motion for project R-052-B. Bachmeier moved to fund project R-052-B as requested. Bachmeier seconded the motion. Roll call vote all approved.

R-052-C – Use of Bioengineering to Enhance the Agronomic Potential of Camelina for Use as a Source for Biofuel Feedstock and Meal for Livestock

Project Duration: 3 years

Requesting: \$500,000

Total Project Costs: \$1,151,250

Conflict of Interest: None

Fund: 2 Do Not Fund: 3 Abstain: 0

Chairman Teigen entertained a motion for project R-052-C. Christianson made a motion to fund project R-052-C at a \$250,000 level. No second.

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Chairman Teigen entertained an alternate motion for project R-052-C. Bachmeier made a motion not to fund project R-052-C until there is more detail down the line and all allocated funds are in place. Holth seconded the motion. Roll call vote all approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

Discussion for Proposed Round 53 Deadline – March 1, 2024

Proposed dates for next REC Meeting – April 2024.

Committee member stated they need applications, reviews and applicant responses at least 5-7 days prior to the meeting to allow ample time for review.

OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT

Teigen offered an opportunity for public input. With no public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.



Josh Teigen- Chairman