



Pennsylvania
Energy Development Authority

Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, November 18, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.
Rachel Carson State Office Building, Room 105 and via Microsoft® Teams online

Board Members/Designees Present

Jessica Shirley, DEP Secretary..... Board Chair
Romulo L. Diaz, Jr..... Board Treasurer
Designee Adam Walters.....Board Secretary (for Secretary Rick Siger, DCED)
Designee Kimberly Barrow.....(for Chair Stephen DeFrank, PUC)
Designee Paul Wentzel..... (for Secretary Wendy Spicher, BAS)¹
Designee Melanie Joy El Atieh..... (for Darryl Lawrence, Consumer Advocate)
Designee Heidi Secord..... (for Secretary Russell C. Redding, Agriculture)
Designee Daisy Confoy (for Representative Elizabeth Fiedler)
Senator Carolyn Comitta..... Board Member
Designee Sarah Logue..... (for Senator Gene Yaw)
Laureen M. Boles Board Member
Sarah Hetznecker-Sheehan..... Board Member
Bernie M. Lynch..... Board Member

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Staff Present

David A. Althoff, Jr.....Director, EPO
Abbey Cadden.....Acting Executive Director, 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

Emily Eyster.....PA Senate
Festus Odubo.....Executive Policy Manager, PUC
Joe Cullen.....Ohio River Valley Institute
Peter Krajsa.....National Energy Improvement Fund

¹ Mr. Wetzel joined the public meeting for the discussion of the 2025 Energy Development Plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION²

The Board moved into Executive Session at 10:00 a.m. to discuss matters involving personnel and litigation pursuant to the Sunshine Act (65 Pa.C.S. § 708(a)(1), (4), (5)). The Board concluded the Executive Session at 10:19 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jessica Shirley, Secretary of DEP, at 10:31 a.m. Chair Shirley stated for the record that, immediately prior to the public meeting, the PEDA board held an executive session under Section 708(a)(1), (4), and (5) of the Sunshine Act to discuss matters involving personnel and litigation. No official action was taken during the executive session. David Althoff conducted the roll call. A quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (ACTION)

Chair Shirley requested consideration of the meeting minutes from the executive session and the public meeting held October 9, 2025.

Motion: Kimberly Barrow moved to adopt the minutes from the October 9, 2025 executive session and public meeting, with Lauren Boles seconding the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF PEDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (ACTION)

Chair Shirley asked if there were any objections to going out of order briefly to handle one of the items of New Business. There were no objections.

She then said that the executive director position at PEDA has been vacant for several years. Geoff Bristow, who recently retired from the Commonwealth, had served as acting executive director and, more recently, as chief operating officer. Following state law and PEDA's bylaws, DEP has designated Abbey Cadden to fill the vacant executive director position. All Board members received background information and materials prior to this meeting and have also had the opportunity to meet with Abbey to discuss her qualifications for the position.

Chair Shirley then asked the Board to consider the following motion:

The PEDA board appoints Abbey Cadden to serve as PEDA's executive director pursuant to the provisions of state law and the authority's bylaws. The appointment is effective immediately.

Motion: Sen. Carolyn Comitta moved, with Heidi Secord seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

² Pursuant to the Sunshine Act regulations (4 Pa. Code § 1.45(f)), the minutes of the Executive Session "do not constitute records available for public inspection and copying." Therefore, those minutes are maintained separately.

ENERGY ACCELERATOR PROGRAM UPDATES

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

Peter Krajsa, from the National Energy Improvement Fund (NEIF), shared updates on the KEEP Home Energy Loan Program, which included modified rates. Krajsa noted the positive impact of pricing adjustments on application volume and the need for the continued development of the contractor network. Romy Diaz questioned the focus on Western Pennsylvania when it came to statewide outreach efforts. Krajsa explained that the southeast region has a higher concentration of larger, more productive contractors, whereas smaller ones dominate in the west, where the market is highly fragmented. The discussion also touched on the impact of tariffs on prices.

Alayna Schneider shared an update on the MORE Grant and Loan program. The program is gaining momentum as grantees complete audits and move towards project execution. A loan application is expected to close by the end of the month, with two others making progress but had faced delays due to pending audits.

Jasmine Smallwood provided an update on the Solar for Schools Loan Program. The program is still in development.

2025 PEDA ANNUAL REPORT

Alayna Schneider confirmed that the report was completed. It was sent to the Board prior to the meeting and is also available on eLibrary.

2025 ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN (ACTION)

Abbey Cadden discussed revisions, based on Board feedback and public comment, to the draft of the 2025 revised Energy Development Plan. The Plan is updated every five years. Romy Diaz noted the exclusion of lower carbon intensity power generation from the policy objectives section of the plan and suggested that it be added. Abbey Cadden committed to working with Diaz on appropriate language after the meeting and asked if he was comfortable revising the planned motion (which had not yet been introduced) to reflect that commitment so that a vote could still be taken as planned. He agreed to proceed on that basis.

Chair Shirley asked the Board to consider the following motion:

The PEDA board approves, for signature by the chair, the final version of the 2025 revision to PEDA's Energy Development Plan, as presented by staff at the board meeting of November 18, 2025, with the change to be submitted by Romy Diaz. The board further authorizes and directs staff to implement and follow the 2025 revised plan, seeking board approval as required for specific sections.

Motion: Romy Diaz moved, with Adam Walters seconding the motion. The motion passed with 12 votes in favor, and 1 against. Sarah Logue voted nay.

NEW BUSINESS

Abbey Cadden shared the 2026 Board meeting schedule.

- February 3

- May 5
- August 4
- November 16

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 3, 2026