Lignite Research Council (LRC) Chairman, Jason Bohrer, called the LRC meeting to order at 1:39 p.m. (CDT) on November 17, 2016, at the Ramada Hotel, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Approval of May 19, 2016 LRC Meeting Minutes:

Bohrer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2016 LRC meeting. Rich Voss so moved; seconded by Jay Skabo. Motion carried.

Program Financial Summary:

Karlene Fine gave a brief financial summary regarding the Lignite Research, Development and Marketing Program (Program).
Fine stated that the budget is the proposed LRC Annual budget allocation for the 2015-2017 biennium. She said the Program’s available funding (as of 11/17/16) includes: $750,000 for administration of the Program; $1,500,000 for litigation (Minnesota); $3,000,000 for non-matching Lignite Marketing Feasibility Study (LMFS) projects; $6,597,500 for Small Research Projects; $1,200,000 for Marketing Projects; and $3,572,866 for Demonstration Projects.

Program’s Project Updates:

Jones, Technical Advisor to the NDIC and the LRC, gave updates about active R&D projects (eight carbon capture and storage projects, two gasification projects, one demonstration project, one Lignite Vision 21 Program (LV21) project, two metal emissions projects, two education/public relations projects, three NOx projects, one Lignite Beneficiation project, one Reclamation project and one marketing. He also gave a non-confidential update about the Enhance, Preserve and Protect project, which included Environmental Tasks, Litigation, R&D tasks and LV21 tasks.

Grant Round LXXX (81) Grant Application LRC-LXXXI-A: “Annual Lignite Energy Council Education program” Submitted by: Lignite Energy Council; Request for $100,000; Total Project Costs $250,000

Project Duration: 12 months

Fine said the objective of this program is to educate teachers, students and members of the general public about career opportunities, economic benefits and operations of the lignite industry. The requested funding will be used to conduct the Lignite Education Seminar, program management and video costs. The video costs relate to the development of additional videos -- Lignite 101; North Dakota Lignite Geology, Mining and Reclamation; Electricity Generation and Coal Conversion and Environmental Impact/Stewardship.

Fine said that the two technical peer reviewers for this proposal gave the proposal an average weighted score of 224 out of 250 points. The weighted score was 237 out of 250 points from reviewer 01-01 and 211 out of 250 from reviewer 01-02. Technical peer reviewers 01-01 and 01-02 all recommended funding the project.

As the Executive Director to the NDIC and LRC, Fine recommended that the project be Fund with the contingency that the applicant clarifies the timeline for the video work to be completed and the budget costs related to the video work.

Fine said that Lignite Energy Council and members of the Lignite Energy Council are conflicts of interest for proposal LRC-LXXXI-A.

Jason Bohrer with the Lignite Energy Council did a presentation in support of LRC-LXXX-A.

Project Updates

A. " Grant Application LRC-LXXX-D: "Management practices to improve soil and vegetation perimeters of reclaimed North Dakota Coal Mine Lands" Submitted by: Department of Soil Science- School of Natural Resource Sciences (NDSU); Presentation by Dr. Jay Volk – BNI Coal

B. Grant Application LRC-LXXX-C: "Pathway to Low-Carbon Lignite Utilization – Phase 1B & 2A" Submitted by: Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC); Presentation by Mike Holmes – EERC

Status of the Clean Power Plan - 111(b) & 111(d)

Dave Glatt discussed the Status of the Clean Power Plan - 111(b) & 111(d). Glatt spoke about the speculation, concerns and the optimism with the Clean Power Plan.

Glatt also made mention of the reality of the clean power plan within the court system. It was also discussed about a reduced carbon future, how the markets may define the path forward. Glatt stated that the NDDOH needs additional time and regulatory space and has an obligation to protect the public and environmental health.

The path forward Glatt stated is uncertain. The new administration and the EPA’s positions were unknown at the time. He also spoke about Public Perception in a Regional Market, making notes about new alliance or
multi-state agreements. The state could have new Energy Producers & Energy Users and new options for a common sense energy strategy.

Glatt stated, that it is an energy strategy for the state. NDDOH is making a timeline for transition with measurable and realistic goals. In this strategy all energy sources should be considered: fossil, renewables and the technology advancements.

Next LRC Meeting & NDIC meeting to consider LRC’s recommendations, 2017 Grant Round deadlines:

Bohrer announced that the next LRC meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2017.

The application deadline date for submitting proposals to the NDIC for the next grant rounds is April 1, 2017.

Balloon Results:

Bohrer announced the results of the LRC's non-confidential ballots concerning the LRC’s recommendations to the NDIC regarding the Grant Round LXXXI (81) proposal as follows:

- Grant Round LXXX (81) Grant Application LRC-LXXXI-A: “Annual Lignite Energy Council Education program"
  Submitted by: Lignite Energy Council; Request for $100,000; Total Project Costs $250,000
  Project Duration: 12 months

  fund: 16 votes  do not fund: 0 vote  abstain: 0 vote

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Bohrer requested a motion for adjournment of the LRC meeting at 3:45 p.m. Wade Boeshans so moved; seconded John Weeda. Motion carried.