**ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR LOUISIANA’S**

**ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND RESTORATION MEETING**

**Wednesday, April 14 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

1. **Call to Order** 2:03pm
2. **Roll Call**

Barry Salsbury – in attendance

Lori LeBlanc – in attendance

Lindsay Longman – in attendance

Nathan McBride – in attendance

Greg Stutes – in attendance

Brian Woodard – in attendance

Dean Deslatte – not in attendance

1. **Approval of Minutes (3.30.2021)** Brian motions to approve minutes. Lori seconds motion
2. **Presentation by OERB –** presentation forwarded to group.

Mindy Stitt, OERB executive director

Barry – wording of OERB and CLEER formation very similar. Would be worthwhile to learn how OERB started and

-administrative costs? About 8% of overall budget, 12 full time employees

SOER funding doesn’t fluctuate because based on production. As production declines, the program assessment does as well.

Corporation commission has plugging fund. OERB handles surface work, not plugging.

Often more feasible to build ponds on the restoration sites to address salt water scarring.

**Education program** – Estimated over 3 million students in 98% of OK school districts, students K-12.

**Communications** – test approval rating, now monthly. Message testing, focus groups, PR and community relations. STEM nights and other grassroots events to build relationships.

**Recurring revenue**: $12-20 million range/year, just for OERB. Separate funding from SOER

**Reoccurring challenges**: being state agency, talk of sweeping funds, has not yet happened.

1. **Update of State’s Orphan Well Program (power point sent to members)**

Similar in funding, x amount per barrel. Decrease or Increase in cent/barrel as price per product changes.

If a mark is hit, a max cap of the program for the year. Trigger is reached, get notice from treasury and fee stops being collected. Will not be collected again until a second trigger is reached. (Triggers are roughly $14m and $4m).

Site Specific Trust Account and various funding.

Barry to reach out to OSR to learn more about program, lessons learned, etc.

1. **Federal Funding for Orphan Well Plugging**

$30 million, if approved, to be applied to funding for plugging. Allain’s SB 167

Orphan Wells Clean Up & Jobs Act, what may look like when divided out among grants. Roughly $25m grant that could be used.

1. **Discussion of Severance Tax and Sales Tax Collection**

Competing with numerous other states

Various angles in legislation with severance taxes, severance tax exemptions

One of only 3 states without centralized sales tax collection (HB199 addresses this)

1. **Announcements**

Continue to work into thought process of existing Orphan Well Program.

See now that OERB splits surface and well work with the state. Understanding the program more, what more they do with the education piece of the program.

Greg to sit in on the 4.15 OSR meeting and learn more about the program.

Setting schedule for meetings going forward. Setting meetings for Fridays going forward. Next meeting 4.30.2021 at 10am.

1. **Public Comment**

Public comments may be made by using the raise your hand function on Zoom or through the Zoom Chat Function

**None**

1. **Adjourn**