

# Meeting Agenda

Q1 Board of Directors

**February 8, 2024**  
**1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Central**

*Webex Only*



**MIDWEST  
RELIABILITY  
ORGANIZATION**

380 St. Peter St, Suite 800  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

651-855-1760

[www.MRO.net](http://www.MRO.net)

## NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to the Midwest Reliability Organization’s (“MRO”) Bylaws, section 7.7, the Secretary is required to publish the schedule of regular board meetings to all members. This meeting is a regularly scheduled meeting of the Midwest Reliability Organization Board of Directors. Notice of this meeting was proper and the date was made available to all members in 2023 by posting the 2024 regularly scheduled board meeting dates on the [MRO Events](#) page.

The location, precise time of the meeting, and draft agenda of items to be discussed was properly noticed to members 30 days prior to the scheduled meeting, and was published on the [MRO website](#).

## VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDING

Please note that Midwest Reliability Organization (MRO) may make a video and/or an audio recording of this board of directors meeting for the purposes of making this information available to board members, members, stakeholders and the general public who are unable to attend the meeting.

By attending this meeting, I grant MRO:

1. Permission to video and/or audio record the board meeting including me; and
2. The right to edit, use, and publish the video and/or audio recording.
3. I understand that neither I, nor my employer, has any right to be compensated in connection with the video and/or audio recording or the granting of this consent.



**AGENDA**

Agenda Item	Time
1. <u><a href="#">Call to Order and Determination of Quorum</a></u> <i>Dr. Dana Born, Board Chair</i>	1:30 p.m.
2. <u><a href="#">Standards of Conduct and Antitrust Guidelines</a></u> <i>Julie Peterson, Vice President General Counsel and Corporate Secretary</i>	---
3. <u><a href="#">Consent Agenda</a></u> <i>Julie Peterson, Vice President General Counsel and Corporate Secretary</i>	---
4. <u><a href="#">President's Report</a></u> <i>Sara Patrick, President and CEO</i>	1:40 p.m.
5. <u><a href="#">Chair's Remarks</a></u> <i>Dr. Dana Born, Board Chair</i>	2:00 p.m.
<b>Break</b>	2:15 p.m.
6. <u><a href="#">Ukrenerg0 &amp; Mitigating GPS Signal Interference in Electric Systems</a></u> <i>Joe Marshall, Researcher at Talos, Cisco's Cyber Intelligence Unit</i>	2:25 p.m.
<b>Written Reports</b>	3:25 p.m.
7. <u><a href="#">MRO Operational Activities (Written Report)</a></u> <i>Richard Burt, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer</i>	---
8. <u><a href="#">MRO External Affairs Report (Written Report)</a></u> <i>Tasha Ward, Director of Enforcement and External Affairs</i>	---
9. <u><a href="#">MRO Outreach Report (Written Report)</a></u> <i>Cris Zimmerman, Manager of Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement</i>	---
10. <u><a href="#">Other Business and Adjourn</a></u> <i>Dr. Dana Born, Board Chair</i>	3:30 p.m.

**Call to Order and Determination of Quorum**  
*Dr. Dana Born, Chair*

A current roster for the MRO Board of Directors is posted on MRO's public website [here](#).

**MRO Board Guiding Principles**

Pursuant to [Policy and Procedure 1](#), the MRO Board of Directors is guided by the following principles for highly effective and reliable board members.

Board members shall:

- Support the MRO mission and its values and understand the role of the board.
- Exercise their fiduciary duty of care by preparing for, attending, and participating in board and assigned committee meetings. Absent compelling and stated reasons, directors should be present at meetings.
- Exercise objective decision-making and avoid participation in board issues that are self-serving or may be perceived as a conflict of interest.
- Read the materials before board meetings and come prepared with questions.
- Advocate why MRO is important and why it needs our support.
- Take leadership roles by chairing a committee and knowing what the committee's responsibilities are, and take the initiative, as necessary.
- Respect the different roles of staff and the board.
- Collaborate and cooperate with other board members.

**Standards of Conduct and Antitrust Guidelines**  
*Julie Peterson, Vice President General Counsel and Corporate Secretary*

**Standards of Conduct Reminder:**

Standards of Conduct prohibit MRO staff, committee, subcommittee, and task force members from sharing non-public transmission sensitive information with anyone who is either an affiliate merchant or could be a conduit of information to an affiliate merchant.

**Antitrust Reminder:**

Participants in Midwest Reliability Organization meeting activities must refrain from the following when acting in their capacity as participants in Midwest Reliability Organization activities (i.e., meetings, conference calls, and informal discussions):

- Discussions involving pricing information; and
- Discussions of a participants marketing strategies; and
- Discussions regarding how customers and geographical areas are to be divided among competitors; and
- Discussions concerning the exclusion of competitors from markets; and
- Discussions concerning boycotting or group refusals to deal with competitors, vendors, or suppliers.

**Consent Agenda**

*Julie Peterson, Vice President General Counsel and Corporate Secretary*

**Action**

Review and approve the consent agenda, which includes the draft minutes from the open board meeting held on December 14, 2023.

**Report**

The draft minutes from the meeting held on December 14, 2023, are available for your review on [MRO's website](#). Please provide any edits or comments to [carolina.margaria@mro.net](mailto:carolina.margaria@mro.net).

**President's Report**  
*Sara Patrick, President and CEO*

**Action**

Discussion

**Report**

I will provide an oral report at the meeting.

**Chair's Remarks**  
*Dr. Dana Born, Board Chair*

**Action**

Discussion

**Report**

I will provide an oral report at the meeting.



**UkrenergO & Mitigating GPC Signal Interference in Electric Systems**  
*Joe Marshall, Researcher at Talos, Cisco's Cyber Intelligence Unit*

**Action**

Discussion

**Report**



Joe Marshall is a Senior IoT Security Strategist with Cisco Talos Intelligence Group, one of the largest commercial threat intelligence teams in the world. Marshall specializes in industrial control systems, critical infrastructure protection, and IoT device security. Marshall has worked with public and private industry around the world to help secure critical ICS and IoT assets from threats both mundane and exotic.

Marshall resides in Baltimore Maryland, where he can be found knee deep in banjo's, threat research, and helping keep the Internet safe.

**MRO Operational Activities Report**  
*Richard Burt, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer*

**Action**

Information (Written Report)

**Report**

To kick off 2024, leadership of the MRO operational departments has been focused on developing goals for the year that support MRO's strategic plan, as well as efforts to mitigate risk for the highest risks to reliability and security across the region as identified in the 2024 MRO Regional Risk Assessment (RRA), slated for release in early February. MRO is hosting a webinar for industry on the 2024 RRA on February 28 from 9am-10am Central.

Reliability Assessments will be a top priority for MRO in 2024 regarding both the Interregional Transfer Capability Study (ITCS) and continued efforts to transition the ERO and industry to energy, rather than capacity, analysis. Both efforts had considerable momentum built in 2023, while having key deliverables due in 2024. These two projects are also key issues that policymakers are interested in and will be a primary input into MRO's state and provincial outreach efforts.

2024 will mark the first year that MRO is fully transitioned into Align for conducting all Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program (CMEP) activities and staff is underway implementing new procedures to support that transition for both MRO CMEP staff and registered entities. A second major focus for CMEP in 2024 will be noncompliance processing – looking for ways to more efficiently process noncompliances, allowing for faster turnaround times and a more manageable long-term inventory.

In addition to the primary objectives above, other reliability and security projects being planned for 2024 include the following:

- Conduct outreach and training for industry focused on the highest risks prioritized in MRO's 2024 RRA.
- Staff participation in NERC Standard Drafting Teams that are writing new Reliability Standards related to energy assurance.
- Supporting ERO efforts related to recommendations from the Winter Storm Elliot Inquiry, including an analysis of Blackstart capability in the Eastern Interconnection and robust compliance monitoring of new Reliability Standards focused on generator performance during extreme weather conditions.
- Implementing new software to allow MRO to perform transfer analyses and energy-based assessments.
- Complete analysis to determine registration changes needed to support the FERC-approved Inverter Based Resource (IBR) workplan, which includes having mandatory Standards apply to smaller generation facilities than has historically been the case, and evaluate the impacts of those changes on MRO's CMEP implementation into the future.
- Maturing the MRO Security Advisory Council Threat Forum (SACTF) to focus on mitigation of emergent security threats in addition to timely sharing of threat information.

## External Affairs Report

*Tasha Ward, Director of Enforcement and External Affairs*

### Action

Information (Written Report)

### Report

#### Webinars, Conferences, and Industry Engagement

On January 17, 2024, Sara Smith, Enforcement Attorney, attended “Meet the Assistant Commissioner of Regulatory Affairs (MN Dept of Commerce) and Update from the Commission’s Executive Security (Minnesota Public Utilities Commission)” sponsored by the Minnesota State Bar Association. MRO staff are planning for a year full of participation in industry webinars, conferences, and attending in-person and virtual industry engagements.

#### State and Provincial Outreach

On February 7, 2024, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) hosted “Beyond Borders: Update on NERC’s Interregional Transfer Capability Study (ITCS).” This informational webinar targeted state and provincial policymakers that are interested in learning more about the ITCS. The Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) State and Provincial Collaboration Group coordinated sending invitations for this webinar to state and provincial regulators.

On February 7, 2024, Bryan Clark, Director, Reliability Analysis, Mark Tiemeier, Principal Technical Advisor, and I joined staff from NERC, ReliabilityFirst, and SERC Reliability Corporation, for an introduction meeting with the Chair of the Illinois Commerce Commission, Doug Scott. Topics discussed included the work the Electric Reliability Organization (ERO) Enterprise is doing on interregional transmission and related reliability topics. Chair Scott is Illinois Governor Pritzker's representative on the Midwestern Governors Association's Mid-Grid Initiative, which is currently planning education sessions around regional transmission and planning.

Regarding provincial outreach, MRO continues to send communications to provincial regulators about MRO and ERO Enterprise initiatives and is planning in person engagements with regulators in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan to discuss topics such as the 2024 Regional Risk Assessment and other reliability and security topics.

MRO will continue to communicate MRO and ERO reports and outreach opportunities to commissioners and commission staff, including webinars related to NERC’s Long Term Reliability Assessment, the ITCS project, MRO’s Regional Winter Assessment, and the 2024 Regional Risk Assessment. MRO continues to coordinate with the ERO Enterprise State and Provincial Outreach Collaboration Group on outreach opportunities in states within multiple regional footprints. Updates will continue to be provided in quarterly board reports.

## Outreach Report

*Cris Zimmerman, Manager of Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement*

### Action

Information (Written Report)

### Report

In 2023, the MRO Outreach Department developed new metrics based upon the post-event survey provided to all event attendees. The attached dashboard is a snapshot of the outreach performance that MRO provides and is based upon the following survey questions:

1. Overall, how would you rate this event?
2. How relevant were the materials provided to the work you do?
3. How likely are you to recommend that others attend this or other MRO outreach events?
4. For in-person attendees, how would you rate the location and conference facilities?
5. For virtual attendees, how would you rate your experience with attending this event virtually?

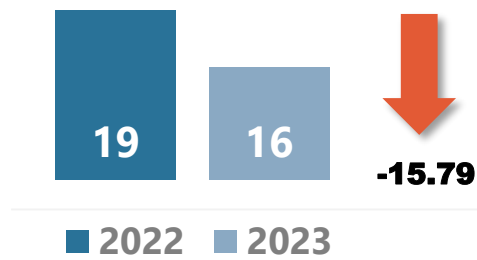
The attached [dashboard](#) is a year-over-year comparison of 2022 to 2023 given the timing of this first quarter board meeting. At the second quarter board meeting, I will provide the board with a quarterly comparison.

A department goal in 2024 is to continue to expand and mature the metrics used to track MRO's outreach performance.

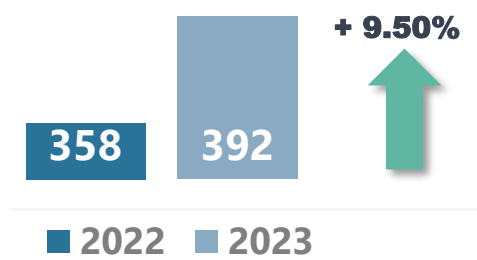
# MRO Outreach Dashboard

# 2022 vs 2023

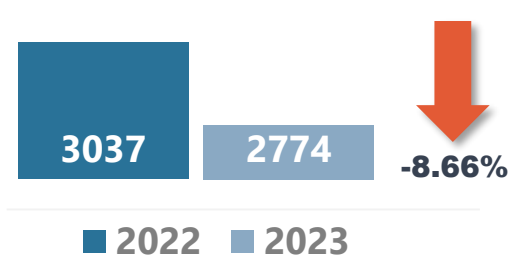
## Total Outreach Events



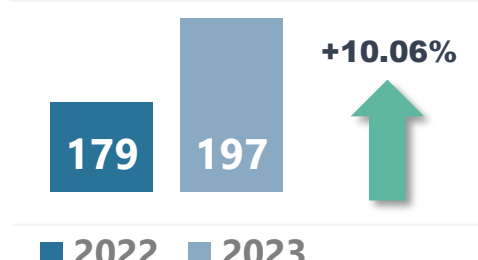
## Total In-Person Attendees



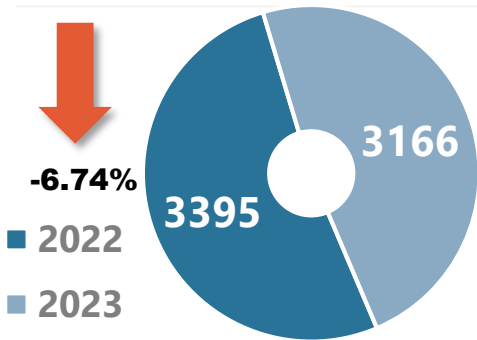
## Total Virtual Attendees



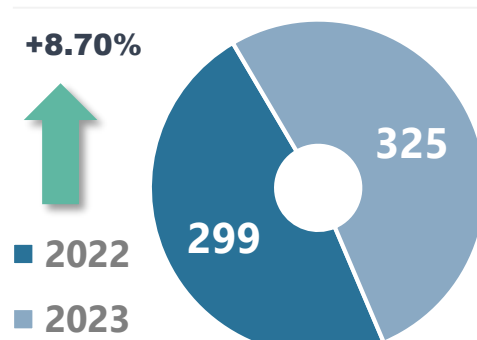
## Average Attendance Per Event



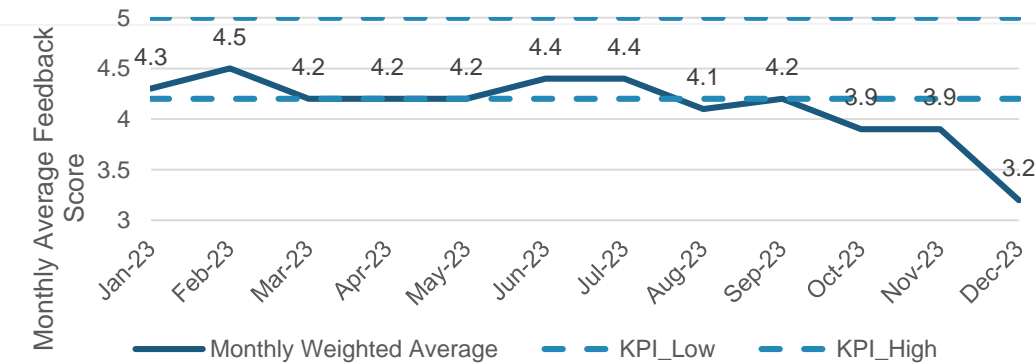
## Total Attendees



## Total Survey Responses



## MRO Monthly Outreach Feedback Scores



## Event Satisfaction Score



## Relevance of Content



## Promoter Score



## In-Person Experience



## Virtual Experience



# 2023 Outreach Highlights

- A single survey was created to gather consistent feedback from all events (conferences, training, webinars) and develop benchmark ratings.
  - Efforts to improve survey response rate resulted in 9% increase in participation in 2023.
- Survey findings are:
  - Reduction in total attendees is consistent with reduction in number of events.
  - In-person attendees are up and virtual attendees are down, indicative of pandemic recovery.
  - Total response rate to event surveys increased 9% in 2023 over 2022, possibly suppressing average event score.
- Increased social media engagement attracted 1,467 (+32%) followers in 2023.

# Q1 2024 Planned Outreach

- 1/25/24 Long-Term Risk Assessment (LTRA) Webinar
- 2/28/24 Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) Webinar
- 2/29/24 Security Defending Against Ransomware Webinar
- 3/20/24 2024 RAM Virtual Conference

## Other Business and Adjourn

### Action

Discussion

### Report

Future meetings of the MRO Board of Directors are listed below.

#### **2024 Board Meeting Dates**

- April 11, 2024 Business Plan & Budget Review Meeting (Webex Only)
- May 22-23, 2024 Q2 MRO Board of Director & OGOC Meetings (Hybrid)
- June 20, 2024 Final Budget Meeting (Webex Only)
- August 21, 2024 Q3 MRO Board of Director & OGOC Meetings (Hybrid)
- August 22, 2024 Strategic Planning Meeting (In-person Only)
- November 6-7, 2024 Q4 MRO Board of Director & OGOC Meetings (Hybrid)