

Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility
Meeting of the Oversight Board
Teleconference Meeting via Zoom
November 18, 2021 – 9:00 AM

Welcome

Senator Harris B. McDowell, III called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Members present were Senator Hansen, Robert Underwood (proxy for Secretary Garvin, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control) Ric Moore, Andrew Slater, Public Advocate, Senator Trey Paradee, Richard Jones, Kristopher Knight, Michael Chajes, and Sean Finnigan. Also present were Anthony DePrima, Frank Murphy, General Counsel, Suzanne Sebastian, Athena Bi, Jim Purcell, Kassandra Rodriguez, and Traci Evans. Guests present were Charles Kistler, HELP Initiative, Inc. and Harold Stafford, HELP Initiative, Inc.

1. Approval of Minutes

a. Oversight Board Meeting – September 16, 2021 – Mr. Moore moved to approve the minutes as amended by Mr. Moore, seconded by Senator Paradee and carried with one (1) Mr. Underwood not voting (was not present during the meeting).

Mr. Moore recommended a little more information about the discussions held. SEU staff is to discuss sharing Zoom transcriptions and/or the addition of more details to the minutes.

2. SEU Business

a. America Rescue Act Funding \$2.5M

Mr. Purcell along with the HELP Initiative, Inc. staff discussed the \$2.5 million in ARPA Funding supporting the Energy Equity Fund. The focus areas must include:

- a. Public Health
- b. Negative Economic Impacts
- c. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Mr. Stafford discussed the importance of the Lights On Program and Home Energy Counseling and Check Up Program, and how this funding will not only reach low-income but also moderate-income residents. Mr. Kistler thanked Senator McDowell for his words of wisdom.

Mr. Moore asked about specifics and the metrics of the program. Mr. Purcell answered that the Partners are working with the Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. Moore moved to approve to acceptance of the funds made available through the American Rescue Plan Act, understanding they're subject to terms and conditions set forth by the State of Delaware, that funds will be deposited into the Energy Equity Fund, and that the HELP Initiative, Inc. is a partner in the use of the funds. Senator Trey Paradee seconded the motion.

b. Consideration of Statements - Mr. Moore moved to approve the statements, seconded by Mr. Underwood.

3. Strategic Planning Update

Mr. DePrima presented updates about strategic planning. Updates include a revised mission, vision, and goals, and challenges and gaps within the SEU. Mr. Moore and Mr. Chajes stated how helpful the strategic plan meetings are.

Senator McDowell believes the SEU, and society is far from solving the climate crisis, and the SEU should consider Hydrogen Renewable Energy. Senator Hansen echoed Senator McDowell's comments. Mr. Moore stated Senator McDowell's statement is valid and would like further research presented at the Strategic Planning Meetings.

4. Results of Branding Survey

Mr. DePrima presented updates about the online customer branding survey conducted by Aloysius Butler & Clark. Total qualified responses equaled 178. The SEU believes the results show that overall branding initiative has been successful and we will continue to market the organization in the same fashion.

Senator Hansen, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Chajes discussed the demographics of the findings. Mr. Moore believes some of these results (education level, ethnicity, and age range) are skewed. Mr. DePrima replied some demographics were purposely skewed like the age range. It was a Facebook based survey so it is also skewed by who uses Facebook.

5. Reports – The following reports were presented to the Board:

a. Executive Director

Senator Hansen discussed the Residential Solar Loan Program regarding residents not knowing reputable solar companies, and what role the SEU can play in providing information. The SEU has lists of programs and qualifiers for solar companies and can develop more documents to share on social media and our website. Senator Hansen stated the SEU should think about solar capacity analysis for the state. Mr. Moore echoed this statement and suggested working with university research community.

b. Program Manager

c. Communications and Marketing Manager

d. Budget Report - Ending October 2021

6. New Business/Old Business

Mr. Stafford expressed gratitude for the SEU staff.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:57 A.M.