

MINUTES OF MEETING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
PENNSLVANIA ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

August 23, 2023

11:03 a.m. – 12:06 p.m.

Delaware Room, Rachel Carson State Office Building and via MS Teams

**Board Members/Alternates Present**

Hon. Richard Negrin, Chairman

Alt. Adam Walters (for Hon. Rick Siger, Secretary, Dept. of Community and Economic Development)

Patrick Cicero, Consumer Advocate

Alt. Cheryl Cook (for Hon. Russell C. Redding, Secretary, Dept. of Agriculture)

Alt. Paul Wentzel (for Hon. Wendy Spicher, Acting Secretary, Dept. of Banking and Securities)

Alt. Hon. John F. Coleman, Jr., (for Hon. Gladys Dutrieuille, Chair, Public Utility Commission)

Alt. Matt Osenbach (for Hon. Gene Yaw, Senate of Pennsylvania)

Alt. Emily Eyster (for Hon. Carolyn T. Comitta, Pennsylvania House of Representatives)

Alt. Glendon King (for Hon. Joshua Kail, Pennsylvania House of Representatives)

Sarah Hetznecker

Laureen Boles

Romulo L. Diaz, Jr.

Bernie Lynch

**PEDA Staff**

Geoff Bristow, Acting Executive Director

Alayna Schmeider, Assistant Treasurer

Nathan Reagle

Laura Rigge, Assistant Secretary

**DEP Staff**

David Althoff, Jr., Director, Energy Programs Office

Robert F. Teplitz, Special Counsel, DEP

Jayneisha Davis, Executive Assistant, Office of Programs

Anwar Curtis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

**Public Attendees**

Patrick Henderson

Matt Fine

Paul DiRenzo

Abbey Cadden, Infrastructure Coordinator, Governor's Office

Maryrose Myrtetus, Philadelphia Green Capital Corp.

Katie Bartolotta, Philadelphia Energy Authority

**CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m. by Chairman Richard Negrin, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection. Acting Executive Director of PEDA Geoff Bristow

conducted roll call at the beginning of the meeting and a quorum was established. The Board considered its first item of business – the July 6, 2023 PEDAs Board meeting minutes.

Patrick Cicero noted that the date of the meeting was incorrect and that there should be no “Acting” in front of his title.

Bernie Lynch moved to adopt the July 6, 2023 meeting minutes as amended. Lauren Boles seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Geoff Bristow provided an update of the financial status of PEDAs two funds in June 2023 for approval. Another update will be provided in Fall 2023. The following is report as of June 30, 2023:

- Energy Development Funds (PEDAs) – \$2,887,226.38
  - Includes Interest Income YTD: \$90,967.00
  - Admin + Planned Expenditures YTD: \$47,598.82
  - Commitments:
    - Hydro Green: \$499,913.00
    - Green Bank: \$1,750,087.00
  - Available balance: \$482,226.38

Chairman Negrin asked Acting Executive Director Geoff Bristow if he had any concerns about PEDAs current financial standing. Geoff Bristow said he felt PEDAs was in good shape, but he was still interested in acquiring more funding for PEDAs. David Althoff confirmed that there had not been much change in the fund over the past year. Chairman Negrin asked whether Geoff felt that he had sufficient staff to implement the current plans for PEDAs. Geoff confirmed that he was confident that existing PEDAs staff could handle the workload, but, depending on the details of the plans for PEDAs Solar for All application, he might require more staff. Chairman Negrin affirmed that he is committed to making sure that PEDAs and all of DEP has the resources necessary to make the best use of the incoming federal funding.

### **PEDAs APPLICATION FOR THE SOLAR FOR ALL GRANT**

Chairman Negrin asked that Geoff Bristow provide a brief overview of the Solar for All Grant.

- The Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) is a program with 3 competitions under it. GGRF was created under the federal Inflation Reduction Act in 2022, which authorized \$27 billion to mobilize financing and private capital to advance clean energy projects necessary to address climate impacts, promote energy independence, and drive economic competitiveness and revitalization, especially in low-income and disadvantaged communities.
- The three programs under GGRF are the National Clean Investment Fund (\$14 billion), the Clean Community Investment Accelerator (\$6 billion), and Solar for All (\$7 billion).
- Solar for All is a competitive program open to states, territories, tribal governments, and municipal coalitions, and will have up to 60 awards.

- The purpose of Solar for All is to make capital available to support the deployment of residential and community solar within low-income and disadvantaged communities. Funding will go toward solar installations, enabling building upgrades, technical assistance, workforce development, marketing and outreach, and energy storage.
- Since the board had previously directed PEDDA staff to pursue the development of a Green Bank and seek out additional funds, PEDDA staff submitted a Notice of Intent and plan to submit an application requesting \$400 million in coalition with the Philadelphia Green Capital Corporation (PGCC). PEDDA would be the lead member of the coalition. *[Note: since the July board meeting, EPA reduced PA's maximum eligibility to \$250 million based on its low-income population.]*
- PGCC was chosen for several reasons: they are the other government-affiliated Green Bank in Pennsylvania, their mission aligns with PEDDA, and they operate one of the most successful low-income solar installation programs in the country.
- The due date for the application is September 26, but the EPA is allowing for up to a year's worth of program development after awards are given. *[Note: since the July board meeting, EPA extended the deadline to October 12.]*
- The challenge before PEDDA right now is to have an application in to the EPA by September 26. A portion of the funding received would go to PGCC, while PEDDA staff would work on creating a program for the rest of the state.

Chairman Negrin asked if there was a motion for the PEDDA Board to authorize and direct staff to submit an application for the Solar for All grant competition consistent with the Notice of Intent and to take all other reasonable steps supporting PEDDA's pursuit, receipt, or use of such grant. Romulo Diaz motioned, and Lauren Boles seconded.

Chairman Negrin asked if there was any discussion on the motion. Glendon King, alternate for Rep. Kail, asked what portion of the funds would go to PGCC. Geoff Bristow said they did not have an exact number yet, but that it would be proportional to the population in the area, which would include Philadelphia and its surrounding counties, and would be in the range of 33-50%. Glendon King asked if we were aware of any other entities in Pennsylvania who were applying. Geoff Bristow confirmed that the City of Pittsburgh was part of a coalition of municipalities (including municipalities outside of Pennsylvania) who were also applying for Solar for All funds. PEDDA plans to coordinate with them and see how their programs can complement each other.

Romulo Diaz asked if there were any limits to how many awards may go to each state. Geoff Bristow answered that EPA indicated it wanted organizations within the same state to coordinate with each other, and EPA may reduce award amounts if there are multiple awardees in a state.

Glendon King asked if PEDDA staff had any preliminary thoughts about what areas PEDDA would be focusing on outside of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Geoff Bristow said there is a map of disadvantaged communities, but the program would also be open to low-income individuals outside of those areas. PEDDA has not yet decided upon a specific strategy. PEDDA will not be providing financing directly to individual solar installation projects; instead, PEDDA will be providing funding to financing organizations and other parties providing marketing support and

workforce development. Program design has not yet been finalized, but PEDAs staff has been conducting outreach to stakeholders to find the best way to implement the program.

Glendon King expressed concern about the way the motion was worded. He suggested that the motion be amended so that the use of the funds could be decided by the board at a later date.

Bernie Lynch suggested that the motion have specific reference to a broad geographic distribution. She expressed concern that the program might be too Philadelphia/Eastern PA-centric. She also offered to provide introduction to organizations in the Western part of the state. Geoff Bristow said that the motion could be amended to take out mention of the use of the funds so that the Board could vote on that at a later date. Rob Teplitz suggested that instead of taking out the word “use,” the motion could instead make explicit that the use of the grant would be in a manner that serves communities throughout Pennsylvania. Romulo Diaz said that he would accept that change.

Lauren Boles wanted the Board to be mindful that we are not using the poverty of Philadelphia as the basis for PEDAs eligibility for funds to provide services to the rest of Pennsylvania in a way that is inequitable. Rob Teplitz said that we could amend the motion to say “use of such grant in a manner that equitably serves communities through Pennsylvania.”

Based on the preceding discussion, Chairman Negrin asked for the following amended motion: “The PEDAs Board authorizes and directs staff to submit an application for the Solar for All grant competition consistent with the Notice of Intent and to take all other reasonable steps supporting PEDAs pursuit, receipt, or use of such grant in a manner that equitably serves communities throughout Pennsylvania.” Romulo Diaz motioned, and Lauren Boles seconded.

There were 12 ayes, and zero nays, and Glendon King abstained. The motion carried by a majority vote.

### **PEDA PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL CLEAN INVESTMENT FUND AND THE CLEAN COMMUNITIES INVESTMENT ACCELERATOR PROGRAMS**

Chairman Negrin asked Geoff Bristow to provide an overview of the National Clean Investment Fund and the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator Programs.

- The National Clean Investment Fund (NCIF) and the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator (CCIA) are the other two funding opportunities under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.
- NCIF is a \$14 billion program. EPA anticipates 3 awards to national non-profits that would provide funding to Green Banks across the country.
- The CCIA would comprise of 7 awards and would also provide funding to Green Banks with a focus on non-profits and would be set up as regional hubs.
- Both emphasize funding to projects within 3 priorities: distributed generation and storage, net-zero building technologies, and zero-emission transportation.
- PEDAs is not in a position to apply for either program but is aware of organizations that will apply.

- PEDA could apply as a member of a coalition that would receive a predetermined portion of the funds, but this is not a likely scenario.
- PEDA could also be a subrecipient of the funds. This is a more likely scenario, and PEDA staff have already been asked to serve on the advisory committee of the Green Bank for Appalachia (GBA), which is a CCIA applicant. This does not obligate PEDA to be a part of that application, nor does it guarantee PEDA would receive funds from GBA should it receive an award from EPA.

Chairman Negrin asked if there was a motion authorizing PEDA staff to take all reasonable steps supporting PEDA’s pursuit, receipt, or use of funds under the National Clean Investment Fund and/or Clean Communities Investment Accelerator grant competitions to the extent that, in the judgment of PEDA staff, participating in one or both of those programs is in the best interest of PEDA, the Commonwealth, and the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Glendon King asked under what circumstance would we be a subrecipient of funds. Geoff Bristow answered that the successful applicant could provide funds to other green banks in the form of a grant or loan.

Glendon King commented that once again he wondered if the word “use” could be removed from the motion. There was no comment on this proposal, and the motion was not amended.

Romulo Diaz motioned, and Cheryl Cook seconded. There were 12 ayes, zero nays, Glendon King abstained, and the motion carried by majority vote.

**CONTRACTS FOR GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND APPLICATIONS AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

Chairman Negrin asked Acting PEDA Executive Director Geoff Bristow to describe PEDA’s proposal to retain vendors to assist with the applications and program development for the three Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund programs that the board just authorized staff to pursue.

- While they are confident in their Solar for All application, PEDA staff would like to bring in a third-party vendor to provide technical and financial planning expertise that would contribute to PEDA in two ways: to help PEDA build a comprehensive GGRF strategy and assist with program design and identification of procurement strategies to engage participating organizations throughout the state.
- PEDA staff are proposing to use a streamlined procurement approach using pre-qualified vendors to bring on a contractor to assist with a comprehensive GGRF strategy.
- PEDA staff are also planning to bring on a second contractor to assist with program design later in the year.

Chairman Negrin asked if there was a motion to authorize staff to expend funds from the Energy Development Fund in an amount under \$50,000 to retain a vendor(s) to assist with the development of, contribution to, and pursuit of opportunities under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund grant competition applications due in September and October 2023. Bernie Lynch motioned, and Adam Walters seconded.

Chairman Negrin asked if there were any questions or comments. Romulo Diaz asked if the board had a policy regarding the retention of diverse vendors. Geoff Bristow answered that PEDDA uses the Commonwealth procurement process, which has rules embedded in the process. Laureen Boles commented that she was concerned that the existing list that we would be choosing from might not be diverse. Chairman Negrin mentioned that DEP has been working closely with DGS staff who are working on increasing vendor diversity. Geoff Bristow said he would provide more information about the Invitation to Quality (ITQ) process.

Adam Walters agreed that bringing on a third-party consultant was a good idea, but was concerned about the amount, since \$50,000 would not last very long. Geoff Bristow said that PEDDA wanted to use a streamlined process to allow it to bring on a contractor quickly. It is possible that in the future PEDDA might want to seek approval for a larger contract that would have to go out for bid.

Cheryl Cook commented that, if anyone on the board knew of diverse businesses that are not on ITQ lists and should be, they should direct them to DGS and the Bureau of Disadvantaged and Small Business Opportunity, which would be happy to assist them.

Chairman Negrin called for a vote. There were 12 ayes, zero nays, Glendon King abstained, and the motion carried by a majority vote.

Chairman Negrin next asked if there was a motion to authorize PEDDA staff to expend funds from the Energy Development Fund in an amount under \$50,000 to retain a vendor(s) to assist with the design of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund programs that would be funded based on EPA selection decisions in 2024.

Romulo Diaz motioned, and Paul Wenzel seconded. There were 12 ayes, zero nays, Glendon King abstained, and the motion carried by a majority vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Negrin asked if there was any new business. There was no further comment from the board.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Negrin asked if there were public comments registered. Laura Rigge confirmed there were none. There was no comment from the members of the public on the call.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Hearing no other questions or business to bring before the Board, Chairman Richard Negrin asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Glendon King motioned to adjourn, Paul Wentzel seconded, and motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.