

Clean Energy Advisory Board (CEAB)
Meeting Notes (DRAFT)
December 18, 2020

The fourth quarter meeting of the Clean Energy Advisory Board (CEAB) was held December 18, 2020 and was called to order at 12:06 p.m. EST by Chair Hannah Coman. Members present at the virtual meeting held via Web-ex included KC Bleile, Bill Greenleaf, Hannah Coman, Will Reisinger, Toni Ostrowski, Katherine Bond, Taylor Brown, John Warren, Janath Casper, and (*can't remember first name*) Kruse (Towell was absent). A quorum was established. DMME staff on the call included Carrie Hearne, Al Christopher, Alex Frazier, Jordan Burns and Barbara Simcoe. Grant Kronenberg attended from the Office of the Attorney General.

Hearne read the qualifications for holding an electronic meeting per the Governor, and on a motion by Bleile, seconded by Casper, the motion passed on a roll call vote. Coman introduced Taylor Brown from Sun Tribe Solar as the newest Board member, and he was warmly greeted by the Board members. Hearne presented an update on DMME staff changes that affect the Board. Dan Farrell started a new job at the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to work on RGGI issues, and DMME will be hiring a replacement as soon as possible to help staff CEAB among other duties.

The group then held several votes to approve minutes from previous meetings of the full Board, the Program Development Committee, and the Stakeholder Engagement/Marketing Committee. No corrections were noted to be made to any of the proposed minutes. A motion was made by Greenleaf, seconded by Kruse, to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2020 and November 10, 2020 Board meetings. This motion was carried on a roll call vote. Bleile offered a motion, seconded by Casper, to approve the August 6, 2020 and September 22, 2020 Program Development Committee meeting minutes, which was approved on a roll call vote of the Committee members. A motion by Kruse, seconded by Bond, to approve the September 4, 2020 and September 25, 2020 minutes from the Stakeholder Engagement/Marketing Committee was also approved on a roll call vote of that Committee's members.

The Board members began its review of the 2020 Draft Annual Report, and Coman noted that some Board member comments and edits had been received and incorporated into the Report already. The Board would be interested in receiving comments from the public before its final vote to approve the Report. The Report will be submitted to the General Assembly on January 13, 2021 after Board approval and review/approval by the Governor's office prior to that date.

Hearne reviewed minor comments and edits made to the Report, and Coman called for additional comments from Board members. Comments included the following:

- Under bullet 1 of the Goals section, add "and, continue ongoing conversations with Dominion."
- Under Recommendations, add to third bullet "and/or establishing a Green Bank."
- Add the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council (VAEEC) to the organization list/map as a stakeholder

Public comments on the Draft Report were then solicited by Coman. Carmen Bingham from the Virginia Poverty Law Center asked where customers were plugged into the LMI stakeholder engagement process? What we think communities need isn't necessarily correct. Currently, the Covid virus has prevented active engagement, but everyone agreed it needs to be done. CEAB members should interact with other organizations that reach stakeholders, like legal aid, EJ Council, community development agencies (currently vacant Board positions include some of these people representing such organizations).

Coman suggested accepting suggested changes to the Report, including Board language tweaks, and adding a paragraph per Ms. Bingham's comments describing the challenges faced by stakeholder engagement with current Covid-19 restrictions, respect for served communities, and planned engagement in 2021 with these communities. Covid cannot be an excuse not to engage; we must find different ways to communicate.

Under next steps/2021 goals, the group suggested language be added committing to stakeholder engagement even with Covid restrictions. The Board also discussed the 12% energy efficiency pre-requisite for eligible households and agreed more discussion is needed to land on the exact guidance for the program to avoid requiring households to produce 12 months of bill history prior to and 12 months of bill history following any energy efficiency installations to show exact reduction percentages. There was a discussion about DMME's recommendation on using the "Savings to Investment" ratio (SIR) as a proxy for energy bills. Billy Weitzenfeld of the Association of Energy Conservation Professionals weighed in to support the comments being made, and agreed that the Pilot program should not let the 12% energy efficiency pre-requisite paperwork and "certification" be a barrier to launching a pilot. He recommended that the Pilot program work out those details in advance of a statewide launch. The Board agreed this conversation should continue in the Program Development Committee in 2021 and no legislative policy amendments were needed to move forward on a pilot program launch.

Other edits included:

- Add a sentence stating that the Stakeholder Committee members will examine how the 12% applies to non-WAP customers
- Page 8 pay-as-you-go: co-ops offering programs beginning in 2021 (instead of now)

Coman then called for a vote on the draft 2020 Annual Report. A question was presented re: whether the newest Board member (Taylor Brown) could vote on the Report since he was just appointed to the Board. OAG representative Kronenberg said he could vote. On a motion by Casper to vote on the Report to include the discussed comments and edits, seconded by Warren, the Report was approved on a roll call vote. Coman will work with Hearne to make the needed revisions to the Report, and it will be forwarded to the Governor's office on December 21, 2020 for their review and approval.

There being no other business to conduct, Coman adjourned the meeting at 1:52 p.m. EST after thanking everyone for a job well done, and wishing everyone Happy Holidays.