

Minutes of a Meeting of the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority
Held on September 17, 2021, at approximately 1:00 p.m.
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

Present: Lt. Governor Brent Sanford, Chair
Joel Brown
Christopher Friez
Robert (Mac) McLennan (remote)
Kathy Neset
Charles Gorecki (remote)
Dave Glatt
Lynn Helms
Justin Kringstad
Rachel Retterath
Todd Steinwand (remote)
John Weeda (remote)

Also

Present: Al Anderson, Industrial Commission
Karlene Fine, Industrial Commission
Andrea Pfennig, Industrial Commission
Kelvin Hullet, Bank of North Dakota
A complete list of attendees is not available as the meeting was held on Teams.

Lt. Governor Sanford called the meeting of the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority (CSEA) to order at approximately 1:10 p.m. with a quorum being present. Authority members Arthaud, Christianson, Goerger and Leiman were unable to attend the meeting.

It was moved by Joel Brown and seconded by Kathy Neset to approve the August 19, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Lt. Governor noted that the following information had been provided to the Authority members in their meeting packets:

- CSEA/State funding resources overview (Research & Development Pathway & Funding graphic)
- Technical Committee Program Recommended Guidelines
- Technical Committee Recommended Process
- Letter of Credit/Legislative Authority
- Summary of Written Public Comments
- Recommended Program Guidelines and Process
- Application Form
- Technical Committee Ranking Form
- Independent Technical Reviewer Scoring Form
- Bank of North Dakota Credit Summary
- Technical Committee Recommendation Summary
- Overview of Timeline and Process Moving Forward

Mr. Al Anderson, Industrial Commission Office, presented a summary of what has happened since the Authority met on August 19 regarding the development of the Program guidelines. Mr. Anderson, the Industrial Commission staff and Bank of North Dakota staff prepared draft guidelines and the proposed application process that were considered by the CSEA Technical Committee on September 1. The

Mr. Anderson reviewed the various forms that will be used in the review process and the amount of information that will be made available to the CSEA voting members—information from the Independent Technical Reviewer (Independent Technical Reviewer Scoring Form), from the Bank (Bank of North Dakota Credit Summary) and from each CSEA Technical Committee member which would be reflected on the Technical Committee Summary. There was considerable discussion about which documents would be confidential and whether the scoring by the individual Technical Committee members could be confidential. It was indicated that the statute does not allow for their scoring to be confidential. (The Research Councils have a provision in their statutes that allows for a confidential ballot but the CSEA statute does not.) The Bank's detailed credit review would be confidential, but their determination of economic feasibility would be public. All the other documents would be public documents. It was suggested that the CSEA Technical Committee member scoring form include 3 categories rather than 2 – “feasible”, “feasible with conditions” and “not feasible”. It was indicated that having sufficient information from the Technical Committee and the Bank will help in the CSEA prioritizing the applications because the expectation is that there will be more applications for funding than there are funds.

It was noted that the forms can be changed after the CSEA has gone through the first round if the CSEA does not believe they are getting the information they need to make a decision on an application. The staff was asked to consider if there was a way to summarize the Technical Committee's recommendation without disclosing each Technical Committee member's identity. However, it was stressed that the information from the Technical Committee is very important, and priority needs to be given to ensuring that the thoughts and comments from the Technical Committee are available to the CSEA voting members that must make a recommendation to the Industrial Commission.

There was discussion about the use of the words “feasible” and “fund” and that a project may be feasible but should not be funded from the CSEA program. The Technical Committee's role is to determine whether a project is feasible; it will be the CSEA voting members that have to decide whether a project should be funded.

The following changes were made by the Authority to the draft guidelines adopted by the Technical Committee in addition to the written comments received during the public comment period:

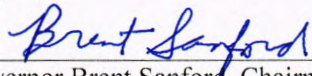
- 4.01 – application shall not exceed 15-20 pages. “15” was removed
- 5.09 – All disbursements will be made on a reimbursement basis “for the grant program” as outlined in the contract. “for the grant program” was added.

It was moved by Kathy Neset and seconded by Mac McLennan that the Authority recommend to the Industrial Commission the guidelines and process as revised today. On a roll call vote Brown, Friez, McLennan, Neset and Sanford voted aye. No one voted nay. The motion carried.

Lt. Governor Sanford left the meeting at this time and the participants that had joined the meeting remotely were no longer connected. A quorum was no longer present.

Mr. Anderson reviewed with the remaining members the various forms that had been provided and responded to their questions. He also reminded the Authority members of the timelines and upcoming meetings.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.



Lt. Governor Brent Sanford, Chairman