



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

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Final Minutes  
Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Regular Meeting  
May 13, 2020

The regular meeting of the Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission was held on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 via teleconference only.<sup>1</sup> The meeting began at 1:03 p.m. Chairman Betty Coppersmith presided. The following members were present:

Vice Chairman Marc Shigeta  
Commissioner Jim Classen  
Commissioner Dustin Miller

For the record, all four Commission members were present via teleconference.

- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Coppersmith announced that Commissioner Renee Love had resigned due to her running for legislative seat. Chairman Coppersmith thanked Commissioner Love for her service.

- 1. Division Administrator's Report**

- A. Financial Update

Commissioner Classen inquired about Secretary Thomas' new job position and how the distribution of personnel is going to affect the budget. Secretary Thomas explained that the integration of the oil and gas program with the minerals and public trust programs was not going to affect the budget for the 2020 fiscal year. Secretary Thomas noted that they are looking into ways to have several of the staff be covered by multiple programs and that the plan was to spread costs and to have resources better managed. Chairman Coppersmith stated she had the same question as Commissioner Classen.

- B. Current Oil and Gas Activity

Commissioner Classen asked where he could find the meeting materials. Secretary Thomas directed him to the location of the meeting materials on the Commission website.

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Governor's proclamation, March 18, 2020.

C. Status Update

i. 2020 Legislative Session

ii. Class II Injection Well – Permit Status

Chairman Coppersmith remarked that while the application was considered complete, the Environmental Protection Agency could still ask for more information. Secretary Thomas responded that was correct.

- iii. Integration of the Resource Protection and Assistance Bureau and the Oil & Gas Program  
Commissioner Classen asked about the Governor's request to reduce budgets by 5%, he asked if we were affected. Secretary Thomas explained that the Department was asked to reduce expenditures by 5%, and that the Department was working on a plan and that all programs will be impacted not just oil and gas. Commissioner Miller followed up that it is a challenging situation for all agencies and the state right now and that the income tax delay is affecting this as well.

• **CONSENT – ACTION ITEM(S)**

**2. Approval of Minutes** – February 5, 2020 – Regular Meeting (Boise)

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

**3. Approval of Minutes** – February 18, 2020 – Special Meeting (Boise)

*CONSENT AGENDA COMMISSION ACTION:* A motion was made by Commissioner Classen 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.

Commissioner Classen inquired if there was any public statement as to why the legislature did not approve the rules. Secretary Thomas asked Commissioner Miller to speak on this. Commissioner Miller explained that the Governor asked that we have a mechanism in place for the agency to approve the rules, he followed up that he did not have a reason why the legislature adjourned without approving the rules. Secretary Thomas followed up with the possibility that the COVID response may have impacted that as there was an urgency to get everyone out of town but that there was no formal answer given as to why the rules were not approved.

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

• **INFORMATION**

**4. Oil & Gas Inspection Methods and Results in the Payette Field following the March 31, 2020 earthquake** – Presented by Dave Schwarz, Geologist, Idaho Department of Lands

