

# Meeting Minutes

## **NMPRC Nominating Committee Meeting**

**Date:** October 24, 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. Announcements**

- Background Checks:  
Member William Brancard inquired about the status of background checks discussed at the previous meeting. Sarah Valencia, representing staff, responded that background

verifications are currently underway. She indicated that results should be available to the committee before the November 7 meeting.

- **Candidate Communications:**

Sarah Valencia also announced that she had received emails from candidate Blessing Chukwu, regarding a requested video, and from Flavious Smith, which she planned to forward to the committee members that morning.

Chair Seguin inquired about any communication from candidate Colin Walkovich. Ms. Valencia replied that, unfortunately, no communication from Mr. Walkovich had been received. Chair Seguin noted that, since this was the final scheduled day for interviews, it might not be possible to interview Mr. Walkovich due to the lack of response.

## **5. Interviews**

The committee conducted interviews with the following candidates:

- **Greg Nibert** at 9:15 a.m.
- **James Ellison** at 10:30 a.m.

## **6. Lunch Break**

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

## **7. Public Comment**

**Speaker:** Jim DesJardins, Executive Director of the Renewable Energy Industries Association of New Mexico

Jim DesJardins expressed gratitude to the Nominating Committee for their service and the work being done in the selection process. He noted the association's anticipation of the outcome and thanked the committee for their dedication.

Following Mr. DesJardins' comments, Chair Seguin confirmed with staff member Patrick Rodriguez that there were no additional online public commenters.

Chair Seguin reminded attendees and the public that further input is welcome and encouraged, particularly for the final meeting on November 7, where public comment will be scheduled toward the beginning of the session. This arrangement will allow the committee ample time to consider public feedback before proceeding with decision-making.

## **8. Interviews (Continued)**

Afternoon interviews included:

- **Debra Hicks** at 2:00 p.m.

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

## **9. Public Comment (Continued as Needed)**

Further public comments were allowed if necessary, though no additional commenters were present.

#### **10. Closing Remarks by Chair Including Discussion of Next Steps**

Chair Rikki Seguin expressed her gratitude to the committee and staff for their dedication and hard work throughout the nomination process. She acknowledged the significant time commitment from both the committee members and candidates, commending the team for their preparation and respectful engagement, which she believes was meaningful for the candidates.

Chair Seguin confirmed the completion of all candidate interviews, noting the strong pool of applicants under consideration. She outlined the following next steps:

- The committee will reconvene for the final meeting on **November 7, 2024** at 10:00 a.m. at the Capitol. The specific room location and start time will be confirmed in advance.
- During the November 7 meeting, the committee will decide which candidates to recommend to the governor for her final decision.

Additional points for the November 7 agenda include:

- **Background Check Update:** Staff will provide an update on background verifications, expected to be shared with committee members prior to the meeting.
- **Salary Information:** Pending information from the governor's office, the committee hopes to receive clarity on the salary for the PRC position.
- **Legislative Clarification:** Chair Seguin proposed discussing a plan for pursuing legislative clarity on certain ambiguous terms in the statute, allowing the committee to explore possible approaches for addressing these issues.

The Chair thanked everyone once again for their engagement, noting the importance of conducting a transparent and thoughtful selection process.

#### **11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.