

**EMPOWER NORTH DAKOTA COMMISSION**

November 2, 2021, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Radisson Blu 201 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street Fargo, ND  
Onsite and via TEAMS meeting

**Members present:**

James Leiman, Jason Bohrer, Al Christianson, Danette Welsh, Jay Skabo, Ron Ness, Mike Rud, 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 1:00 p.m., welcoming members and guests.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ness and seconded by Skabo to approve the minutes of September 8, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

**GOVERNOR/EMPOWER LED REGIONAL EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL & CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (ESG)**

**Chairman Leiman**

James asked for member input on a Governor/EmPower Commission led campaign that would educate consumers on what industry is doing in retrospect to cleaner power and ESG. Members commented that it needs to start with the audience; reaching out early to craft the message, finding the correct objectives to be reached, website due diligence, and a strategy moving forward.

The Lignite Energy Council will have received results from a recent survey conducted and those results could be shared at the next EmPower Commission meeting, that could be used to leverage resources, move forward with next steps to involve statewide electric coops that sell power to Minnesota.

Chairman Leiman said a message will be worked through and brought forth to the next EmPower Commission meeting.

**UPDATE on ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL GOVERNANCE (ESG) and PROJECTS**

**Chairman Leiman**

Recommendation from commission members were prioritized based on member input, scoring, and ranking of where the state should add the most value. With input from private industry and partners outside of the commission, a roadmap will be drafted.

**PROJECT UPDATE AND STRATEGY DISCUSSION**

**Chairman Leiman & Joshua Teigen**

James talked about various topics; the recent public announcement of the Cerilon Inc. Phase I construction for a gas-to-liquids (GTL) facility in ND, the Hydrogen Hub project that is moving at a positive pace, and the growth in agriculture projects in the eastern part of the state.

In response to a question, Joshua discussed the location of the Cerilon facility, products produced, estimated construction workforce to complete Phases I – III and the operating workforce needed for each phase.

**Ag/ENERGY ALLIANCE SUMMIT**

**Chairman Leiman**

The initial meeting of the Ag/Energy Alliance Summit will be held November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. after the EmPower ND Commission meeting. This alliance was created to bring together citizens, government, agriculture, energy producers, and various organizations that support agri-business and energy producers/products in ND.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

Sherri will propose calendar dates for the 2022 quarterly EmPower ND Commission meetings and send those via email to the members for their consensus before the end of the year.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment brought forward indicated the need to have more robust, transparent, policy advisory discussions. Currently, commission members are not having the discussions that previously occurred at past commission meetings. EmPower ND Commission was created to have open discussions as an energy authority.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned unanimously at 2:00 p.m.

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James Leiman	02.09.22022
James Leiman, Chairman	Date

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Sherri Frieze	02.09.2022
Sherri Frieze, Boards and Commissions E.A.	Date