

MINUTES
MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTER
BOARD MEETING

November 16, 2023

Attendees:

Directors:

Secretary Rebecca Tepper (EEA), Chair
Secretary Yvonne Hao (HED)
Assistant Secretary Kaitlyn Connors (Designee of Secretary Matthew Gorzkowicz, ANF)
Katelyn Kelly (Designee of Secretary Lauren Jones, LWD)
Terry Moran (Executive Director, Massachusetts Workforce Alliance)
Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony (DOER)
Dr. John Cook (President, Springfield Technical Community College)
Bob Haber (Principal, Proficio Capital Partners)
Lisa Theriault (Manager of Business Development, IBEW Local/National Electrical Contractors Association)
Rear Admiral Francis McDonald (President, Massachusetts Maritime Academy)
Tom Galvin (Director, RESHydro)
Dr. Aisha Francis (President, Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute of Technology)

Staff:

Dr. Emily Reichert (CEO)
John Hitt, Esq. (General Counsel and Secretary)
Jaclyn Leslie (CFO and Treasurer)
Alexandra Zaltman
Galen Nelson
Bruce Carlisle
Hilary Flynn
Connor Crowley, Esq.
Lena DeLuca, Esq.
Michelle Beadle
Daniel Gates
Sarah Cullinan
Madison Zeliff
Emily Pittsley
Rhys Webb
Nils Bolgen
Milia Chamas
Elizabeth Youngblood
Isabella McKinney

Soumya Atnoor
Jordan Meier
Stephanie Simmons
Irene Posada
Edward Hsieh
Jess Hiltz
Shayla Brown-Peddy
Rachel Ackerman
Elizabeth Kennedy Cleveland
Jeremy Belknap
Leslie Nash
Cassia Schuler
Raija Vaisanen
Orly Strobel
Justin Packs
Ethan Handel
Anitra Ford
Sean Lyons
Meg Howard
Nahlia Yefet
Tom Chase
Lauren Farnsworth
Chris Cota
Erika McCarthy
Abigail Malmud
Janel Granum
Diego Huezo
Grace O'Connor
Lisa Dobbs
Cat Foley
Erica Hines
Corrin Moss
Susan Mlodozeniec
Teri Faulisi
Camilla Bacolod
Amy Barad
Jennifer Robinson

Others: Ashley Stolba, Undersecretary of Economic Foundations (HED)
Michael Judge, Undersecretary of Energy (EEA)
Daniel Kroytor (RSM)

The one hundred-fifteenth (115th) meeting of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center (“MassCEC”) Board of Directors (the “Board”) was held on November 15, 2023 jointly at MassCEC’s office at 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108 and via remote

video conference. All participants could hear and be heard by each other throughout the meeting.

Seeing a quorum, Secretary Tepper called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

I. Adoption of the Meeting Minutes from the July 23, 2023 and October 11, 2023 Meetings of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center Board of Directors

As the first order of business, the Board reviewed the draft minutes. Upon a motion made by Dr. Cook and seconded by Mr. Galvin, the following roll call vote was taken at 10:03 am:

Secretary Tepper: Yea
Commissioner Mahony: Yea
Mr. Galvin: Yea
Dr. Cook: Yea
Undersecretary Stolba: Yea
Rear Admiral McDonald: Yea
Dr. Francis: Yea
Ms. Theriault: Yea
Ms. Connors: Yea

With 9 yeas and 0 nays it was VOTED, without discussion or abstention, at 10:04 am:

To adopt the Meeting Minutes from the July 23, 2023 and October 11, 2023 Meetings of the MassCEC Board of Directors.

I. Introductions and Update from Chair Secretary Rebecca Tepper and CEO Emily Reichert

Secretary Tepper opened the meeting by introducing MassCEC's new CEO, Dr. Emily Reichert. Dr. Reichert began by discussing top priorities for MassCEC, namely securing sustainable funding, MassCEC's involvement and leadership in the climate report – specifically, the workforce development plan and how to attract and retain climatetech companies in Massachusetts from a planning and economic development standpoint. Dr. Reichert also noted her intention to meet individually with each of the members of the Board to discuss thoughts on the future of the organization, board processes, and other topics of interest.

II. Appointment of Assistant Secretary

Secretary Tepper then transitioned to the appointment of Connor Crowley, MassCEC's Assistant General Counsel, as the Assistant Secretary of MassCEC.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Mahoney and seconded by Dr. Cook, the following roll call vote was taken at 10:07am:

Secretary Tepper: Yea
Commissioner Mahony: Yea

Mr. Galvin: Yea
Mr. Haber: Yea
Dr. Cook: Yea
Undersecretary Stolba: Yea
Ms. Connors: Yea
Rear Admiral McDonald: Yea
Dr. Francis: Yea
Ms. Theriault: Yea
Ms. Kelly: Yea

With 11 yeas and 0 nays it was VOTED, without discussion or abstention, at 10:07 am:

To authorize the appointment of Connor Crowley as Assistant Secretary of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center.

III. Authorization to Expend State Operating Budget Funds

Secretary Tepper moved on to the next topic of discussion, authorization of expenditure of funding MassCEC received from the State Operating Budget, and introduced Jaclyn Leslie, MassCEC's Chief Financial Officer, to lead the discussion.

Ms. Leslie provided a recap for members of the Board regarding developments around this funding, noting MassCEC was ultimately allocated \$30 million in August. Of that \$30 million, Ms. Leslie explained \$15 million is required to go into MassCEC's Offshore Wind Industry Investment Trust Fund, with the other \$15 million being deposited into MassCEC's Clean Energy Investment Fund. Ms. Leslie explained the funding would be received in three tranches and that the funds would not revert to the General Fund if unspent by June 30, 2024. Ms. Leslie noted the offshore wind funds require a report back to the Legislature in March 2024 regarding their use. For the other funds, Ms. Leslie noted they would be allocated \$5 million each to MassCEC's workforce development, transportation, and buildings programming.

[Secretary Hao joined at 10:12 am]

Upon a motion made by Dr. Cook and seconded by Dr. Francis the following roll call vote was taken at 10:18 am:

Secretary Tepper: Yea
Commissioner Mahony: Yea
Mr. Galvin: Yea
Mr. Haber: Yea
Dr. Cook: Yea
Secretary Hao: Yea
Ms. Connors: Yea
Rear Admiral McDonald: Yea
Dr. Francis: Yea
Ms. Theriault: Yea
Ms. Kelly: Yea

With 11 yeas and 0 nays it was VOTED, without discussion or abstention, at 10:18 am:

To authorize the expenditure of up to \$30,000,000 of funds allocated to MassCEC from the State Operating Budget, and further to authorize MassCEC's Chief Executive Officer (i) to enter into contracts and issue individual awards under the programs in a manner consistent with the staff memorandum and (ii) to make program modifications, including modifications to award levels, provided that such modifications are consistent with the program goals set forth in the staff memorandum.

IV. Net Zero Grid: Strategy, Authorization, and Program Update

Secretary Tepper then introduced Sarah Cullinan, Senior Director of the Net Zero Grid (NZG) Program, who gave a brief introduction of her background working in the electric sector before beginning her presentation regarding NZG strategy and program updates.

Ms. Cullinan explained how the “grid of yesterday” is linear and simple compared to what will be asked of the “grid of tomorrow,” requiring substantial changes and updates to meet the Commonwealth’s decarbonization goals. Ms. Cullinan noted the grid will have to support the introduction of more interconnected devices and distributed energy resources (DERs) (e.g. EVs, heat pumps, and solar PV systems coupled with energy storage). Ms. Cullinan noted the grid will need to be (i) bidirectional, meaning that electricity flows in both directions due to the amount of electricity generation on the distribution side of the equation, and (ii) interactive, meaning it will have to communicate with devices and vice versa. Ms. Cullinan explained these changes will implicate more stakeholders and require new policy and regulations. Ms. Cullinan noted that MassCEC primarily works in the distribution system area of the grid, the infrastructure of which is owned and controlled principally by the electric distribution utility companies that are regulated at the state level by the DPU.

Ms. Cullinan provided an overview of the utilities in MA and their relative territories. Ms. Cullinan continued to explain that the grid must modernize for the Commonwealth to reach its 2050 net zero goals, which will involve transferring a substantial portion of energy usage to electricity delivered through the grid and ensuring that the electricity on the grid is generated using clean energy sources.

Ms. Cullinan then discussed the key NZG program features and scope. Ms. Cullinan noted MassCEC plans to conduct a rate design study with DOER on how to restructure rates and create more affordable and equitable costs; award strategic grants for grid technologies; and participate in development of utilities’ electric sector modernization plans.

[Assistant Secretary Connors departed the meeting at 10:56 am]

Ms. Cullinan then discussed NZG program updates including the Grid Resiliency US DOE formula funding received by MassCEC and future work to explore integration of virtual power plants.

Upon a motion made by Secretary Hao and seconded by Commissioner Mahony the following roll call vote was taken at 11:07 am:

Secretary Tepper: Yea
Commissioner Mahony: Yea
Mr. Galvin: Yea
Mr. Haber: Yea
Dr. Cook: Yea
Secretary Hao: Yea
Rear Admiral McDonald: Yea
Dr. Francis: Yea
Ms. Theriault: Yea
Ms. Kelly: Yea

With 10 yeas and 0 nays it was VOTED, without discussion or abstention, at 11:07 am:

To authorize the expenditure of up to \$8,092,023 for the Net Zero Grid program, and further to authorize MassCEC’s Chief Executive Officer (i) to enter into contracts and issue individual awards under the program in a manner consistent with the staff memorandum and (ii) to make program modifications, including modifications to award levels, provided that such modifications are consistent with the program goals set forth in the staff memorandum.

Ms. Cullinan continued to provide the Board with updates regarding NewGrid and Distribution System Planning Studies. Ms. Cullinan concluded with an overview of program metrics and the FY24 year to date scorecard for the NZG program.

V. Update: Production Tracking System

Erica Hines, Senior Director of the Renewable Energy Production team introduced herself next and provided an update on the Production Tracking System to the Board.

Ms. Hines explained that, through the PTS, MassCEC can monitor the installation, size, location, and production data of renewable energy systems throughout the state, which ultimately facilitates the generation of Renewable Energy Certificates (“RECs”) for system owners. Ms. Hines explained that RECs are based on positive environmental attributes from clean energy, with 1 REC being the equivalent of 1MW hour of electricity generated. Ms. Hines noted that utility companies in the Commonwealth must have a certain percentage of electricity they provide from qualifying renewable energy facilities, which leads to their purchasing RECs.

Ms. Hines noted MassCEC and DOER work together to meet compliance and reporting requirements, and that once DOER establishes programs and system owners receive approval

from DOER for their installed system, then they register their system in the PTS to track production, leading towards earning RECs, which generate revenue.

Ms. Hines noted that the PTS program is fully funded by DOER and that she oversees a team of 10 employees, including a customer service group. Ms. Hines proceeded to identify significant projects her team would undertake in the following year and provided background information to the Board regarding the Clean Peak Standard (CPS) Program, a first in the nation program that provides multipliers to incentivize electricity usage at given times to reduce load on and improve resiliency of the grid.

[Assistant Secretary Connors returned to the meeting at 11:26 am]

The Board posed questions about ownership of the PTS and inquired about opportunities to publicize the PTS as a unique system and to highlight what it offers to the Commonwealth.

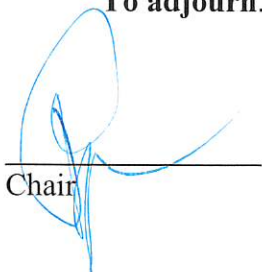
VI. Adjourn.

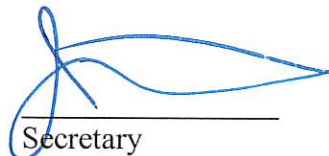
Upon a motion made by Secretary Hao and seconded by Commissioner Mahony, the following roll call vote was taken at 11:41 am:

Secretary Tepper: Yea
Commissioner Mahony: Yea
Mr. Galvin: Yea
Mr. Haber: Yea
Dr. Cook: Yea
Secretary Hao: Yea
Rear Admiral McDonald: Yea
Dr. Francis: Yea
Ms. Theriault: Yea
Ms. Connors: Yea
Ms. Kelly: Yea

With 11 yeas and 0 nays it was VOTED, without discussion or abstention, at 11:41 am:

To adjourn.


Chair


Secretary

Public Meeting Documents and Exhibits:

Meeting Agenda

PowerPoint Presentation on Authorization of Expenditure of FY24 State Operating Budget Allocation to MassCEC

PowerPoint Presentation on Net Zero Grid: Strategy, Authorization, and Program Updates

PowerPoint Presentation on Production Tracking System (PTS): Board Update