

MINUTES OF MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PENNSLVANIA ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

July 6, 2023

10:46 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Delaware Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building and via MS Teams

Board Members/Alternates Present

Alt. Jessica Shirley (for Hon. Richard Negrin, Chairman & Department of Environmental Protection Secretary)

Alt. Adam Walters (for Hon. Rick Siger, Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary)

Patrick Cicero, Acting Consumer Advocate

Alt. Cheryl Cook (for Hon. Russell C. Redding, Department of Agriculture Secretary)

Alt. Paul Wentzel (for Hon. Wendy Spicher, Interim Acting Department of Banking and Securities Secretary)

Hon. Gladys Dutrieuille, Public Utility Commission Chair

Alt. Matt Osenbach (for Hon. Gene Yaw, State Senator)

Alt. Emily Eyster (for Hon. Carolyn T. Comitta, State Senator)

Sarah Hetznecker

Laureen Boles

Romulo L. Diaz, Jr.

Bernie Lynch

DEP & PED A Staff

David Althoff, Jr., Director, Department of Environmental Protection Energy Programs Office

Geoff Bristow, Acting Executive Director, PED A

Alayna Schmeider, Energy Programs Specialist

Nathan Reagle, Energy Programs Specialist

Laura Rigge, Administrative Officer

Robert F. Teplitz, Special Counsel

Public Attendees

Robert Routh

Kimberly Yeakle

David Hess

Mark D. Huncik

Peter Krajsa

Brendon Slotterback

Joanne Kilgour

Nick Haden

Anthony Hennen, The Center Square

Caroline Pratt

Keith Welks

Tom E Bartlett

Glendon King

Paul DiRenzo
Joseph Cullen
John Walliser

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:46 a.m. by Acting Chairperson Jessica Shirley, Executive Deputy Secretary of Programs for the Department of Environmental Protection. Acting Chairperson Shirley announced that the Board held an Executive Session immediately prior to this public session in order to discuss confidential information about the Request for Proposals for a Green Bank Administrator that closed back in March. Geoff Bristow conducted roll call at the beginning of the meeting and a quorum was established. The Board considered its first item of business – the May 3, 2022 PEDAs Board meeting minutes.

Adam Walters noted the spelling of Allen Landis’s name on page 6 should be corrected in the minutes.

Paul Wentzel moved to adopt the May 3, 2022 meeting minutes as corrected.
Adam Walters seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Geoff Bristow provided an update of the financial status of PEDAs’s two funds in May 2023 for approval. Another update will be provided in Fall 2023. The following is an interim report as of May 31, 2023:

- Energy Development Funds (PEDAs) – \$2,912,128.15
- Includes Interest Income YTD: \$155,000.00
 - Admin + Planned Expenditures YTD: \$47,427
 - Commitments:
 - Hydro Green: \$499,913.00
 - Green Bank: \$1,750,087.00
 - Available balance: \$507,128.15

DEP Vision

Chairman Negrin was unable to attend the meeting, so this agenda item will be postponed until the next board meeting.

CLEAN ENERGY FINANCING PRODUCT ADMINISTRATOR SELECTION

Acting Chairperson Shirley explained the Board held an Executive Session to discuss responses to PEDAs’s RFP seeking an administrator of a Green Bank before the start of the public meeting.

- The Department’s procurement process, including the names of all respondents and details of each response, are confidential until the procurement process is complete in order to protect the integrity of the process and all respondents.
- After the RFP closed in March, an evaluation committee reviewed the details of each RFP response and scored the responses.

- During the Executive Session this morning, PEDA staff provided an overview to the Board of the respondents' qualifications and responses and shared the identity of the winning respondent.
- In order to protect the integrity of the procurement process, all of this information must remain confidential until a contract is successfully negotiated and signed.

Acting Chairperson Shirley asked for a motion to concur with the RFP selection committee to enter into contract negotiations with the vendor identified during the Executive Session.

Romulo Diaz made such a motion.

Bernie Lynch seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board by a vote of 11-1 (Matt Osenbach for Senator Yaw opposed). Please note that one of these affirmative votes was inadvertently overlooked during the meeting.

BRIEF PEDA UPDATES

Geoff Bristow provided an update on PEDA Projects:

HydroGreen project – the project is still ongoing. Currently delays are due to the US Army Corps of Engineers permitting process and PJM interconnection agreement. Grant extensions have been provided annually by DEP since 2019. The current estimate for construction start date is now June 2024, with an 18 month construction period. Construction financing and Right-of-way agreements are in process.

Restart Grant Updates

- Awarded \$1.71 million to 11 clean energy projects impacted by COVID-19.
- Project awardees include 5 businesses, 2 municipalities, 2 school districts, and 2 nonprofits.
- Project technologies included energy efficiency, solar energy, high-performance building, and electric vehicle charging projects.
- Project grants leveraged over \$5 million in project match.
- All eleven projects are now complete.
- A slide of the City of Erie Central Fire Station Solar PV project for \$25,000 was provided. Originally, they had financed a 20kW project, but their PEDA grant led to a subsequent grant from Green Mountain Energy that allowed them to install a ~90kW rooftop PV with battery backup that produces over 100% of building electric consumption. It also has microgrid capability for 10-days operating capacity. It was completed in late 2022.

FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATES (BIL & IRA)

Geoff Bristow also provided an update of programs PEDA staff had been working on that are receiving funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

In May, the Energy Programs Office received an \$18 million award through the State Energy Plan in BIL. \$4 million of that award has been set aside to be used by PEDA. There are no specific plans for those funds at this time.

PEDA staff has also been developing the Municipal Opportunities for Retrofits & Energy Efficiency (MORE), which will combine funds from two BIL programs: the Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The Energy Programs Office (EPO) will be blending them together to create a financing program to make attractive financing available to municipalities for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. EPO's application for RLF was submitted in May, and the application for EECBG is currently in internal review.

PEDA Staff will also be applying for funds through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), a \$27 billion dollar program through the Inflation Reduction Act. GGRF is comprised of three main pieces: Solar for All, the National Clean Investment Fund, and the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator. All the programs are funded by the EPA; they anticipate giving out up to 60 awards for Solar for All, which is geared toward States, Territories, and Tribal Entities, 2-4 awards for the National Clean Investment Fund, and 10-14 awards for the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator.

PEDA staff plan to apply for funding through Solar for All. Pennsylvania is potentially eligible for up to \$400 million to fund residential and community solar projects across the state. To receive the full \$400 million, Pennsylvania would have to help complete 30,000 projects across the state. PEDA staff are working to create a coalition of partners to reach that goal while putting together the application.

Pennsylvania will not be an applicant for the National Clean Investment Fund, but may partner with Coalition for Green Capital, and PEDA would potentially pursue funding from whoever does win the award for that program. The final part of the program, the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator, has not yet released guidelines, so staff are awaiting further information but hope to be able to receive a subaward.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Adam Walters asked to clarify whether HydroGreen was the company name or the project name. Geoff answered that it was the company name.

Patrick Cicero asked if the delays for the HydroGreen project were ongoing or resolved. Geoff Bristow responded that they were ongoing delays. There looks to be a clear path on the permit review with the Army Corps of Engineers, which is currently in process. The way forward for their PJM Interconnection agreement is less clear, but the project has been in the queue as of 2021. They also do not have their full power purchase agreement (PPA). Geoff Bristow emphasized that it is a \$22 million project and the PEDA grant was \$500,000, but the extension of their grant is helping to keep the rest of their financing in place.

Romulo Diaz asked if there was any statutory limit on the availability of funds. David Althoff responded that there wasn't a time limit on when the funds would cease to be available, but there is also a possibility that PEDA could create a new grant agreement rather than continuing to extend the existing grant agreement.

OTHER BUSINESS

Acting Chairperson Shirley asked for the election of officers of the PEDA Board. Romulo Diaz offered to continue as Treasurer, and Adam Walters on behalf of DCED Secretary Rick Siger offered to be Secretary.

Acting Chairperson Shirley asked if there was a motion to elect Romulo Diaz as Treasurer of the PEDA Board. Patrick Cicero motioned, Bernie Lynch seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Acting Chairperson Shirley asked if there was a motion to elect Secretary Rick Siger as Secretary of the PEDA Board. Romulo Diaz motioned, Paul Wentzel seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The PEDA bylaws also allow DEP to put forward staff for the Board to appoint staff as Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary. DEP has designated Alayna Schmeider as Assistant Treasurer and Laura Rigge as Assistant Secretary for consideration by the Board.

Acting Chairperson Shirley asked if there was a motion to elect Alayna Schmeider as Assistant Treasurer. Bernie Lynch motioned, Cheryl Cook seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Acting Chairperson Shirley asked if there was a motion to elect Laura Rigge as Assistant Secretary. Paul Wentzel motioned, Adam Walters seconded, there was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Acting Chairperson Shirley asked if there were public comments registered. Alayna Schmeider confirmed there were none. There was no comment from the members of the public on the call.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Hearing no other questions or business to bring before the Board, Acting Chairperson Shirley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cheryl Cook motioned to adjourn, Romulo Diaz seconded, and motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.