



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Hydrogen Economy Task Force

March 19, 2024

8:30 am to 10:00 am

Minutes

Location:

Virtual WebEx Video Conference

Meeting link: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m51b2d1c470b50047dc1dcd18f13c8dd4>

Meeting number: 2631 828 1881

Password: 2HNdFpvu8R6

Host key: 688767

Join by video system Dial 26318281881@illinois.webex.com

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Access code: 2631 828 1881

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=mfea3d30b1c27f61791afebd2e62ed2bf>

- I. Call to order at 8:33 am.
- II. Roll Call of Membership by Aaron McEvoy.

Rep. Terra Costa Howard: Yes
Sarah Duffy: Yes
Patrick Evans: Yes
Bradley Fritz: No
Jim Hoyt: No
Dan LeFevers: Yes
Carly McCrory-McKay: Yes
Chad Parker: Yes
Laura Roche: Yes
Dr. Petros Sofronis: Yes
Michael Wang: Yes

Patrick Devaney: Yes
Sen. Laura Ellman: Yes
Kyle Freeman: Yes
Jon Horek: No
Elizabeth Irvin: Yes
George Letavish: Yes
Dulce Ortiz: No
Sen. Sue Rezin: Yes
Doug Scott: Yes
Catherine Stashak: No
Dana Wynn: Yes

Aaron McEvoy noted that Michael Woods was skipped during roll call because he is no longer with IDNR. DCEO will be working with them to find a replacement.

III. Review of 1.16.24 Minutes.

Rep. Terra Costa Howard moved to accept the minutes from January 16, 2024. Doug Scott seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Hydrogen Economy Task Force Report Status.

John Oconner put the link to the HETF 2023 Annual Report in the chat, ([Hydrogen Economy Task Force 2023 Annual Report \(illinois.gov\)](#)) and has been circulated. Senator Ellman asked if the report can be emailed to members of the task force as well.

V. Future Topics Discussion.

Senator Ellman presented the list of variety topics to be discussed about what the Task Force would like to see in the following months as listed from the [HETF 2023 Report Review](#).

Many Task Force members wanted to learn more about carbon storage and hydrogen storage. There is the intent to have a working model by 2026 of underground geological hydrogen storage. Aspects to learn more about are grid, safety, and geological. It was pointed out that infrastructure needs to be a part of this discussion. How to get from point A to point B. Another way to look at this topic is: generation of, use of, storage and transportation of.

Dr. Petros added that hydrogen storage is important in relation to our electric grid in the state as well as if we do go full scale onto renewables, wind and solar. Hydrogen storage may be a way to go forward because we need them when the wind doesn't blow, and the sun doesn't shine. In fact, grid scale storage isn't available yet, at least in the efficient and long-term ways that we want to have it. So, hydrogen storage is a very important topic that we should consider.

Sen. Rezin stated we suggested the development of a central point of information with one person or department to have it available how we can create an integrated one stop shop for hydrogen. We should see how many are really being helped by the incentive. To incentivize small businesses in certain communities to be successful.

Sarah Duffy said to look at how they are structured for various types of businesses. How they interact with Federal incentives and determine if Illinois should align with them or fill any gaps that are created.

Senator Ellman added that they should also see how Illinois should structure incentives was another important topic. As well as including the 45V incentives from Federal should be part of this discussion to work to integrate hydrogen into the Illinois energy ecosystem.

Doug Scott mentioned that other than storage, infrastructure should be talked about as well to actually get the hydrogen. Other members agreed. Senator Ellman added that transport can be one of the bigger constraints for success.

Dr. Petros spoke about MachH2, more specifically the Whiting Refinery in Indiana. Dr. Petros and Patrick Evans made comments reflecting on this project and that Illinois, at minimum this task force should reach out to MachH2 and the Whiting Refinery to learn more. Senator Ellman asked if this would be related to the storage and transport discussion? Dr. Petros stated that this is a very important topic that the refinery in Indiana will face that relates to blue hydrogen storage and transport since they lack experience. This way Illinois can start dialogue on how we can help to integrate efforts for the success of the markets. Senator Ellman suggested that MachH2 can provide a speaker to provide more information to the task force on this topic.

Pat Evans said that he has someone in Indiana at the Indiana Energy Association that would be able to speak to the task force about hydrogen development in Indiana since they have strong ties to the policy environment.

Pat Devaney mentioned that carbon capture process is being done now in Decatur at ADM. Would be a resource to make sure people are convinced this process actually will work. This led to a request that MachH2 become a standing agenda item. The HETF agreed.

Dana Wynn brought up BayoTech facility in Chesterfield/Wentzel, MO. [Midwest BayoGaaS Hydrogen Hub - BayoTech](#). She also reminded the group about training and safety issues surrounding hydrogen, especially making sure the public, local governments, and first responders are staying current if not ahead of technology.

Dr. Petros mentioned that is important that MachH2 invests in Illinois. He mentioned that there is a group in Missouri that helps with workforce development such as training of the workforce and outreach activities. This is to better understand how MachH2 executes the directives from the DOE. He also mentioned that there is an informative meeting about MachH2 planned by the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations within the Department of Energy scheduled for April 24th at 6 pm, that could be beneficial for Task Force members to attend. [April 24 DOE OCED Midwest H2 Hub Meeting - Zoom](#)

Conversation ended with Senator Ellman indicating there are enough topics to cover at least the next two meetings. Topics will be determined by speaker availability. Mr. McEvoy asked for assistance from Task Force members as he works to secure speakers.

VI. Decision-making.

Senator Ellman asked the Task Force their thoughts regarding governance; more specifically

on decision-making. We are not required by law or statute to adhere to one guide or another. Just the Task Force as a whole must come to an agreement or consensus. Variations of “simple majority” were presented. Multiple Task Force members stressed “it is not so simple”. The biggest variable is ‘simple majority of those present’ versus ‘simple majority of appointed/voting members’. Other questions arose regarding “proxy voting”, “virtual voting”, “should there be a higher threshold dependent upon the simple majority”, etc. We must keep in mind that any item voted on must be part of the agenda or we would be in violation of Open Meetings Act. It was premature to make a decision. It was suggested and accepted that Mr. McEvoy work to come up with a one-pager for the Task Force to review. Mr. Scott volunteered to assist.

Next Kate Exo, Legal Counsel for DCEO shared some Open Meetings Act information. Relative to, “how we should make decisions”; there is actually no requirement that the body follow Robert’s Rules. There are a couple of procedural requirements around a public body taking a “final action,” entering into a closed session, approving minutes, and handling verbatim records of closed sessions. Otherwise, the requirements of Open Meetings Act are generally focused on public notice: publishing meeting schedules and agendas, notice requirements for special sessions, etc., and the protection of the public’s right to participate by attending and/or commenting.

Furthermore, clarification was provided regarding how the HETF handles items not on the agenda and on some agendas listed as “New Business”: Section 2.02(a) says “The requirement of a regular meeting agenda shall not preclude the consideration of items not specifically set forth in the agenda.” As long as no final action is taken on the issue being discussed, the task force can talk about administrative things (ie. OMA certification, Task Force composition, Conflict of Interest forms, etc.) It was suggested that “Task Force Administrative Business” be placed on future agendas to cover such items – knowing that for the most part items should be for information purposes; no votes. Task Force was reminded that another standing agenda item of “Audience Comment Period” should be added. And to include “Motion to Adjourn” in the agenda.

VII. Public Comments.

Senator Ellman opened the floor for public comment. No one from the public requested to comment.

VIII. Adjournment.

The adjournment of the meeting was moved by Pat Devaney and second by Doug Scott is at 9:30 am.

Future Meetings

- a. Tuesday, May 14th at 8:30 am
- b. Tuesday, June 11th at 8:30 am

- c. Tuesday, July 9th at 8:30 am
- d. Tuesday, September 10th at 8:30 am
- e. Tuesday, November 12th at 8:30 am
- f. Tuesday, December 10th at 8:30 am

Materials:

1. HETF 2023 Report review [HETF 2023 Report Review](#)
2. HETF 2023 Annual Report [2023 Hydrogen Economy Task Force Annual Report](#)