Pennsylvania
Energy Development Authority

Meeting Minutes | Tuesday, May 5, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.
Rachel Carson State Office Building, Room 105 and via Microsoft® Teams online

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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, DOBS)
Designee Melanie Joy El Atieh……………………....... (for Darryl Lawrence, Consumer Advocate)
Designee Heidi Secord.. (for Secretary Russell C. Redding, Agriculture)
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)
Sarah Hetznecker-Sheehan.. Board Member
Bernie Lynch………….. Board Member

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Staff Present

Christine Knapp…..……………...Director, EPO
Abbey Cadden………….. Executive Director, PEDA
Alayna Schmeider…… .... PEDA Staff, EPO
Greg Smith .... PEDA Staff, EPO
Vijay Teru... PEDA Staff, EPO
Robert F. Teplitz .... Special Counsel
Chloe Wilson ....Administrative Officer, EPO
Joyce Turkaly……………………………………………...……..Energy Program Specialist, EPO
Lena Smith .... Policy Specialist II, Policy Office

Other Attendees

Dr. Erienne Olesh………CEO, Resilient Energy Technology & Infrastructure (RETI) Consortium
Reed McManigle…………….......................Chief Commercialization Officer, RETI Consortium
Philip Ehrig………….............Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator, Office of the Budget
Festus Odubo………………………………..………………Executive Policy Manager, PUC
Trent Machamer……………………………………………………………….…..…PA Senate
Joseph Cullen………..Ohio River Valley Institute
Ted Mowatt…………………………………………………..………………Wanner Associates

CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jessica Shirley, Secretary of DEP, at 10:03 a.m. Abbey Cadden conducted the roll call. A quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (ACTION)

Chair Shirley requested consideration of the meeting minutes from the public meeting held on February 10, 2026.

Motion: Romy Diaz moved to adopt the minutes, with Matt Osenbach seconding the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cadden formally introduced the new Director of the Energy Programs Office, Christine Knapp, and Senior Civil Engineer Vijay Teru, who had recently joined the PEDA staff.

NO-COST EXTENSION OF PFM CONTRACT (ACTION)

Chair Shirley noted that several board members needed to leave early and asked if there were any objections to going out of order briefly to address motions while the Board had a quorum. There were no objections.

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

> *The PEDA board authorizes and directs staff to extend, at no additional cost, PEDA's current contract with PFM Financial Advisors LLC until June 30, 2027, or until the exhaustion of the originally authorized contract amount of $75,000, whichever comes first.*

Motion: Diaz moved, with Bernie Lynch seconding the motion. The motion passed with 11 votes in favor, and 2 against. Glendon King and Osenbach voted nay.

AD-HOC BOND COUNSEL RFP REVIEW COMMITTEE (ACTION)

Cadden discussed the next steps for the Solar for Schools Loan Program bond issuance, including the formation of an ad-hoc bond counsel review committee. PEDA staff coordinated with the Office of General Counsel to issue a request for proposal (RFP) for bond counsel, which was published on April 30 with a submission deadline of May 27 and would be limited to only qualified law firms.

Chair Shirley asked the Board to consider the following motion:

> *The PEDA board elects Romulo Diaz, Jr., Sarah Hetznecker, and Bernie Lynch to the Ad-Hoc Bond Counsel Request for Proposals Review Committee. The committee will be chaired by Jessica Shirley. Those board members, along with staff from PEDA and the Pennsylvania Economic Development Financing Authority, will review the responses from law firms interested in serving as bond counsel for the bonds to be issued in support of the Solar for Schools Loan Program and make a recommendation to the full board. The committee shall be disbanded upon the execution of a contract with a selected law firm.*

King inquired about the anticipated timeline for the bond counsel selection process. Cadden stated that the goal was to return to the Board in August for a vote on the committee's recommendation.

Motion: Kimberly Barrow moved, with Diaz seconding the motion. The motion passed with 11 votes in favor, and 2 against. King and Osenbach voted nay.

PA ENERGY ACCELERATOR FUND (ACTION)

Cadden explained that while PEDA has historically relied on issuing grants to fund energy and efficiency projects, the hope is to diversify its financing model and move toward a loan-focused approach to ensure long-term sustainability. Cadden advised that this could be accomplished through transferring stewardship of the pre-existing Green Energy Loan Fund from the Energy Programs Office to PEDA and renaming it the Pennsylvania Energy Accelerator Fund. The Pennsylvania Energy Accelerator Fund would be structured as a revolving loan fund and broaden the scope of eligible projects. King asked if there were any restrictions on the use of funds, as the program is funded by federal funds. Cadden confirmed that a program amendment with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) would be necessary but that there were no concerns about the process or its implications.

Chair Shirley asked the Board to consider the following motion:

> *The PEDA board authorizes and directs PEDA's chair and executive director to execute the necessary agreements for PEDA to assume responsibility for overseeing the Pennsylvania Green Energy Works! Green Energy Loan Fund. In carrying out such oversight responsibility, PEDA staff shall:*
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> 1. *Publicly brand the revolving loan fund as the Pennsylvania Energy Accelerator Fund or something substantially similar;*
> 2. *Dedicate bond proceeds and grants from state, federal, and philanthropic sources to the fund;*
> 3. *Ensure that new projects supported by the fund are advanced clean energy and energy efficiency projects consistent with the priorities described in PEDA's Energy Development Plan;*
> 4. *Require the fund's external administrator to provide research with data, information, and recommendations regarding such loans and projects in Pennsylvania; and*
> 5. *Report to the board on a regular basis regarding the fund and the projects that it has supported.*

Motion: Diaz moved, with Stephon Petro seconding the motion. The motion passed with 11 votes in favor, and 2 against. King and Osenbach voted nay.

RESILIENT ENERGY TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE CONSORTIUM PRESENTATION

Dr. Erienne Olesh gave a presentation on the work of the RETI Consortium. The Consortium aims to enhance energy resilience in Western Pennsylvania and West Virginia through investments in innovative technologies and startups. RETI has partnered with regional institutions such as West Virginia University, Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, and the U.S. Research Impact Alliance, and a network of over 60 national investors on this project. The project focuses on addressing industrial energy demands, which consume 50% of the region's energy supply, by creating 150 new innovations and 200 startups, potentially generating 21,000 new jobs. RETI has secured $161 million in financial commitments from its network and may receive additional funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Chair Shirley asked about the expected timeline for RETI to receive an update from NSF regarding the Regional Engines Award. Dr. Olesh stated that the public announcement for the award is scheduled for June. Barrow requested more information about the grant proposals and the selection process for technology investments. Dr. Olesh explained the process of selecting topics for seed funding, including the role of an industrial advisory board and the review process for proposals. Reed McManigle added that funding would be provided to startups at various stages of their development, workforce development programs, and community partner programs. With the objective of promoting collaborative opportunities, Diaz asked if RETI knew of any West Virginia-based entity equivalent to PEDA. Dr. Olesh suggested the West Virginia Manufacturers Association (WMVA), noting that while not an exact counterpart, it similarly engages in extensive work with energy consumer groups. Chair Shirley mentioned the RISE PA program, which aims to reduce industrial sector emissions, and underscored the importance of assisting industrial businesses in lowering operational costs and decreasing emissions.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Assistant Treasurer Alayna Schmeider provided an update on PEDA's financial status. Starting with a budget of $2.3 million, $1.6 million remains after expenditures. Schmeider mentioned the withdrawal of the Capital Good Fund grant application, with Cadden clarifying that it was declined due to the grantee securing other funding sources.

Cadden detailed PEDA's funding history and current sources of funding. Historically, PEDA relied on a mix of state funding, federal funding, philanthropic funds, and interest earned, noting the absence of state funds as a current funding source. Schmeider clarified that because the philanthropic funds associated with the Heinz Endowments are maintained in a sub-account and have had no recent financial activity, these funds were excluded from the financial report.

ENERGY ACCELERATOR PROGRAM UPDATES (ACTION)

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

Schmeider reported that through Q1 2026, the KEEP Home Energy Loan Program received 605 applications, reflecting a 29% increase since last year, and representing $6.3 million in project financing. Of those, 278 projects were officially funded during Q1, accounting for $2.9 million in disbursements.

Regarding the MORE Grant and Loan Program, Schmeider reported that 55 audits were completed at a total cost of $564,759, and that the first interest rate buy-down request was successfully closed.

Greg Smith reported on the development of the Solar for Schools Loan Program, highlighting that the loan agreement and application guidelines were actively progressing and being refined in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Smith mentioned the need for additional sources of capital to support a broader program and the ongoing efforts to get the loan application live on the Commonwealth's Electronic Single Application (ESA) system.

OTHER BUSINESS

Petro shared an update regarding HB 2347, sponsored by Representative Elizabeth Fiedler, which seeks to modernize the PEDA statute to reflect current energy technologies. The bill will expand eligible project definitions to include renewable energy and grid resilience, broaden project cost categories, empower PEDA to issue grants and loans, and reduce the Board from 19 to 15 members. The bill also extends the sunset date of PEDA to 10 years after the effective date of the legislation, revises reporting deadlines, and changes the authority's name to the Pennsylvania Energy Financing Authority (PEFA). It is currently moving through the legislature, having passed the PA House yesterday, where floor debate centered on project ownership and Representative Joshua Kail opposed the bill on that basis. The bill is expected to move to the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeaneen Zappa, Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance, voiced support for the two key items on the agenda. Regarding the MORE Grant and Loan Program, Zappa emphasized the importance of interest rate buy-downs on loans in helping resource-strapped municipalities overcome the hurdles of securing traditional loans to fund energy efficiency retrofits. The revolving loan fund was also praised, with Zappa suggesting that funds target essential public infrastructure like libraries, cooling centers, and emergency centers. To maximize impact, Zappa encouraged PEDA to sync its initiatives with the Department of General Services as the latter continues its ongoing efforts in benchmarking buildings.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.