

MID-AMERICA REGULATORY CONFERENCE

MINUTES

April 17, 2020, Virtual Meeting

*Meeting was held by Webex due to COVID-19 Pandemic

The following Commissioners attended the meeting

X	Justin Tate	AR
X	Kim O'Guinn	AR
	Ted Thomas	AR
X	Ethan Kimbrel	IL
X	Sadzi Oliva	IL
	Carrie Zalewski	IL
X	Michael Carrigan	IL
X	Maria Bocanegra	IL
X	Sarah Freeman	IN
X	Jim Huston	IN
X	Stefanie Krevda	IN
X	David Ober	IN
	David Ziegner	IN
	Geri Huser	IA
X	Richard Lozier	IA
X	Nick Wagner	IA
X	Susan Duffy	KS
	Dwight Keen	KS
X	Shari Feist Albrecht	KS
X	Sally Talberg	MI
X	Tremaine Phillips	MI
X	Daniel Scripps	MI
X	Katie Sieben	MN
	Joe Sullivan	MN
X	Matthew Schuerger	MN
	John Tuma	MN

	Valerie Means	MN
X	Maida Coleman	MO
	Jason Holsman	MO
X	William Kenney	MO
	Scott Rupp	MO
	Ryan Silvey	MO
	Rod Johnson	NE
	Crystal Rhoades	NE
X	Mary Ridder	NE
X	Tim Schram	NE
X	Dan Watermeier	NE
	Randy Christmann	ND
	Julie Fedorchak	ND
	Brian Kroshus	ND
X	Bob Anthony	OK
X	Todd Hiatt	OK
X	Dana Murphy	OK
X	Gary Hanson	SD
X	Kristie Fiegen	SD
X	Chris Nelson	SD
X	Shelly Botkin	TX
X	Arthur D'Andrea	TX
X	DeAnn Walker	TX
X	Tyler Huebner	WI
X	Ellen Nowak	WI
X	Rebecca Valcq	WI



President

Daniel C. Scripps, MI

Vice President

Gary Hanson, SD

Treasurer

Sadzi Oliva, IL

Secretary

Katie Sieben, MN

Executive Committee

Ellen Nowak, WI

Arkansas • Illinois • Indiana
 Iowa • Kansas • Michigan
 Minnesota • Missouri • Nebraska
 North Dakota • Oklahoma
 South Dakota • Texas • Wisconsin

The meeting was called to order at 11:15AM by President Scripps.

1. President Scripps

A. Introduction of new commissioners –

- Joseph Sullivan (Minnesota)
- Jason Holsman (Missouri)
- Michael Carrigan (Illinois)

B. MARC Annual Meeting, Grand Rapids Discussion

Currently, Michigan is ranked 3rd highest in the nation for COVID-19 deaths. It seems unlikely or safe to hold the meeting in Grand Rapids in June 2020. Due to contractual agreements already in place, South Dakota will remain the 2021 host. Several scheduling options are –

1. Move the 2020 Michigan meeting to late summer or fall
 2. Cancel the 2020 Michigan meeting *and*
 - South Dakota remains the 2021 host, Michigan hosts 2022, Illinois is bumped back to 2023 and Minnesota is bumped back to 2024 *or*
 - Current meeting schedule starting with 2021 remains the same and Michigan hosts in 2024 *or*
 - Schedule remains the same for 2021 (South Dakota) and 2022 (Illinois), Michigan hosts in 2023, and Minnesota is bumped back to 2024 *or*
 - Cancel the meeting outright
- Commissioner Scripps relayed Commissioner Emeritus Norm Saari's thoughts that if the conference was delayed to late summer or fall, most likely Michigan would lose their sponsors.
 - Commissioner Oliva stated she prefers the Illinois Commission remains as the 2022 host. She pointed out that Illinois was the highest grossing conference in MARC history which would be a financial incentive to keep Illinois the host in 2022, especially if MARC loses money on the Michigan conference.
 - Commissioner Kimbrel stated he is amenable to Michigan hosting in 2022 and moving Illinois back as host since they hosted the event three years ago.
 - Commissioner Sieben stated that the Minnesota Commissioners are willing to host the meeting in 2024 instead of 2023.

- Commissioner Scripps reported the potential for MARC to lose \$100,000 for canceling with the penalty increasing to \$200,000+ if negotiations and an agreement with the hotel are not met by the following week.
- Commissioner Coleman suggested negotiating with the hotel, then making a decision as how to proceed with the Michigan conference.
- Commissioner Duffy stated it is important MARC does not lose the money and said she is agnostic regarding the decision as to what state hosts what year.
- Commissioner Talberg reminded the group that MARC is financially strong but agrees that steps should be taken so MARC does not lose the money.
- Commissioner Anthony suggested MARC bring in NARUC's Michelle Malloy, skilled at hotel negotiations, to help Michigan with some bargaining power.
- Commissioner Wagner stated he thinks the Michigan conference should be canceled, talk with the hotel, then see what comes next.
- Commissioner Huston agrees with Commissioner Wagner and thinks it makes sense to cancel the Michigan conference.
- Commissioner O'Guinn stated she doesn't think there will be as much flexibility with the hotel because of everyone trying to reschedule their meetings.
- Commissioner Zalewski stated Michigan should get more information regarding the hotel before a decision is made.
- Commissioner Freeman wants to make sure we are not pushing the decision and wants Michigan to get more information before a decision is made.
- Commissioner Sieben affirms Minnesota is happy to hold the meeting in 2023 or wait until 2024.
- Consideration – Did Illinois already start making contractual agreements with a hotel or vendors; Commissioner Oliva responded with "No".

The MARC Executive Committee will meet in the next 1-2 weeks. The sense of the MARC directors was to get more information from the hotel to inform MARC's decision on rescheduling the Michigan conference to a future year.

Commissioner Scripps made a motion to cancel the 2020 Annual MARC Conference in Michigan, with the Executive Committee charged with approving a rescheduled Michigan conference based on additional information from the conference venue; Commissioner Tate second; Motion passed unanimously.

- C. In the absence of the Annual Conference, Commissioner Scripps raised the discussion as to how to accommodate the annual election for MARC officers and the Executive Committee.

- Commissioner Wagner said he thinks the MARC bylaws indicate we have to decide leadership at an Annual Meeting.
- MARC will call a Special Annual Meeting for the purposes of holding a leadership election.

2. Vice President Hanson

- A. The South Dakota Commission is moving forward towards hosting the 2021 Annual MARC Meeting, June 12-16, 2021, in Black Hills, South Dakota. The Commission is on track and progressing with their planning.

Plans are set to host the MARC Commissioners Only Conference January 6-10, 2021, at the Hotel Contessa in San Antonio, TX.

3. Treasurer Oliva

- A. No discussion.

4. Secretary Sieben

- A. No discussion.

5. Executive Commissioner Member Nowak

- A. No discussion.

6. Other Business

- A. No discussion.

7. Schedule of Next MARC Meetings

- Annual MARC Meeting 2020 - **CANCELED**
 - Date: June 21-24, 2020
 - Location: Grand Rapids, MI
- NARUC Summer Policy Summit
 - Date: July 20, 2020
 - Location: Boston, MA
- Commissioners Only Conference
 - Date: January 6-10, 2021
 - Location: Hotel Contessa, San Antonio, TX

- Annual MARC Meeting 2021
Date: June 12-16, 2021
Location: Black Hills, SD

8. Adjourn