

Minutes of the  
**RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL (REC)**  
Monday, April 15, 2024  
10:00 am (CT)  
TEAMS Meeting Via Conference/Video Call  
ONSITE Location: Workforce Safety & Insurance Board Room,  
1600 E. Century Ave., Ste. 1, Bismarck, ND 58503

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Staff Present</b>	
Rodney Holth	Reice Haase, NDIC	
Gerald Bachmeier	Erin Stieg, NDIC	
Terry Goerger, TEAMS	Brenna Jessen, NDIC	
Tony Grindberg, TEAMS	Joleen Leier, Commerce Dept.	
Rich Garman in place of Josh Teigen		
<b>Guests Present</b>		
Jay Schulte	Jodi Bullinger, TEAMS	Russell Buchholz, TEAMS
Katherine Anagnost, EERC	Keiko Miller, TEAMS	Charles Crocker, TEAMS
Daisy Selvarat, EERC	Brad Stevens, TEAMS	Patrick Huvard, TEAMS
Tyler Hamman, EERC	Megan Hoye, TEAMS	Joey Harris, Tribune
Brian Kalk, EERC	Tom Oakland, TEAMS	Beth Croteau-Kallestad
Scott Iverson, MWEC	Heather Betts, TEAMS	Kyla Maki, TEAMS
Adam Miller, TEAMS	Cindy Savage, TEAMS	Adam Attenburg, TEAMS

**WELCOME & OPENING COMMENTS**

Rich Garman called the Renewable Energy Council (REC) meeting to order at 10:00 am. Garman explained he will be sitting in for Josh Teigen as Josh is recusing himself for the time-being for personal reasons. Garman welcomed the members and guests in the meeting room and on the TEAM video/audio platform.

Garman informed the board that Al Christianson (current board member) passed away this past week. He has been a valuable asset to energy and the Coal Creek Station. We had a moment of silence for Al and acknowledge he was one of the best leaders in the state.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the November 6, 2023, meeting was presented to the board. **It was moved by Gerald Bachmeier and seconded by Rod Holth to approve the November 6, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Renewable Energy Program Project Management and Financial Report**

Reice Haase provided overview. In the Industrial Commission-Managed Funds, you currently have 17 active projects and \$8.8M in Renewable Energy Funds. The REC currently has \$2.7M in the fund available to commit to new projects. \$6.1M is committed to outstanding grants of \$5.7 M and just over \$300,000 for administrative costs and CO2 education. The \$3M funding source comes from oil production taxes.

We've had 75 projects since conception and have received all the funding for the biennium (\$2.7M).

Haase provided an update on the following projects:

- Gateway to Science Ethanol Exhibit

Minutes of the  
**RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL (REC)**  
Monday, April 15, 2024  
10:00 am (CT)  
TEAMS Meeting Via Conference/Video Call  
ONSITE Location: Workforce Safety & Insurance Board Room,  
1600 E. Century Ave., Ste. 1, Bismarck, ND 58503

- Midwest Ag Energy CO2 Storage Assessment
- BWR Renewable Hydrogen Microgrid (project is complete and closed out March 2024)

**Consideration of Project Decommitment:**

R-050-064 – **Novel Process for Biocoal Production with CO2 Mineralization**; Submitted by Envergex, LLC in October 2022; Amount of Award to be Decommitted: \$174,830.

Project was approved last year during Grant Round 50. Applicant wasn't able obtain their private match thus reached out to the board to return the funds. These funds would be added to the current \$2.7M funds.

**Gerald Bachmeier motioned to decommit the project and bring the funds back to the Council. Rod Holth seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.**

**CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL GRANT ROUND 53 REQUESTS**

Rich Garman gave an overview of project R-053-A.

**R-053-A – Twin Solar Complex**

Submitted by Innovative Renewables, LLC

Total Project Costs: \$756,370

Amount Requested: \$378,185

**Technical Reviewers' Results:**

- Funding May Be Considered – 144/250
- Funding May Be Considered – 156/250
- Funding May Be Considered – 142/250
- Average Weighted Score – 147.33/250

**Technical Advisor Recommendations:**

Reviewers' recommendation is to consider funding.

Jay Schulte presented on the project.

Bachmeier confirmed the lot size is 25 x 150'. He also questioned zoning and waivers. Schulte explained that the City of Bismarck is willing to work with them for the project and set-backs of homes. Bachmeier questioned the design of home. Is a 25-foot lot. Schulte explained the building is 14 feet deep. The city wants 3 feet on back side of lot and would require fence, which is already there. The front of the lot is 6-8 feet. Again, the building is in the heart of town. Working with design company.

Bachmeier asked why this solar project is different. Schulte stated it's not very different, mainly showcasing it. This is a great way to expose this to the community.

Grindberg asked Mr. Schulte to confirm that this is an investment property project. Schulte stated Federal tax credits for solar, is that part of your modeling. Schulte stated they would be using the 30% federal tax credit for the solar install. This would be applied after the system is installed.

Minutes of the  
**RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL (REC)**  
Monday, April 15, 2024  
10:00 am (CT)  
TEAMS Meeting Via Conference/Video Call  
ONSITE Location: Workforce Safety & Insurance Board Room,  
1600 E. Century Ave., Ste. 1, Bismarck, ND 58503

Also asked if we ever did a capital project. Reice stated he didn't recall a capital project, be we funded MHA Nation housing. That was more of a research project to model what it would look like and savings.

Bachmeier stated he feels like it's more of a marketing plan than on a new design or renewable since the technology is out there. Bachmeier sees it as a marketing plan to bring to the builders. Grindberg stated he concurred.

Rich gave an overview of Project R-053-B.

**R-053-B – Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Resiliency (REVIR) Plan**

Submitted by Dr. Daisy Selvaraj, EERC-UND

Total Project Costs: \$1,875,000

Amount Requested: \$375,000

**Technical Reviewers' Results**

- Fund – 223/250
- Fund – 181/250
- Average Weighted Score 202/250

**Technical Advisor Recommendations:**

Reviewers' recommendation is to fund this project.

Dr. Daisy Selvaraj presented on the project.

Holth asked if they have the commitment from DOE, she stated yes.

Bachmeier asked if this was covering four states and why don't the other states contribute. Selvaraj stated they are exporting the power and can demand a premium on that.

How do you differentiate the power that goes on the grid that is going into each entity? NEVIP install along I94 & I29. Federal government is designating \$5B for these; ND will be receiving \$26M for 40 charging stations. Each station will have four charging ports; each having 150 kilowatts which will contribute to 6,000 megawatts. Brian Kalke, EERC, stated he had the same question six months ago. He stated they requested EERC ask other states to contribute in-kind money, however, want North Dakota to lead the study.

Grindberg asked, on 8/10/22 DOT submitted ND's plan for rollout of IHA funds for charging stations along the interstates. Does your plan factor in any gaps in the ND plan? EV installing but will look at the risks and challenges of the EV infrastructures across the four states because they are trying to come up with the interconnected EV infrastructure. EV plan will look into all the risks of each and every state. Then the EV plan will look into the unique risks of each and every state in the region and then the EV plan will integrate all these risks and implement these plans.

Russ Buchholz, NEVY Administrator for the DOT for the Program Daisy talked about which is \$25.9M for the next five years of putting in the electric vehicle charging stations along the alternative fuel corridors which we designated as I-29 and I-94. He stated their intent is to go out with a notice of funding opportunity in mid June in rural. Looking at 18 charging stations within 50 miles of each other and no more than 1 mile off

Minutes of the  
**RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL (REC)**  
Monday, April 15, 2024  
10:00 am (CT)  
TEAMS Meeting Via Conference/Video Call  
ONSITE Location: Workforce Safety & Insurance Board Room,  
1600 E. Century Ave., Ste. 1, Bismarck, ND 58503

the corridor. It will be charging stations at each site. It will be a privately owned operation due to legislation.

Grindberg thanked Dr. Selvaraj for her presentation. He also stated he would not endorse projects under his title with the company he works for to keep a separation of roles.

**DISCUSSION/COMPLETION OF BALLOTS**

Members online will need to email their ballots.

Ballots were distributed in the room and also emailed to members online. Reice reminded board members if they don't agree with the amount of the request members can make a recommendation.

**R-053-A – Twin Solar Complex**

Project Duration: 1.5 years

Requesting: \$378,185

Total Project Costs: \$756,370

**Conflict of Interest: None**

**Fund: 1 w/conditions Do Not Fund: 4 Abstain: 0**

**R-053-B – Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Resilience (REVIR) Plan**

**Project Duration: 24 months**

**Requesting: \$375,000**

**Total Project Costs: \$1,875,000**

**Conflict of Interest: None**

**Fund: 3 Do Not Fund: 2 Abstain: 0**

**Rich Garman entertained motion for project R-053-B to move forward to the Industrial Commission. Rod Holth moved to fund project R-053-B as requested. Gerald Bachmeier seconded the motion. Roll call vote all approved.**

Reice will take the second proposal to the Industrial Commission will meet on April 20, 2024.

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS**

For the next round, the application deadline will be August 1, 2024. Proposed dates for the next REC Meeting is September 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>.

**OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURNMENT**

After today's award REC has \$2.4M remaining in this biennium.

Garman asked Haase to explain the process with the remaining funds and how it affects our legislation. Reice explained that when they testify to the legislature that will be with one more grant round to complete the biennium. The legislature will look at the funds allocated and what is remaining when determining if they will cut funding or grand new funds based on that. The biennium award is \$3M, so if the legislature doesn't take any

Minutes of the  
**RENEWABLE ENERGY COUNCIL (REC)**  
Monday, April 15, 2024  
10:00 am (CT)  
TEAMS Meeting Via Conference/Video Call  
ONSITE Location: Workforce Safety & Insurance Board Room,  
1600 E. Century Ave., Ste. 1, Bismarck, ND 58503

actions, our assumption is that REC will be awarded another \$3M for the next biennium.

Garman stated we should stress the applicants put more effort in the milestone and budget areas of the application.

Garman offered an opportunity for public input.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Rod Holth motioned to adjourn the meeting. Gerald Bachmeier seconded the motion. With no public comment, the meeting was adjourned at 11:11 am.**



---

Rich Garman, Interim Chairman