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

**Tuesday, April 13, 2021**

**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) to order at 10:24 AM, April 13, 2021. This was a WebEx video conference call meeting.

**Roll Call/Introductions**

Roll call was taken, and the following people were in attendance:

**Board Members:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **In Attendance?** | **FY 2021 Attendance Record** |
| Bicky Corman (Board Chair) | Yes | 7/7 |
| Millie Knowlton (Vice Chair) | Yes | 7/7 |
| Sandra Mattavous-Frye (Karen Sistrunk as proxy) | Yes | 7/7 |
| Cary Hinton | Yes | 7/7 |
| Donna Cooper | Yes | 7/7 |
| Eric Jones | Yes | 3/3 |
| Farrah Saint-Surin | **No** | 3/7 |
| Nicole Steele | **No** | N/A |
| Nina Dodge | No | 6/7 |
| Richard Graves | **No** | 0/7 |
| Scott Williamson | **No** | 0/7 |
| Steve Burr | Yes | 7/7 |

**Other Attendees:** Tommy Wells (Director, DOEE);Taresa Lawrence (Deputy Director, DOEE); Lance Loncke (Sr. Program Analyst, DOEE); Hussain Karim (DOEE); Ted Trabue (Director, DCSEU); Tamia Slater (DOEE); Dave Epley (Associate Director, DOEE); Patti Boyd (Senior Technology Strategist, DCSEU); Lynora Hall (DOEE); Sarah Kogel-Smucker (OPC); Mansi Talwar (DCSEU); Alex Lopez (DOEE); Yohannes Mariam (OPC); Angela Johnson (DCSEU); Marshall Duer-Balkind; ); Pierre Van Der Merwe (DCSEU); Edward Yim (DOEE); Joe Cohen; Cliff Majersik (IMT); Julia Field (DOEE)

**Discussion of the FC1160 Working Group and Update**

The Board discussed which Board members should be able to comment and/or vote on matters pertaining to the FC1160 working group report. The Board felt like this should be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Chair Corman’s assessment is that she did not find things for the Board to comment on with respect to the working group report. Nina Dodge pushed back stating the Board should state what is not present in the report.

Karen Sistrunk asked if there was a memo circulated, and Chair Corman noted that she circulated her cover letter with the FC1160 Working Group report attached.

**Follow-Up Discussion on DCSEU Contract**

Chair Corman brought forward for discussion the low-income benchmark DCSEU contract change she had recommended be made. Dr. Lance Loncke clarified that this update was made in the contract and was very timely because it had come up with the DCSEU recently. The original contract language had a low-income spend and savings target, whereas the PEPCO contract only has a low-income spend target.

Ted Trabue noted that he understood the rationale was it would make a significant impact in the amount of savings generated in the low-income space. When the DCSEU looked back, the first 5 years of the contract logged 6-8% savings in low-income savings. In the last 5 years it has resulted in 8-9% savings in the low-income space. The LI savings benchmark has moved it some but not significantly. However, an unintended consequence was that the projects the DCSEU had to invest in were the low-income properties where the building owners did not have as much funding to contribute. Mr. Trabue thinks that with all the new players targeting energy savings in the LI space, it would be best to remove the energy savings benchmark. Particularly given that the other players (iCAST, PEPCO, etc.) do not have the same benchmark.

DOEE is ok going back to the “old-way of doing things”, which would be a 30% spending requirement (an increase of $1.5M from current spending), as opposed to a 20% spending requirement with an energy savings requirement. DOEE notes that the LI change did not create a substantial jump in LI energy savings.

Stephen Burr and Dr. Donna Cooper requested that the contract update be circulated to the Board for an easy vote. The modified language plus the reasoning in writing was requested. Ted Trabue said the DCSEU is fine with 30%.

**Approval of Agenda**

At 11:13AM Chair Corman moved to approve the agenda, it was seconded by Dr. Donna Cooper.

* All in favor, none opposed.

**Review and Adoption of the February and March Meeting Minutes**

Review and approval of the minutes were postponed. Nina Dodge did note that Hussain Karim clarified the question on how a quorum is attended. Steve Burr has noted that Apera Nwora (WGL) has not been in attendance for the past two meetings, and that the attendance roster should be reflective of who is in attendance.

Steve Burr also flagged a follow-up item from the February meeting minutes, to fully evaluate the contract change around funding for natural gas equipment and appliances. Specifically, to discuss the proposed contract language stating that new and existing natural gas equipment is a non-reimbursable expense, without written approval from DOEE. Mr. Burr wants to discuss the data and financial hurdles to including this language. He wants to know if analysis been done and if so, what does it look like? As well as, is the Board comfortable with it?

Chair Corman asked whether or not they should revisit the language in the future contract, as requested by Mr. Burr. David Epley clarified that they have discussed the DOEE phasing approach for natural gas in the DCSEU contract. Burr repeated that he does not feel like it has been discussed and he sees it as an outstanding item that should be revisited. DOEE Director Tommy Wells reminded the group that they serve an advisory role and a vote to revisit language would not necessarily impact how DOEE decides to word the contract at this point.

Dr. Lance Loncke elaborated that the DCSEU Advisory Board provided their opinion and voted on the natural gas benchmark in the contract, what Mr. Burr is referring to is the “allowable” expenses under the future contract, which currently states that new natural gas technologies will need DOEE approval before DSCEU can engage in making those purchases. The contract also lists criteria (in section B.8.2.2.1) that the Board recommended; the criteria specify what DOEE will review before determining if the DCSEU can spend on natural gas equipment.

There was discussion around whether or not to set up a special meeting to discuss revisiting the contract language as it relates to Mr. Burr’s concerns. Dr. Donna Cooper made the motion to not schedule a special meeting and instead proposed the issue be discussed at the May monthly meeting. Dr. Cooper specified that Mr. Burr could bring any additional information he would like to share at the meeting and the board can discuss the option to revisit the language for the future contract; Chair Corman seconded the motion.

* All in favor, none opposed.

**Review and Update By-laws**

* Board did not have time to discuss

**Legislative Updates**

* Board did not have time to discuss

**Actions taken by the Board**

* Approval of April 13, 2021 meeting agenda
* Approval to provide time to Mr. Steve Burr (WGL) at the May monthly meeting to bring forward additional information he would like the board to consider and to discuss if the Board should revisit the future DCSEU contract language as it relates to natural gas technologies and reimbursements (specifically section B.8.2.2.1)

**Actions for the next Agenda**

* Send any follow-up that board members committed to sending

**Adjournment**

* Chair Corman adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM

*Minutes prepared by David Epley and Julia Field, DOEE*