



State of Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, May 3, 2021

Time: 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting on GoToMeetings

Participants

ISEA Board Members

Todd Combs, Idaho National Laboratory – Chair

Paul Kjellander, Idaho Public Utilities Commission – Vice Chair

John Chatburn, Idaho Governor’s Office of Energy and Mineral Resources

Alan Prouty, J.R. Simplot Company

Jon Cox, Rocky Mountain Power

Jared Ellsworth, Idaho Power Company

Ron Whitney, Idaho Division of Building Safety

Collins Sprague, Avista

Will Hart, Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association

Lori Blattner, Intermountain Gas

Greg Green, Micron

Suzi Budge, SBS Associates

Bear Prairie, Idaho Falls Power

Others

Ben Otto, Idaho Conservation League

Lisa Young, Idaho Chapter Sierra Club

Katie Pegan, Idaho Governor’s Office of Energy and Mineral Resources

George Lynch, Idaho Governor’s Office of Energy and Mineral Resources

Marissa Warren, Idaho Governor’s Office of Energy and Mineral Resources

Veronika Vazhnik, Idaho Governor’s Office of Energy and Mineral Resources

Emily Her, Idaho Governor’s Office of Energy and Mineral Resources

Kieran Sprague, Idaho Governor’s Office of Energy and Mineral Resources

Meeting Agenda

Welcome/Introductions – Todd Combs

Review of new ISEA Executive Order – John Chatburn

John Chatburn summarized the 2020 ISEA Executive Order signed by Governor Little and reviewed the tasks requested of ISEA.

Task Force Review – Todd Combs

Todd Combs read through the list of the existing task forces as of 2017 and the reports produced by those task forces. He noted that there hasn’t been a new report provided by any of the task forces for about 6 years. Todd opened the floor for discussion on types of task forces the ISEA Board would like to re-establish or create.

- Suggestion to combine several task forces as Clean Energy to group resources together rather than revisit and update previous task force reports.

- Recommendation to discuss topics of interest and then circle back to decide on the task forces that will tackle the reports the Board would like to update.
 - OEMR will present a list of 6-7 topic areas to the Board, from that list, the Board will further discuss what task forces need to be established to provide reports/white papers.
- John Chatburn reminded the Board that task force meetings will be like the Board meeting, open to the public.
- Suggestion to have a Task Force look into Workforce Development.
 - OEMR: Governor Little has a Workforce Development Task Force already, and the Idaho Department of Commerce has an Economic Advisory Council. We will want to be careful about not getting in the way of those groups' work.

Round Table Discussion on Topics of Interest – Todd Combs

The Board moved to the round table discussion to brainstorm topics that ISEA should consider addressing.

- PUC: Recommended ISEA work on a white paper that describes problems/ opportunities/ challenges in Idaho.
 - Could use this white paper to look at resource adequacy of utilities at a regional level as a launching pad for larger discussions on topics raised in the white paper.

Below is a bulleted list of the topics raised and comments made about those topics.

- Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs)/ Transportation Electrification
 - INL: The Biden Administration's focus on this area will likely mean more of a push on this subject in the next few years.
 - OEMR: Governor brings this subject up quite a bit when traveling around the state.
 - Would want to look at impact on the grid and challenges to create a network of charging stations.
 - OEMR: A report on ZEVs could include discussions on other zero emission transportation technologies beyond electric, such as hydrogen fuel cell.
- Clean Energy Resources
 - Adding renewables and zero emission resources to the grid
 - How to incorporate energy storage, is it ready to help provide system stabilization?
 - Simplot: very interested in clean/renewable but want that to include a conversation about storage.
 - Small Modular Reactors
 - INL: Was there a reason for no discussion on nuclear in past task force reports?
 - LINE Commission was working on some of the issues.
 - Small-Modular reactors weren't a big topic of discussion at the time.
 - Renewable Natural Gas
- Storage
 - INL: Storage is a broad subject, could include lots of tech options including hydrogen.
 - PUC: How much firm capacity can hydropower provide with high levels of renewable penetration?
 - How much storage will be needed to complement Idaho's baseload?
- Net Zero
 - This subject could be too broad and narrow in on specific subjects like electrification.
 - Simplot/ ICUA: This conversation changes industry by industry and the challenges each one faces can be complex.
- Transmission
 - ICUA: This is an opportunity and challenge in Idaho.
- Resilience/ Reliability/ Disaster Resilience
 - Rocky Mountain Power: Particularly interested in wildfire resilience.
 - Risk mitigation (example: ERCOT)
- Energy Water Nexus

Public Comment

- ICL suggested an additional topic for ISEA to discuss, Regional Energy Markets/ Transmission Markets
 - Becoming an important topic for the Western U.S.
- Sierra Club thanked ISEA for inviting the public to comment, and informed OEMR they would send a list of suggested participants for task forces once the task force topics were confirmed.

Wrap Up and Adjournment

- Commitments made during the meeting:
 - OEMR will provide a list of 6-7 topic ideas to the Board.
 - The Board will vote on which topic areas to prioritize first.
 - OEMR will tally the votes and inform the Board and public.
 - The Board will suggest Task Forces based on the top topic areas.
- Todd Combs concluded the meeting at 2:55pm.