



Approved Minutes of the Organizational Group Oversight Committee Meeting

Hybrid: MRO Offices, St. Paul, MN & Webex

May 22, 2024, 1:04 p.m. to 3:39 p.m. Central

Notice for this meeting was electronically posted to the MRO website [here](#) in January of 2023. A final agenda, including advanced reading materials, was also posted on May 15, 2024.

1. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

Organizational Group Oversight Committee (OGOC) Chair JoAnn Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Central. Carolina Margaría, Assistant Corporate Secretary and Governance Administrator, advised the chair that a quorum of the OGOC was present. A list of attendees is included as [Exhibit A](#).

2. Safety Briefing Video

Staff played a short video detailing in-person safety practices and processes.

3. Standards of Conduct and Antitrust Guidelines

Pursuant to Policy and Procedure 4, Margaría highlighted MRO's Standards of Conduct and Antitrust Guidelines.

4. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included draft minutes from the OGOC meeting held on March 6, 2024.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the OGOC approved the consent agenda without objection.

5. Reliability Advisory Council Report

Bryan Clark, Director of Reliability Analysis, delivered a report on behalf of the Reliability Advisory Council (RAC). Clark highlighted that the 2024 Reliability Conference was held on May 15, 2024, at MRO's offices, and had been a top priority for the RAC in the second quarter. He added that topics for the conference were mapped to the 2024 Regional Risk Assessment, and included topics such as Inverter Based Resources, an overview of the Northland Reliability Project, and the North American Transmission Forum (NATF) Resilience Programs - Transmission Resilience Maturity Model (TRMM) and RESTORE Program.

In response to questions, Clark stated that he had been able to leverage conversations with OGOC members during the 2023 OGOC's Annual MRO Risk Summit to access new contacts and resources on the topic of Inverter Based Resources. He noted that the presentations and a recording of the 2024 Reliability Conference were available via [MRO's website](#).

Tim McCollough joined the meeting

Chair Thompson welcomed Tim McCollough, Rochester Public Utilities, representing the Municipal Utility Sector, to the board and to his first meeting on the OGOC.



6. Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Advisory Council Report

Mark Flanary, Director of Risk Assessment and Mitigation provided a report on behalf of the Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Program Advisory Council (CMEPAC). Flanary stated that the council has participated in identifying any emerging risks as part of the MRO's Reliability Risk Assessment (RRA).

He reviewed the council's work on the MRO CMEP Conference, scheduled for July 24, 2024, in Kansas City, MO. He added that topics have been defined and the agenda is near completion, he added that registration for the conference was open via MRO's website. Flanary highlighted the work the council has done in publishing MRO newsletter articles and hosting webinars, including an upcoming webinar titled, "Introduction to the NERC Certification and Certification Review Process."

Flanary stated that the councils are continuing to explore ways to collaborate this year, efforts around that include a planned joint meeting in which the councils will discuss collaboration and Mark Tiemeier, Principal Technical Advisor, will present on the MRO RRA to all three councils all at once, rather than individually as was done in the past.

Flanary also noted the work of the MRO NERC Standards Review Forum (NSRF), noting that there are on average over 90 attendees on the weekly calls, and that the group is currently facing a high level of workload with shorter timelines for producing responses.

7. Security Advisory Council Report

Steen Fjalstad, Director of Security, provided a report on behalf of the Security Advisory Council (SAC). Fjalstad highlighted recent activities and areas of focus for the SAC, including hosting the SAC meeting in a new format, by including closed breakout sessions for the SAC members in the afternoon.

He noted that the SAC is also preparing for the 2024 MRO Security Conference, scheduled for October 1-2, 2024, and NERC GridSecCon, scheduled for October 24-25, which will both take place in the Twin Cities. He stated that the SAC had submitted three potential topics to NERC GridSecCon for their deliberation.

Fjalstad explained that all three councils planned to meet in a collaboration meeting on October 2, 2024, and will each host their own meetings on October 3, 2024. He provided additional examples of collaboration between the councils, including the Reliability Conference and Security Conference being planned for the same week in 2025.

Fjalstad drew attention to the three current openings on the SAC and four expiring seats expected to be vacated at the end of 2024, and asked board members to encourage their staff to apply.

In response to a question on the risks posed to infrastructure by nation state adversaries, Fjalstad stated this threat is being explored further in the upcoming 2025 MRO RRA and Regional Security Risk Assessment (RSRA) discussions.

In response to questions, Fjalstad stated that he would work with groups that disseminated threat whitepapers to encourage actionable items be included as part of threat information.



In response to a question on the threat posed by the increase of remote work, Fjalstad stated that while the threat risk has expanded with utilization of employee home networks for access, but safety measures such as dual authentication, VPN, and other tools, can provide protection.

Fjalstad noted the work of the Security Advisory Council Threat Forum (SACTF), who hosts weekly threat calls and has also held an additional 6 special threat calls regarding the Volt Typhoon threat. He introduced proposed revisions to the SACTF Charter for the OGOC's review and approval and emphasized that these changes would be effective upon the OGOC's approval, as the SACTF and SAC believed the suggested changes were necessary for the SACTF to operate in 2024. He explained that the proposed changes remove the requirement that the SACTF Chair or Vice Chair also be part of the SAC, a provision which was inconsistent with the practices of all other organizational groups. He added that currently, the SACTF is currently unable to comply with the provision, and due to this Brett Lawler, Xcel Energy, and Kevin Plagman, Omaha Public Power District, have been fulfilling the roles of Chair and Vice Chair as acting Chair and Vice Chairs.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the OGOC approved, without objection, the SACTF Charter, as proposed.

8. Written Reports

Chair Thompson referred the OGOC members to the written quarterly report regarding NERC organizational groups, and the written quarterly report on organizational group membership openings.

She noted that the OGOC would recess for a break, and upon returning from break would enter executive session. She asked that all participants, not part of MRO staff, advisory councils, or the board, be dismissed from the meeting and not return after break.

The OGOC recessed for a short break.

9. Risk Roundtable: Energy Policy

Mark Tiemeier, Principal Technical Advisor, and Tasha Ward, Director of Enforcement and External Affairs, provided a brief presentation on Energy Policy.

Dehn Steven rejoined the meeting

The OGOC discussed the topic as part of the risk roundtable and suggested that a discussion on the priorities around external affairs and outreach to policy makers would be beneficial for the MRO Board of Director's Strategy Session on August 22, 2024. The OGOC directed staff to provide a list of the states and groups that MRO has communicated with, and Tasha Ward, Director of Enforcement and External Affairs, stated that she would include the list as part of her External Affairs to the board.

10. Other Business & Adjourn

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m. Central.

Prepared by: Carolina Margaría, Assistant Corporate Secretary and Governance Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by: Richard Burt, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer



Exhibit A – Meeting Attendees

Organizational Group Oversight Committee Members Present	
Name	Sector
JoAnn Thompson, <i>Chair</i>	Investor Owned Utility Sector
Daryl Maxwell, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Canadian Utility Sector
Ben Porath	Cooperative Sector
Darcy Neigum	Investor Owned Utility Sector
Dehn Stevens	Investor Owned Utility Sector
Eric Miller	Transmission System Operator Sector
Eric Schmitt	Independent Director
Iqbal Dhani	Canadian Utility Sector
Jeanne Tisinger	Independent Director
Tim McCollough	Municipal Utility Sector

Other Attendees	
Name	Organization
Andree Duecker	MRO
Anna Martinson	MRO
Bryan Clark	MRO
Bryn Wilson	RAC Member
Carolina Margaria	MRO
Cris Zimmerman	MRO
Chris Bessenecker	LCEC
Dr. Dana Born	MRO Board Member
Farid Shallal	MRO
Gayle Nansel	RAC Chair



Jennifer Flandermeyer	MRO Board Member
Jess Mitchell	MRO
John Rhea	MRO Board Member
Joshua Hebert	MRO
Julie Peterson	MRO
Ken Gartner	MRO
Ken Burruss	MW Energy
Lam Chung	MRO
Lee Felter	MRO
Lisa Stellmaker	MRO
Margaret Eastman	MRO
Mark Flanary	MRO
Mark Tiemeier	MRO
Mary Agnes Nimis	FERC
Max Vang	MRO
Michael Bowman	City Utilities
Michelle Olson	MRO
Nazra Gladu	Manitoba Hydro
Paul Mehlhaff	Sunflower
Richard Burt	MRO
Sara Patrick	MRO
Shawn Keller	MRO
Steen Fjalstad	MRO
Stephanie Hayes	Xcel Energy
Tasha Ward	MRO
Terri Pyle	OGE, CMEPAC Member



Tiffany Lake	Evergy, CMEPAC Member
Tommy Shea	McPherson BPU
William Steiner	MRO

The above list may not reflect all meeting attendees as portions of the meeting were open for observation via Webex.