**Sustainable energy Utility Advisory Board (SEUAB) Special Meeting**

**Monday, May 10, 2022**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Call to Order**

Chair Bicky Corman called a quorum of the Sustainable Energy Utility Advisory Board (SEUAB or Board) at 10:09 am, May 10, 2022. This was a Microsoft Teams video conference call meeting.

**Roll Call/Introductions**

Roll call was taken by Dave Epley at 10:10 am, and the following people were in attendance:

**Board Members:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **In Attendance?** | **FY 2022 Attendance Record** |
| Bicky Corman (Board Chair) | Yes | 10/10 |
| Sandra Mattavous-Frye | Yes | 10/10 |
| Cary Hinton (PSC) | No | 8/10 |
| Donna Cooper (Electric Company) | No | 9/10 |
| Eric Jones (Building) | Yes | 9/10 |
| Nina Dodge (Environment) | Yes | 10/10 |
| Marshall Duer-Balkind (Councilmember Cheh) | Yes | 10/10 |
| Jamal Lewis - Low-Income Community | Yes | 8/10 |
| Matthias Paustian – Council Chairperson Mendelson | Yes | 5/10 |
| Mish Thadani -Economic Development | No | 4/10 |
| Sasha Srivastava - Renewable Energy | Yes | 8/10 |
| **Vacant (Building Construction)** | Vacant | Vacant |
| **Vacant (Gas Utility)** | Vacant | Vacant |

**Other Attendees:** Lance Loncke (Sr. Program Analyst, DOEE); Dave Epley (Associate Director, DOEE); Benjamin Burdick (DCSEU); Hussain Karim (DOEE); Brandon Bowles (DCSEU); Crystal McDonald (DCSEU); Theodore Trabue (DCSEU); Patti Boyd (DCSEU); Ed Brady (PEER Consulting, DCSEU); Daniel Conner (DCSEU); Joseph Cohen (PEPCO); Manny Geraldo (Washington Gas)\*; Jason Pittman (PEPCO); Zoe Heller (DCSEU); Yohannes Mariam (OPC);

\*Dave Epley requested Manny Geraldo email him about his MOTA confirmation. Manny Geraldo said he was having difficulty with his confirmation through MOTA.

Nina Dodge made note of an unidentified “mystery guest” showing up on her screen. Others noted they saw it too, but DOEE couldn’t see it and was not able to figure out who it was.

**Approval of the Agenda**

* Dave Epley reviewed an updated agenda. Matthias Paustian confirmed he can speak about the market rate electrification subgroup.
* Chair Corman requested that we add a vote for the vice-chair to the agenda.
* Chair Corman requested that we add a discussion of the Board Report to the June agenda.
  + Eric Jones proposes that Marshall Duer-Balkind lead a subgroup focused on putting together a new plan for the Board’s Annual Report. The subgroup will circulate the proposal prior to the next meeting for Board members to review (the Friday before the next regular meeting on June 14)
  + Eric Jones makes a motion, Marshall Duer-Balkind seconded. All in favor.
  + Subgroup members: Marshall Duer-Balkind, Bicky Corman, Hussain Karim (to join as able)
* Marshall Duer-Balkind moved to approve the agenda. Nina Dodge seconded. All in favor.

**Vote on a Vice Chair**

* Chair Corman made a motion to approve Marshall Duer-Balkind as the new vice-chair. Sandra Mattavous-Frye seconded. All in favor. Chair Corman requested that if anyone is not in favor, to email or text her.

**Discussion of the April Minutes and Clerical Support to DOEE**

* Dave Epley reported that he was not able to write the April minutes due to staffing vacancies at DOEE.
* Chair Corman made a motion to use the Board’s funding to provide interim clerical support to DOEE. Eric Jones seconded. All in favor.

**Continued Discussion on the DCSEU Strategic Plan (Led by Ted Trabue, Ben Burdick and Patti Boyd from the DCSEU)**

* DCSEU prepared responses in a set of 8 slides.
* Ted Trabue thanked the Board for engaging and reviewing the DCSEU Strategic Plan
* Key Themes:
  + Electrification/decarbonization
  + New Construction/Major Renovation
  + Utility Programs
* In response to comments received from the Board, Ted Trabue noted that well over 50% of the entire budget (~$58 million on FY22) to be invested in the income-qualified category (80% AMI or less)
  + 30% of the annual base budget ($20 million) will be spent in the low-income community
  + The entire Solar for All program ($15 million) benefits low-income community
  + The Affordable Housing Retrofit Accelerator (~$18 million in FY22)
  + Low-income HVAC Decarbonization program all being done in low-income buildings
  + Finally, the workforce development program takes unemployed or under-employed residents through a 5-month training program.
* Chair Corman noted that the DCSEU was missing its benchmark in the low-income category, previously.
  + Ted Trabue noted that in the prior contract, one benchmark was a 20% low-income spending benchmark, and a low-income energy savings benchmark (10% of overall energy savings). For the second one, the DCSEU fell short in the first 4 years but achieved it in the 5th year and achieved the maximum.
  + In the new contract, the low-income spending benchmark was raised from 20% to 30% and got rid of the low-income energy savings benchmark.
* **Electrification/decarbonization**
  + No penalties to DCSEU energy savings for fuel switching from natural gas to electric
  + However, while fuel switching reduces GHGs it does not always provide significant overall energy or cost savings
  + DCSEU electrification initiatives are currently separate from SETF Performance Benchmarks
  + If SETF moves more toward electrification/decarbonization in place of, or in addition to, reducing energy consumption, discussion of Societal Cost Test evaluation may be warranted
* Patti Boyd noted that the transition to building electrification and fuel switching is challenging
* Nina Dodge asked if VEIC has done this work in other jurisdictions.
  + Patti Boyd noted that VEIC’s new mission is to be an international leader in decarbonization and is very focused on it.
* Nina Dodge noted that many people may or may not know site and source energy and wants to make sure people who may not understand, can learn and understand.
* Sandra Mattavous-Frye (OPC) noted that it is important that technical concepts and basic definitions be explained because many members of the public attend this meeting and listen in. She wants to make climate change conversational. She also wants to make sure we don’t overextend the meeting time as well.
* Ted Trabue stated that the DCSEU will try to explain concepts and technical definitions as they present.
* Chair Corman supports the idea of using the chat function to help explain comments, instead of using the meeting time. And stated that Board members should take the time and initiative to educate themselves about concepts pertaining to the DCSEU.
* Eric Jones stated that we have to find a better way to run meetings, because again we are behind time. He agrees with Chair Corman that Board members should better educate themselves.
* **New construction/major renovation Energy Savings**
  + DCSEU to clarify the language around energy savings opportunities for new construction/major renovation projects
  + Still energy savings available in new construction/major renovation projects, especially for buildings pursuing Net Zero, and DCSEU will continue to support right now
  + With funding available, larger savings available by focusing our resources on early retirement retrofits rather than new construction
  + New construction project would transition to Pepco if programs are approved
* Early retirement of equipment allows for the DCSEU to claim more savings, as opposed to waiting for the equipment to expire. Early retirement is considering taking old equipment offline before the end of its useful life.
* Chair Corman asked what is driving the DCSEU to consider retrofits with respect to the represented in the existing embodied energy/carbon? Patti Boyd said the DCSEU is looking into and considering this.
* **Utility Programs:**
  + Collaboration with Pepco has been ongoing as they developed their proposal for PSC to ensure complementary programming
  + The proposed program split will impact DCSEU programming for residential and small businesses, as well as overall DCSEU brand awareness
  + We look forward to continued collaboration with Pepco if/when programs approved to prevent customer confusion, ensure clear communication, and find ways to work together on outreach
* Jamal Lewis thinks it will be worthwhile for the DCSEU to emphasize the low-income focused work that DCSEU is doing in the DCSEU Strategic Plan.
* Nina Dodge asked if it would be helpful to brand the DCSEU Solar for All work as environmental justice or energy justice? This is how she has been terming the work happening in the Solar for All program.
  + Eric Jones thinks you might turn people off by making this a political issue.
  + Jamal Lewis thinks “justice” to him, has a close relationship to human rights. If the content focused on Solar for All providing the right to energy or the right to health, perhaps this would be a good term to use.
* Marshall Duer-Balkind suggests a new, revised presentation be given to the Board if the PSC approves PEPCO’s energy efficiency program requests. Ted Trabue agrees. Patti Boyd noted that there is a “technical issues group” that has been established where DCSEU will be working with PEPCO to figure out the transition. Chair Corman noted that the Board will be part of this when it is formed.

**DCSEU FY22 Q2 Results (led by Ted Trabue, DCSEU)**

* Ted Trabue notes that the results here are very early on and this represents the first 6 months of 60 months.
  + Please view DCSEU slides for the specific numbers.
* Jamal Lewis asked how FTE’s count each year. Ted Trabue noted that the count happens each year and is basically based on hours. And he noted that not all FTE’s are achieved by DCSEU staff in the office.
* Lance Loncke noted that the CBE spend law is at 35%. The total amount year to year will be based on the overall amount of money spent each year. The 35% is non-negotiable.
* **FY22 Q2 Highlights:**
* Affordable Housing Retrofit Accelerator stood up
* Income-Qualified Efficiency Fund full
* BEPS Engagement (Roundtables, Washington Business Journal Event)
* Train Green Sustainable Energy Infrastructure Capacity Building and Pipeline Program (SEICBP) refinements and registration launch
* DC Public Schools Lighting Distribution
* Leaf Blowers
* HVAC Replacement (electrification for income-qualified single-family)
* Solar for All CREF (Community Solar) and SF (Single Family) progress
* **Challenges:** Ted Trabue noted that commercial office vacancy has made building owners hesitant to take on energy efficiency updates. Also supply chain delays are slowing projects and making cots go up.
* Cary Hinton asked whether any of the CREF developers DCSEU works with have been able to take advantage of the interconnection subsidies being offered by PEPCO, per the order put in place by the PSC. The amount is up to $1 million annually to help defray interconnection costs.
* Cary Hinton also mentioned that a new order is anticipated to be put in place that would enable residential solar facilities owners and developers to have a reduction in the interconnection costs for such facilities. This is a companion program.
  + Nina Dodge noted that the rulemaking proposal that is out right now for public comment (which is a total of $1 million annual) only allows for $5,000 total per project (half of this to be paid by PEPCO and the other half by the customer). What is being asked of residential customers by PEPCO is often closer to $10,000 or more for grid upgrades, so $2,500 does not defray much of the cost. She said “many of us do not see this as solving the problem”.
    - Nina Dodge also noted that it is currently out for public comment.
    - Cary Hinton noted that the comment period on the NOPR ended in March and the PSC is not encouraging anyone to file comments now. Although people can still file ex parte comments.

**Electrification Working Group**

* Matthias Paustian proposed to put together a subgroup of members interested in electrification that could then provide advice and guidance to the DCSEU. He noted it is a very important issue to the DCSEU and there is little funding to be spent.
* Eric Jones is concerned that the SEUAB does not have expertise in building owners concerns, or outside of government. So he suggests that designees by the SEUAB members be allowed in this subgroup. The Board agreed and Hussain Karim confirmed that subgroup meetings can have non-Board members take part.
* Chair Corman asked that with FC1167 going on, could these comments be squeezed into FC1167?
* Chair Corman made a motion to approve the formation of the subgroup, led by Matthias Paustian. Nina Dodge seconded. All in favor.

**Approval of the SEUAB Vice-chair**

* Chair Corman also noted that she had not received any “nay” votes with respect to the motion to make Marshall Duer-Balkind the SEUAB Vice-chair. So Marshall Duer-Balkind is now officially the Vice-Chair of the SEUAB.

**Next Meeting and Future Meetings:**

* FY21 EM&V and FY21 Financial Audit Report
* Chair Corman requested that we add a discussion of the Board Report to the June agenda. Marshall Duer-Balkind to lead.
  + Marshall Duer-Balkind is forming a subgroup focused on the Board Report.
    - Bicky Corman is the only volunteer on the subgroup
  + Marshall Duer-Balkind is supposed to send the comments to the Board by June 10.
* Add back to the agenda “legislative updates”
* Matthias Paustian is starting an Electrification-focused Subgroup
  + Nina Dodge, Jamal Lewis, Marshall Duer-Balkind, Eric Jones to suggest a building owner to be involved