

Minutes of the  
**RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL**

Monday, September 21, 2009  
NDSU Alumni Center – Reimers Room  
1241 N. University Drive, Fargo

**CALL TO ORDER**

Shane Goettle, Chairman, called the Renewable Energy Council meeting to order at 8:45 am.

**Members Present:** Shane Goettle, Al Christianson (via phone), Terry Goerger, Eric Mack, Mark Nisbet, Randy Schneider, and Rod Holth.

**Others Present:**

Jim Boyd, Department of Commerce  
Andrea Pfennig, Department of Commerce  
Karlene Fine, Industrial Commission  
Joleen Leier, Department of Commerce  
Ted Aulich, EERC  
Tom Erickson, EERC  
Ken Hellevang, NDSU

**WELCOME**

Shane Goettle welcomed Rod Holth to the Renewable Energy Council as a new member. Rod gave a talk briefly about his background. Roll call was taken – all present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

July 16, 2009 meeting minutes were reviewed.

**Schneider moved to approve the minutes. Nisbet seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

**PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL SUMMARIES**

Fine reviewed the balance of the combined funds. There is currently \$3,224,679.68 available for this grant round.

**POLICY UPDATE**

Fine distributed a memo from the Industrial Commission. She reviewed activities or uses that are ineligible for funding under this program. The Industrial Commission approved the submitted policy revisions with only one change (see below):

**“Indirect costs in excess of the federal rate may be granted on a case by case basis.”**

The Council has the authority to review each proposal and approve or deny as deemed appropriate.

**PRESENTATION FROM EERC REGARDING BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS/POLICY**

The Industrial Commission has approved this proposal. The Council needs to review additional information from EERC regarding administrative costs. Once the Council has made a decision, this does not need to go back to Industrial Commission.

Erickson presented for EERC. Aulich distributed the itemized budget.

Goettle expressed his appreciation for the detailed explanation on the budget.

In response to question from Goerger, Erickson stated they never allowed federal rate for anything other than federal rates.

Goettle reviewed the exact motion from the Industrial Commission as follows:

- Budget line items in an amount not to exceed \$6,281 for food and travel to conferences, unless they are directly

related to the achievement of the project, are to be removed from the application budget but could be reinstated if sufficient justification is provided and the Council concurs.

- The approved federal rate for the EERC Facilities and Administrative costs is 50%. The applicant had added a 10% increment to the federal rate for a total of 60% as the Commission's share. The applicant will remove the added 10% from the Commission's share in the amount of \$19,065 and leave the rate at the federally approved 50% unless sufficient justification is provided and the Council concurs in reinstating the amount.

**Christianson moved to reinstate the \$6,281 for food and travel and not to exceed the federal rate of 60%. Motion was seconded by Nisbet. Motion passed.**

In response to question from Goerger, Erickson stated that the travel is for employees only, and food is for all people only if involving outside parties.

Goerger questioned if the Council needs to consider rates in excess of 60%, will the Council need to hear additional explanation and then evaluate for approval. Goettle stated justification will need to be part of the application process. The companies will need to provide a much more detailed explanation. Goettle also expressed the Council may need to reevaluate the 50% rule if exceptions become consistent.

Schneider expressed the necessity to explain to the applicants that 50% is the rule, but there is an exception of 60%. This exception is not automatic.

### COMPLETION OF BALLOT

**Revised Budget for the "Renewable Electrolytic Ammonia Production from Water and Nitrogen" Project – EERC.**

**Fund: 7 Do Not Fund: 0**

### OTHER BUSINESS

Pfennig distributed a copy of the proposed logo for the Renewable Energy Council. The logo was developed by Sandy McMerty in the Marketing Department of the ND Department of Commerce. The logo will be printed in color.



**Mack moved to approve logo. Schneider seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

Next meeting date is Monday, December 7 in Fargo. Since there will only be one application, the Council will be able to tour ComPAKco. We will also hear a presentation from NDSU on their nanowhiskers project. The meeting will tentatively be scheduled to begin at approximately 10:00 am.

Nisbet thanked Al Christianson and his company for holding a tour educating people on the energy effort.

Schneider encouraged committee to continue seeking additional funds for the Renewable Energy Council.

Goettle talked about the Blender Pump project.

### ADJOURNMENT

**It was moved by Christianson to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Goerger and carried on a voice vote that the meeting be adjourned.** Chairman Goettle adjourned the meeting at 9:23 am.

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Shane Goettle  
Chairman

Date

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Joleen Leier  
Acting Recorder

Date