



IDAHO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Betty Coppersmith, Chairman
Marc Shigeta, Vice Chairman
Jim Classen, Commissioner
Dr. Renee Love, Commissioner
Dustin T. Miller, Commissioner

Mick Thomas, Secretary to the Commission

Final Minutes

Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Regular Meeting
February 5, 2020

The regular meeting of the Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, at the Boise City Council Chambers, Boise City Hall, 3rd Floor, 150 N. Capitol Blvd., Boise, Idaho. The meeting began at 9:30 a.m. Chairman Betty Coppersmith presided. The following members were present:

Vice Chairman Marc Shigeta
Commissioner Renee Love – *via teleconference*
Commissioner Dustin Miller

For the record, four Commission members were present with Commissioner Love joining via teleconference. Commissioner Jim Classen was absent.

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Coppersmith went over the order of agenda items.

1. Division Administrator's Report

- A. Financial Update
- B. Current Oil and Gas Activity

Commissioner Love inquired about the Kauffman #1-9 well and what it was producing, Secretary Thomas responded that it was producing gas right now, no liquids. Chairman Coppersmith asked if the new integration application was the dark blue dotted line on the map. Secretary Thomas answered that was correct. Vice Chairman Shigeta inquired about the terms of the plugged wells and if we were involved in the final reclamation of the properties. Secretary Thomas clarified that we are involved by making sure they meet state law and regulations and that Program Manager James Thum is in contact with the field regarding those operations. Vice Chairman Shigeta stated that timing is an issue from an agriculture standpoint for each crop year so timing of reclamation is important. Secretary Thomas responded that his understanding is that operations are worked out with the surface owner to coordinate crops with reclamation efforts and they have worked with the surface owners.

- C. Status Update
 - i. 2020 Legislative Session

Vice Chairman Shigeta announced that activity on the pipeline has started and is going strong and that there was concern about the regulatory side and that it was the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Secretary Thomas responded that we have spoken with the PUC and they explained that to lay pipe in the ground is an agreement between the surface owner and contractor. When the pipeline is put into use, a series of tests will be done in which the PUC will supervise and provide oversight. Commissioner Miller inquired about attachment B and if the wells that are marked producing have now been shut in. Secretary Thomas explained that we found out yesterday that the field was shut-in so we were unable to update the data that quickly. The wells will be brought online once bonding and insurance are in place.

- **CONSENT – ACTION ITEM(S)**

- 2. **Approval of Minutes** – November 13, 2019 – Regular Meeting (Boise)

CONSENT AGENDA COMMISSION ACTION: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Shigeta that the Commission approve the meeting minutes on the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

- **REGULAR – ACTION ITEM(S)**

- 3. **State Review of Oil and Natural Gas Environmental Regulation (S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R.)** – Presented by Mick Thomas, Division Administrator – Minerals, Public Trust, and Oil & Gas

RECOMMENDATION: The Idaho Department of Lands recommends the Commission advise the Oil and Gas Program Staff to discontinue the S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R review process.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Love inquired about how much it would cost to complete this, Secretary Thomas responded that it was determined that it would take 133 hours of additional staff time to complete the initial evaluation and clarified that cost itemization was not done because it depends on who was doing the work although most of it would have been done by the program manager. Commissioner Love clarified that this was an assessment to look at environmental regulation of the field. Secretary Thomas responded yes and that it included other agencies such as Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Water Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency and while the review does have merit, there is a threshold of activity that would warrant that type of investigation and right now this field does not appear to have crossed that threshold. Commissioner Miller asked if the review process done in 2017 by the State Oil & Gas Regulatory Exchange (SOGRE) through the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) was sufficient in which Secretary Thomas responded yes but that the S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R report was different. Commissioner Miller inquired about the frequency of the review process under SOGRE. Secretary Thomas responded that there was not a frequency that Idaho was using but we could ask for another review if we were to go under a substantial change in Idaho production. Chairman Coppersmith inquired if there was an opportunity for a review due to the organizational change at the Department. Secretary Thomas responded that

the IOGCC does not deal with broad minerals regulation but there could be other entities we may be able to work with. The IOGCC and S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R deal specifically with the oil and gas industry.

COMMISSION ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Miller that the Commission discontinue the S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R review process. Vice Chairman Shigeta seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

4. Statutory reform regarding the Roles of the Commission – *Presented by Mick Thomas, Division Administrator – Minerals, Public Trust, and Oil & Gas*

RECOMMENDATION: The Idaho Department of Lands recommends the Commission does not proceed with statutory recommendations to change the Roles of the Commission.

DISCUSSION: No discussion nor questions.

COMMISSION ACTION: A motion was made by Vice Chairman Shigeta that the Commission follow the Department's recommendation. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Background information was provided by the presenter indicated below. No Commission action is required on the Information Agenda.

- **INFORMATION**

5. Presentation - Idaho Geological Survey Oil and Gas Program – *Presented by Mark Barton, Petroleum Geologist, Idaho Geological Survey*

- **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

There being no further business before the Commission, at 10:44 a.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Miller. Vice Chairman Shigeta seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0. Meeting adjourned.

