

Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility
Oversight Board Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2024 – 9:00 am – Zoom

Welcome

Members present were Senator Harris McDowell, Ruth Price, Ric Moore, Michael Chajes, Richie Jones, Sean Finnigan and Tom Noyes. Also present, Drew Slater and Frank Murphy

Senator McDowell called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Oversight Board Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2023.

Ruth Price made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2023, Board Meeting, Ric Moore seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. SEU Business

- a. Board Memo

- i. Mid-Atlantic Clean Hydrogen Hub (MACH2) - Mr. Slater discussed Delaware’s role as one of the partner states in MACH2, final award negotiations of up to \$750 million are in the works. The Governor’s Office requested the DESEU help fund MACH2 start-up pre-award cost estimates. Mr. Slater stated the cost estimates for MACH2 between now and August 2024 include estimates for key budget items required to close the award, sign the cooperative agreement, and ensure operating cash flow until the federal reimbursements begin. According to the Office of Clean Energy Demonstration (OCED), final signatures are anticipated around May. The ask is a financial commitment of \$1 million as a direct budget allocation to support and showcase Delaware’s commitment to MACH2.

Ric Moore requested information on the R&D approach and expressed concern on approving the MACH2 request without thoroughly discussing R&D first. Mr. Moore expressed concern about a Board retreat not yet being scheduled. Mr. Slater stated he is working on a date for the Board retreat at the Wilmington Blue Rocks.

Sean Finnigan made a motion to allow the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the Mid-Atlantic Clean Hydrogen Hub in the amount of \$1 million to show DESEU’s commitment to research, development, and new technology and confidence in future hydrogen conversion. Ruth Price seconded the motion, and the motion carried with Ric Moore abstaining.

- ii. Delaware State Police electric vehicles – The EV Challenge grant provided funding for first responders. Since the State Police may need Clearinghouse approval, Mr. Slater brought forward the State Police proposal directly to the Board. The State Police are requesting \$169,264.70 for two Ford F-150 Lightning patrol vehicles, three dual port Ford chargers, and safety training for their divisional mechanics.

Richie Jones made a motion to allow the Executive Director to enter into a contract

with the Delaware State Police as outlined in their grant application. Sean Finnigan seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

- iii. State Fleet Vehicles – The Office of Management and Budget has requested \$300,000 from DESEU to cover the anticipated price differential from a traditional internal combustion engine vehicle compared to a battery electric vehicle. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has committed \$2.75 million towards the installation of 98 additional charging stations throughout the state, and this grant will allow DESEU to further promote programs and also align with Governor Carney’s Climate initiative of achieving 20% penetration of fleet electric vehicles by 2025.

After Discussion, Richie Jones made a motion to allow the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the Office of Management and Budget as outlined in OMB’s grant request memo. Sean Finnigan seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

- b. Budget Memo – Mr. Slater presented the Budget Memo to the Board.

Richie Jones made a motion to approve the budget memo as presented. Ric Moore seconded the motion, and the motion unanimously carried.

3. Reports

- a. Executive Director
- b. Program Activity and Marketing Report
- c. Budget Report

Drew Slater presented the reports to the Board.

4. New/Old Business

Ric Moore stated he is teaching a business marketing class at a local high school and would like for a class to sit in on an Oversight Board Meeting.

5. Public Comment- **There were no public comments.**

6. Executive Session – Legal Matters

Ric Moore made a motion to adjourn the Oversight Board at 10:15 am and enter into executive session to discuss legal matters.

Adjourn

Agenda is subject to change. 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.