



IDAHO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Vacant, Chair

Ray Hinchcliff, Vice Chair

Margaret Chipman, Commissioner

Marc Haws, Commissioner

Jennifer Riebe, Commissioner

Shannon Chollett, Secretary to the Commission

Final Minutes

Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Regular Meeting

October 2, 2024

The regular meeting of the Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at the State Capitol, House Hearing Room, (EW42), Lower Level, East Wing, 700 W Jefferson Street, Boise, Idaho. The meeting began at 1:29 p.m. (MT). Vice Chairman Ray Hinchcliff presided. The following members were present:

Commissioner Margaret Chipman
Commissioner Jennifer Riebe

For the record, a quorum was in attendance; all three Commissioners were present at the physical location. A motion was made by Commissioner Chipman to adopt the proposed amended agenda which removed the Presentation on Gas Markets because the presenter had to cancel and add the Discussion on cancelling the November meeting. Commissioner Riebe seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chairman Hinchcliff announced that Chairman Betty Coppersmith resigned from the Commission after five years of service, all in the role of Chairman. Vice Chairman Hinchcliff acknowledged Commissioner Haws' expected absence from the meeting and welcomed Shannon Chollett as new Commission Secretary.

REPORTS

1. Department Report – *Presented by Shannon Chollett, Division Administrator*

A. Financial Update

B. Current Oil and Gas Activity

Commissioner Riebe inquired about the ending cash balance dating back to May and if that was a reflection of the low prices, the wells being shut in and the severance taxes being low. Program Manager James Thum responded yes and explained that due to the new software system LUMA, the Department was having problems getting correct calculations for ending balance. Mr. Thum stated that as of the July reports, the numbers should be correct. Commissioner Riebe asked if the wells that were shut-in were a reflection of their productivity status or due to low prices. Mr. Thum answered that it is a decision that the operator makes and can be based on economics. While there could be several reasons to shut-in a well, Mr. Thum confirmed that we have had low natural gas prices this year and it has affected the decision to keep the wells shut-in. Mr. Thum

stated that he spoke with Richard Brown recently and that natural gas prices have gone up and more wells will probably go back on production. Commissioner Riebe inquired if there is life left in the wells in which Mr. Thum said yes especially the wells in the Harmon area. Vice Chairman Hinchcliff asked Mr. Thum to elaborate on the gas prices for the area and how it compared to the rest of the country and why we typically have lower prices. Mr. Thum explained that prices in the Northwest tend to be lower because we do not have access to as many markets and we do not have the transportation options that other places in the country do.

CONSENT – ACTION ITEM(S)

2. Approval of Minutes – May 21, 2024 – Regular Meeting (Boise)

COMMISSION ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Riebe that the Commission approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Chipman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

3. Approval of Minutes – August 20, 2024 – Regular Meeting (Boise)

COMMISSION ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Chipman that the Commission approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Riebe seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

REGULAR – ACTION ITEM(S)

4. Adoption of Pending Rule for IDAPA 20.07.02, Rules Governing Conservation of Oil and Natural Gas in the State of Idaho - Presented by James Thum, Oil & Gas Program Manager

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the pending rule for IDAPA 20.07.02, *Rules Governing Conservation of Oil and Natural Gas in the State of Idaho*

DISCUSSION: None.

COMMISSION ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Chipman that the Commission move to adopt the pending rule. Commissioner Riebe seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

5. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

RECOMMENDATION: Direct the Commission to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

DISCUSSION: None.

COMMISSION ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Riebe to nominate Ray Hinchcliff as Chair. Commissioner Chipman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 3-0. A motion was made by Commissioner Chipman to nominate Jennifer Riebe as Vice Chair. Vice Chairman Hinchcliff seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

6. Discussion On Cancellation Of November Regular Meeting

RECOMMENDATION: None.

DISCUSSION: Vice Chairman Hinchcliff explained that due to only having three commissioners at this time and the upcoming holiday, to cancel the November meeting rather than not meeting a quorum. He added that Commissioner Haws is on an extended leave and advised that the meeting be either postponed or cancelled. Commissioners Chipman and Riebe agreed.

COMMISSION ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Chipman to cancel the November regular meeting. Commissioner Riebe seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

INFORMATION

None

EXECUTIVE

None

There being no further business before the Commission, at 1:52 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Riebe. Commissioner Chipman seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 3-0. Meeting adjourned.

IDAHO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

/s/ Ray Hinchcliff

Ray Hinchcliff, Chairman
Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

/s/ Shannon Chollett

Shannon Chollett
Secretary to the Commission

The above-listed final minutes were approved by the Commission at the February 18, 2025 regular Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission meeting.