



IDAHO OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Mick Thomas, Secretary to the Commission

Final Minutes

Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Regular Meeting
February 24, 2021

The regular meeting of the Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 with the physical location at Joe R. Williams Building, (East Conference Room), 700 W State St., Boise, Idaho. There was also a teleconference option. The meeting began at 1:30 p.m. (MT). Chairman Betty Coppersmith presided. The following members were present:

Vice Chairman Marc Shigeta
Commissioner Jim Classen

For the record, Vice Chairman Shigeta and Secretary Thomas were present at the physical location. Chairman Coppersmith and Commissioner Classen attended via teleconference. Commissioner Miller was absent.

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Division Administrator's Report

A. Financial Update

Vice Chairman Shigeta inquired about the personnel expenses and why they seem to go up and down. Secretary Thomas explained that the fiscal department manages finances for the department and that he was told that there was an imbalance for month-to-month and that it was a correction the fiscal department made. He explained that if the amount was taken and evened out across the four months, it would be consistent. Vice Chairman Shigeta asked if that was the same with operating expenses and Secretary Thomas responded yes. Chairman Coppersmith asked if there were any known expenses that would be out of the norm in the next few months. Secretary Thomas responded that there are no anticipated increases in expenses for the remaining of the fiscal year. He reminded the Commission that at the end of fiscal year 2020, personnel costs were moved out of the Oil and Gas fund to save costs; he anticipates that the Oil and Gas fund will about break even at the end of the fiscal year.

B. Current Oil and Gas Activity

Commissioner Classen asked if there are any other expected activities to happen in the near future. Secretary Thomas responded that due to the cold spell the country has had in February, natural gas prices shot up which was a boon to Idaho. Secretary Thomas included that the

division does have a docket staff is working through and that there may be additional applications that come but he did not know when or if they would come. Commissioner Classen asked, whether or not the unit has been formed, why it has taken three months before having a hearing. Secretary Thomas responded that the department selected to use the State's Fair Hearings Unit and that the counsel that the department is using as the hearing officer has needed time to get up to speed on Idaho oil and gas law. He included that COVID has also slowed things down and there were some holidays that had occurred as well.

- **CONSENT – ACTION ITEM(S)**

2. **Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2020 – 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 Classen seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

3. **Approval of Minutes – December 9, 2020 – Special 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. Chairman Coppersmith seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Classen asked for clarification that it was on record that he was not in favor of holding the hearing. Chairman Coppersmith responded that she believed that was recorded. Vice Chairman Shigeta also clarified the minutes stated that Commissioner Classen voted nay.

- **REGULAR – ACTION ITEM(S)**

4. **Omnibus Rulemaking - Adoption of Temporary Rule for IDAPA 20.07.02 – Rules Governing Conservation of Oil and Natural Gas in the State of Idaho**

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt as a temporary rule IDAPA 20.07.02 Rules Governing Conservation of Oil and Natural Gas in the State of Idaho that was adopted by the Commission in 2020 and submitted to the 2021 Legislature, with this conditional approval only effective if the rules are not otherwise approved or extended, and authorize the Department to submit a Notice of Adoption of Temporary Rule consistent with that adoption.

DISCUSSION: None.

COMMISSION ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Classen to accept the recommendation as read by Secretary Thomas, pertaining to the approval of the 20.07.02 *Rules Governing the Conservation of Oil and Natural Gas*. Vice Chairman Shigeta seconded the motion. The motion carried on a vote of 3-0.

