

**EMPOWER NORTH DAKOTA COMMISSION**

December 29<sup>th</sup> 2022, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

TEAMS online meeting

**Members present:**

Joshua Teigen, Al Christianson, Stacey Dahl, Justin Dever, Tyler Hamman, Ron Ness, Dave Ripplinger, Mike Rud, David Straley, Danette Welsh

**Ex Officio Members:**

Brent Brannan, Julie Voeck

**Public present:**

Call in via Microsoft TEAMS platform

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**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Chairman Joshua Teigen called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. welcoming members and guests via TEAMS audio/video conferencing.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Christianson and seconded by Dever to approve the minutes of November 15<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.

**Energy and Economic Coordination Office (EECO)**

Rich Garman, ED&F Director for Commerce, talked about the EECO that will serve as a unified avenue for industry experts to effectively coordinate with North Dakota energy entities and energy experts to attract and secure major projects. Collaborating entities that currently represent the EECO include Commerce, the North Dakota Pipeline Authority, the North Dakota Transmission Authority, the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources, North Dakota University System, the University of North Dakota Energy and Environmental Research Center, EmPower ND, the Lignite Energy Council, and the North Dakota Petroleum Council.

The EECO will focus on five primary pillars.

- **Strategic Development** of all energy assets. Ensuring an all of the above energy policy is actively implemented in North Dakota. Constant consideration will be given to economic growth, affordability and sustainability.
- **Public Education** will be required as the North Dakota energy portfolio evolves. It will be the duty of the EECO to frequently provide educational opportunities on existing, new and emerging energy opportunities in the state.
- **Environmental Stewardship** will be pursued to ensure a clean, healthy environment for generations of North Dakotans to come while balancing the rich energy resource diversity of the state. Pursuit of the governor's goal of carbon neutrality by 2030 and how this relates to positive economic development will be managed and monitored.
- **Innovative Policy** creation and implementation of strong policies that ensure innovation over regulation will ensure continued strong energy growth in North Dakota.
- **Workforce Identification** training and attraction will be a primary goal of the EECO to ensure a long-term, world-class workforce is in place to continue North Dakota's ongoing national energy leadership.

**MEETING CADENCE DURING LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Members would like to meet starting the week of January 9<sup>th</sup>. These reoccurring weekly meetings will be conducted via the Microsoft TEAMS audio/video platform.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public provided no comments

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

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