

**Southwest Power Pool
WESTERN RELIABILITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 28, 2021
8am to 10am MDT (9am to 11am CDT)
Net Conference**

• M I N U T E S •

1. Call to Order

Chair Wade Kiess called the meeting to order at 8:14 am MDT (9:14 am CDT) on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

2. Attendance and Quorum Determination

CJ Brown took attendance and confirmed that quorum was met. Scott Perhus to serve as Denton McGregor's Proxy.

3. Review and approval of WREC meeting agenda

Wade Kiess reviewed the meeting agenda with the committee and requested approval. Keith Carman motioned to approve, seconded by Jonathan Aust; with no further discussion or opposition, the motion was approved.

4. Approval of WREC Minutes from January 13, 2021 open meeting

Wade Kiess reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting with the committee and requested for approval. Sam Rugel motioned to approve, seconded by Keith Carman; with no further discussion or opposition, the motion was approved.

CJ Brown noted that GRID has been added to the group list and used in calculation of quorum.

5. Review of Past Action Items

- a. SPP (Yasser) to share a link with WREC via email when quarterly SPP Metrics are posted. <COMPLETE>

6. WRWG Updates and Approval Items

Marc Desmarais updated the group on the April 6, 2021, WRWG meeting. Reliability data specs for MR-005 language were approved to better align with the Outage Coordination Methodology and unplanned RTU outages. An interconnection checklist was also approved. The February Winter Weather Event and SPP EEA was discussed. A blackstart restoration grid will be added in R-COMM to enable TOPs updates in real-time. Changes hope to be in by June or July and used for fall drills. CROW outage stats were discussed. Any desired changes to CROW are to be submitted to SPP via email.

Yasser Bahbaz gave a recap of the Summer Readiness Meeting. SPP created a distribution list for merchants to receive EEA notifications since they are not on R-Comm. Sign-up is on spp.org Some entities reported ongoing construction that will continue through summer.

Wade Kiess asked if any other RCs expressed concerns this summer. Yasser is not aware of any new issues but has a conference call scheduled with RC West next week to discuss anticipated CAISO BA capacity issues, etc. Steve Ashbaker noted RC West has ongoing summer readiness WebExs with various areas of their footprint. There are concerns with dryness and wildfire potential.

December Open Loop to be discussed in the July WRWG meeting.

7. WEIS Progress Report

Yasser Bahbaz informed the group WEIS went live February 1, 2021 and is working as designed. Some challenges with bids/offers, ramp rates and ACE calculations are being worked through. A cleanup of who communicates what to who was performed after go-live to create a clearer communication path.

CJ Brown discussed the RTO West effort. WEIS entities considering full RTO membership. Budgeting, scheduling, etc. activities are ongoing.

Mike Sahs asked about financial implications should a West RTO come to fruition. West RTO members would start paying differently than they do currently.

8. EIM Project Update

Several, including PRPA, PSCo and TEP noted the high workload, definitely more than anticipated, being required to meet the April 2022 go-live date. El Paso is slated for an April 2023 go-live and has started CBT training.

Sam Rugel asked how SPP stood-up the WEIS Market in less time than it is taking to join the EIM? CJ Brown noted SPP's experience and member driven philosophy. There were plenty of struggles but SPP strives to make it as easy a lift as possible for members.

Jonathan Aust shared it was a tremendous amount of work but the partnership/group effort between SPP and WEIS Members vs. this is what you have to do to join our market allowed the aggressive timeline to be met. The WEIS is still a work in process.

9. COVID-19

CJ Brown shared that cases in Arkansas were declining and no SPP Staff have been infected lately. All staff wanting to be vaccinated have been. SPP is not mandating staff vaccination. Several had adverse reactions to the 2nd shot, including CJ. Phase 1 of 4 of SPP's Return to Chenal Plan is scheduled to begin May 10 by bringing some day staff back into the office on a volunteer basis. The 3rd Phase will start putting some support staff back in the control center. Arkansas has lifted the mask mandate but SPP has not. A voluntary, anonymous survey of staff to determine what percentage has been vaccinated is planned. SPP split operators between the 2 control centers prior COVID and will continue to do so. However, crossover between sites during a 6 week shift rotation has not been allowed. Day-Ahead Market Staff moved into the admin building will return to the control center May 10 due to space limitations.

Per Wade Kiess, Platte River is talking about return to work plans. Vaccination levels and the status of counties they operate are being considered. It is going to be a while still.

Bob Staton noted many PSCo employees have been vaccinated but it was not mandated. They are working out of their primary center currently.

Keith Carman stated that Tri-State is following county guidelines. The Tri-County Health Department is expected to lift the mask mandate in May. Vaccine is widely available in CO. Staff wanting to be vaccinated have been but it has not been mandated.

Beginning June 1, El Paso Electric will have all remote workers back in their offices a minimum of 3 days per week. Staff, and their family members, wanting to be vaccinated have been but it has not been mandated. Backup site operator crews will be back in the primary site June 1. Remote consoles setup in conference rooms will have to be taken down soon after June 1. Of the 800 survey responses received from employees, less than 100 said they would NOT get vaccinated under any circumstances. 600 already had been vaccinated. 100 were interested in vaccination.

Sam Rugel shared that Arizona cases were down but they were still encouraging caution. COVID is still out there. A couple of weeks ago, an Operator contracted COVID and was fortunately only under the weather for a few days, but the person that exposed them ended up on a respirator.

Shane Sanders said AEPCO has only had 1 case in control center and it did not impact other staff. Drive-through vaccination clinics were very well attended. They're return to work plan splits staff into 2 groups. Group 1, all volunteers, will be back in the office Monday. June 1, all staff will be back to work in person. 95% of staff have their own office, so masks will only be required in common areas.

Jonathan Aust shared that all Federal mandates apply to WAPA facilities, in addition to the state and local restrictions in their 13 state footprint. They are in Phase 2 of 4 currently. There are 3 categories of Staff, Field, Ops (24/7), and General Day Staff. Multiple surveys of staff have been completed and feedback implemented. They are testing back to work scenarios at smaller sites. Vaccination is encouraged but not required.

10. February 2021 Extreme Cold Weather Event

CJ Brown reviewed the Grid Emergency Slides; an overview of operations during the historically cold weather in the SPP Balancing Authority, February 4-20, 2021. Responses to regulators' data requests are in process. An internal review is being performed as well. The SPP BA set a new record winter peak on February 15 that would have been even higher on both February 15 and February 16 had interruption of load not been required. 20-25 GWs of generation typically available, was not available. Limited natural gas supply was a major factor. Collaboration with SPP's neighbors was very high; including power imports from as far away as the east coast (PJM).

Sam Rugel questioned if there would be value in a WRWG discussion on load shed philosophy?

Action Item: CJ Brown (SPP) to evaluate what facilitation option(s) make sense for a load shed philosophy discussion and report back to the group.

11. Other Items

N/A

12. Summary of Action Items

- a. **Action Item:** CJ Brown (SPP) to evaluate what facilitation option(s) make sense for a load shed philosophy discussion and report back to the group.

13. Future Meetings

Wade Kiess agreed with CJ Brown that the October/November 2021 will need to be via WebEx. SPP Staff will not be travelling until 2022. CJ to setup an Oct/Nov meeting date and Webex and set 2022 meeting dates; which will hopefully be in-person.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Host</u>
7/21/2021, Wednesday	8-10am MT	WebEx
October/November 2021	TBD	WebEx
2022	TBD	In-Person

14. Executive Session Discussion

Not required.

15. Adjournment

Wade Kiess called for a motion to adjourn the open meeting at 10:04 am MDT (11:04 CDT).

Keith Carman motioned to approve, seconded by Jonathan Aust; with no further discussion or opposition, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

CJ Brown

WREC Staff Secretary

Attendance:

Wade Kiess (PRPA, WREC Chair)	Steve Ashbaker
Bob Staton (PSCo)	Steven Owen
CJ Ingersol	Warren Rust (CSU)
Claire Douthit	*
Jonathan Aust (WAPA)	CJ Brown (SPP, WREC Staff Secretary)
Kaleb Brimhall (PRPA)	Hamilton Bitely (SPP)
Keith Carman (Tri-State)	Leslie Sink (SPP)
Marc Desmarais (WAPA)	Yasser Bahbaz (SPP)
Mike Sahs (EPE)	
Rebecca Johnson (WAPA)	
Sam Rugel (TEP)	
Scott Perhus (BHE)	
Shane Sanders (AEPCO)	