

What has changed in the new version of the Straw Proposal?

The initial version of the straw proposal accomplished its intended purpose: to start a conversation. To continue that conversation, the SETF revised the straw proposal and posted it for comment (to close January 15, 2021). To provide additional information and options for stakeholders to consider the SETF:

- Provided additional background information on the issues being addressed;
- Explained the impetus behind each element and how it relates to our invented future;
- Provided more detail on certain aspects of the proposal so stakeholders have more tangible information to react to; and
- Created options and alternatives to some aspects of the proposal.

Additional detail on the changes in version 2 are available in the Summary of Comments and Changes document on the SETF site.

What is the plan going forward?

The SETF will continue the conversation on the straw proposal into 2021, honing the proposal with each iteration. At the December Board of Directors, the SETF chair will recommend the following roadmap. For more details on the roadmap, visit the SETF page on WECC.org.

Q1 2021

- Continued conversation stakeholders to hone the proposal

March 2021

- Update to WECC Board of Directors on direction of proposal

Q2 2021

- Workshop elements of the structure to determine implementation details

June 2021

- Present final proposal for Standing Committee changes to the WECC Board of Directors
- Present 1- to 2-year high-level implementation plan that provides milestones, deadlines, and responsible parties.

Q3 2021

- Develop full implementation plan
- Present plan to WECC Board of Directors and membership

Q4 2021 – Q4 2022

- Implementation period

What issue is the SETF is trying to solve?

In November 2019, the WECC Board of Directors approved an issue statement for the stakeholder engagement work.¹

WECC has a long history of collaboration with members and staff working together to promote and improve reliability of the Western Interconnection. These working partnerships have primarily been in the form of technical standing committees. Over time, many subcommittees and work groups have been formed to address problems and issues as they have arisen. More recently, participation on the standing committees has waned as work has moved to the standards committee, the Reliability Coordinator, or has been performed at NERC.

This review will take a focused look at the process for engaging members and other stakeholders in the collaborative work of WECC. Could WECC and member companies operate more efficiently and effectively if the standing structure of current committees were replaced by a task force model with subject matter experts engaged on specific tasks rather than being members of a standing committee? Are there other models that may enable WECC to optimize stakeholder engagement? What lessons have we learned from the creation of the RAC? How well does the current structure address emerging risks and threats to reliability? Is the current structure nimble enough to address immediate concerns as they arise? Should the sheer number of committees, subcommittees, and task forces be evaluated for the possibility of elimination or consolidation?

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.²

The Board also directed WECC's CEO to:

- Report on the SETF's progress at the September 2020 Board meeting; and

¹ See

https://www.wecc.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Administrative/December%20Board%20Meeting%20Material.pdf&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1 at pg. 133.

² Link to [SEWG Final Report](#) and [BOD resolution \(see pg. 188\)](#).



- 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.³

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?

³ [Section 4.9 Committee Final Report and Recommendations](#), May 29, 2020 at page 6.



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 and navigate to the [SETF committee page](#) for information about the meetings.

