**SEU Advisory Board Meeting**

**Minutes**

**June 9, 2020, 10:00AM – 12:00PM**

***(Revised and approved at August 11, 2020 board meeting)***

**Call to Order**

Chair Bicky Corman called a quorum of the Sustainable Energy Utility Advisory Board (SEUAB or Board) to order at 10:15 AM, June 9, 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, Millie Knowlton, Adrienne Moulton-Henderson (proxy for Sandra Mattavous-Frye, Office of People’s Counsel), Donna Cooper, Nina Dodge, Nicole Steele, Steve Burr, Cary Hinton (proxy for Willie Phillips, Public Service Commission)

**Absent Board members:** Scott Williamson, Richard Graves, Farrah Saint-Surin

**Other Attendees:** Tommy Wells (Director, DOEE);Taresa Lawrence (Deputy Director, DOEE); Lance Loncke (Sr. Program Analyst, DOEE); Hussain Karim (DOEE); Ted Trabue (Director, DCSEU); Shawn Fenstermacher (Mid-Atlantic General Manager, VEIC); Shelley Cohen (Solar Program Director, DCSEU); Tamera Christopher (DCSEU); Crystal McDonald (DCSEU); Patti Boyd (Senior Technology Strategist, DCSEU); Lynora Hall (DOEE); Megan Partridge (PEPCO); Dave Epley (Associate Director, DOEE); Lilia Abron (PEER Consultants); Angela Johnson (DCSEU); William Ellis (PEPCO); Yohannes M (Office of People’s Counsel); Alex Lopez (DOEE); Barguv Murali (DOEE), Asa Parker (DCSEU); Shelley Cohen (DCSEU); Eli Hopson (CEO, DC Green Bank).

***Approval of Agenda***

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Dr. Donna Cooper, seconded by Ms. Millie Knowlton, and unanimously approved by the Board.

***Review and Adoption of the June 9, 2020 Minutes.***

The motion to approve the June 9, 2020 minutes was made by Dr. Donna Cooper, seconded by Ms. Millie Knowlton, and unanimously approved by the Board

***Board Orientation/Onboarding Plan & Offboarding Plan Taresa Lawrence***

Taresa Lawrence provided an update regarding the composition and membership of the SEUAB. The current list of Board members can be found at [https//doee.gov/node27102](#_Hlk42972069).

There are eleven filled and two vacant positions.

Ms. Randi Marshall from AOBA previously indicated she would be the new representative for the Building Management industry, however that has not been confirmed. The position for Councilmember Cheh’s seat is also vacant. Dr. Lawrence indicated that three positions expire this year. The three members that do not regularly attend and/or participate during meetings are;

* Scott Williamson, representing the Renewable Energy industry
* Farrah Saint-Surin, representing the Low-Income community
* Richard Graves, Council Chair Mendelson’s designee.

Ms. Lynora Hall reached out to the Board members about the meeting and received no response. Dr. Lawrence asked, “Does the Board want to recommend that members must resign if they are not showing up?” Chair Corman asked what is the basis on the Advisory Board not being able to replace members who are not present? Could she be reminded of the basis for saying that members who are not interested have to affirmatively resign. Dr. Lawrence said there is no minimum number of meetings specified that would then have them to leave the board. Mr. Hussain Karim answered there has to be some due process for removing people from the board, but it is not a simple process and has to follow due process.

Ms. Nina Dodge asked whether the by-laws could be amended to require a minimum number of meetings be attended. Mr. Karim said you can’t eliminate the due process, but yes, the bylaws can be amended. Ms. Dodge recommended that Chair Corman contact them to follow up on Ms. Hall’s reaching out to the three members with no response. Ms. Dodge suggested that Chair Corman could email them pointing out that each of the positions they are filling has been mandated in a way to contribute a specific point of view which the SEU AB is missing in their absence. She should ask them to resign from the position if they are unable to participate, and make herself available for a phone follow up. Chair Corman asked if there is any specific process for off-boarding. DOEE staff will check with MOTA on how to off-board a member. The threshold requirements should be in place going forward. The Board will work to change the by-laws and the Board should take steps to reach out to the members that are not participating or unreachable.

Ms. Knowlton stated there has been criticism that Board members do not understand the DCSEU, or the contract very well. Ms. Knowlton is interested in helping. Mr. Ted Trabue said that he, Dr. Taresa and Dr. Loncke thought this was a good idea. The SEU can put together a formal presentation to give to Board members. This is an agenda item for the next meeting or in the future depending on how busy the schedule will be.

***Follow-up Discussion of ODCA on GHG SEUAB, DOEE, DCSEU***

Ms. Dodge said there have been good meetings on this section of the ODCA. Mr. Cary Hinton thought it was important to discuss GHG emissions reductions as a possible performance benchmark, but his concern is we think about cost increases it might incur as we switch from energy saving to GHG. Chair Corman said she wanted us to tie into our conversation the comments we made to the Public Service Commission (PSC) in FC1160, where the Advisory Board wrote up a position that is relevant. Ms. Dodge said the Sierra Club will be joining us next time to discuss it further.

Dr. Loncke provided a presentation on ODCA’s recommendation. Discussions on the ODCA report are ongoing. Dr. Loncke said they have not decided on a path forward yet. Chair Corman said with regard to FC1160, we need to be thoughtful about PSC action and working with utility programs. It would be premature to impose metrics now, without knowing which direction the PSC is going in, or Washington Gas and PEPCO’s direction. Mr. Stephen Burr asked Lance if there is more information about the Decarbonization Pilot he can share? Dr. Loncke will send out the program design to everyone.

A GHG metric is equal to measuring things in terms of CO2 equivalent. There are challenges such as the fuel mix of the current grid: given the carbon mix in the grid right now, does it benefit the city’s efforts to decarbonize to move to a GHG metric right now? Chair Corman stated when we entertained these issues with FC1160, and DOEE was doing some studies. Are those complete and can they help with the discussion? Dr. Lawrence said that Mr. Edward Yim is working with Synapse on the US DOE electrification. Things are moving along, but the study is not completed as yet. Mr. Burr stated that Washington Gas filed its business plan in March and he can bring in folks to talk about it here. Ms. Knowlton said there may be immediate fuel switching impacts given the higher carbon intensity of the grid. She asked if they could have more discussion on this topic. Ms. Dodge indicated that they will discuss this more later.

***Marginal vs. Average Emission Rate***

Dr. Loncke reviewed both approaches, and said there is a big difference between the two methodologies: average 750/MW versus marginal at 1376-1450/MW. NMR has calculated both.

* SEU performance in 2019
  + 63,000 – Average
  + 107,000 – Marginal.

Chair Corman stated the SEU has said that they have had success in accomplishing their mission because they are saving money to customers. Saving GHG may not resonate as much. Dr. Loncke said this would require the SEU to do business differently. The SEU might shift away from therms and kWh savings to something like Electric Vehicles (EV). Mr. Karim said there could be fuel switching but will that increase people’s bills.

Dr. Loncke asked how do we support existing gas infrastructure? Going back to Ms. Knowlton’s question in terms of timing, he said we are not there yet. Ms. Dodge said that many large emitters in the District have a “cleaner” GHG emissions baseline as they are purchasing renewable energy from third party suppliers or through generation they underwrite directly as in the case of the District Government. Time of use as well as location also affects emissions profiles. (i.e. when people are using energy).

Mr. Asa Parker, DCSEU, made the statements below:

* SMUD is the first utility to go after a GHG metric
* Key challenge to meeting their goal is understanding the locational and time dependent GHG emissions
* Emissions change as the mix DOES
* SMUD has a few key items that the SEU doesn’t have
* Ready access to good data
* Control of electricity resources and when to dispatch them
* Detailed forecasting of GHG impact from electric mix and great ability to influence it

Chair Corman asked what are the next steps? Ms. Dodge said it would be good to know what PEPCO is doing over time. Dr. Cooper would like to present on the things that PEPCO is currently up to. Ms. Dodge is asking if they can get into a specific discussion about where PEPCO is going, not broad-brush strokes. We have limited time to address it. If Dr. Cooper can contribute in a specific way that would be great.

Mr. Burr says that Washington Gas has taken a deep look at how they contribute to climate goals. Plans were filed in mid-March, a comprehensive plan that focuses on climate goals we are working so hard to meet. Dr. Loncke said one of the big things to consider is do we want the GHG to be the primary metric in the contract. Right now we are just tracking it.

Chair Corman said she thinks it is important to hear from the other participants (PSC, etc.). We also need to rethink the agenda for next time because these discussions take a long time. She asked the following parties to present on the issue: Pepco, Washington Gas, and PSC. Sierra Club is already scheduled to present at the SEUAB meeting in July. Ms. Dodge suggested that a panel format be considered to accommodate the four presentations on the subject and that it be oriented to advancing the needs of the SEUAB in its exploration of GHG emissions reduction as a potential performance benchmark. There was agreement.

***Discussion of Green Jobs Nicole Steele, SEUAB***

At the last meeting we talked about Green Jobs metric and how the numbers are tracked and how they have been changed over the years. Ms. Steele, Dr. Loncke, Dr. Lawrence and Mr. Karim had a discussion to talk about how to improve and track green jobs better, and how the SEU can present itself as a leader in the green jobs space. There will be follow-up discussions on this issue.

***DC Construction Codes Updates & Impact to the DCSEU Dave Epley, DOEE***

The new 2017 DC Construction Codes were published on May 29th in the DC Register. Roughly a 15 -20% energy improvement. There is a “Transitional Period” for projects that have either started design, pulled permits, or started construction under the old codes (version 2013) prior to the effective date of the new codes. Small retrofits, replacements, etc. are now required to comply with the new codes.

* The new construction code can be found hers:

<https://www.dcregs.dc.gov/Common/DCR/Issues/IssueCategorylist.aspx?CategoryID=7&IssueID=854>

Mr. Epley said projects currently under construction, or that have already pulled a permit will not be required to redesign to comply with the new codes. There are key highlights in the code changes such as lighting and lighting power density updates, mandatory continuous insulation requirements, Green and Energy Code Alternative Compliance pathways, including net-zero energy stretch codes. Ms. Dodge requested and everyone agreed with an August meeting being held this year. Mr. Epley will present on the codes and focus on the SEU portion as well.

***DCSEU Contract Update Lance Loncke, DOEE***

Ms. Knowlton asked what is the timeline to decide whether DOEE is moving forward with VEIC for a renewal or not? Dr. Loncke answered and said we have to be in the last year of the contract to entertain the idea of renewal. Also, the budget has to be in place first and the SEU performance review needs to be completed. This is DOEE Director Wells’ decision.

In January we should revisit the notes to try to figure out when it needs to go to Council.

***Other Matters***

The agenda items not addressed will be moved to a subsequent agenda.

***Next Agenda***

* Panel discussion on GHG Benchmark with Pepco, Washington Gas, Sierra Club and PSC
* Offboarding Plan and Best Practices
* Discussion of SEUAB Annual Report & Budget
* FC1160 Comments Follow-Up
* COVID-19 Impacts to DCSEU Programs

***Actions taken by the Board***

* Approval of June 9, 2020 meeting agenda
* Approval of May 9, meeting minutes

**Adjournment**

* Chair Corman adjourned the meeting at 12:10 P.M.

*Minutes prepared by: Lynora Hall*