



Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, May 20, 2025 | 10:02 a.m.
Rachel Carson State Office Building, Room 105, and via Microsoft® Teams online

Board Members/Designees Present

Jessica Shirley, Acting DEP Secretary..... Board Chair
Designee Kimberly Barrow..... (for Chairman Stephen M. DeFrank, PUC)
Designee Adam Walters..... (for Secretary Rick Siger, DCED)
Designee Michael Roth..... (for Secretary Russell C. Redding, Agriculture)
Designee Paul Wentzel..... (for Secretary Wendy Spicher, BAS)
Designee Glendon King..... (for Representative Joshua Kail)
Designee Stephon Petro..... (for Representative Elizabeth Fiedler)
Designee Emily Eyster..... (for Senator Carolyn Comitta)
Designee Matt Osenbach..... (for Senator Gene Yaw)
Laureen M. Boles Appointee
Romulo L Diaz, Jr..... Appointee
Sarah Hetznecker..... Appointee
Bernie M. Lynch..... Appointee

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Staff Present

Geoff Bristow.....Chief Operating Officer, PEDA
Alayna Schmeider..... PEDA Staff, EPO
Greg Smith PEDA Staff, EPO
Jasmine Smallwood..... PEDA Staff, EPO
Robert F. Teplitz Special Counsel
Lena Smith Policy Specialist II, Policy Office
Laura RiggeExecutive Assistant, OA
Chloe WilsonAdministrative Officer, EPO

Other Attendees

Festus Odubo.....Executive Policy Manager, Public Utilities Commission
Abbey Cadden.....Infrastructure Coordinator, Office of the Governor
Philip Ehrig.....Deputy Director, Office of the Governor

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jessica Shirley, Acting Secretary of DEP, at 10:02 a.m. Geoff Bristow conducted the roll call at the beginning of the meeting. A quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (ACTION)

Chair Shirley requested consideration of the March 11, 2025 meeting minutes.

Motion: Paul Wentzel motioned to adopt the minutes from the March 11, 2025, with Kimberly Barrow seconding the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY (ACTION)

PEDA's bylaws permit the Board to appoint an Assistant Secretary. The Board approved the new Administrative Officer for the Energy Programs Office, Chloe Wilson, as the Assistant Secretary for the PEDA Board.

Motion: Paul Wentzel motioned to appoint Chloe Wilson as the Assistant Secretary, with Romy Diaz seconding the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Assistant Treasurer Alayna Schneider provided an update on PEDA's financial status.

ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2025 REVISION

Chair Shirley advised that PEDA revises its Energy Development Plan every five years. Staff modified the draft revised plan based on comments from the Board. Geoff Bristow reviewed the process required to finalize and release the final revised plan. Public comments are due by June 13. The Board will vote on a final draft at the August board meeting.

ENERGY ACCELERATOR PROGRAM UPDATES

Updates were provided to the Board on the various programs under the Energy Accelerator Program (EAP).

Peter Krajcsa, from the National Energy Improvement Fund (NEIF), presented a review of the year one performance of the KEEP Home Energy Loan, which included plans to improve program performance in the next year. Geoff Bristow stated that the loan administration contract with NEIF would be extended for a second and final one-year period.

Schneider shared an update on the MORE Grant and Loan program.

Greg Smith reported on the Solar for All program. A concern was raised about equity across the state, and the need for a balanced approach in program implementation. PEDA staff acknowledged the challenges and commented that PEDA is following Philadelphia Green Capital Corp.'s (PGCC) lead due to its expertise. A question was posed about when EPA would release funds. Chair Shirley clarified that the funds were restricted by state legislation during the previous budget cycle, not due to federal action.

Bristow shared an update on the Solar for Schools Loan Program. Since the U.S. Department of Energy has not yet considered PEDA's loan application, PEDA will use funds from The Heinz Endowments to support schools in southwestern PA. PEDA staff will develop a targeted loan program accordingly.

Bristow advised that the Energy Independence for Municipalities Program was on hold, after the consideration of PEDA's application was halted due to a legal dispute over EPA funding.

Bristow shared an update on the Strategic Lending Partnership with PGCC, stating that a finalized agreement was in the signature process, with an end of the year deadline to ensure efficient use of funds.

Regarding the PA BRIGHT Grant, Bristow stated that while the grant to the Capital Good Fund was approved, it is contingent upon DEP's approval of a non-solicitation grant, which is currently pending.

NEW BUSINESS (ACTION)

The Board passed the following two motions:

The PEDA board authorizes and directs staff to execute agreements through which PEDA would retain services from an outside vendor, through the Commonwealth's Invitation to Qualify Program, and the Office of the Budget, the Department of Community and Economic Development, and/or other Commonwealth agencies, through a memorandum of understanding, for the underwriting processing, and servicing of loans issued by PEDA. The board further authorizes and directs staff to advance the costs incurred for such services from any funding source available to PEDA, if necessary, before recovering such costs in full as part of the fees charged to borrowers.

Motion: Romy Diaz moved, with Sarah Hetznecker seconding the motion. Glendon King and Matt Osenbach voted nay. The motion carried with 11 in favor, and 2 against. After the vote, Bristow stated that staff would seek board approval before any loan closings.

The PEDA board of directors authorizes and directs staff to expend funds from the Energy Development Fund in an amount up to \$75,000 to retain PFM Financial Advisors LLC (PFM), through the Office of the Budget's master agreement with PFM, to continue to provide strategic consulting services to PEDA for a twelve-month period beginning on July 1, 2025.

Motion: Adam Walters moved, with Romy Diaz seconding the motion. Glendon King voted nay. The motion carried with 12 in favor, and 1 against.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bernie Lynch alerted the PEDA Board that the Resilient Energy Technology and Infrastructure Consortium (RETI) in southwestern PA has applied for grant funding through the NSF-Engine program for regional energy innovation, and suggested there is potential for connection to PEDA financing programs. It was suggested that a presentation from RETI would be a good addition to a future board meeting later in 2025.

No other comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.