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MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2021, ANNUAL MEETING

1. Proposed minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission (MCC), held by Teams teleconference on Thursday, June 16, 2021, pursuant to notice.

2. The MCC was called to order by Paul Schmidt, Chair, at 10:00 am CDT. The roll was called and a quorum declared. Present were Commissioners Paul Schmidt, Wisconsin; Michael Snee, Ohio; Amie Davidson, Iowa; Tiffany Drake, Alternate for Missouri; and Executive Director James Chiles, Alternate for Minnesota. Also on the call were KatieJo Wheeler and Justin Buckler, Missouri.

3. MOTION on Agenda Item #2 (Draft MCC meeting minutes from June 11, 2020): No corrections were offered to the draft. MOTION: That the circulated minutes of the annual meeting of June 11, 2020, be approved (Snee; Schmidt; carried).

4. DISCUSSION on Agenda Item #3, Chair’s Report. Schmidt noted that the MCC website was available and updated. He said one item of interest from Wisconsin is that EnergySolutions has acquired the license for the closed Kewaunee Power Station and plans to begin decommissioning within two years. Some shipments for disposal will be moving across state lines. The destination is expected to be the EnergySolutions facility in Clive, Utah.

5. DISCUSSION on Agenda Items #4 and 5 (Director’s report and FY 2021 finances): Chiles described the columns comparing projected versus actual expenses for the current fiscal year, now ending on June 30. Low Level Forum membership was the largest item, at $9,500. Expenses were lower than anticipated: No legal expenses were incurred, and the Executive Director didn’t travel to either of the LLW Forum semi-annual meetings as those meetings were held virtually due to COVID-19.
Schmidt, Chair, asked what provisions there might be in the bylaws, or related rules or laws, covering future changes to the MCC, whether that might be a reduction and distribution of a portion of the fund balance, or its eventual dissolution as an interstate compact commission. Chiles said he would report back. Chiles noted that he likely would retire from Minnesota state service at age 67, which would happen in the Fall of 2022, that is, during FY 2023. He anticipated that the agenda for the June 2022 meeting could have a discussion of options on how to fill the MCC’s executive director position, whether that be by another state employee or a contractor, as Stan York was in his later years with the MCC.

6. DISCUSSION and MOTION on FY 2022 Budget, Items #6 and 7. Chiles said that LLW Forum membership fee, website fee, editing fee, and auditing expenses are expected to be the same as in FY 2021. Travel expenses might resume in FY 2022, depending on COVID and LLW Forum meeting plans. Currently the LLW Forum plans to hold “hybrid” meetings (in-person and online) for October 2021 and April 2022.

MOTION: That the FY2022 budget be approved as circulated (Drake; Davidson; carried).

7. DISCUSSION on Item #8, auditing services for years following FY 2021. Chiles said that while this is not a budget item for FY 2022, because services would be paid in FY 2023 for an audit of FY 2022 finances, he wanted to present the question to the MCC given that plans needed to be made in advance of transitioning from one auditor to another. This is to ensure that there will be no gap in auditing, which is required under the bylaws. Chiles said given the discussion at the June 2020 annual meeting about the desirability of rotating auditors on a periodic basis, and also in hopes of seeking a lower price, he had contacted six CPA/auditing firms in the Twin Cities on May 6 and asked for bids on three-year or five-year terms. In addition to a previous fee offer from Boulay, the MCC’s current auditor, two of the contacted firms responded. Both proposed to start their services to cover financial operations in FY 2022. Chiles recommended that Boulay continue at its current fee to audit MCC finances for FY 2021, noting that Boulay held its fee flat from the previous year, at $10,200; and that the MCC accept the low bid from Smith, Schafer for a three year term ($6,200 for FY 2022 audit, rising to $6,825 for FY 2024 audit). Schmidt, Chair, called for a voice vote on a resolution to this effect. RESOLUTION: That the proposal from Smith, Schafer for auditing services to cover FY 2022, 2023 and 2024 be accepted. (Unanimous).
8. DISCUSSION on Agenda Item #9 (Other Business): There was no new business suggested.

9. MOTION on Agenda Item #10 (Adjournment): MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned (Drake; Chiles). The MCC adjourned at 10:38 am CDT.

Minutes prepared by James Chiles, Executive Director