



2020 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting | Zoom
Tuesday, September 29, 2020

The Honorable Kevin Stitt, Governor of Oklahoma and the Southern States Energy Board's (SSEB) Chairman, called the Board's annual business meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. EDT on Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

Governor Stitt welcomed participants to SSEB's 60th Annual Board Business Meeting.

He commended the Board's staff for continuing its progress on current projects and programs despite the hurdles created by the coronavirus pandemic. He further stated, "Energy is our nation's fuel that powers all we do as a society: our quality of life, public health, the environment, and economic development depend on affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy resources.

Governor Stitt addressed the stifling of businesses involved in or benefitting from fossil fuels and stated that higher energy prices and fewer choices will impact our most distressed communities, which is why SSEB is an "all-of-the-above" organization. He stated that, like SSEB, Oklahoma encourages and supports the responsible production of all energy sources as well as the efficient and safe transportation of these fuels to markets.

The governor welcomed new members to the board, and said he looks forward to meeting in person next year. Governor Stitt then handed the meeting over to Rep. Rocky Miller, of Missouri, for the Nominating Committee report.

Nominating Committee Report and Confirmation Vote

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Rep. Rocky Miller, presented the Report of the Nominating Committee. Rep. Miller nominated new officers and executive committee for 2020-2021 as follows:

For Chairman:	Governor J. Kevin Stitt, Oklahoma
For Vice Chairman:	Representative Lynn Smith, Georgia
For Treasurer:	Representative William E. "Bill" Sandifer, III, South Carolina
Member, Executive Committee:	Governor Asa Hutchinson, Arkansas
Member, Executive Committee:	Governor John Bel Edwards, Louisiana

Member, Executive Committee: Representative John Ragan, Tennessee
Member, Executive Committee: Representative Howard Sanderford, Alabama
Member, Executive Committee: Senator Brandon Smith, Kentucky
Member, Executive Committee: Senator Ken Yager, Tennessee

The Board adopted the slate of officers by acclamation, and Governor Stitt congratulated the new members of the Executive Committee.

Vice Chair's Report

Representative Lynn Smith, of Georgia, provided an overview on legislative matters in the SSEB region. She began by noting how the pandemic has affected our member states greatly, yet, despite that, SSEB garnered a record number of project grants this year. She also noted this year's creation of a proposed resolutions subcommittee in order to streamline the resolution proposal and approval process ahead of the annual business meeting.

Representative Smith then detailed the findings of the Southern States Energy Board's 2020 Energy and Environment Digest, a compendium of laws passed by our members within the previous year. The pandemic resulted in an unusually low amount of energy and environment bills being passed, Smith said. Several states passed bills related to COVID-19 response in the form of increased broadband deployment via existing utility infrastructure. Smith noted the importance of a reliable internet connection when telework, telemedicine, and distance learning are new norms.

Smith ended her report by thanking the board for its attendance. Governor Stitt then introduced Representative Sandifer to give the Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's Report and Budget Vote

Representative William E. "Bill" Sandifer of South Carolina offered the Treasurer's Report, including a summary of the Board's finances for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.

He began his address with a presentation that included a slide on the state/territory appropriations schedule and the formula that determines how much each member jurisdiction pays. He also stressed that there have been no increases in these appropriations since 1987. The financial support received from our member states makes it possible for SSEB to provide direct monetary and economic benefits to our region that far exceed the appropriations paid by our member states and territories.

He stated that the Board's annual audit, to be performed by Bennett Thrasher of Atlanta, Georgia, began September 8th and includes the single audit required by the Office of Management and Budget for non-profit organizations receiving \$750,000 or more in federal funding. The audited financial statements will be mailed to all Board Members before the year's end, he said.

SSEB ended fiscal year 2020 with a net fund balance of more than \$1.8 million. He noted that SSEB has not asked for or increased its state appropriations for more than 30 years. He also reported that the Board maintains a line of credit with SunTrust Bank. The line of credit has not been activated for the past 28 years.

In fiscal year 2020, the Board provided \$5.3 million in sub-grant funding to 31 Universities and State Agencies to support state, industry, and federal research projects awarded to the Board. Our most valued accomplishment is that we provide these direct economic benefits to our member states, Representative Sandifer said. Sandifer noted that SSEB was recently awarded six new projects valued at more than \$55 million.

The proposed budget for 2020-2021 was provided to members. The budget is based on the projected income from state appropriations, grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, associate membership dues, and sponsorships received for the annual meeting and other events. The budget also includes a projection for state subgrants to our member states. This estimate is subject to change and increase based on our technical project's spend plan.

The proposed budget and finances for the coming fiscal year were adopted by acclamation.

Federal Representative's Remarks

The Board's Federal Representative, The Honorable Eddie Joe Williams, provided remarks focused on his work with SSEB and the federal government, primarily the U.S. Department of Energy.

Since the previous annual meeting, Williams stated he has continued his outreach efforts with our members, participated in board events, and coordinated with staff concerning board programs.

Williams noted his involvement in facilitating the transfer an ongoing Arkansas-based CCUS project into the SECARB program.

In February, Williams traveled with SSEB's executive director, Ken Nemeth, and its managing director, Kim Gray, to Tulsa, Oklahoma in order to meet with Governor Stitt and plan for SSEB's 60th Annual Meeting that was ultimately cancelled due to the pandemic.

During the same trip, the trio also discussed ways to engage our member states concerning the need for emergency motor fuel waivers.

Williams praised the Board Members for the efforts on behalf of their constituents during this unprecedented time, and he praised the Associate Members for ensuring reliable energy distribution continued even as normal routines were disrupted by the pandemic.

He gave a quick overview of the Board’s virtual summer meeting with the Virginia Coal and Energy Alliance (VCEA), which centered on the status of coal markets, the impact of the coronavirus on the coal sector, and examining legislative measure related to coal across the nation.

Williams closed by reiterating the staff’s efforts that garnered six accepted project proposals totaling \$55 million was all done via telework, and the staff will continue its aggressive pursuit of bringing projects, programs, and partnerships to its member states and territories.

Proposed Policy Resolutions

Representative Sandifer then facilitated the proposed policy resolutions discussion.

Representative Sandifer provided brief procedural instructions on the resolutions and noted that the adopted resolutions will be immediately posted on the SSEB website (<https://www.sseb.org/publications/resolutions/>).

Nine proposed resolutions were adopted, with resolutions 1.2020, 3.2020, 4.2020, 6.2020, and 8.2020 adopted unanimously. Originating sponsors are identified below by an asterisk.

2020 Adopted Resolutions of the Southern States Energy Board

** Originating Sponsor*

1.2020 Broadband for Grid Modernization | Sponsored by: Rep. Rocky Miller, Missouri*

2.2020 Commitment to Abundant and Reliable Low-Cost Energy | Sponsored by: Sen. Ed Emery, Missouri*

3.2020 Impact of Energy Costs on Covid-19 Recovery | Sponsored by: Mary Beth Tung, Ph.D., Maryland Energy Administration, Governor’s Alternate*

4.2020 Continuing Support for Carbon Dioxide Capture, Utilization, and Storage | Sponsored by: Mary Beth Tung, Ph.D., Maryland Energy Administration, Governor’s Alternate*

5.2020 Supporting Inclusive Energy Source Options for Consumers & Balanced Energy Solutions | Sponsored by: Sen. Mark Allen, Oklahoma*, Sen. Ken Yager, Tennessee, and Rep. Jim Gooch, Jr., Kentucky

6.2020 Accelerating the Hydrogen Economy with Future Research and Development | Sponsored by: Rep. Mark McBride, Oklahoma*

7.2020 Supporting Balanced Energy Solutions and Revenue Sharing for States by Ensuring Gulf of Mexico Access | *Sponsored by: Rep. Brent Powell, Mississippi**

8.2020 Commending the Collaborative Efforts of Congress, the U.S. Department of Energy and Its National Labs, and Electric Utilities and their Supplier Community to Develop and Deploy New Reactors and Other Innovative Carbon-Free Nuclear Technologies | *Sponsored by: Rep. John Ragan, Tennessee*, Sen. Ken Yager, Tennessee, and Comm. David Salyers, Governor's Alternate*

9.2020 Investments in Reliable, Resilient and Lower Carbon Emission Electricity | *Sponsored by: Rep. Jim Gooch, Kentucky**

Other Business

Governor Stitt asked for any matters of old or new business to be brought before the board, and no one came forward.

Special Acknowledgements

Governor Stitt called on Mr. Nemeth for special acknowledgements. Mr. Nemeth recognized the efforts of three term-limited members of the board, all from the state of Missouri: Representative Rocky Miller, Senator Ed Emery, and Representative Tim Remole.

Adjournment

Governor Stitt thanked the members and the audience for their participation in the virtual Board session and adjourned the meeting.

