

Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility
Oversight Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 21, 2023
Zoom – 9:00 am

Members present were Chairman Harris McDowell III, Senator Stephanie Hansen, Ric Moore, Richie Jones, Senator Trey Paradee, Ruth Price, Sean Finnegan, and Tom Noyes. Also present was Frank Murphy and Drew Slater.

Members absent were Kris Knight and Michael Chajes.

Welcome

Senator McDowell called the meeting to order at 9:02am.

1. Approval of Minutes – February 10, 2023 and May 19, 2023

Ric Moore moved to approve both the Special Oversight Board Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2023 and the May 19, 2023 Oversight Board Meeting Minutes contingent on clarification of conflict-of-interest language.

Ric Moore made a motion to approve the minutes contingent on clarification of conflict-of-interest language. Ruth Price seconded the motion; the motion was carried with Tom Noyes abstaining.

2. SEU Business

a. Contract Approvals

- i. Ruth Price made a motion to approve the SRS contract for Small Business C-PACE with Senator Hansen seconding the motion. **The motion was approved unanimously carried with no abstentions.**
- ii. Ric Moore motioned to approve the Warren Energy Contract to provide an evaluation of the Energy Performance Contracting Program. The motion was seconded by Tom Noyes. **Thereafter, the motion was approved unanimously carried with no abstentions.**

- b. Business Plan – After robust discussion of the business plan and the need for more input from the three standing committees formed to provide input on the strategic plan, Ric Moore made a motion to approve the business plan contingent on more input from the three committees. The motion was seconded by Richie Jones. **Thereafter, the motion was approved unanimously carried with no abstentions.**

- c. Budgets –

- i. **Consideration of Linden Building Request** - The Board considered the request to provide grant funding in support of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and innovation space at the Linden building in Wilmington. The Board discussed the renovations of the space and the need to not only support non-profit innovation but provide incubator space to the community where members can work on projects supporting the DESEU's mission.
A motion was made by Sean Finnigan, seconded by Richie Jones to provide a grant up to \$500,000 to include energy savings from the project, SREC rights, and partnership on the innovation space to help underserved and disadvantaged communities have work space in support of the DESEU mission. **The motion was approved and unanimously carried with no abstentions.**
- ii. **Consideration of Increased Grant Amount to a Farm** – The Board discussed the farm program incentives and approved the Executive Director to increase the program incentive cap to support a state-of-the-art project. **A motion was made by Ric Moore and seconded by Sean Finnigan. The motion was approved and unanimously carried with no abstentions.**
- iii. **Approval of Loan Commitment for ESPC Project** – The Board discussed the Caesar Rodney School District Energy Savings Performance Contract to update school buildings with energy efficiency and renewable energy and the unique opportunity presented to the DESEU. The Board considered the request to set aside up to \$2.9 million as a bridge loan to the school district if the questions posed by both DOE and OMB are satisfied. This would allow the ESPC project to move forward where the school district could utilize the state match. **A motion was made by Richie Jones and seconded by Ric Moore to approve setting aside up to \$2.9 million as a bridge loan to the Caesar Rodney School District. The motion was approved and unanimously carried with no abstentions.**
- iv. **Budget Memo** – Drew reviewed budget revisions with the Board to support the business plan, update programs, and increase funding to overperforming programs. The Board discussed research and development as well as technology and innovation and the need to further support projects in both sectors. Senator Hansen also discussed the need for a grid study to support new projects to ensure the grid can handle new technology, innovation, and pilot projects. Additionally, Senator Hansen discussed community ambassadors and the role both the Governor's Energy Advisory Council subcommittee on Energy Equity and Environmental Justice and the Justice40 Committee can play in developing the community ambassadors and workforce development programs. **After further discussion, Sean Finnigan made a motion to approve the budget revisions, seconded by Richie Jones. The motion was approved and unanimously carried with Ric Moore abstaining.**

3. Reports – The following reports were presented to the Board:
 - a. Executive Director

- b. Energize Delaware Program Activity
 - c. Budget Report
4. New/Old Business – The Board discussed a request from Roofs from the Heart for a \$50,000 match as well as funding to support the Food Bank of Delaware in their pursuit of electric vehicles and charging stations. **A motion was made by Ric Moore, seconded by Senator Hansen to approve the Executive Director to provide a \$50,000 match to Roofs from the Heart and to work with the Food Bank of Delaware to support their emissions reduction goals. The motion was approved and unanimously carried with no abstentions.**
5. Public Comment – Patricia Bush-McManus and Heidi Adams of Base Stud.io provided public comments regarding their work on intelligent street lighting, working with the Wilmington Alliance, and advanced manufacturing in the state. Additionally, they identified the interactive streetlights as revenue for utilities of up to \$26,000 per pole per year.
6. Executive Session – Pursuant to 29 Delaware Code §1004, the Board may enter into executive session to discuss confidential and proprietary business before the Board. **A motion was made by Ric Moore, seconded by Senator Hansen to go into executive session pursuant to 29 Delaware Code §1004. The motion was approved unanimously carried with no abstentions. Thereafter, Ric Moore provided a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Richie Jones. The motion was approved and unanimously carried with no abstentions.**
7. Adjourn – Senator McDowell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Ric Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Senator Hansen. The meeting was adjourned at 12:38pm.**

During the course of the public meeting; the Board may vote on whether to conduct an executive session to consider confidential and proprietary business before the Board, and such executive session will not be open to the public, pursuant to 29 Delaware Code § 1004. The executive session may address matters involving the discussion of the content of documents excluded from the definition of “public record,” or which involve the potential for litigation. Participation by teleconference will be available to Board members.