

NMPRC NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 9:00 am
State Capitol, Room 309

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

The scheduled meeting of the NMPRC Nominating Committee was called to order on October 11, 2022 at 9:05 a.m. by Chairperson Brian Egolf.

II. ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum in person, as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

The Honorable Brian Egolf, Chairperson
The Honorable Alonzo Baldonado, Secretary
Member Ron J. Lovato [excused]
Member Denise Ramonas
Member Cydney Beadles [arriving later]
Member Rikki Seguin
Member William Brancard [arriving later]

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Member Ramonas moved, seconded by Secretary Baldonado, to approve the agenda as published. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

IV. REPORTS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, KARLA SOLORIA (INFORMATIONAL ITEM)

Ms. Soloria had no questions from the last meeting but stood for questions on the approach to sequestering candidates from interviews which she sent to the members. Mr. Propst informed her this morning that an applicant had inquired about the method for removing an applicant. Ms. Soloria referred to her September 28 memo that addressed that issue. The Commissioners serve at pleasure of the Governor and a Commissioner could be removed by impeachment.

Chair Egolf thanked her for her analysis.

V. REPORT FROM SUB COMMITTEE ON REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS, I (INFORMATIONAL ITEM)

Chair Egolf understood the Commission would vote at this meeting to accept the subcommittee report.

Mr. Propst agreed. The Committee will report and offer public opportunity to comment and then the Committee may approve sending the questionnaire as action item.

Member Seguin reported that the subcommittee met and their presentation was simple. They developed a list of applicants whom they recommended be moved to the next step. They reviewed 62 applications and recommended further consideration of 23 names which she listed. She also proposed that the questionnaire only be sent to those the Committee recommends for an interview after the questionnaires are evaluated. The Committee may want to add or subtract from the list. One applicant sent the application to the wrong address and was not discussed by the subcommittee.

Chair Egolf proposed the questionnaire be sent to those applicants right away and request that they return to PRC Staff their responses by Friday for review by the subcommittee to recommend who on that list should be interviewed.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT ON REPORT FROM SUB COMMITTEE

Jim Desjardins, Executive Director of the Renewable Energy Industry Association of New Mexico, thanked the Committee for their hard work. He noted the list of names read included some he thought would be good Commissioners. In the first meeting here, a man from SPS said the Commissioners must be adept working in a world of change. Lots of technology is happening and what can happen is that the providers could inject energy into the grid. It will be interesting to see how that will play out. Thank you.

Tom Solomon, Coordinator of 350 New Mexico, an organization that advocates for rapid solutions for the climate crisis, urged the Committee to prioritize those who are well aware of the climate crisis and are willing to act boldly to address it. New Mexico is significantly hotter than in the 20th century, with extreme drought and wild fires. Two fires this year burned over 667,000 acres in New Mexico. That is just one recent example of how it happens. Florida and Texas also felt it this year. There has been dangerous warming in just seven years. And the worst effects now seen, are just one aspect. New Mexico must build out renewable energy to replace fossil fuel sources. The overseeing of that buildout is in the

scope of the PRC. Please consider those who will prioritize that solution to preserve life on earth, and will act accordingly. Thank you.

There were no other public comments.

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE (ACTION ITEM)

Committee members had a copy of the questionnaire. They discussed what editing was needed, including possibly merging some similar questions into one question and also discussed whether to offer guidance on length of the response. The Committee agreed to ask the applicants to respond in 2,500 words or less.

Member Ramonas moved, seconded by Member Seguin, to approve the questionnaire with guidance to respond with 2,500 words or less. The motion was approved without opposition.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES TO RECEIVE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE (ACTION ITEM)

Chair Egolf asked for the pleasure of the Committee.

Secretary Baldonado moved, seconded by Chair Egolf to send the questionnaire to each of the 23 applicants identified earlier in the meeting.

Member Seguin said, having seen the application for the one sent to wrong address, wanted to add that candidate, Cholla Khoury, to the list for 24 applicants.

Chair Egolf ask for any objection to add that name to the list. There were no objections.

Chair Egolf added her name as an amendment to the motion, to send the questionnaire to those 24 applicants. The motion was approved without objection.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Egolf asked for a notice on the website that gives those 24 names still being considered.

Mr. Propst agreed. Staff has already prepared a draft email for sending this morning.

He quickly reviewed the meeting schedule and items for the agenda. He also shared the room numbers for the future meetings.

Chair Egolf clarified that the same subcommittee would continue their work in the selection process.

Member Ramonas gave her joke of the day. Tweethearts.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Having completed the agenda and with no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Approved by:

Brian Egolf, Chair

Date