**Sustainable Energy Utility Advisory Board (SEUAB) Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 10, 2023**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

# Call to Order

Chair Bicky Corman called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM, January 10, 2023. This was a Microsoft Teams video conference call meeting. This was a Microsoft Teams video conference call meeting. Chair Bicky Corman called a quorum of the Sustainable Energy Utility Advisory Board (SEUAB or Board) at 10:06 AM. This was a Microsoft Teams video conference call meeting.

# Roll Call/Instructions

Roll call was taken at 10:04 AM and the following people were in attendance:

# Board Members

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **In Attendance?** | **FY 2023** **Special Meetings****Attendance Record** | **FY 2023** **Sub Committee Meeting****Attendance Record** | **FY 2023 Regular Meetings****Attendance Record** |
| Bicky Corman - Board Chair (Mayor’s Designee) | Yes | 4/4 | 1/1 | 2/2 |
| Marshall Duer-Balkind – Vice Chair (Councilmember Cheh) | Yes | 4/4 | 1/1 | 3/3 |
| Sandra Mattavous-Frye (or OPC proxy)  | Yes | 4/4 | 1/1 | 3/3 |
| Merancia Noelsaint (PSC) | Yes | 3/3 | 0/0 | 3/3 |
| Donna Cooper (Electric Company) | Yes | 4/4 | 1/1 | 3/3 |
| Eric Jones (Building Management) | Yes | 4/4 | 1/1 | 3/3 |
| Nina Dodge (Environment) | Yes | 3/3 | 0/0 | 3/3 |
| Jamal Lewis (Low-Income Community) | Yes | 4/4 | 0/0 | 2/2 |
| Mishal Thadani (Economic Development)  | No | 1/1 | 0/0 | 1/1 |
| Sasha Srivastava (Renewable Energy) | Yes | 2/2 | 1/1 | 3/3 |
| Vacant (Building Construction) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Vacant (Council Chairperson Mendelson) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Manny Geraldo (Gas Utility) | Yes | 0/0 | 0/0 | 1/1 |

# Other Attendees: Sarah Kogel-Smucker (OPC), Rebecca Foster (VEIC), Ernest Jolly (DCSEU), Benjamin Burdick (DCSEU), Tamara Christopher (DCSEU), Jennifer Johnston (DOEE), Brandon Bowles (DCSEU), Angela Johnson (DCSEU), Karim Hussain (DOEE), Dave Epley (DOEE), Dr. Lance Loncke (DOEE), Patti Boyd (DCSEU), Crystal McDonald (DCSEU), Andrea Harper (PHI), Karim Hussain (DOEE), Dollie Banks (Pepco), James Pittman (Pepco), Dollie Banks (Pepco)

**Approval of Agenda**

* Chair Bicky Corman suggested the Board add *Vacancies* to the discussion of Board Goals.
* Vice Chair Marshall Duer-Balkind moved to approve the agenda and was seconded by Sarah Kogel-Smucker (OPC). All were in favor, and none were opposed.

# Approval of December Minutes

* Vice Chair Marshall Duer-Balkind moved to approve the December 13, 2022 minutes and vote on the December 22, 2022 minutes in the February Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Chair Bicky Corman. All were in favor, and none were opposed.

# SEUAB Subcommittee Meeting Highlights

* Vice Chair Marshall Duer-Balkind reminded the Board that the subcommittee met on Thursday, December 22, 2022, to discuss WGL’s proposed EEDR programs. He also mentioned that the meeting was held in the wake of an unexpected cancellation of the Technical Issues Working Group (that had been formed by DOEE).
* Vice Chair Marshall Duer-Balkind encouraged Board members to review the meeting minutes for a good summary of the sub-committee discussion. A few highlights:
	+ The Board intends to discuss more about WGL’s EEDR programs once the programs are finalized.
	+ WGL will follow up with their EEDR budget.
	+ It is not a given that there is no conflict or overlap between DCSEU and WGL programs because although the DCSEU is not currently incentivizing entirely new gas systems, DCSEU will incentivize upgrades to help make existing gas systems more efficient.
* Vice Chair Marshall Duer-Balkind highlighted that WGL seemed to express some interest in having the DCSEU as one of the entities contracted to run its EEDR programs. DCSEU has run programs for WGL in the past under merger funds.
* Rebecca Foster (VEIC) shared that administering WGL EEDR programs is not something that the DCSEU and VEIC are contemplating.
* Chair Bicky Corman inquired about the next EEDR Technical Issues Working Group.
* Sarah Kogel-Smucker (OPC) said she would be happy to investigate.
* Chair Bicky Corman inquired whether the Board would like to submit comments to the Public Service Commission (PSC).
* Nina Dodge recommended the Board subcommittee meet to discuss WGL EEDR programs once they have been finalized.
* Merancia Noelsaint (PSC) recommended that comments be received after WGL EEDP programs are filed (however it would depend on the content of the comments).
* Vice Chair Marshall Duer-Balkind asked Merancia Noelsaint (PSC) if she knew when the next Technical Issues Working Group was scheduled.
* Merancia Noelsaint (PSC) shared that she did not know, but could check and get back to the group.
* Chair Bicky Corman highlighted that the Board has multiple opportunities to comment:
	+ 1 –Statement from the Board saying it was consulted (something in writing confirming the utility met its statutory obligations).
	+ 2 – Feedback on the EEDR programs filed (including WGL’s budget).
	+ 3 – A note to the PSC requesting more frequent EEDR working group convenings.
* Merancia Noelsaint (PSC) recommended a two-step process where the consultation documentation can be submitted before or along with the application. The proposal WGL submits to the PSC and then thereafter, the Board can provide more detailed comments on the programs themselves.
* Vice Chair Marshall Duer-Balkind mentioned that there was some debate over WGL’s potential study findings, and the Board commented on the findings (including himself). He also highlighted that a WGL representative stated opinions on WGL’s Potential Study should only be shared in the context of the EEDR working group. If that statement is to be true, then the EEDR working group need to meet more frequently.
* Vice Chair Marshall Duer-Balkind highlighted WGL’s feedback (regarding OPC’s comments on Order No. 20654):
	+ *“After the EEDR Potential Study is completed, Commission staff and Working Group members will discuss the implications of the study and address program goals for WGL’s EEDR programs”. The Company believes that this meeting would need to be convened by the Working Group, which would require the Commission to reconvene the Working Group to discuss the EEDR Potential Study results. The Company is of course happy to discuss the Potential Study and its results with Working Group members whenever such a meeting is convened.*
* Merancia Noelsaint (PSC) recalled the order stating that once the study is submitted (to the PSC), the working group is supposed to review the study and take the findings into consideration for the next cycle of programs.
* Chair Bicky Corman inquired who is responsible for convening the Working Group, the PSC, or the Working Group members.
* Merancia Noelsaint (PSC) shared that the PSC staff who is handling the case would put out a notice to indicate when the Working Group meeting or review of the study would occur.
* Chair Bicky Corman moved for the Board to send a letter to the PSC to encourage a more frequent convening of the EEDR Working Group. The motion was seconded by Nina Dodge and all were in favor. Dr. Donna Cooper (Pepco) abstained from the vote.
* Nina Dodge pointed to the repeated concerns expressed during meetings by one board member for over a year regarding time management of meetings and quality of discussion in meetings. She questioned whether this was an issue for more than the one board member and if so, that it should be addressed through a structured, productive approach.  The meeting did not establish whether this was a concern for more than the one board member.
* Vice Chair Marshall Duer-Balkind recognized Nina’s feedback and requested the discussion be tabled until further in the meeting agenda.

**FY22 DCSEU Performance Review**

* Chair Bicky Corman inquired whether AHRA could count toward the deep energy retrofit benchmark.
* Patti Boyd (DCSEU) shared AHRA could count as savings as long as the properties meet the 30% energy savings requirement.
* Jamal Lewis inquired whether pairing solar with the HVAC replacement program brought down operational costs.
* Patti Boyd (DCSEU) stated that the homes participating in the HVAC replacement program see an increase in their electric bill so pairing the homes with CREF (community renewable energy facility) Solar for All does help offset the increase in the client’s bill.
* Jamal Lewis shared it would be helpful to see more information on the savings the solar provides after transitioning the home to all-electric.
* Patti Boyd (DCSEU) mentioned that some of the findings are included in the fuel switch white paper but had difficulty with the lack of data being provided by the utility.
* Ernest Jolly (DCSEU) confirmed that DCSEU would follow up on this inquiry.
* Brandon Bowles (DCSEU) shared that the District has been very progressive in its climate policies/goals which has directly affected DCSEU’s ability to claim savings.
* Sarah Kogel-Smucker (OPC) asked DCSEU if their team had looked at what other successful states (#1-#8 on ACEEE’s ranking) have done.
* Sarah Kogel-Smucker (OPC) highlighted the Mayor’s announcement about trying to convert the downtown area to housing. With the big push to convert the empty office space to housing, is that an opportunity for the DCSEU to step in?
* Benjamin Burdick (DCSEU) shared that their team is watching the developments very closely and from a savings standpoint, it will be challenging to determine whether retrofit projects will be considered a renovation or new construction. Depending on the category (either renovation or new construction) will depend on the code requirements, which could prevent any savings from being counted.
* Chair Bicky Corman inquired how the DCSEU planned to bring the District from #6 on ACEEE’s ranking to #1.

# Legislative Updates

* Karim Hussain (DOEE) shared that Councilmember Allen is now the Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Environment and that the DCSEU oversight will most likely happen during DOEE’s oversight hearing on February 16.
* Chair Bicky Corman mentioned that Councilmember Allen’s office had reached out inquiring whether the Board wanted to provide testimony for the oversight hearing and requested *a meet and greet* with the Board.
* Nina Dodge moved for the Board to provide testimony for the oversight hearing. The motion was seconded by Chair Bicky Corman. All were in favor, and none were opposed.
* Chair Bicky Corman and Vice Chair Marshall Duer-Balkind volunteered to be members of the subcommittee and to draft the Board’s testimony for the oversight hearing.

# FY23 Board Goals & Bike Rack Items

* DCSEU Information Request
	+ Quarterly program updates
	+ HVAC replacement overview (lessons learned)
		- White paper/summary of findings -> more information on the electric savings and impact of solar
	+ Societal Cost Test presentation
	+ Questions from past meetings:
		- How can the Board reward DCSEU in the design phase?
		- What are the data obstacles with the utility (can the Board step in)?
			* What other barriers can the Board help DCSEU overcome?
		- Has the DCSEU looked at what other successful states (#1-#8 on ACEEE’s ranking) have done?
		- What is the impact of new federal and local lighting requirements?
		- How does DCSEU’s work consider indoor air quality?
* FC1160
	+ Washington Gas EEDR Programs & Budget
	+ EEDR Working Group
		- Board to send a letter to the PSC requesting the FC 1160 working groups be restarted and meet more frequently.
* Board Roles and Statutory Responsibilities
	+ Refresher on bylaws
	+ FY23 goals and priorities
	+ Board procedures
		- Meeting management review/feedback
* Board members will share additional items with Jennifer Johnston via email.

# Board Action Items

* Approval of December 13th meeting minutes
* Approval for the subcommittee to draft
	+ a letter to the PSC (regarding the EEDR working group)
	+ draft testimony for the February 16, 2023 oversight hearing

# Future Agenda Items

* WGL Proposed EEDR Programs & Budget Summary
* EEDR Working Group
	+ Board to send a letter to the PSC requesting the FC 1160 working groups be restarted and meet more frequently.
* Board Roles and Statutory Responsibilities/Procedures for Board Deadlines and Proposals
* DCSEUAB testimony for the oversight hearing
* DCSEU FY23 Q1 Performance
* Approval of December minutes
* Meeting Review/Feedback (5 min)

# Adjournment

* Chair Bicky Corman adjourned the meeting at 12:01 PM.

# Acronyms used during this meeting

* ATO – Authorization to Operate
* DCSEU - District of Columbia Sustainability Energy Utility
* DOEE - Department of Energy and Environment
* EEDR – Energy Efficiency and Demand Response
* OPC - Office of the People’s Counsel
* PHI – Pepco Holdings
* PSC - Public Service Commission
* WGL – Washington Gas Light

*Minutes prepared by Jennifer Johnston, DOEE*