

## **What is the Stakeholder Engagement Task Force (SETF)?**

In 2019, the WECC Board of Directors (Board) created the Board Section 4.9 Review Committee to conduct the five-year Section 4.9 review as required by the Bylaws. The Board selected WECC's stakeholder engagement model as one of the two topics for review. The committee formed the Stakeholder Engagement Work Group (SEWG) to assess the issue in detail and make recommendations to the committee. Based on the work of the SEWG, the Board found WECC's existing stakeholder engagement structure and processes are not well suited to enable WECC to marshal expertise to identify and analyze emerging reliability and security issues in a timely manner. Recognizing the importance of stakeholder input and expertise, the Board found that further examination and change are required so stakeholders can more effectively and efficiently support WECC's reliability and security activities. After approving the Section 4.9 Review Committee's recommendations in June 2020, the Board directed WECC management to establish a Stakeholder Engagement Task Force (SETF) to address the SEWG's recommendations.<sup>1</sup>

The Board also directed WECC's CEO to:

- Report on the SETF's progress at the September 2020 Board meeting; and
- Present preliminary findings and recommendations based on the work of the task force at the December 2020 Board meeting.

## **What has the Board asked the SETF to accomplish?**

The WECC Board of Directors directed the Stakeholder Engagement Task Force (SETF) to:

1. Develop potential structures for the organization that will improve the stakeholder engagement model;
2. Consider whether stakeholder groups should either disband or go on hiatus if no current analysis or work product is needed;
3. Consider how WECC team members should engage with stakeholders to improve WECC's ownership of work products; and
4. Develop metrics to track whether implemented changes are improving stakeholder engagement.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Link to [SEWG Final Report](#) and [BOD resolution \(see pg. 188\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> [Section 4.9 Committee Final Report and Recommendations](#), May 29, 2020 at page 6.

### What are the guidelines for the SETF's work?

The SEWG outlined four guiding principles for this work:

- Ensure stakeholder experience, knowledge, and expertise are available in a timely, efficient, and cost-effective way to help deliver on WECC's reliability and security mission;
- Foster collaboration, cooperation, and a common commitment to reliability and security;
- Engage stakeholders as partners; and
- Provide a "safe space" for discussing issues and education.

### What is the SETF's approach to this work?

Like the SEWG, the SETF's approach is to reimagine how WECC engages with stakeholders in our shared invented future, i.e., the future we choose to create. The SETF will focus on desired outcomes and on "inventing the future" rather than merely "tweaking the past."

To accomplish the work of proposing new or changed structures for the Standing Committees, the SETF created a Straw Proposal for Committee Structure.

### What is the purpose of the Straw Proposal?

The Straw Proposal is meant to generate discussion among stakeholders and provoke new and better ideas. It is not the "final word" of the task force, but a bold lightning rod for conversation. The SETF will refine the Straw Proposal through stakeholder input and discussion.

### What is the straw proposal trying to accomplish?

The Straw Proposal was developed to accomplish the following:

- Create a flexible, issue-based committee structure;
- Build in accountability to ensure relevant and timely work is created, produced, and socialized with intended audience(s);
- Clarify expectations and roles;
- Ensure committee work supports WECC's mission, Long-Term Strategy, Reliability Risk Priorities, etc.;
- Create continuous, "real-time" structures review to adjust as necessary and avoid large overhauls through the Section 4.9 Review process;
- Improve management of work products, timelines, deliverables, etc.; and
- Distinguish the value of producing work from the value of discussing, networking, and learning about issues.

### Who are the members of the SETF?

- Brenda Ambrosi (BC Hydro, WECC MAC)



- Johnathan Aust (WAPA, WECC OC)
- Chair Megan Decker (OR PUC)
  - JP Batmale (alternate)
- Sarah Edmonds (PGE)
- Chair Kara Fornstrom (WY PSC)
  - James Branscomb (alternate)
- Maury Galbraith (WIRAB)
- Jennifer Gardner (Western Resource Advocates)
- Therese Hampton (Public Generating Pool)
  - Lea Fisher (alternate)
- Chair Thad LeVar (UT PSC, WECC MAC)  
Caitlin Liotoris (Energy Strategies)  
Etta Lockey (PacifiCorp)
- Lisa Milanese (CAISO, WICF)
- Chair Hayley Williamson (NV PUC)
  - Karen Olesky (alternate)
- Victoria Ravenscroft (WECC)
- Jordan White (WECC)

### **Why were these members selected?**

The SEWG represented a reasonable cross-section of stakeholder groups; however, the SEWG was a small group that had limited engagement on this specific topic with the broader stakeholder community, numbering in the thousands. Therefore, the SETF has been assembled with the broad stakeholder community in mind. In forming the task force, WECC reached out to people involved directly with WECC stakeholder groups, people in the policy and regulatory community, and people involved with the electric industry but not necessarily with WECC groups, e.g., NGOs, private firms.

### **The Straw Proposal does not include detailed information about implementation. When will that be addressed?**

The SETF will prepare a high-level implementation plan to present to the WECC Board of Directors with the final proposal. The SETF recognizes that the details of the implementation plan are important to stakeholders; however, the task force wanted to focus the stakeholder conversation on the end-state (potential structures) rather than the process to get there. Therefore, the SETF left those details out of the Straw Proposal.

How is the SETF addressing its other tasks?

The development of the Straw Proposal is only one of the workstreams the SETF has undertaken. The task force is working on a total of four workstreams:



1. Technical Stakeholder Engagement: develop proposed structure for WECC committees
2. WECC staff role: develop suggestions for how WECC staff can partner with and support the proposed committee structure
3. Mechanisms for sharing and receiving feedback: create a description of the issues and gaps in current mechanisms for obtaining and integrating stakeholder feedback and suggestions to improve them
4. Metrics: develop metrics to track and evaluate the success of the new committee structure once implemented

### **How can I follow the SETF's work?**

SETF meetings are public. Visit [www.WECC.org](http://www.WECC.org) and navigate to the [SETF committee page](#) for information about the meetings.

