

Minutes of the
EMPOWER NORTH DAKOTA COMMISSION

October 27, 2015
MDU Resources
1200 West Century Avenue
Bismarck, ND

Members present:

Al Anderson, Jay Skabo, John Weeda, Ron Day, Ron Ness, Jean Schafer proxy for Dale Niezwaag,, Terry Goerger,

Ex Officio Members:

Julie Voeck, Margaret Hodnik

Others present:

Sherri Frieze, Department of Commerce
Sandy McMerty, Department of Commerce
Christie Schafer, Department of Agriculture
Andrea Travnicek Governor's Office
Justin Kringstad, NDPA
Cory Fong, Odney Advertising
Tom Erickson, UND EERC
Carlee McLeod, USND
Jay Hess, Geronimo Energy
Bob Harms, The Harms Group
John Olson, NextEra and OTPC
Danette Welsh, ONEOK
Warren Enyart, M-Power, LLC
Levi Andrist, Vogel Law Firm
Wade Boeshans, BNI Coal

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. and welcomed Commission members and guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Day and seconded by Weeda to approve the minutes of September 29th. Motion carried unanimously.

**Commission Member Survey Results
and State of the Energy Industry
Reports**

Sandy McMerty, Department of Commerce, talked briefly about the results to the survey that committee members were asked to respond to last month. Lists from the members were compiled with key points of opportunities and threats within the industries.

Members were asked to give a six minute presentation today discussing those opportunities and threats. These issues will provide the framework for the EmPower Commission to set legislative direction for the interim and upcoming session.

After discussion and presentation amongst members, key topics were noted:

- EPA Clean Power Plan
- Future of renewables
- Availability of water
- Capturing CO2
- Strategizing for technology
- Planning and Zoning
- Tax Credits
- Easements
- Future workforce needs

Sandy McMerty compiled key points from the members and drafted an Issues for Action list.

[Appendix A](#)

Chairman Anderson asked that subcommittees in the three areas of Regulatory, R&D, and Infrastructure be organized to move the issues forward.

**Comments from Julio Friedmann
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Fossil Energy, U.S. Dept. of Energy**

Mr. Friedmann spoke to the Commission about expectations relating to the United States EPA Clean Power Plan for 2030. He outlined details to the President's plan including mitigation, adaptation, and international partnerships.

Mr. Friedmann discussed the Department of Energy's loan and grant programs for funding to existing power plants. He also addressed the President's proposed 2016 budget outlining Clean Fossil Energy tax credits.

Public Comment

Issues of local government collaboration, eminent domain, building synergies with companies and the support of CO2 development are all key points for the EmPower Commission to work towards.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Members discussed coordinating follow up meetings with the Energy Development and Transmission committee and timely scheduling of Commission meetings for next year.

