

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting for UREC for September 15, 2026

Attendance: Ron Gardner, Eli Burhan, Alexandra Sautin, Joan Rogers, David Hochfelder, Sarah Kirby, Leon Walker, Paul Stewart, Maryliz Stewart

Online guests: Shawn Hamlin, Kia Fisher and Travis Teal

Ron convened the meeting at 5:35pm. Shawn Hamlin, Kia Fisher and Travis Teal were on line for a presentation regarding how construction was expected to proceed. Kia explained the NYSERDA milestones and noted how we have to show progress to maintain our grant. Shawn explained the geothermal well work and their relationship to the overall project. Travis Teal explained about the cost of the drilling. He noted that there would be minimal demolition of the site. The cost of this part of the project was identified as \$511,253 for this phase. Shawn outlined further steps in the process. After the presentation and our on-line guests leaving, we returned to the planned meeting agenda.

Those in attendance were pleased with the plan and anxious to move forward.

The minutes of the August 18, 2026 meeting were presented and reviewed. It was observed that Sarah Kirby's name was not properly spelled. A correction was made.

Paul presents a financial report with a profit and loss statement and a balance sheet and took questions.

The Executive Director's report was presented by Mary Liz. A written report was presented and Mary Liz asked if there were any questions about it. She verbally reviewed the report noting current activities with programs and grants submitted and their status.

Under committee reports Sarah Kirby reported on the Development Committee activities. Eli Burhans reported on the meeting with George Hurst. The goal of the meeting was to seek to get him to fund a staff position to help coordinate the Capital Campaign. In that regard the meeting was not successful, but he offered suggestions and offered to name people we might approach. Sarah Kirby spoke about the expected aspects of the Capital campaign. Eli noted an art gift to be given to Historic Albany to raise awareness about UREC. There was conversation about contacting Wally Altes to work with him in ways that could help the campaign.

There was no report regarding the Governance Committee or Collections Committee. A meeting was to be held on September 24th regarding Strategic Planning, and all are invited.

Regarding the Interpretive Center it was noted at that time there was no further word on the UREC lawsuit against the National Endowment for the Humanities. There was a report on

pending funding requests with NYSCA, Pioneer and CAP sources. We plan to use NYSCA funds to jumpstart initial phases of construction for the geothermal wells. We are asking Pioneer for financing which would be needed for this part of the project.

UREC is planning an educational bus trip to Kingston exploring the story of Sojourner Truth on September 26th.

Paul presented two items for review – a bereavement policy and a generic contract for space use by outside groups. After discussion by the board, it was decided that the current policy of Executive Director discretion was more effective. So, no action was taken on the proposed bereavement policy. After discussion of the contract document, it was recommended that further review be put into it. Eli Burhans offered to have people connected with her work review it. Also, it will be sent to Nancy Delain for review.

Paul reminded people of the strategic planning meeting for September 24th at 6pm.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes by Paul