

Minutes of the  
**EMPOWER NORTH DAKOTA COMMISSION**

February 9, 2022  
WSI Building, WSI Board Room  
1600 East Century Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58503

**Members present:**

James Leiman, Jason Bohrer, Al Christianson, Danette Welsh, Jay Skabo, David Straley

**Ex Officio Members:**

Lt. Governor Sanford, Wade Boeshans, Brent Brannan, Stacey Dahl, Julie Voeck

**Public present:**

Call in via Microsoft TEAMS platform

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**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME**

Chairman James Leiman called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., welcoming members and guests.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion was made by Bohrer and seconded by Welsh to approve the minutes of November 2, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.**

**IHS MARKET ROADMAP for  
Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG)**

**Daniel Rood  
Eleonor Kramarz**

The EmPower Commission, along with industry partners developed an ESG strategy last year and with extensive research and analysis, IHS provided recommendations to fit that strategy.

The project's workplan was done in four phases.

- I. Assess North Dakota's current ESG landscape.
- II. Identify and characterize the ESG solutions.
- III. Prioritize short and long term ESG solutions.
- IV. Build an ESG roadmap for North Dakota.

ESG issues and opportunities for North Dakota were presented with key themes from barriers and key takeaways from case studies were identified. IHS Market then facilitated a workshop with industry to generate potential ESG solutions for North Dakota. The solutions were categorized by 1.) Stakeholder communication, 2.) Industry coordination, 3.) Economic incentives, 4.) Industry ESG support, and 5.) Government collaborations.

**LIGNITE ENERGY COUNCIL SURVEY RESULTS**

**Jason Bohrer**

Jason discussed survey results from years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021. The public was asked various questions on approval or disapproval rating for coal mining in the state,

carbon capture technology, and Research & Development support. Members appreciated the survey and asked if future surveys could be filtered to show results by the regions in ND.

**CLEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY  
(CSEA)**

**Chairman Leiman**

James highlighted the recently funded projects that were approved by CSEA. Secondly, James asked members to express how they foresee CSEA into the next biennium.

Members stated that the funding needs to be strong and consistent. A funding stream, even if the funds are not tapped immediately, but to exist for future projects. The Legacy Fund was suggested. Members also mentioned engagement with the counties regarding their concerns of the new Hydrogen Hub project and the impact of severance tax.

HB1452, a new chapter to title 54 of the NDCC, relating to a clean sustainable energy authority and a clean sustainable energy fund was discussed, with a new assignment for the EmPower ND Commission of public hearings to be held.

**INDUSTRY UPDATE**

Members gave a short update to their industry.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting will focus on the engrossed version of HB 1452 with a possible half day strategy session.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Geoff Simon, Western Dakota Energy Association, commented on the issue ND faces with the war on hydrocarbons and the war on coal.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Christianson and seconded by Welsh to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

*James Leiman* 5.11.2022  
James Leiman, Chairman Date

*Sherri Frieze* 5.11.2022  
Sherri Frieze, Boards and Commissions E.A. Date