

NMPRC NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 9:00 am
State Capitol, Room 309

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the NMPRC Nominating Committee was scheduled to convene on November 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 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
Member Denise Ramonas
Member Cydney Beadles
Member Rikki Seguin
Member William Brancard [arriving later]

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Secretary Baldonado moved, seconded by Member Ramonas, 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)

There was no report from the Attorney General's Office.

V. CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

The Committee began interviewing the last seven candidates at this meeting.

Brian Moore

Mr. Moore introduced himself. He operates a grocery store in Clayton New Mexico and has formerly served in the New Mexico Legislature.

Mr. Moore responded to questions from the Committee.

In response to a question about what skills he would like to see in the other two Commissioners, he said he would like them to know what was going on in utilities around the State.

Mr. Moore preferred to serve a two-year term.

His interview concluded at 9:39 a.m.

The Committee recessed at 9:40 a.m. and reconvened at 9:58 a.m.

Joseph D. Little

Mr. Little introduced himself. He grew up on the Mescalero Apache Reservation. His mother was from Ohkay Owingeh. His wife is from San Felipe and New Mexico is his home and will be from now on. He has done work for the federal government and has been in private practice with the tribes. He would like to be part of this work at the PRC. His home is in Taos, and he has worked with tribes all his life, and part of it as their General Counsel.

Mr. Little responded to questions from the Committee.

He would like to see the other two Commissioners not be attorneys but have experience in utilities and someone who is involved in the mechanics of the regulation and financing aspect.

Member Brancard arrived at 10:12 a.m.

Mr. Little was asked to describe his role in legal efforts of the tribes. He shared the work in overturning the 1935 Pueblo Lands Act to provide more self determination of the tribes, including the right to file trespass claims and sue for easement fees. The Commission needs to honor the tribal sacred sites in the regulation of utilities.

Mr. Little had no particular preference on length of term but knew it takes at least two years to start getting things accomplished. I would be happy with any of them. Most of my careers have been around five years.

His interview concluded at 10:40 a.m.

Member Beadles disclosed a potential conflict for the next interviewee but felt it would not bias her conclusions.

The Committee recessed at 10:43 a.m. and reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

Patrick O'Connell

Mr. O'Connell did not make an introductory statement, but acknowledged he was a civil engineer.

If selected, he would like the other two Commissioners to have a strong legal background and a strong financial background.

Mr. O'Connell preferred a longer than two-year term or would try to be reappointed if he was appointed for two years.

His interview was concluded at 11:50 a.m.

The Committee recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

Jeffrey H. Peace

Mr. Peace introduced himself and shared his educational history and work experience mostly in the gas and oil industry. Has watched PRC for several years especially with the San Juan Generation Station and its closure. He has three children and a few grandchildren, all of whom live in New Mexico.

Mr. Peace responded to questions from the Committee.

If he was selected, He wanted one of the other Commissioners to be an attorney and the other one to have a grasp of the economics and rates to complement his engineer background.

Mr. Peace said he would accept a two-year appointment.

His interview concluded at 1:55 p.m. and the Committee took a five-minute break and reconvened at 2:04 p.m.

Amy Stein

Ms. Stein was interviewed remotely.

Ms. Stein introduced herself as a law professor at the University of Florida and had been involved in academia for 12 years. Prior to that, she was in practice with a large law firm on environmental litigation, practicing in Washington DC and Dallas. She was searching for ways to give back in public service. She spent summers working for various branches of government and saw this as an opportunity to serve the public interest.

She responded to questions from the Committee.

She explained that she is a full-time resident of New Mexico, and she commutes weekly to her job at the University of Florida.

As an attorney, Ms. Stein, if selected, hoped for the other Commissioners to be an economist and an engineer.

Ms. Stein preferred a two-year term.

Her interview ended at 2:47 p.m.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Propst shared a draft agenda for the final Committee and asked for suggestions to change.

Member Beadles asked to move public comment up on the agenda.

Member Brancard asked for clarification on how the Committee would make the recommendations to the Governor.

Chair Egolf said he would entertain motions and a motion with one or more names to submit to the Governor and on how many names to submit. A majority of four or more members would approve the names to be submitted. He didn't want to constrain what any member could vote on. The Committee should leave all options open and have a motion on how to do it.

The Committee members suggested and discussed several methods for finalizing the recommendations. Several corrections to the spreadsheet were made.

Ms. Kepler said she would provide a corrected spreadsheet prior to the final meeting.

The Committee agreed to determine the process as the first item of business at the final meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Approved by:

Brian Egolf, Chair

Date