

**MINUTES**  
**ARKANSAS ALTERNATIVE ENERGY COMMISSION**  
**[Established by ACT 1301 of 2009]**  
**State Capitol, Room 171, Little Rock, Arkansas**  
**Thursday, June 16, 2016**

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The Arkansas Alternative Energy Commission (AAEC) met Thursday, June 16, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 171 of the State Capitol in Little Rock, Arkansas.

**Commission members in attendance:** Warren Allen, Chair; Stan Berry, Jay Caspary, Don Crabbe, David Dodge, Audrey House, Gregory Perkins, Rita Potts and Jessica Sabin.

**Commission member using conference call:** Rod Krug.

Mr. Allen called the meeting to order.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 18, 2016, MEETING MINUTES. [EXHIBIT C]**

**Ms. House made a motion to approve the February 18, 2016, minutes as written, and with a second by Ms. Potts, the motion carried.**

**Mr. Michael Feehan, Legislative Attorney, Bureau of Legislative Research, [EXHIBIT D]** explained *Act 2 of the Third Extraordinary Session* created a sunset date for the AAEC of September 30, 2017. The Speaker and Pro Tempore appointees' terms will end December 31, 2016. Due to the fact that it will be a new General Assembly in January 2017, those positions will be up for appointment. The Arkansas General Assembly uses *Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure*, which provides the quorum follows actual membership. The commission can keep functioning even if legislative-appointed members are not reappointed, as long as all the gubernatorial appointees are present at every meeting. The sunset dates are always set after the next regular session which allows the General Assembly time to reconsider the expiration dates.

After discussion, Mr. Allen stated the AAEC would like to continue and work to change the sunset date. He noted the AAEC needs to justify its accomplishments and look at December 2016 as the report date for the 2015-2016 commission. He also mentioned that the commissioners need to contact their respective legislative appointers and let them know if you would like to be re-appointed.

**Ms. House made a motion to continue the AAEC and have a bill to strike the sunset date. Mr. Caspary seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

**AAEC STRATEGIC DIRECTION PER ACT 2**

Commissioners will contact legislators regarding background on establishing the expiration date. Ms. Sabin will speak with Senators Rice and Irvin. Ms. House will speak with Representative Gossage, and Mr. Berry will speak with Representative Branscum and Senator Rice. Ms. House and Ms. Sabin will draft a document highlighting the commission's benefits and accomplishments.

**REVIEW OF AAEC MEETING RESEARCH SUBJECTS**

Mr. Allen reviewed commission activities since October 2015:

- October 22, 2015 – Andrew Lachowsky - Overview of Clean Power Plan
- November 19, 2015
  - Attorney General Leslie Rutledge discussed consumer advocacy and two bio-mass projects, one in Monticello and the other in Pine Bluff.
  - David Dodge discussed energy conservation.
- December 10, 2015
  - Mr. Gene Higginbotham, Director, Arkansas Waterways, explained the usage and importance of hydropower in Arkansas.
  - Mr. John Bethel, Director, Arkansas Public Service Commission, referenced energy efficiency programs in Arkansas.
  - Mr. Mitchell Simpson, Director, Arkansas Energy Office, discussed Arkansas Energy Office Programs.
- February 18, 2016
  - Ms. Tori Gordon, Policy Advisor to the Governor, conveyed the Governor's requests regarding advocacy in usage of compressed natural gas (CNG) and to make recommendations for funding the conversion of state-owned fleet vehicles.
  - Mr. Stuart Spencer, Deputy Director of Air Quality, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, presented an overview of combined heat and power as well as biomass.

## **DISCUSSION OF SUBJECTS FOR RESEARCH**

Ms. House explained she does not consider CNG a good alternative. Conservation and efficiency are a better approach. Ms. Sabin would like to hear from someone who can discuss different alternative energy trends across the United States and compare the good with the bad. She would also like to learn more about distributed generation.

Mr. Dodge mentioned that solar energy is a viable source and when combined with other sources it enhances efficiency. He will make some contacts for additional information.

## **NEXT MEETING DATES**

The commission will meet: July 28, August 25, September 29, October 27, and December 8, 2016.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION FROM COMMISSIONERS AND PUBLIC ATTENDEES**

**Mr. John Bethel, Director, Public Service Commission**, mentioned that the utilities have filed their three-year energy efficiency programs; therefore the review process is underway. The PSC is also assessing distributed generation to decide if there is a need for policy or legislative changes.

**Mr. Bobby Ampezon**, Reporter/Editor, Arkansas Public Media, KUAR of University of Arkansas in Little Rock, KASU of Jonesboro, KUAF of Fayetteville, explained they are a voice for journalism with a goal to cover energy from every corner such as, energy sourcing, coal, nuclear, hydro, energy policy, as well as state aid for low income consumers.

Ms. Potts suggested meeting with the Arkansas Recycling Coalition. She will make an inquiry for contacts and information.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.