**SEU Advisory Board Meeting**

**Minutes**

**May 18, 2021**

**Call to Order**

Chair Corman called a quorum of the Sustainable Energy Utility Advisory Board (SEUAB or Board) to order at 10:09 AM, May 18, 2021. This was a WebEx video conference call meeting.

**Roll Call/Introductions**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **In Attendance?** | **FY 2021 Attendance Record** |
| Bicky Corman (Board Chair) | Yes | 8/8 |
| Millie Knowlton (Vice Chair) | Yes | 8/8 |
| Sandra Mattavous-Frye (Sarah Kogel-Smucker and Karen Sistrunk attending as proxies) | Yes | 8/8 |
| Cary Hinton | Yes | 8/8 |
| Donna Cooper | Yes | 8/8 |
| Eric Jones | Yes | 4/4 |
| Farrah Saint-Surin | **No** | 3/8 |
| Nicole Steele (Board voted to remove Nicole to create a vacancy) | **No** |  |
| Nina Dodge | Yes | 7/8 |
| Richard Graves | **No** | 0/8 |
| Scott Williamson | **No** | 0/8 |
| Steve Burr | Yes | 8/8 |
| Marshall Duer-Balkind\* | Yes | 1/1 |

\*Marshall Duer-Balkind is the new board member, he is the new appointee of the Chair of the Committee on Transportation & Environment Committee, Councilmember Mary Cheh. Mr. Duer-Balkind works as a Principal at Daybreak Climate Consulting.

**Absent Board members:** Nicole Steele, Farrah Saint-Surin, Richard Graves

**Other Attendees:**

Dr. Taresa Lawrence (Deputy Director, DOEE); Dr. Lance Loncke (Sr. Program Analyst, DOEE); Hussain Karim (DOEE); Ted Trabue (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); Mathias Paustian (Sierra Club, DC Chapter); Pierre Van Der Merwe (DCSEU); Robert Stephenson (DCSEU); Joe Cohen (Pepco); Rachel Gold (ACEEE); Cliff Majersik (IMT); Lilia Abron (PEER Consultants, DCSEU contractor); Nate Gillespie (PEPCO); Alex Lopez (DOEE); Erika Burns; Jesse Smith; Julia Field (DOEE); Lamont Akins; Michael Frischmann; Michael Noreika (NRM); Monica West; Tom Mauldin; Zoe Heller (DCSEU).

***Approval of Agenda***

Mr. David Epley proposed moving the review and approval of the February, March, and April meeting minutes to an email discussion in the interest of time. Ms. Nina Dodge made the motion to review past meeting minutes by email and to allow for time to discuss these meeting minutes at the June meeting. This change in the agenda was seconded by Chair Bicky Corman, who specified that amendments to meeting notes be sent in advance of the June meeting.

* All in favor; none opposed.

***Review & Adoption of Minutes***

Review and adoption of minutes moved to the June SEUAB meeting (see above).

***FC1160 Update – Chair Bicky Corman***

No updates beyond the proposed Energy Efficient and Demand Response (EEDR) program Pepco will discuss in following agenda item. With Pepco’s new role in energy efficiency programs in the District, Pepco convened a working group (including members of DCSEU, SEUAB) to ensure Pepco’s EEDR program is complementary to DCSEU’s work, avoiding overlap in types of programs offered and customer types reached.

***Consultation by Pepco re:*** ***Proposed Energy Efficient and Demand Response (EEDR) Programs – Pepco (Megan Partridge)***

The presentation was a summary of the proposed EEDR programs developed by Pepco in accordance with the recommendations of the FC1160 working group thus far. Pepco would like feedback from the SEUAB to ensure the programs align with the District’s clean energy and climate goals. Pepco will file an Application with the Public Service Commission by June 27; official presentation of the proposal will be the last week of May. The primary items to discuss are the residential portfolio overview, commercial portfolio, and the high-level budget overview. Pepco desired a written statement from the SEUAB, by June 4, that the programs are not duplicative of programs offered by DCSEU, or if they are, that DCSEU supports the programs.

Overall goal is for Pepco to achieve 1% energy savings each year for three years, based on the retail sales of the baseline year. This amounts to approximately 105,000-110,000 megawatt hours in the first year.

The residential program includes:

* Appliance rebates – their program will specifically focus on increasing the ENERGY STAR® certified products in stock by offering incentives to big box stores (stores have freedom to decide if they will pass on cost savings to customers or not). EPA has a program that tracks what is sold in order to determine energy savings from these products. DCSEU’s rebate program focuses on downstream rebates. Pepco will offer downstream rebates through the Pepco.com marketplace, which will not compete with the DCSEU program.
  + In order to ensure that rate-payers benefit from program, and do not fund non-DC residents, Ms. Partridge clarified that in order to purchase from the Pepco Marketplace, customer needs a DC Pepco account. There is potential for non-DC residents to purchase ENERGY STAR® products sold at DC stores.
* Appliance recycling – Pepco will incentivize replacing old and inefficient appliances and responsibly recycle the old appliances
* Areas of potential overlap
  + Appliance rebate – DCSEU will sunset some of its downstream rebates, Pepco’s offerings will only be through Pepco Marketplace
    - Mr. Duer-Balkind observed in the Webex chat that offering rebates through the marketplace limits accessibility to residents who do not have Pepco accounts (i.e. those who live in master-metered apartment or condo buildings)
  + Residential new homes – Pepco will offer incentives to homeowners to build/renovate to ENERGY STAR standard and to avoid overlap with DCSEU, will focus on residential single-family homes or multifamily unit with cap at 4 units
  + Energy Efficiency kits – Pepco will offer kits to market-rate customers while DCSEU will continue to focus on marketing kits to low income eligible customers, although DCSEU does offer kits to all customers; goal here is to improve coordination so that Pepco can help fill gap and reach more customers
  + LMI Home Energy Assessment: Pepco will not engage with multifamily buildings participating in DCSEU programs such as Income Qualified Efficiency Fund (IQEF) and BEPS Support
  + Assisted Home Performance: Pepco will offer their program to single family multifamily buildings with 4 units or less; DOEE does Weatherization Assistance with customers who are low-income (eligible to those who meet 60% State Median Income (SMI)), Pepco will focus on the “middle” income residents (60% -120% SMI)

Opportunities for cross-promotion

Pepco highlighted their proposed school program and energy engineers program. Pepco is already operating education programs in schools in Maryland and New Jersey. This program provides teachers with developed curriculum on energy efficiency and take-home kits for students with experiments and energy efficiency products. Pepco also proposes to implement their “energy engineers” team, which works with customers that report high bills to the Pepco Call Center. The team of engineers works to determine if the issue is a usage concern and can provide home walkthroughs, work to identify opportunities for savings, etc.

Pepco’s Commercial Portfolio

Pepco discussed their commercial behavior program, which would analyze building data to provide targeted tips and opportunities. Also quickly discussed the small business demand response program, which will operate similar to the residential program.

BEPS Support

Pepco and DCSEU divided the ~900 buildings that need to come into BEPS compliance based on building type, although DCSEU will continue to work with buildings they have established relationships with. Customers ultimately have choice in determining whether to work with Pepco or DCSEU. Both DCSEU and Pepco will work to target under-resourced market segments. Work group will continue meeting regularly to coordinate BEPS support.

* Mr. Duer-Balkind asked if Pepco considered providing funding directly to DCSEU instead of creating their own programs, pointing out it creates market confusion, and that the model of multiple utilities and government agencies implementing certain EEDR programs through a common administrator was used successfully in Oregon and Wisconsin.
* Mr. Ted Trabue stated that DCSEU preferred that strategy. Pepco disagreed from a procurement point of view; stated that they feel by splitting the market they would reduce confusion. Pepco added that they offer unique and incremental benefits, which would be lost if they did not implement their own programs. Mr. Duer-Balkind asked if Pepco would contract with a third part to administer the programs; Pepco confirmed. Mr. Duer-Balkind pointed out that because Pepco will contract a third party for their program administration through a competitive bidding process, it’s possible there can be greater coordination with DCSEU’s third party contractor, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation.
* Mr. Duer-Balkind suggested that Pepco and the working group present to the Building Energy Performance Standards Task Force for their expert input, and invited them to attend the next BEPS Task Force meeting on May 25. Pepco agreed but also stated that they have worked closely with DOEE and their BEPS outreach and education team.

There was insufficient time for Pepco to present and discuss the draft proposed budget, which will be confirmed at Pepco’s presentation to stakeholders on June 1. As more information was needed for the SEUAB to provide Pepco with any statement, future conversations were planned.

***Follow-Up Discussion on DCSEU Contract - DOEE, SUEAB, DCSEU***

Dr. Lance Loncke explained that the contract modification incorporated the Board’s requested changes for the low-income benchmark. This modification is being reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General. Originally, the low-income benchmark was a requirement to spend 30% of the budget in the low-income space. This benchmark was changed to a requirement that DCSEU’s work would result in at least 10% savings in the low-income space. The recommendation by the board, after discussions with Pepco and DOEE, was to revert to the original 30% spend requirement as it makes it easier to track what incentives are going to low-income customers.

Chair Corman explained this was the only contract provision that the board did not vote on. Ms. Dodge made the motion to vote in favor of the new provision, Mr. Duer-Balkind seconded.

* All in favor, none opposed.

Mr. Stephen Burr requested discussion of contract language as it relates to natural gas (specifically, B.8.2.2). He stated that Washington Gas feels that the language has not been adequately discussed, specifically as it relates to financial impacts to natural gas customers and cost-sensitive customers. Chair Corman explained that the Board did vote and approve the contract language (Burr was not present at this vote), and that she did not like the language initially and had proposed changes that are now incorporated. She feels that they should not change the language at this point in time. Ms. Millie Knowlton added in the Webex chat that the Board presented alternatives to B8.2.2 and the alternative they voted on was to keep the language as is and add B8.2.2.1. Ms. Knowlton made the motion to not change the existing language. Ms. Dodge seconded the motion.

* All in favor except for Mr. Burr who opposed.

***Briefing on FY20 Performance Benchmarks Report - (moved to June meeting)***

Time did not allow for this briefing, will be moved to the next Board meeting. The NMR report is saved in the Board’s Google Drive. Board should review and send comments in advance, will be able to discuss at the next meeting.

***DCSEU FY21 Q2 Performance Report – Ted Trabue, DCSEU (moved to June meeting)***

**Other Matters**

* Note for Board members: when meeting minutes are emailed to the Board, Chair Corman requests that all members read the minutes and suggest amendments **via email** before the next monthly meeting. Monthly meeting time will be used primarily to vote on meeting minutes and amendments rather than discuss.

**Actions taken by the Board**

* Approval of May 18, 2021 meeting agenda
* Approval of DCSEU contract provision to revert back to “spend” requirement as a low-income benchmark rather than savings requirement
* Approval to not revisit contract language as it relates to natural gas reimbursements (B.8.2.2)

**Actions for the next Agenda**

* Pepco will brief the Building Energy Performance Standards Task Force, then an additional DC SEU board will be scheduled (DOEE sending out a Doodle Poll)
* The Board will meet again so that Board can decide if they want to provide Pepco with a written statement before Pepco presents to the DC Public Service Commission
* Review February, March, April and May meeting minutes and email requested amendments prior to June meeting
* Review the NMR report prior to the June meeting, send comments in advance

**Adjournment**

* Chair Corman adjourned the meeting at 11:59 AM.

*Minutes prepared by Julia Field, DOEE*