

NATIONAL PETROLEUM COUNCIL

131st MEETING OF THE NATIONAL PETROLEUM COUNCIL

Virtual Meeting
December 14, 2021
9:00 a.m. (E.S.T.)

MEETING MINUTES

The Council's 131st meeting was held virtually, on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, with NPC Chair J. Larry Nichols and the Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm, Secretary of Energy, presiding.

Agenda and Attendance.

The meeting agenda and attendance are available as separate attachments on the [NPC Meetings section of the Department of Energy website](#).

Call to Order, Introductory Remarks, and Welcome to Webex Participants and Online Observers.

J. Larry Nichols, Chair, National Petroleum Council.

- Chair Nichols called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. (E.S.T.) and introduced the virtual head table. These included Hon. Jennifer Granholm, Secretary of Energy; Jennifer Wilcox, Acting Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy and Carbon Management; Darren Woods, NPC Vice Chair; Ryan Lance, NPC Agenda Committee Chair; Byron Dunn, NPC Finance Committee Chair; James Hackett, NPC Nominating Committee Chair; and Marshall Nichols, NPC Executive Director.
- Chair Nichols then introduced Hon. Jennifer Granholm to address the Council.

Remarks by the Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm, Secretary of Energy.

- In addressing the Council, Secretary of Energy Granholm stressed that the Administration and the oil and natural gas industry need to work together to both increase oil and natural gas production and to pursue opportunities to develop low-carbon energy.
- The Secretary noted that we are all in agreement with the importance of affordable, reliable, and low-carbon energy for the nation.

Report of the NPC Agenda Committee.

- Ryan Lance, Chair, presented the report of the NPC Agenda Committee.
- He referred to the letter from Secretary Granholm dated November 8, 2021, (available on the Department of Energy website) formally requesting the Council to undertake “a study on the deployment of low and zero carbon hydrogen energy at scale through the entire value chain.”
- Pursuant to the NPC Articles of Organization, NPC Chair Larry Nichols referred the Secretary’s request to the Agenda Committee to recommend whether the request was “proper and advisable for Council consideration.”
- The Agenda Committee unanimously found the request to be fully consistent with the scope of a study as envisioned by the NPC Cochairs’ Coordinating Committee in its report on new study topics for the Council to potentially undertake.
- Accordingly, the Agenda Committee found the hydrogen energy study request to be “proper and advisable” for NPC consideration.
- The Council unanimously approved the NPC Agenda Committee’s report and accepted Secretary Granholm’s hydrogen energy study request.

Report of the NPC Finance Committee.

- Byron Dunn, Chair, provided the report of the NPC Finance Committee.
- He noted that the Committee reviewed periodic performance reports throughout the year, meeting twice to discuss the Council’s finances.
- In August, the Committee met and reviewed the Council’s 2020 Financial Statements with Johnson Lambert & Company, the Council’s outside auditor. The auditors provided an unqualified “clean” opinion and called the Council’s financial controls sound.
- The Council unanimously approved the report of the NPC Finance Committee.

Report of the NPC Nominating Committee.

- James Hackett, Chair, presented the recommendations of the NPC Nominating Committee for the 2022 NPC Officers and Committees as follows:
 - 2022 NPC Chair: Darren Woods.
 - 2022 NPC Vice Chair: Alan Armstrong.

2022 Agenda Committee

Deb Caplan
Bob Catell
Greg Garland
Ray Hunt
Jeff Miller
Gretchen Watkins
Bill Way
Bill White
Mike Wirth
Dan Yergin, and
Ryan Lance, Chair

2022 Appointment Committee

Nick Adams
Joe Gorder
David Grzebinski
John Hess
Terry Jacobs
Mike Linn
Pierce Norton
Lorenzo Simonelli
Scott Tinker
John Walker, and
Vicki Hollub, Chair

- For the five 2022 “at-large” members of the NPC Cochairs’ Coordinating Committee:
Rusty Braziel; Willie Chiang; Kim Greene; Mike Graff; and Frank Verrastro.
- There being no further nominations from the floor, the Council unanimously elected the slate as proposed by the NPC Nominating Committee.

Adjournment.

The 131st meeting of the National Petroleum Council was adjourned at 10:04 a.m. (E.S.T.).

The proceedings of the December 14, 2021, meeting of the National Petroleum Council are available in video format. The video and meeting transcript are available as separate attachments on the [NPC Meetings section of the Department of Energy website](#) along with other pertinent meeting documents.