

# Railbelt Reliability Council Implementation Committee - Meeting

May 10, 2021

## Final Minutes (Approved by IC 5/17/2021)

### 1) Roll-call

The meeting was held via Zoom, was called to order at 1:15 pm, and was chaired by SS, then JE.

Primary		Alternate		Organization
Brian Hickey (BH)	Y1	Jeff Warner (JWR)	n	Chugach Electric Association
John Burns (JB)	Y	Frank Perkins (FP)	Y	Golden Valley Electric Association
Rick Baldwin (RB)	Y	Dan Chay (DC)	Y	Homer Electric Association
Julie Estey (JE)	Y2	Ed Jenkin (EJ)	Y	Matanuska Electric Association
Lou Florence (LF)	Y3	Shayne Coiley (SC)	n	Doyon Utilities
Dave Burlingame (DB)	Y4	Rob Montgomery (RM)	n	City of Seward
Kirk Warren (KW)	Y	Curtis Thayer (CT)	n	Alaska Energy Authority
Suzanne Settle (SS)	Y	Sam Dennis (SD)	Y	Cook Inlet Regional Inc.
Joel Groves (JG)	Y	Mike Craft (MC)	Y5	Alaska Environmental Power, LLC
Veri di Suvero (VDS)	Y6	Alyssa Sappenfield (ASF)	n	Alaska Public Interest Research Group
Chris Rose (CR)	Y	Greg Stiegel (GS)	n	Renewable Energy Alaska Project
Hank Koegel (HK)	Y	David Newman (DN)	n	Unaffiliated seat
<i>Jeff Waller (JWL)</i>	Y7	<i>Janet Fairchild-Hamilton (JFH)</i>	n	<i>Regulatory Affairs and Public Advocacy</i>
<i>Bob Pickett (BP)</i>	n	<i>Antony Scott (AS)</i>	n	<i>Regulatory Commission of Alaska</i>

Y: Attending n: Not attending v: seat is vacant

Y1: BH joined at 1:25 PM.

Y2: JE joined at approximately 2:00 PM.

Y3: LF left at approximately 2:15 PM and rejoined at approximately 2:20 PM.

Y4: DB joined at approximately 1:45 PM.

Y5: MC joined at approximately 1:20 PM and left at approximately 1:42 PM.

Y6: VDS left at approximately 1:42 PM and rejoined at approximately 1:50 PM.

Y7: JWL was present throughout the meeting, but briefly absent for several short instances.

Steve Mahoney (SM) present; Tom Lovas (TL) joined at approximately 1:20 PM.

Rebecca Sexton-Kelly (RSK) and Bayunt Ollek (BO) with Sapere present.

Seth Blumsack (SB) and Stephanie Lenhart (SL) not present.

10 of 12 voting members are initially present, no ex-officio members are initially present.

### 2) Approval of Agenda

**MOTION** to approve today's agenda, 1JB, 2HK.

EJ asked that ExCom and AppCom be moved up on agenda to accommodate MEA's 3PM board meeting. No objections.

**PASSED** as amended with no objections. [10-0-2].

### 3) Approval of May 3 Meeting Minutes

**MOTION** to approve 5/3/2021 meeting minutes, 1VDS, 2JG.

**PASSED** with no objections [10-0-2].

### 4) Mediation Process Update

SS advised IC of Blythe Marston's (BM)'s email from Friday 5/7, directing all IC members to provide answers to questions by 5/13 and circulate to full IC for discussion at normal IC meeting on Monday 5/17 and in-person meeting on 5/18 at AEA.

MC asked if the 5/18 meeting will have remote participation capability. RSK said that was intent, AEA confirmed they can support that.

DC will most likely be unavailable for 5/17 and 5/18.

EJ is off starting 5/18, JE can represent MEA.

SS is out that week, completely unavailable.

*[BH joined at 1:25 PM, 11 of 12 voting members present.]*

LF is OK with virtual attendance on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

RSK emphasized BM's requested input and discussion process. Some significant effort is requested for all, and especially BySub. Emphasized schedule conflict for 5/17, asked Chairs for input on 5/17 agenda items. Advised she is on vacation Wednesday 5/12 to Wednesday 5/19.

## **5) Workplan Check-In**

RSK provided overview of schedule and status. Emphasized 8/2 target date for 1<sup>st</sup> draft application. Noted apparent conflict for several Subcommittees work schedule. Clarified that AppCom will need narrative content for draft application by 8/2, full body of attachment (such as completed Bylaws) can come a bit later if necessary.

SS reviewed BySub status – all the polices (~9) to do, plus narrative. Emphasized that IC Bylaws review/approval process needs to become more efficient.

SD underscored urgency. He is reviewing regulations, there are materials in regulations that Bylaws do not address as yet. BySub will need to adjust IC process, status quo will not meet the required timeframe.

RSK raised question of whether monthly report exercise is useful for IC members.

*[VDS, MC left at 1:42 PM, 10 of 12 voting members present.]*

RB, BH, SS advised weekly verbal updates from Subcommittees are more useful than written monthly reports. Advocated for schedule-driven guidance.

*[DB joined at approximately 1:45 PM, 11 of 12 voting members present.]*

RSK will consider exporting Gantt schedule excerpts to Subcommittee Chairs and folding back into schedule as more efficient reporting cycle. Current workplan is based off of charter language, so Subcommittees will need to provide additional schedule granularity this month.

SS advised Subcommittee Chairs should inform Sapere if additional milestones should be added to the high-level Subcommittee milestones chart and

*[VDS rejoined at approximately 1:50 PM, 12 of 12 voting members present.]*

## **6) IC Budget Check-in**

JG presented updated IC budget for consideration. Explained this was the IC budget for expenditures up to ERO application filing this October. Budget is organized first by IC-approved contracts / NTEs (~70% of budget total), placeholder budgets that have not yet been fully developed (~30% of budget total and contingency (~10% of budget total). BudCom charter calls for IC budget approval, advised IC can approve as is, or can revisit this on 5/17 or 5/24 depending on level of comment / desire of IC.

SS asked what the variance from the prior budget was. JG clarified BudCom had not issued a prior IC budget. It had issued a year-one RRC budget back in September 2020 for \$2.4 million but that was for the first year of the RRC ERO post-approval. IC budgeting to date has been entirely contract and task driven with no top-level budget defined due to the lack of clarity about required costs.

EJ clarified that TarCom's placeholder budget is zero because the Energy Resource and Economics (ERE) contract entry reflects TarCom's approved scope and NTE with ERE. JG affirmed this is correct, and that other, as-yet unapproved additional work scopes for ERE would come from other committee's placeholder budgets and would move to ERE's total as they are approved by the IC. JG raised the question of whether TarCom may need a tariff attorney to support the committee / ERE to complete its application content. EJ advised that remained possible but he did not yet know. JG affirmed that to be one of the known unknowns under the contingency budget item, illustrative of the level of development behind the IC budget.

EJ asked whether anyone had gone through the draft regs with regard to budgeting. Mentioned TarCom has started to do so (focusing on Tariff requirements), and identified the required Tariff completion plan and budget as something they will take on. Also regs call for a significant amount of content that is not specified in AppCom's existing list, wondering how that will be updated.

VDS informed that they are working on developing a public process committee to handle that facet of the regulations and are ready to propose Committee formation. SS requested deferral until after the budget item is concluded.

**MOTION** to approve the IC budget as presented. 1BH, 2VDS.

EJ clarified the IC is approving a budget with placeholders, asked for clarification on what this means. SS acknowledged this point and clarified that the budget is advisory for informational purposes, and the IC will continue to authorize specific contracts as they are brought forward by Subcommittees.

**PASSED** with no objections [12-0-0].

**MOTION** to create an ad-hoc committee to address public processes and open meetings 1VDS, 2MC.

SD this committee would include drafting the open meetings policy? VDS yes, and more broadly, work to coordinate all public processes so they are as coherent and uniform as appropriate within the regulatory requirements.

EJ clarified VDS will try to make the various processes as uniform as possible so the RRC doesn't have multiple unique processes. VDS yes, exactly.

BH ditto EJ. Try to produce a single policy that applies to all functions. Such as IRP, Standards, Tariff.

SS added to that also board meetings, other matters.

JWL also consider, policy may need to be articulated both within Tariff and Bylaws. VDS yes, thanks.

**PASSED** with no objections [12-0-0].

*[JE joined at approximately 2:00 PM, 12 of 12 voting members present]*

SS appointed VDS as chair, JWL, JE, MC as members.

*[SS transferred chair to JE.]*

## **7) Joint Comments Discussion**

JWR absent today, SS led discussion. In process of review, question arose on whether individual Subcommittees should be allowed to draft comments for the RCA.

JE advised her doodle poll for a reg comment discussion time was converging on Monday AM. Represents another opportunity for coordinated comment and/or cross pollination.

CR noble idea, but physically impossible with 20-day comment window. If some think they can do this, what does it say for other people in process. SS clarified, concept was that if a Subcommittee reached consensus, then they would be allowed to file comments as the IC Subcommittee. CR felt that was problematic. JE concurred, not enough time to coordinate it.

JG agreed it's a noble and desirable idea, but time is short. Concern also is that IC hasn't delegated authority to Subcommittees, this would be a departure from that precedent. Suggest that if Subcommittees see comments worth making, they draft them and route to the IC for approval.

BH agreed that there may be some areas where things can't be done. But if there are some simple things that we can all agree to then maybe we can get that done quickly.

EJ if Subcommittees see opportunity for comment, raise them to IC so IC and/or individuals can make comments on their own.

*[LF left at approximately 2:15 PM, 11 of 12 voting members present.]*

JWL RAPA has no problems with anyone filing a comment. Individuals, subgroups, etc. Regarding joint comments, implicitly a big challenge. Have been going through regs looking for problems / issues. Recommend interests reiterate all their concerns in post-draft comments to make sure they are seen.

*[LF rejoined at approximately 2:20 PM, 12 of 12 voting members present.]*

JE reluctance to do coordinated IC response, but Subcommittees should bring suggestions to IC for prompt decision / action. Others can individually choose to comment as they may desire.

## **8) Brief Committee Updates**

StanCom: DB gave update. Good progress. Review process is done, started on CMEP. Started at NERC CMEP, JWR and LF working to adapt to Railbelt. LF concurred. No questions.

TarCom: EJ gave update. TarCom did brief walk-through of regs, in particular application part. No major issues identified. Some areas changed, will need to adjust to those. Went through ERO task map, need to figure out how to communicate our ID'd changes back to map owner. In particular

Section 6, certain things need to be in Tariff, and a specific plan / budget to finish the Tariff, as previously stated. Example, 2.3.2, not sure that is a Tariff Committee task. Will need to coordinate assignments to committees. Also building more detailed schedule.

JE advised please send out email(s) to AppCom with changes to Committee assignments. TOC is still the starting point, with map to Subcommittees and end deliverables for each. SD suggested color coding or annotating regs with Subcommittee assignments rather than building a separate outline as this will retain the full nuance of the regulations language. JE concurred. EJ concurred, things that need to be in Tariff, but that we don't expect to draft - will need to coordinate these.

IRPcom: DB good progress. Have draft RFP for a consultant to develop an IRP process. Will review Wednesday, to present to IC on 5/17. Have punted public process to refer to policy consistent with today's meeting guidance. JWL do you see IRP public process requiring anything special? DB regs say member of public should be able to serve on a Subcommittee. Need to delineate comment vs member.

JG asked if a consultant short lists exists? DB not really, some names popped up from extensive review of existing IRPs, but no favored short list. Most IRPs are prepared by a multi-firm team due to range of expertise required. RSK, this is critical path so need to review RFP on 5/17 if its ready.

JE asked if there was anything that jumped out from detailed regulations review so far? DB limited review to date but have noted that regs don't require IRP to conform to the standards. Flagged that as an issue.

BySub: SD keep on keeping on. Working on new process. JE please reorient IC on current homework. SD BySub has comments from last meeting in our to do list. Concluded we need a more serial process, two parallel review cycles was just too confusing for everyone.

JE in addition to Bylaws, also have policies coming up. SM has started some of them. Need to decide which are needed for Application, which will be defined by current regulations mapping effort.

RSK asked about mediation questions from BM. SD circulated draft response to committee, waiting on responses, will review and finalize Wednesday.

BudCom: JG April expense report in works, will be issued upon receipt of April invoices. BudCom's other big tasks, RRC budget / org chart etc, are still mostly on hold as they will be driven by TAC, RRC staffing, and related matters that will come out of mediation, final bylaws, etc. We have reviewed AppCom's high level assignments, still need to dive into regs to ID other assignments. Hoping to follow AppCom's work on detailed assignment rather than duplicate it.

ExCom: JE looking at workplan, mediation, overall IC processes to make sure we are moving in the right direction.

AppCom: JE meeting this afternoon. Big thing is the regulation mapping to application. Next biggie for us is resource needs. May have a proposal for 5/17, or if needed defer to 5/24.

## 9) Updates / Member Comments

VDS: have a new alternate, Alyssa Sappenfield, AKPIRG staff. Hopefully can be more involved. JE offered ExCom for orientation if needed, emphasized alternate reassignment is at AKPIRG's

discretion. RSK restated will send to do list tomorrow with new e-mail distribution list including Alyssa and excluding RCA commissioners to avoid ex parte conflicts now that the draft regs are posted.

### 10) May 17 Meeting Agenda

RSK advised BM wants to be flexible, check in to make sure she has her comments etc. BO will ask Subcommittee Chairs what they need on the agenda for 5/17.

JG suggested queue up full agenda for 5/17, recognizing that mediation will take precedence. This will allow us to make maximum progress if the opportunity presents itself. RSK concurred, perhaps with the exception of IRPcom's RFP review / approval as that is critical path.

JWL is there a mediation headcount? I do plan to attend. KW clarified that AEA can accommodate six-foot separation etc. They cannot ask about vaccination status. Smattering of members confirmed intent to attend in-person meeting. 9 total, so about ½ of IC attendees.

The May 17<sup>th</sup> IC meeting agenda will include:

- Blythe Marston Homework Responses
- StanCom Final Standards Development Process Approval
- IRPcom RFP Approval

### 11) Adjourn

**MOTION** to adjourn, 1BH, 2DB.

**ADJOURNED** at 3:00 PM.

### DEFINITION OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

All committee members are identified by their initials, as defined in the roll call table.

1JE, 2JG.	Shorthand designating which committee members proposed and seconded motions.
[~]:	Secretary's commentary provided for clarity / context as appropriate.
	Vote tally shorthand is Y-N-A, yea – nay – absent or abstain.
AppCom	ERO application subcommittee
BudCom:	budget subcommittee
BySub:	bylaws subcommittee
CEA:	Chugach Electric Association, Inc.
CPCN:	certificate of public convenience and necessity
DU:	Doyon Utilities
ERO:	Electric Reliability Organization
ExCom:	executive committee
IC:	Implementation Committee
IRP:	integrated resource plan
IRPcom:	integrated resource plan process subcommittee
LSE:	load-serving entity

MEA: Matanuska Electric Association, Inc.  
NDA: non-disclosure agreement  
NTE: not to exceed  
PM: project management  
PMP: project management professional  
RAPA: Regulatory Affairs and Public Advocacy  
RCA: Regulatory Commission of Alaska  
RRC: Railbelt Reliability Council  
SB: Senate bill  
SOW: scope of work  
StanCom: standards subcommittee.  
TarCom: tariff subcommittee

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Approved IC budget.

ATTACHMENT 1/1 (1 PAGE)

IC BUDGET AND CASH FLOW PROJECTION

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE OF THE RAILBELT RELIABILITY COMMITTEE

BUDGET AND CASH FLOW PROJECTION

FROM IC FORMATION THROUGH TO FILING AN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION APPLICATION WITH THE REGULATORY COMMISSION OF ALASKA IN OCTOBER 2021.

Approved by IC on 5/10/2021 [12-0-0 vote]

5/10/2021

	2020												2021												CONTRACT TOTALS											
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr		May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct					
CONTRACTED / (placeholder); BUDGET ITEMS																																				
E (MANLEY AND BRAUTIGAM (Steve Mahoney)	\$1,880	\$3,400	\$8,995	\$14,875	\$7,960	\$31,740	\$18,000	\$22,000	\$22,928	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$5,122																							\$156,800	
E (SAFIRE			\$4,933	\$36,055	\$27,683	\$29,925	\$27,600	\$26,058	\$28,205	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$20,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$30,430	\$983,140	
E (ENERGY & RESOURCE ECONOMICS (Tom Lovas)																																				\$90,000
E (MARSTON (Mediation)																																			\$40,000	
P (AppCom support contract placeholder - TBD)																																			\$100,000	
P (Biosid support contract placeholder - TBD)																																			\$15,000	
P (Biosid support contract placeholder - TBD)																																			\$50,000	
P (Biosid support contract placeholder - TBD)																																			\$100,000	
P (ScanCom support contract placeholder - TBD)																																			\$40,000	
P (ScanCom support contract placeholder - TBD)																																			\$0	
P (PulseProcessCom support contract placeholder - TBD)																																			\$10,000	
P (COMINGLECT @ 10%)																																		\$100,000		
<b>TOTAL BUDGET ESTIMATE</b>	<b>\$1,880</b>	<b>\$3,400</b>	<b>\$13,928</b>	<b>\$50,930</b>	<b>\$35,643</b>	<b>\$61,165</b>	<b>\$52,000</b>	<b>\$63,958</b>	<b>\$59,433</b>	<b>\$100,430</b>	<b>\$132,990</b>	<b>\$138,052</b>	<b>\$122,990</b>	<b>\$117,990</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$110,480</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$1,064,940</b>			

NOTES

1. Actual IC expenses August 2020 through March 2021.
2. Projected IC expenses April through October 2021.
3. This budget does not include ODT expenses such as AES from May 2020 or APA for web services.
4. This budget is advisory in nature. All contracts / expenses are subject to separate IC approval. Existing IC-approved contracts are designated by an "E" preceding the line item, and are organized by contractor. A given contractor may be supporting multiple IC subcommittees. Placeholder budgets are in Italics, are designated by a "P" preceding the line item, and are organized by IC subcommittee.