

# MEETING MINUTES

MARC Business Meeting Held at the  
MARC 2012 Annual Meeting  
Tuesday, June 12, 2012 - Des Moines, IA

## MID-AMERICA REGULATORY CONFERENCE

The following MARC Commissioners were in attendance at the meeting:

Colette Honorable	AR	Orjiakor Isiogu	MI
John Colgan	IL	John Quackenbush	MI
Lula Ford	IL	Greg White	MI
Ann McCabe	IL	David Boyd	MN
Erin O'Connell-Diaz	IL	David Boyd	MN
Doug Scott	IL	Dennis O'Brien	MN
Kari Bennett	IN	Kevin Gunn	MO
Carolene Mays	IN	Robert Kenney	MO
Larry Landis	IN	Rod Johnson	NE
David Ziegner	IN	Frank Landis	NE
Swati Dandekar	IA	Tim Schram	NE
Darrell Hanson	IA	Brian Kalk	ND
Libby Jacobs	IA	Gary Hanson	SD
Mark Sievers	KS	Ellen Nowak	WI
Tom Wright	KS		

### Call to Order:

President Darrell Hanson called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m..

### Welcome New Commissioners and Introductions:

Rajnish Barua, Ph.D., was introduced as the Executive Director of National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI). Dr. Barua was appointed effective April 2012.

### Minutes and Secretary's Report:

The minutes from the previous meeting were not available to approve.

### Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Mays presented the Treasurer's Report. It was moved and seconded to accept the report. The motion carried and the Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

### Preliminary MARC 2012 Financial Report:

President Hanson presented a brief overview of income and expenses for the MARC 2012 Annual Meeting. Over \$84,000 of sponsorship income has been received or pledged and registration income will be generally comparable

## MARC



President:

Colette D. Honorable, AR

Vice President:

Carolene Mays, IN

Treasurer:

Phil Montgomery, WI

Secretary:

Orjiakor N. Isiogu, MI

Executive Committee:

David Boyd, MN

to the 2011 annual meeting. However, the good news on income is somewhat dampened by higher conference expenses compared to 2011. Compared to the 2011 South Dakota conference hotel, the overall cost of the 2012 Iowa conference hotel is roughly comparable, but the 2012 Iowa conference hotel charges significantly more for food (which is paid from the MARC budget) but less for hotel rooms (which are paid by the attendees and, for commissioners, by the general MARC budget instead of the 2012 annual meeting budget). It is too early for more than a rough estimate, but it appears MARC 2012 will clear at least \$60,000 after the expenses are paid.

**NRRI report:**

Dr. Raj Barua gave a brief report of NRRI activities and his plans for the future direction of the organization.

**Future MARC Annual Meetings:**

There was a discussion of computer, website, and credit card processing services for future MARC annual meetings. President Hanson described the amount of time and effort required to “reinvent the wheel” regarding the MARC Annual Meeting website and the credit card processing arrangements. He believes it would be more efficient and less expensive in the long run if each host commission didn’t have to start from scratch to find a web host, a webpage designer, credit card processing software, and a credit card processing vendor.

Iowa worked with a vendor from South Dakota who had been recommended by Chris Nelson, and reported that the vendor was very satisfactory, with requested updates or changes to the website usually completed within an hour or two after the request was made. The vendor was BPro Inc. ([www.bpro.com](http://www.bpro.com)). BPro adapted the credit card application developed by the South Dakota commission and handled all credit card transactions for a reasonable fee. BPro used a graphic design provided by the Iowa commission as the basis for the webpage design, and at Iowa’s request, the webpage was structured similarly to South Dakota’s 2011 site. The domain name, [MARC-annualmeeting.org](http://MARC-annualmeeting.org), was chosen because it was not unique to the 2012 conference and could be used every year, rather than requiring each host state to find a web host and register a new domain name. The contract with BPro was designed to allow (but not require) subsequent MARC host states to just adapt and update the website template with their own graphic design and content. Host states would have administrator access and could upload their own content or edit existing content if they wished, or they could send new content or edited content to BPro and have them make the changes. President Hanson indicated that Alex Morese, the Michigan staff member who handles the permanent MARC website, is responsive when changes are needed in that website, and he has no complaints about the service that Mr. Morese has provided. However, now that every state commission probably has staff who can handle the simple kinds of webpage tasks we require, it might even make sense to centralize all website functions onto one server with one domain name rather than just the annual conference functions. Each year’s MARC president would then have most of the preliminary webpage and registration processing work already done when he or she takes over. President Hanson said that while he had structured the relationship with BPro to allow continuity if the group agreed with his recommendation, he had made it clear to BPro that he could not commit the organization to that decision on his own, and that the subsequent host states would have a lot to say about whether we developed a continuous arrangement for web and registration services or continued to let each host state develop its own approach. President Hanson indicated that while he thought it would be a good idea to have continuity in web design, web hosting, and registration processing services rather than expecting each host state to start over every year, he was not expecting a vote on the

issue at today's meeting. Rather, he hoped the group would consider and discuss the idea over the upcoming months and then make a decision at a future meeting.

In the discussion that followed, some commissioners expressed a preference for continuing to have the permanent website hosted and maintained by Michigan commission staff. Colette Honorable said that Arkansas has already arranged to receive free web design and registration processing services from the local Chamber, so if MARC was to enter into an ongoing relationship with a web designer and registration processing company, it would not be desirable to begin that relationship until after next year's Arkansas conference. Several commissioners said they were open to the idea of a long-term relationship with a vendor, whether it began now or after the Arkansas conference.

**Fifth Executive Council Member:**

President Hanson reminded the members that MARC now elected five officers. Last year it was discovered that the bylaws specified a five-member executive council that included one member with no other duties other than to vote when the executive council had to make decisions. He also reminded the members that no decision had been made about whether the executive council member would be considered to be in the rotation of officers that culminated in the MARC presidency, so until such a decision was made, there was no expectation that anyone elected to that position would be in line to move up to Secretary the following year. It was pointed out that it may not be realistic to expect the executive council member to be part of the officer rotation, since few commissioners could ever be in a position to know whether they would still be in office after five years, when it would be their turn to organize the annual meeting.

**Report of Nominating Committee & Election of MARC officers for 2012-13:**

A nominating committee consisting of Kevin Gunn of Missouri and Eric Callisto of Wisconsin had been appointed by the President. Kevin Gunn presented the report of the nominating committee, which recommended the following candidates for election:

- i. President: Colette Honorable, Arkansas
- ii. Vice President: Carolene Mays, Indiana
- iii. Treasurer: Phil Montgomery, Wisconsin
- iv. Secretary: Orjiakor Isiogu, Michigan
- v. Executive Council Member: David Boyd, Minnesota

It was moved and seconded to accept the committee report and cast a unanimous ballot for the candidates recommended by the committee. Motion carried.

**Call for July Meeting:**

President Hanson announced that the next meeting would be held during the NARUC summer committee meetings in Portland on July 23 or 24, but the specific date and time has not yet been determined. More details will be available soon.

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned on or before 8:20 a.m.