

# MID-AMERICA REGULATORY CONFERENCE

# MINUTES

November 9, 2020 | Virtual Meeting

The following Commissioners attended the meeting

X	Kim O’Guinn	AR
X	Justin Tate	AR
	Ted Thomas	AR
X	Maria Bocanegra	IL
X	Michael Carrigan	IL
X	D. Ethan Kimbrel	IL
X	Sadzi Oliva	IL
X	Carrie Zalewski	IL
X	Sarah Freeman	IN
X	Jim Huston	IN
X	Stefanie Krevda	IN
X	David Ober	IN
X	David Ziegner	IN
	Geri Huser	IA
X	Richard Lozier	IA
X	Susan Duffy	KS
X	Andrew French	KS
X	Dwight Keen	KS
X	Tremaine Phillips	MI
X	Dan Scripps	MI
X	Sally Talberg	MI
X	Valerie Means	MN
	Matthew Schuerger	MN
X	Katie Sieben	MN
X	Joe Sullivan	MN
	John Tuma	MN

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



**President**

Gary Hanson, SD

**Vice President**

Sadzi Oliva, IL

**Treasurer**

Katie Sieben, MN

**Secretary**

Dan Scripps, MI

**Executive Committee**

Ellen Nowak, WI

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

## 1. Call to Order/ Welcome New Commissioners

The meeting was called to order at 4:30PM PM Eastern Time by Vice President Oliva as President Hanson resolved some technical issues.

During the Call to Order, MARC welcomed the following two new Commissioners:

- Commissioner Andrew French, Kansas Corporation Commission
- Commissioner Joe Sullivan, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

## 2. Minutes and Secretary's Report (Commissioner Scripps)

The minutes from the June 22, 2020 MARC Board meeting were presented.

The minutes, amended to include the participation of Commissioner Murphy (OK), were moved by Commissioner Scripps (MI), seconded by Commissioner Oliva (IL), and adopted by the Board.

## 3. Treasurer's Report (Commissioner Sieben)

The Treasurer's report from June 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020 was presented by Treasurer Sieben. The report shows a decrease in overall net assets by \$24,301 to a current net balance of \$310,430. The Treasurer's report was moved by Commissioner Duffy (KS), seconded by Commissioner Ziegner (IN), and adopted by the Board.

## 4. President's Report (Commissioner Hanson)

- Transition of MARC Accounting Support

President Hanson noted that Cindy Kemnitz is retiring from her role in supporting MARC's accounting needs, and that we will need to identify a replacement. President Hanson shared details of what the job entails, and he was joined by Vice President Oliva and Treasurer Sieben in thanking Ms. Kemnitz for her work on behalf of MARC.

Commissioner Anthony (OK) raised the issue of whether MARC needed an Executive Director who could assist with these and other duties, and noted that a number of the other regional organizations have an Executive Director. Commissioners Coleman (MO) and Kinney (MO) spoke against the concept of a MARC Executive Director.

President Hanson indicated that the Executive Committee would discuss the issue and bring forward a recommendation at a future meeting.

- Input on January Commissioner-only meeting

President Hanson indicated that the responses received in relation the January Commissioner-only meeting showed a sizable majority unable to participate in an in-person event. On this basis, the decision was made to shift the Commissioner-only meeting to a virtual event, running from January 7-9, 2021. President Hanson will explore remedies with the Hotel Contessa, including making use of the force majeure provisions in the contract and/or shifting the contract to a future year.

- Discussion of 2021 MARC Annual Meeting

President Hanson also indicated that some potential sponsors were hesitant to commit to sponsoring the 2021 MARC Annual Meeting in the Black Hills out of concern around participation due to COVID-19. This uncertainty is also impacting conference planning, including concern over incurring additional financial obligations.

Commissioner Fiegen (SD) asked whether Michigan had already committed to a venue for the 2023 MARC Annual Meeting, and whether the same potential to reschedule might be possible for South Dakota. Commissioner Scripps (MI) indicated that a contract for 2023 was in place for the Michigan MARC Annual Meeting. For the 2022 MARC Conference, scheduled for Illinois, Vice President Oliva noted that no contracts were yet in place.

Commissioner Keen (KS) asked whether, given the recent news about a potential vaccine, it might be wise to survey MARC Board members in January regarding their anticipated participation. Such a survey could assist in making determinations about the Conference, and could also be used to reinforce planned participation to potential sponsors.

President Hanson indicated that the Executive Committee would discuss the issue and bring forward a recommendation at a future meeting.

## **5. Vice President's Report (Commissioner Oliva)**

Vice President Oliva has been approached by organizations on topics to be considered for inclusion in the MARC Conference. One option would be to highlight the new Select Committee on Supplier and Workforce Diversity, including the work of investor-owned utilities, similar to the Illinois Utility Business Diversity Council.

## **6. Executive Committee's Report (Commissioner Nowak)**

Commissioner Nowak has been leading efforts to recruit new NARUC Commissioner Ambassadors.

## 7. Old Business

President Hanson reminded Board members that the election of the MARC representative to be NARUC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President is scheduled to take place at the February 2021 NARUC meeting in Washington D.C. The Executive Committee may consider how to adjust the election process if the election needs to be held virtually. President Hanson reiterated the nomination procedures for those seeking to be considered, and the process for assigning a proxy vote, as well as the process for counting ballots:

- Interested persons should notify the MARC Secretary and President if they are interested.
- Notify secretary and president if you are going to have a proxy at least 24 hours ahead of time.
- Candidates for NARUC will need someone to nominate for the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; the candidates will be given an opportunity to speak (five minutes); then the MARC members will vote. Ballots are nonpublic.
- President and Secretary count ballots as long as members from their states are not running.

## 8. New Business

Commissioner Anthony (OK) thanked the other states whose utilities sent mutual assistance crews to assist in restoring power in Oklahoma following the October ice storm.

Commissioner O'Guinn (AR) asked about the timing for Commissioner Talberg (MI) to join the ERCOT Board of Directors, which was recently approved by the Texas Public Utilities Commission, as noted by Commissioner Botkin (TX). Commissioner Talberg noted that she will remain a member of the Michigan Public Service Commission through the end of the year, at which time she will take on her new ERCOT responsibilities.

## 9. Schedule of Upcoming MARC Meetings

- Commissioners Only Summit  
Date: January 7-9, 2021  
Location: Virtual
- MARC Business Meeting at NARUC Winter Meeting  
Date: February 8, 2021  
Location: Washington D.C. (if possible)
- Annual MARC Meeting 2021  
Date: June 12-16, 2021  
Date: Black Hills, SD

## 10. Adjourn

Commissioner Talberg (MI) moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Coleman (MO), and the motion was supported by the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 5:29pm Eastern Time.