

Meeting Minutes

NMPRC Nominating Committee Meeting

Date: October 23, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present:

- Rikki Seguin (Chair)
- Alonzo Baldonado
- Cydney Beadles
- William Brancard
- Denise Ramonas
- Ron Lovato (Virtual)

PRC Staff Present:

- Chief of Staff: Cholla Khoury
- Human Resources: Sarah Valencia
- IT: Phil Bolton
- Zoom Administrator/Public Information Officer: Patrick Rodriguez
- Project Manager: Jordan Gutierrez

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Rikki Seguin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Member Catherine Nicolaou was absent.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and State Salute

The committee observed the Pledge of Allegiance and State Salute.

3. Consideration and Approval of Agenda

Ms. Ramonas made a *motion* to approve the agenda as posted. *Second motion* comes from William Brancard. The *motion passed unanimously*.

4. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the October 9, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Chair Seguin noted that under item nine, Blessing Chukwu needs to be added to the selected candidate list. Ms. Ramonas made a *motion* to approve the amended minutes. *Second motion* comes from Secretary Baldonado. The *motion passed unanimously*.

5. Announcements

No announcements from staff or committee members.

6. Discussion and/or Potential Action Items

The committee discussed:

- Request for an official opinion on the 10-year professional experience qualification requirement.
- Timeframe allowed for an applicant to change political affiliation.

No formal action was taken, but was requested for this matter to be rolled over to the November 7th meeting.

7. Interviews

The committee conducted interviews with the following candidates:

- **Steve Meyer** at 9:15 a.m.
- **Colin Walcavich** at 10:30 a.m. (Due to this individual not showing up, this interview was cancelled)

8. Lunch Break

The meeting recessed for lunch from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

9. Interviews (Continued)

Afternoon interviews included:

- **Blessing Chukwu** at 1:00 p.m.
- **Flavious Smith** at 2:15 p.m.

Each candidate was assessed based on their qualifications, experience, and vision for the PRC role.

10. Closing Remarks by Chair Including Discussion of Next Steps

Chair Rikki Seguin expressed her gratitude to both the committee members and the staff for their time and commitment. She acknowledged the extensive efforts by the staff in managing the audiovisual setup, preparing the room, and ensuring smooth proceedings throughout the day.

Chair Seguin outlined the upcoming steps:

- **Next Meeting:** The committee will reconvene the following day, October 24, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the same room to continue the interview process.
- **Final Meeting:** The concluding meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2024, at the Capitol. This session will be dedicated to selecting the final candidates to be recommended to the governor for consideration.

Chair Seguin thanked everyone once again for their dedication to the process.

11. Public Comment

Speaker: Justin Garoutte, Climate and Energy Advocate for Conservation Voters New Mexico

Justin Garute expressed gratitude for the transparent and inclusive nominating process for the next PRC Commissioner. After reviewing applications and questionnaire responses from all seven candidates, he highlighted two candidates—Stephen Meyer and Colin Walcavich—as standouts due to their professional and lived experience, which he believes would positively impact PRC decisions over the next six years.

Key Points of Support for Stephen Meyer:

- Resides in Taos County and is a member of the Association of Energy Engineers.
- Has recent and relevant experience in energy efficiency, emphasizing economic justice and environmental sustainability in the energy transition.
- Advocates for considering the full lifecycle of energy sources, their environmental impact, and effects on nearby communities.
- Articulates the link between climate change and public health, showing awareness of how PRC decisions affect community health.
- Supports broadband regulation to ensure equitable internet access across New Mexico.

Key Points of Support for Colin Walcavich:

- Brings a strong background in state and federal regulatory affairs, renewable portfolio standards, and ratepayer equity.
- Advocates for a just energy transition that supports workers and communities during the shift to renewable energy.
- Emphasizes the importance of environmental justice, with meaningful involvement of impacted communities, including New Mexico's 23 sovereign Native American tribes, nations, and pueblos.
- Demonstrates a deep understanding of PRC decisions over the last 20 years and their implications for the state.

Mr. Garute requested that the committee include Stephen Meyer and Colin Walcavich, pending a rescheduled interview for Mr. Walcavich, in the pool of applicants for nomination consideration by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. He concluded by thanking Chair Seguin and the committee for their time and thoughtful consideration of these candidates.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.