

CED Board Meeting: 09/14/22

Draft Minutes

Location: ***Remote – and at PSD’s Offices in the Giga Conf. Room.***

In Attendance:

<u>Board Members:</u>	Attending	Absent
Kate Desrochers (KD)	X	
David Farnsworth (DF)		X
Ken Jones (KJ)	X	
Sam Swanson (SS) <i>Chair</i>	X	
Johanna Miller (JM)	X	
Paul Zabriskie (PZ)	X	

State Employees:

Andrew Perchlik (**AP**), Clean Energy Development Fund Director, Public Service Department (PSD); Christopher Heine (**CH**) Clean Energy Program Specialist, PSD;

Other Attendees:

None

Meeting Started at 1:08 pm with **SS** presiding.

- 1. Review Agenda** – The draft agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.
- 2. Public Comment** – No members of the public present
- 3. Board Member Opening.** – There was a discussion among **AP** and Board members about providing the PSD Commissioner recommendations for a new appointee to the Board to fill the position vacated by Jared Duval. **AP** said that he spoke with Cara Robeck from EAN and she was interested in being appointed. **PZ** said he knew of a potential candidate and that he would check with them and if they were interested send the name to **AP**. **KD** asked if VEIC staff would have a conflict of interest in serving on the Board. **AP** said yes, VEIC staff couldn’t serve on the Board as the PSD is using CEDF funds in a contract with VEIC to administer the SSREI Program.
- 4. Minutes of the Board’s 07/13/22 meeting**
Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by **PZ** and **KD** 2nd and the motion. The motion passed with four votes in support and **JM** abstaining since she was not present at the 7/13 meeting.
- 5. Letter to Climate Council’s Biomass Task Group.**
Members discussed the draft letter that was drafted by **KJ** and edited by **SS** and **AP**. Review suggested that the letter to be copied to Sec. Moore and the Climate Caucus. **JM** asked for an

update since she was not at the last meeting. **KJ** gave an update on his suggestion from the last meeting that the CED Board send a letter to the Biomass Task Group since they were working on similar issues of the CED Board regarding wood heating and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and his opinion that there was more they could be doing. **KJ** explained why he thought that could be helpful to both the CEDF and the Climate Council/Biomass Task Group. **JM** was concerned that the letter would not be helpful and the requests in the letter for full GHG accounting for biomass in both the power and thermal sectors is not possible given work loads and lack of staffing. There was a general discussion regarding **JM**'s concerns and on who it should specifically be sent to. There was support from the Board members to send the letter. **JM** and others provided edits to the letter that were agreed upon. **JM** said as a member of the Climate Council she would abstain from voting on the letter.

SS made a motion that that Board send the letter, as edited by the Board, to the members of the Biomass Task Group, Jane Lazorchak, ANR Secretary Moore, and AOA Secretary Clouser and to authorize **AP** to make corrections and other appropriate edits based on the Board's discussion. **KD** Seconded the motion and the motion passed with four votes in support and with **JM** abstaining.

6. Discussion on the future of the CEDF and CED Board.

AP explained that the Legislature's Sunset Advisory Commission is reviewing the need for, and statutory language of the CED Board. **AP** reported that the PSD has no strong opinion on if changes need to be made to the statutory language but doesn't think the Board should be abolished. **AP** said that the PSD is considering whether it may make sense to move the Board back to its prior (prior to 2010) advisory-only role based on the lack of funding in the CEDF. **SS** and other Board members said that if the Board had no responsibility or authority and was just advisory than recruiting members for the Board would suffer. **PZ** and others said they didn't see a reason to make changes to the Board at this time. **KJ**, and others, expressed the option that the Board provides value to the PSD and the State by representing attitudes of those outside of state government. **AP** said the PSD appreciates the outside advice of the Board and will keep the Board informed about the process of the Sunset Advisory Commissions' review of the CED Board and any documents created for the Commission.

7. Update on CEDF, ARRA, & ARPA Programs, Grants, & Loans

AP gave a general update on the CEDF, ARRA, and ARPA programs and spending. There was no major announcements with programs progressing as expected. He reported that the PSD did submit a request for the repurposing of the City of Montpelier's \$750K ARRA loan that would allow the City to pay the loan back by investing in expanding the district heating system. He reported that the US Dept. of Energy has confirmed receipt of the request but has not commented further on it.

8. Next meeting(s) and activities of the CED Board

The Board discussed if it was better to have their next meeting after the end of a quarter to have fresh quarterly data presented at the meeting. While there was support for this idea, the Board decided to have their next meeting in December as having the meeting in January would likely make it difficult for **AP** to attend. The Board members decided their next meeting would be on December 14, 2022, 1-3pm.

9. Adjournment - Without objection the meeting was adjourned by **SS** at 2:43

--End--

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