

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Energy and Environment

SEUAB Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes

December 8, 2020

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 10:10 AM, November 10, 2020. This was a WebEx video conference call meeting.

Roll Call/Introductions

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

Board Members:

Board Members in attendance: Bicky Corman (Board Chair), Donna Cooper, Steve Burr, Millie Knowlton (Vice Chair), Sandra Mattavous-Frye, Farrah Saint-Surin, Nina Dodge

Absent Board members: Nicole Steele, Scott Williamson, Richard Graves

Other Attendees: Tommy Wells (Director, DOEE); Taresa Lawrence (Deputy Director, DOEE); Lance Loncke (Sr. Program Analyst, DOEE); Hussain Karim (DOEE); Ted Trabue (Director, DCSEU); Shelley Cohen (Solar Program Director, DCSEU); Tamara Christopher (DCSEU); Crystal McDonald (DCSEU); Patti Boyd (Senior Technology Strategist, DCSEU); Lynora Hall (DOEE); Megan Partridge (PEPCO); Dave Epley (Associate Director, DOEE); Angela Johnson (DCSEU), William Ellis (PEPCO); Yohannes Mariam (OPC); Sarah Kogel-Smucker (OPC); Larisa Dobriansky (General Microgrids); Mathias Paustian (Sierra Club, DC Chapter); Pierre Van Der Merwe (DCSEU); Edward Musz (Pepco); Jean Houpert (DC Green Bank); Robert Stephenson (DCSEU); Joe Cohen; Rachel Gold (ACEEE); Cliff Majersik (IMT); Eli Hopson (DC Green Bank); Johnnie Barton; Jean Houbert; Lilia Abron; Mark Rodeffer; Nate Gillespie; Gene Imhoff; Jean Stewart; David Pirtle; Apera Nwora; Edward Yim, Eric Jones

Approval of Agenda

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Sandra Mattavous-Frye, Nina Dodge seconded that motion. A vote was taken and the meeting agenda was approved.

- All in favor; None opposed.

Review and Adoption of the August 11, 2020, October 13, 2020, and November 10, 2020 Minutes.

Chair Bicky Corman, posed the question whether Board members can appear by proxy. It was her impression that Board members were not allowed to appear by proxy.

- Board member Sandra Mattavous-Frye stated that she was under the impression that you could not vote by proxy but designees could participate, but not vote.
 - o Chair Corman agrees; and suggest that the word “proxy” should be removed from the minutes

Board reviewed the minutes from October 13.

- Nina Dodge, moved to approve the October 13, 2020 minutes, and the motion was seconded by Donna Cooper.
 - o All in favor; none opposed.

Board reviewed the minutes from November 10.

- Sandra Mattavous-Frye voted to approve the November 10 minutes, and the motion was seconded by Nina Dodge.
 - o All in favor, none opposed.

Board Reviewed minutes from August 11.

- Chair Corman moved to approve the minutes from August 11, and Sandra Mattavous-Frye seconded that motion.
 - o All in favor; none opposed.

FOLLOW UP DISCUSSION ON GHG METRIC & CONTRACT UPDATES

- Previous special meetings were held by DOEE to give additional opportunities for board members, interested stakeholders, and members of public to review the proposed changes. The purpose of this recap was to allow the Board to hear the points from the initial discussion.
- Last Board meeting the Board voted to recommend that DOEE include the GHG metric in the next contract by exercising an option period, or another contract with the SEU.
- **DOEE Recap: Presented by Dr. Lance Loncke**
 - o First, Director Tommy Wells started the discussion by highlighting the work that the DCSEU has completed over the contract period to date, and his intention to exercise the 5-year option period pending updates to the contract. He stated specifically that the SEU Advisory Board has pushed hard on GHG reduction.
 1. Sandra Mattavous-Frye agreed with Director Wells sentiments but reminded the Board of the reason for the 5-year contract. Sandra Mattavous-Frye outlined that one of the original goals of the contract was to transfer this to a local company to give the District the opportunity to come up to speed, and secondly to add new legislative initiatives. “With the constant changes to the world, we, as the Board must stay ahead of the charge that we have to recognize that there have been fundamental modifications and fundamental changes in our world,” said Sandra Mattavous-Frye.
 2. Dr. Donna Cooper also added that there has been an evolution that has taken place to provide specialized attention and focus on the area of the Clean and Affordable Energy Act.
 3. Ted Trabue extended his sentiments of thanks that another 5 year contract has been established.
 - o Dr. Loncke continued to discuss the modifications to the contract. The intent of the discussion is to provide a comprehensive list of potential contract changes that were being brought to the table, so that DOEE can bring a detailed draft to the Board so that by mid-January, the Board will be prepared for review.

- Presentation of Proposed GHG Performance Benchmark and Other Contract Changes (**Led by Dr. Lance Loncke**)
 - He began the presentation with the GHG Benchmark summary
 - The benchmark will be covering a 5-year period. If the annual targets are met, a performance incentive can be received. In addition, if the DCSEU does not achieve the minimum requirement, the District will impose a penalty.
 - Questions posed to the Board and voting outcomes:
 1. Topic: Selection of a base year against which DCSEU GHG targets and achievements would be measured.
 - Sandra Mattavous-Frye made a motion to use 2006 as the base year. Nina Dodge seconded. The vote was approved unanimously.
 2. Topic: Average vs. marginal emissions rates to measure the amount of avoided CO2 equivalent emissions claimed by the DCSEU.
 - Robert Stephenson outlined there would have to be changes made to invest in a tool that would produce marginal emissions rates.
 - Nina Dodge made a motion to use marginal emissions and Donna Cooper seconded. It was approved unanimously.
 3. Topic: Whether to limit the DCSEU's ability to pursue "non-energy" carbon savings
 - Nina Dodge moved to delay the vote on this item, Sandra Mattavous-Frye seconded that motion. The Board voted in favor of tabling the discussion of this recommendation.
 4. Topic: Whether a GHG reduction benchmark would be in addition to or in lieu of an energy savings benchmark.
 - Sandra Mattavous-Frye made a motion that the Board include the GHG benchmark and that the GHG benchmark does not replace the energy savings benchmark. The motion was second by Donna Cooper. It was approved unanimously.
 5. Topic: Whether the adoption of GHG benchmark would be immediate or phased in over time.
 - Nina Dodge moved that the Board adopt DOEE recommendation to **not** phase in the GHG benchmark; Sandra Mattavous-Frye second that motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously.
 - Following the conclusion of the voting, Nina Dodge, offered her sentiments towards Dr. Lance Loncke as being a terrific leader spearheading this project.
 - Next, within the presentation Lance presented an "Overview of Other DCSEU Contract Changes," consisting of performance benchmarks and new tracking metrics followed by DOEE's position.
 1. Performance Benchmarks
 - Eliminating the current electric and natural gas benchmarks and replacing with a combined fuel neutral energy savings benchmark
 - Revising the Renewable Energy Benchmark
 - Eliminating the supplemental Funds Leveraging Benchmark
 2. New Tracking Metrics
 - Annual MWh Saved
 - Annual Therms Saved
 - Leveraged Funds

- Ted Trabue stated, on behalf of the DCSEU that, it would like to continue to pursue the opportunities like PJM through working with Washington Gas and other supporting programs. Agreeing with DOEE's recommendation that "Leveraged Funds," should be a tracking metric instead of a performance benchmark.
- Chair Corman noted which topics will be covered at the next meeting, due to time constraints.
- Chair Corman also added the "Presentation of DCSEU's FY20 Accomplishments" to the agenda for next meeting, in addition to the "Annual Recap".

It was decided that at the next meeting on January 12, the Board will meet for 3 hours, from 9:00am-12:00pm.