

# Meeting Minutes

Meeting Held Virtually

July 14, 2021

1:00pm – 3:00pm

## EEAC Members in Attendance

EEAC Member	Organization/Sector	Attendance	Proxy	Proxy Name
Robert Underwood	(Chairperson) DNREC	Present	n/a	
Emily Greene	Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation	Present	n/a	
Charles Kistler	Low-Income Sector	Present	n/a	
Cassandra T. Marshall	Residential Sector	Absent	No	
Harris B. McDowell, III	Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility	Absent	Yes	Tony DePrima
Kelly McKeown	Commercial Sector	Present	n/a	
Glenn A. Moore	Delmarva Power & Light	Present	n/a	
Mark Nielson	Delaware Electric Cooperative	Present	n/a	
Steve Baccino	Chesapeake Utilities	Present	n/a	
Christian Fuess	Manufacturing Sector	Absent	n/a	
Ric Moore	Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility	Absent	No	
Clem Dinsmore	Environmental Sector	Present	n/a	
Vacant	Agricultural Sector	n/a	n/a	

## EEAC Consultants in Attendance

Crystal Johnson; Optimal Energy, Inc.  
Gretchen Calcagni; Optimal Energy, Inc.  
Griff Keating; Optimal Energy, Inc.

## DNREC Staff in Attendance

Rob Underwood; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy  
Edward Synoski; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy  
Mark Dworkin; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy  
Susan Love; Division of Climate, Coastal, and Energy

## Call to Order

Chairperson Rob Underwood called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

## Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion
  - a. Vote on minutes – April
3. EM&V Committee Update – Optimal/DNREC
4. Low-Income Committee Update – Optimal/DNREC
5. Federal Government EE Update – Jeff Genzer, NASEO
6. Empowerment Program Presentation – Jim Purcell, SEU
7. DNREC Climate Action Plan Presentation – Susan Love, DNREC
8. Next Steps/Adjournment
9. Public Comment

## Welcome and Introductions

- Underwood took attendance for the meeting.

## Council Business, Planning, and General Discussion

### Vote on minutes – April

- Emily Greene clarified that all eligible communities renewed in their community efficiency program, not all communities.
- Greene made a motion to approve with edits.
- Steven Baccino seconded.
- All Councilors voted in favor.
- Motion was approved.

## EM&V Committee Update – Optimal/DNREC

- Gretchen Calcagni gave an update on the activities of the EM&V Committee. The Delaware TRM was finalized in its current form. Program administrators gave updates on their EM&V activities. The committee also checked-in the status of the Committee's savings allocation work. Discussions were also slated for future discussion.

## Energy Access and Equity Collaborative Update – Optimal/DNREC

- Calcagni stated that Jim Purcell gave an update on the empowerment fund, which he would be updating the Council on in greater detail later in the meeting.
- Charles Kistler reviewed the collaborative's discussion. This included a brief overview of what had been previously accomplished, including the committee's name change. He also introduced the new members of the core working group, including LeAnn Myers, Sarah Rhine, Harrold Stafford, among others. He then reviewed what the collaboratives actions would be going forward, including upcoming strategic planning and collaboration and a focus on soliciting more public input.

## Federal Government Energy Efficiency Update – Jeff Genzer, NASEO

- Rob Underwood introduced NASEO as an extremely useful nation-wide organization of energy officials, allowing for cross-jurisdictional information sharing.
- Jeff Genzer gave a presentation on congressional activity at the federal level that may impact state energy efficiency efforts. He reviewed the recent proposal from the subcommittee managing the energy and water appropriation. He then gave a more detailed review of potential budget items that could be of interest to Delaware. He also gave an overview of the most recent \$3.5 Trillion budget proposal from the Democratic Senate. Additionally various smaller topics were addressed, such as manufactured housing, offshore wind, and elevated platforms for key equipment.

- Tony DePrima asked Genzer about the climate bank initiative and the climate and energy accelerator initiative.
- Genzer indicated that he has heard from colleagues in DC that those initiatives may experience an uphill battle. He also suggested that the unused loan program may be slowing progress because it went unused for four years. He then gave an additional overview of obstacles in the legislative branch.
- DePrima asked for a clarification about the loan program.
- Genzer gave a brief overview of the history of the loan office and how its development has shaped what it can do.
- Clem Dinsmore asked if there is any evidence that demand side management is more supported than supply side by Republicans in the legislative branch.
- Genzer gave a brief overview of some Republican officials that are champions of demand side management. He said the support comes from a view of less waste rather than climate goals.
- Dinsmore asked if resilience and infrastructure improvements are part of the proposed packages.
- Genzer responded that there are provisions for resilience.

### Empowerment Program Presentation – Jim Purcell, SEU

- Jim Purcell gave a presentation on the activities of the Empowerment Grant Program. With 24 grant applications and 7 awarded, the program has dispersed \$833,333 in grants. Purcell gave an overview of each of the grants, including refrigerator replacements, insulated skirting, and other small efficiency programs. He reviewed the upcoming grant application deadlines including some resiliency efforts. The Energy Equity Fund was introduced as a future effort towards continuing the work of the Empowerment Grant Program and expanding it to becoming a more collaborative effort instead of just grantmaking. He also gave quick hit summaries on topics that will be addressed and prioritized by the program.
- Clem Dinsmore asked if the program will take climate change and flood risk into consideration as prioritized work areas.
- Purcell said they will be considering climate impacts.
- Kistler asked about the location prioritization process and the inclusion of external stakeholders.
- Purcell said they will be engaging stakeholders as much as possible.

### DNREC Climate Action Plan Presentation – Susan Love, DNREC

- Susan Love gave a presentation on the Delaware Climate Action Plan (CAP). She reviewed what the impacts of climate change will look like for Delaware and why it is important to take immediate action. She then covered what challenges Delaware will face in attempting to meet its climate goals. She outlined a suite of 20 actions the state could take to aid in meeting the 2025 target. She highlighted the importance of energy efficiency for meeting climate goals.
- Emily Greene asked if there were studies into grid reliability in an 100% renewable scenario. She also asked how storage factors in and why solar and wind were selected.
- Love responded that the modeling is entirely based on lowering carbon and that wind and solar are the assumed technologies currently. No studies were made into grid reliability, as this was just a modeling pursuit.
- Greene asked to be sent any information about grid reliability that Love may know of.
- Dinsmore asked whether the CAP process would continue to have public engagement and commenting sessions.
- Love responded that they are planning to publish the report without additional public comment, although they are interested in public engagement on the implementation path.
- DePrima asked about the role of sequestration/carbon capture and land use in the plan.
- Love responded that carbon capture was not looked at, although land use and the importance of natural areas is a section in the plan.

## Public Comment

- Underwood asked for public comments.
- No public comments were made.

## Next Steps/Adjournment

- Ed Synoski indicated that the next EEAC meeting is scheduled for October 13<sup>th</sup> 2021.
- Copies of all EEAC meeting materials may be found on DNREC's website located at the following URL:  
<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/efficiency/advisory-council-meetings/>

## Adjournment

- Underwood requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Glenn Moore made a motion to adjourn.
- Kelly McKeown seconded.
- The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.