

Minutes of the  
**RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL**  
Wednesday, December 14, 2011 – 8:00 am (CST)  
MDU Resources Group  
400 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Bismarck, ND

### **CALL TO ORDER**

**Members Present:** Al Anderson, Rod Holth, Mark Nisbet, Terry Goerger. and Eric Mack.

**Members Absent:** Al Christianson and Randy Schneider.

**Others Present:**

Andrea Pfennig, Department of Commerce  
Karlene Fine, Industrial Commission  
Joleen Leier, Department of Commerce

Al Anderson, Chairman, called the Renewable Energy Council meeting to order at 8:03 am.

### **WELCOME AND OPENING COMMENTS**

Anderson welcomed everyone and expressed his appreciation for attending.

Goerger asked the status of the last application for funding. Pfennig stated that they will be resubmitting in January. They wanted to make sure they were successful when submitting proposal.

Ethanol project was pulled from this round as well.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

September 8, 2011 meeting minutes were reviewed.

**Mark Nisbet moved to approve the minutes as presented. Rod Holth seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

### **PROPOSED STAFF REVIEW POLICIES DISCUSSION**

Anderson explained that the key reason for this meeting is a result of the last Industrial Commission meeting. Anderson, Fine, and Pfennig met to discuss what the Council can do to be successful with the proposals they bring before the Commission. The Commission is steering us toward commercialization.

Pfennig distributed a spreadsheet of projects that have been funded by the Council. This spreadsheet included the reviewers rating. This may help determine what type of guidelines to implement.

Discussion was held pertaining to possible timelines for the companies to obtain matching funds or should this be done prior to application. Also having private dollars as a matching source.

In order to ensure that projects that are successful at the Council level are also successful at the Industrial Commission level, the following new approach is being proposed for review process:

1. Technical Review Results: From now on, proposals would require two “Fund” recommendations before they could move forward.

Discussion:

- Allow 2<sup>nd</sup> review after questions have been addressed.
- All scores would have to be either “Fund” or “Funding May be Considered”. Applications cannot have a “Do Not Fund” recommendation.
- Concerns were expressed about if the reviewers were familiar with North Dakota.

**Terry Goerger moved that all reviews must be scored as “Fund” or “Funding May be Considered” prior to coming before the Council. Clarification of questions can be returned to the reviewers for second chance. Eric Mack seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

- 2. Industry Involvement: Our policies state that projects need to have “a clear roadmap to commercialization.” From now on, this would need to be demonstrated by industry investment.

**Rod Holth moved to adopt #2. Mark Nisbet seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

- 3. Overall Score: Consistent with the Oil & Gas Research Program, technical reviewers will be given guidelines tying scores and recommendations. The goal of this is to obtain greater consistency from the technical reviewers. The breakout is below:
  - a. If >170 = Fund
  - b. 130-170 = Funding May Be Considered
  - c. If <130 = Do Not Fund

**Terry Goerger moved that the reviewers should utilize the scoring guidelines. Rod Holth seconded the motion. Motion passed.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

Next meeting will be in March or early April.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Terry Goerger moved to adjourn the meeting. Eric Mack seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 am.**

 4/27/12  
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 Alan R. Anderson Date  
 Chairman

 4-27-12  
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 Joleen Leier Date  
 Acting Recorder