

**Delaware Sustainable Energy
Oversight Board Meeting Minutes
November 16,2023 – 9:00 am – Zoom**

Members present were, Senator Stephanie Hansen, Senator Trey Paradee, Richie Jones, Ric Moore, Sean Finnigan, Michael Chajes, Ruth Price and Tom Noyes. Also present were, Drew Slater, Frank Murphy, Joe Whisman, and Frank DeFroda.

Members absent were Senator Harris McDowell and Kristopher Knight.

Riche Jones called the meeting to order at 9:01am

1. Approval of Minutes- Mr. Slater presented the minutes of the previous Oversight Board Meeting held on September 21, 2023 for approval

Ruth Price made a motion to approve the minutes of September 21, 2023, Senator Hansen seconded the motion, the motion carried with Ric Moore abstaining.

2. SEU Business
 - a. Financial Audit Presentation from Whisman Giordano & Associates, LLC

Frank DeFroda and Joe Whisman presented the results of the DESEU financial audit. The audit results were satisfactory and in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS). The Board accepted the Financial Audit Report as presented.

- b. Memos
 - i. QSEHRA Increase – Mr. Slater asked the Board for approval to increase the Qualified Small Employer Health Reimbursement Arrangements (QSEHRA) plan. As Mr. Slater stated, the plan allows for small employers to provide non-taxed reimbursement of certain health care expenses. QSEHRA is expecting to have a slight increase in calendar year 2024 for what is allotted to individuals and families.

Mr. Slater requested a motion from the Board to allow the Executive Director to increase the contribution for QSEHRA to reach the maximum allowed by federal law for calendar year 2024 for DESEU staff. Ric Moore made a motion to approve the request, Senator Hansen seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

- ii. Beyond Efficiency Housing – Mr. Slater presented the Climate Smart Homes and Passive House Building Standards. The programs are a higher level of efficiency, beyond the 2019 Building Energy Code currently used in Delaware. Mr. Slater is seeking approval to enter into a contract with New Ecology, to administer the program incorporating efficiency measures well beyond the current code.

Mr. Slater requested a motion by the Board to allow DESEU to enter into a contract with New Ecology for the newly renamed Beyond Efficiency Housing program. After discussion, Ric Moore made a motion to conditionally approve the request, based on ensuring the request does not contradict legalities within the current or future Delaware Building Energy Code. Richie Jones seconded the motion, and the motion unanimously carried.

c. Consideration of Contract

- i. InClime – Prebuy Program –The Board approved a Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) pre-buy program with the Delaware Electric Cooperative (DEC) in May. DEC uses their Green Energy Funds to support solar grants, and their backlog has continuously grown. As Mr. Slater mentioned, by the SEU taking over the grant, the SEU can work to remove the backlog and as a condition of the grant, transfer these SREC rights to SEU.

Mr. Slater requested a motion of the Board to allow the SEU to enter into a contract with InClime to administer the DEC Pre-Buy program and enter into a contract with DEC to administer the grant Program. Ric Moore made a motion to approve the request. Tom Noyes seconded the motion, and the motion unanimously carried.

3. Reports –

a. Executive Director’s Report

Ric Moore asked for clarification on transferring SRECs to utilities, whether the SEU is giving the utilities a benefit and overall economics of the transfers. Mr. Slater responded, stating that there is an alternative compliance payment of \$25 for Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), those are currently being sold in the open market for \$30-\$35. The SEU has the ability to sell the RECs to the utility at a lower cost, allowing the utility to meet their compliance reporting, and lowering the cost to consumers. Mr. Moore stated it would be helpful to generate a report that reflects the explanation of the transfers, and that transfers are being tracked. Mr. Noyes and Mr. Slater agreed to work on developing a report.

b. Program Manager’s Report

Mr. Slater presented the Program Manager’s Report and Marketing report together.

c. Marketing

d. Budget Memo

- a. **Ric Moore made a motion to approve the budget revisions as presented, Senator Hansen seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.**

e. Budget Report

4. New/Old Business

2024 Oversight Board Meeting Dates

2024 Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Mr. Slater presented the upcoming dates for the 2024 Oversight Board Meetings, as well as the 2024 Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms to be signed and returned by all Board members.

Thereafter, new business discussion occurred around a 2024 Board Retreat, potentially at a Wilmington Blue Rocks Game, and the need for further discussion on the use of RGGI funds for Research & Development.

Ric Moore asked that the discussion held at the previous Oversight Board Meeting on September 21st, 2023 regarding RGGI funds should be noted in the minutes of the meeting, and asked for those to be amended. Mr. Slater responded he will make the amendment.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public that provided public comment.

Executive Session – Legal Matters

There was a motion by Richie Jones, seconded by Senator Hansen, to enter into executive session.

Adjourn

Ric Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Richie Jones. The Board adjourned at 10:48am.