BEFORE THE BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

BOARD MEETING ) APRIL 8, 2022 )

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS (VIA ZOOM)

APRIL 8, 2022
9:00 a.m.

BEFORE CHAIRMAN STEVEN RUFFATTO, BOARD MEMBERS DAVID SIMPSON, JON REITEN, JOSEPH SMITH, JULIA ALTEMUS and DAVID LEHNHERR

PREPARED BY: LAURIE CRUTCHER, RPR COURT REPORTER, NOTARY PUBLIC lauriecrutcher@gmail.com

WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and testimony taken, to-wit:

CHAIR RUFFATTO: I think we have a quorum. Welcome, everyone. I will call this meeting of the Board of Environmental Review to order. Sandy, can you please call the roll of the Board members.

MS. SCHERER: Chairman Ruffatto.
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Here.
MS. SCHERER: Board Member Lehnherr.
BOARD MEMBER LEHNHERR: Here.
MS. SCHERER: Board Member Simpson.
(No response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Board Member Simpson.
BOARD MEMBER SIMPSON: Here.
MS. SCHERER: Vice Chair Aguirre.
(No response)
MS. SCHERER: Vice Chair Aguirre.
(No response)
MS. SCHERER: Board Member Reiten.
BOARD MEMBER REITEN: Here.
MS. SCHERER: Board Member Smith.
BOARD MEMBER SMITH: Here.
MS. SCHERER: Board Member Altemus.

BOARD MEMBER ALTEMUS: Good morning. Present.

MS. SCHERER: We do have a quorum.
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Thank you, Sandy.
Whoever is watching the people that are trying to join, please keep an eye out for stacy to put her in as a panelist.

So Sandy, can you identify who else is present for the record.

MS. SCHERER: Aaron Pettis from DEQ; Angie Colamaria, DEQ; Ed Hayes, DEQ; Deputy Director Fehr, DEQ; Katherine Orr, Agency Legal Services; Kirsten Bowers, DEQ; Kurt Moser, DEQ; Laurie Crutcher, Court Reporter; we have someone on the phone with the last three digits 825; Aaron Bolton; Andy Janes; Lee McKenna, DEQ; Ann Hedges, MEIC; Catherine Armstrong, DEQ; Bob Smith; Caitlin Buzzas; Chad Anderson, DEQ; Moira, DEQ Communication; Donna Martin; Emily Lodman; Jason Gildea; Jeremiah Langston, DEQ; Loryn Johnson, DEQ; Matthew Jesse (phonetic); Myla Kelly, DEQ; Ray Stout; Sam Yemington; Sarah Bordelon; Shiloh Hernandez; Stephen Pfeffer; Susan Bauden, DEQ; Vicki Marquis, Holland and Hart; Nick Whitaker, DEQ.
(Amy Steinmetz, DEQ;
Margarite Juarez Thomas, DEQ;
Tonya Fish, EPA joined later)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Thank you, Sandy. As far as the scheduling, there's one request for timing. Of course we don't know times. But there's a request to suggest when we might get to Montanore and the Lake Koocanusa issues. And I would say that we should get to both of those in the first hour.

I think we're going to follow the schedule pretty much in order with possibly one exception. If Harry Richards is here, his matter is right at the end of the agenda. And I expect it will be a long meeting. So if he is here or if he appears, let's get him in, and we won't make him sit here all day. Can you tell if Harry Richards is here?

MS. SCHERER: (No response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: I assume he's not.
MS. SCHERER: I'm not seeing him,
Chairman.
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Thanks, Sandy. I will just say that $I$ expect this meeting to last several hours to the point where we will likely,
unless something surprising happens quickly, that we will break for lunch around noon.

Other than that $I$ don't have any scheduling points to make. Any questions on the schedule for the day?
(No response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: If not, we will move into the agenda.

MS. SCHERER: Chairman Ruffato.
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Yes.
MS. SCHERER: This is Sandy. I'm sorry
to interrupt. There's one person that is a call-in. If they would identify themselves. The last three digits of their phone number is 825.
(No response)
MS. SCHERER: If you wish to speak, please press star six.

MR. MURRAY: Duane Murray.
MS. SCHERER: Mr. Murray.
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Thank you, Mr. Murray.
Thank you, Sandy. If there aren't any more questions or comments, we'll move to the first agenda item under administrative matters, and that's approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 25 th. Do $I$ have a motion to approve
those minutes?
BOARD MEMBER SMITH: I'll motion to approve.

BOARD MEMBER ALTEMUS: I'll second.
CHAIR RUFFATTO: The motion has been made and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 25 th meeting. Discussion.
(No response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: If there's no discussion, $I$ will call the question. All in favor say aye.
(Response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Opposed.
(No response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: The motion passes. And it calls for the opportunity for public comment on the minutes. Is there any public comment on the minutes?
(No response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Hearing none, we will move on to the briefing items. The first thing, $I$ would ask for Board Counsel Orr and any Hearing Examiners that are on, ask if there are any changes from that which is shown in the agenda. MS. ORR: Mr. Chair, this is Katherine

Orr. Can everyone hear me?
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Yes, we can, or $I$ can. MS. ORR: Okay. There are no changes over what has been drafted in the agenda at this time.

CHAIR RUFFATTO: Thank you, Katherine. There is one change on a District Court case I would call to your attention -- not for any of the Hearing Examiners -- but this is the one Court case that is Item (b) on Page 2, the Rosebud Mine case.

I just wanted to let the Board know that in that discussion, it mentions that the Board will be filing an appeal when appropriate. And it said that the Supreme Court was considering some motions.

The Supreme Court has ruled on those motions, and the Supreme Court has said that the appeals are not timely, so the Board will not be filing an appeal at this time. Any questions on that?

## (No response)

CHAIR RUFFATTO: Then $I$ will ask the Board members if any Board members have questions or comments or discussion concerning the briefing
items.
(No response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Hearing none, I don't have a comment or discussion, but $I$ want to take care of a matter.

I would like to move that a number of Hearing Examiners appointments be made and confirmed, and $I$ will list those, and then we'll look for a second.

So I move that the following Hearing Examiner appointments be made and confirmed: For Case 2021-06, appoint Caitlin Buzzas; for matter 2019-06, appoint Madison Mattioli; for matters 2019-08 through 21, Caitlin Buzzas; for matter BER 2019-05, appoint Patrick Riskin; for matter 2021-07, appoint Aislinn Brown; and for matter 2020-01, appoint Aislinn Brown. Do I have a second to that motion?

BOARD MEMBER REITEN: I'll second.
CHAIR RUFFATTO: A motion has been made and seconded. Discussion.
(No response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Hearing none, $I$ will call the question. All in favor say aye.
(Response)

CHAIR RUFFATTO: Opposed.
(No response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Motion passes unanimously.
(9:30 a.m.)
(Petitions of Teck Coal, Limited and Lincoln County Commissioners

Appeal of Stringency Review
heard and transcript bound separately)
(Oral Argument of Appeal of Duane Murray BER-2020-01 OC heard
and transcript bound separately)
(Oral argument of Signal Peak Bull Mountain Coal Mine No. 1 BER 2016-07 SM heard and
transcript bound separately)
(Reconvened at 4:37 p.m.
CHAIR RUFFATTO: We're not going to adjourn yet because we have another matter. We have a new contested case, a kind of questionable new case.

We have an appeal of Harry Richards from something. And I made some efforts to try to figure out what it was he was appealing from. We kind of invited him to this meeting, and we only
have the ability to deal with him by mail. He didn't show up as far as $I$ can tell. I was hoping he would.

Is there someone from DEQ that is prepared to enlighten us a little bit about this case, the Harry Richards case?

MR. WHITAKER: Yes, Chair Ruffatto.
This is Nick Whitaker, attorney for DEQ representing the agency in this matter.

Like you, Chair Ruffatto, I'm not entirely sure what Mr . Richard intends to appeal here. This is an administrative order that was issued to him alleging, or setting forth violations of the Montana Hazardous Waste Act, so that's the basis for the appeal as far as $I$ can tell.

CHAIR RUFFATTO: Thank you. And because Mr. Richards did not spell out his objections, we don't know exactly what they are. Unfortunately in these pro se matters it's hard to hold these people to hard and fast rules. I don't think it's appropriate to.

So we will move forward with this, and I spoke to Rob Cameron yesterday. He has capacity to take this on and figure out what it's about and
move it forward. So $I$ would move that we appoint Rob Cameron as Hearing Examiner and assign the case in its entirety to Mr . Cameron.

BOARD MEMBER LEHNHERR: I'll second that motion.

CHAIR RUFFATTO: Discussion.
(No response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: With no further
discussion, $I$ 'll call the question. All in favor of assigning this case to Rob Cameron in its entirety, please say aye.
(Response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Opposed same sign.
(No response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Motion carries.
Katherine, do you have anything for us on the Board Counsel --

MS. ORR: I don't. Thank you.
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Does anybody have any questions of Katherine?
(No response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: If not, we'll move to public comment. And is there any public comment on matters, on any public matters within the Board's jurisdiction that is not otherwise on the agenda?
(No response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Hearing none -- yes.
Ms. Colamaria, you had something.
MS. COLAMARIA: I do. Thank you.
Sorry. I couldn't raise my hand fast enough.
At the last meeting you talked about the possibility of an informal process and kind of advertising to people who are entering into a contested case that they have two options, and there was going to be potentially an opportunity to comment on what we thought that would look like. Is there a timeline on when that comment period or opportunity will begin?

CHAIR RUFFATTO: I take full
responsibility. Katherine got a draft of that to me a couple weeks ago. I've been working on preparing for this meeting, so $I$ did not have a chance to look at it. I will try to deal with that as soon as $I$ have the time, but $I$ haven't been able to do so. So thanks for the reminder. I will keep you informed. I assure you that it will not -- we will not do anything until you have an opportunity to comment.

MS. COLAMARIA: Thank you.

CHAIR RUFFATTO: Anything else for the good of the order that you want to talk about? (No response)

CHAIR RUFFATTO: Do we have a motion to adjourn?

BOARD MEMBER SIMPSON: So moved.

BOARD MEMBER ALTEMUS: After the second.

CHAIR RUFFATTO: We've got a motion and
a second. All in favor say aye.
(Response)
CHAIR RUFFATTO: Thank you all for another hard day at work.
(The proceedings were concluded at $4: 43$ p.m. )


C ERTITICATE

STATE OF MONTANA
)
: SS.
COUNTY OF LEWIS \& CLARK )
I, LAURIE CRUTCHER, RPR, Court Reporter,
Notary Public in and for the County of Lewis \& Clark, State of Montana, do hereby certify:

That the proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein named; that the proceedings were reported by me in shorthand and transcribed using computer-aided transcription, and that the foregoing - 13 - pages contain a true record of the proceedings to the best of my ability.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 20 th day of April, 2022.

LAURIE CRUTCHER, RPR
Court Reporter - Notary Public
My commission expires
March 9, 2024.

$16$



