



Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

Hydrogen Economy Task Force

February 11, 2025

8:30 am to 10:00 am

Minutes

Location: Virtual WebEx Video Conference

Meeting link: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m2b9c1dccdc366fdcf24a2a3e968f0923>

Meeting number: 2866 995 4402

Password: tuM53EcA3mm

Join by video system:

Dial [28669954402@illinois.webex.com](tel:28669954402)

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Join by phone:

+312-535-8110 United States Toll (Chicago)

+1-415-655-0002 US Toll

Access code: 2866 995 4402

Minutes:

I. Call to Order at 8:31 am.

II. Roll Call of Membership

Rep. Terra Costa Howard: Yes

Sarah Duffy: Yes

Patrick Evans: Yes

Rep. Bradley Fritz: Yes

Jim Hoyt: Yes

Dan LeFevers: No

Carly McCrory-McKay: No

Chad Parker: No

Laura Roche: Yes

Dr. Petros Sofronis: Yes

Michael Wang: Yes

Carrie Schoenberger: Yes

Patrick Devaney: Yes

Sen. Laura Ellman: Yes

Kyle Freeman: Yes

Jon Horek: No

Elizabeth Irvin: No

George Letavish: Yes

Dulce Ortiz: No

Sen. Sue Rezin: No

Doug Scott: Yes

Catherine Stashak: Yes

Dana Wynn: Yes

III. Approval of November 12, 2024, Minutes (Old Business)

Doug Scott motioned to accept the minutes from November 12, 2024. Rep. Terra Costa Howard seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Approval of January 14, 2025, Minutes

Dr. Petros Sofronis motioned to accept the minutes from January 14, 2025. Catherine Stashak seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

V. Chair Report

Senator Ellman stated that we have got a report that you are going to be discussing today. I am looking forward to the discussion and I just want to mention that as a task force, I really appreciate, and I am glad that we do have such an engaged task force. A lot of discussion happens and thank you all for being here and being a part of it.

VI. Old Business

Senator Ellman mentioned that there was no old business to discuss at this time.

VII. Task Force Administrative Business

- 2025 Task Force Meeting Schedule

Senator Ellman mentioned that DCEO is required to post the meetings on their website, so, we want to have something to post. I was thinking and I would like to discuss this and make whatever motions are required, that we meet again in March and then every other month following that through calendar year 25. So that would be March, May, July, et cetera.

Aaron McEvoy added that the meetings should be the second Tuesday of the month at 8:30am.

Patrick Devaney motioned that there be post bi-monthly meetings starting in March for the second Tuesday of every other month to start at 8:30am. Catherine Stashak second. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

- Annual Trainings

Aaron McEvoy mentioned that the task force members need to complete their annual trainings sooner than to be able to serve on the task force. He will send out the links to the various items. Also, there is no hard deadline for it to be completed but should be done soon.

- Annual Report

Senator Ellman stated that the draft was sent out yesterday and hope everyone had a chance to look at it. A slideshow was put together that summarizes the report with some highlights in from the report. Asked Aaron McEvoy to walk through what the process would be for next steps and decision making from the task force about the report.

Aaron McEvoy said what we are looking to do is take the comments that are made today. But we are looking to take the comments that are made today. But also, if they are necessary for task force members to review the contents a little bit more, we will allow that to occur and provide myself and Senator Ellman the information. Then we will also utilize the initial content writers or the committee that was put together for him to look at the comments and take that information consolidate it put it into the final report hopefully or the next draft. Again, per Senator Ellman decide if it is ok to publish and when it is best to publish or do if we need to come back at the next meeting. Or keep in mind that we can do online voting that was

approved last year to have task force members to vote on the compiled document if they need to, they can do that electronically. Or if they want to come back together and discuss the final document before it is finalized and published.

Senator Ellman went on with presenting slideshow of the drafted annual report. After doing so we can have that discussion and then we as a task force can decide what those next actions will be.

Dana Wynn just wanted to follow back up to something I had mentioned in January if there is going to be any mention of a possibility of the future of expanding the hydrogen hub or expanding with private investments? I think sent a link maybe to Aaron about a couple of sustainable aviation fuel private investments for sustainable aviation fuel that are going to be coming to my area of like the metro East Illinois that kind of would be also direct connection. But like I said, they are private investments, so I did not know if there was like reason to maybe possibly mention those companies. They would be Chronico Phillips operates the Wood River Refinery Hartford Terminal, and then the Crystalis Biosciences and Avina clean hydrogen. I do not know if it is worth mentioning that here possibly, but if not, that is fine.

Senator Ellman thought those were good and proposed that if people do have suggestions for additions if they want to submit, we do have a technical writer. So, this is what I envision, and I would like to have is, that any of these additions could be submitted, the technical writer might edit that for consistency and voice and flow of the report. But I want to provide the option too that if anybody really feels strongly about particular information that a secondary document can be submitted and then posted on the HETF website and then linked within the report itself. So, it would be the report would, would kind of be a distillation of that potential edition but then there could be a link to the actual text if you'd like to submit a document to be added as a reference and link.

Dr. Petros Sofronis said one point here in investments and funded the previous slide, investments and funded projects, I think we should move markets to investments first because this is a massive investment. I mean that is happening not only in our state but in the region in general, and that's very important. I think the 45V the final rules it is something that perhaps needs to go afterwards because these 45V final rules were instigated after the hub initiative came out to be. Also, it is more intimately related with the new uncertainties in federal priorities because as the 45V final rules may not be final. Nowadays they may do changes in the future. So, I would say that here we should put the markets to investments first and in general the hydrogen hub, it needs by the Department of Energy so that the legislator gets really a good understanding of the fact that hydrogen is out there in the country all over the country.

Sarah Duffy added, I was just thinking to the extent of the 45V rules might be uncertain now because of the change in the administration. I think the hydrogen hub awards are equally uncertain cause they have pause distribution of ordered funds generally across the government. So, I just wanted to say that. I am not sure that the 45V rules are any more or less uncertain than the continued funding for the hubs. They are just kind of all up in the air now.

Senator Ellman added that she agrees, and I personally will be watching what that uncertainty

does to the industry, the sector as a whole and investment going forward, so even private investment. So, I think it is a really big issue and we should address it in the report.

Dr. Petros Sofronis mentioned that one smaller piece of information here is that if you go to the new website of the Department of Energy, the hydrogen initiatives are still there. So, they haven't been taken down. So, I just checked it yesterday, last night and I saw them. I saw the hydrogen sort so it seems the hydrogen initiative and the hubs may stay there.

Bill Elrick mentioned that he had not been able to participate much in the last few months. And I had not really read anything or caught up on anything, I would be especially interested to review the transportation items and help with any input or and that maybe too late, and if not, I am just interested in reading and catching up that way. So, apologies for kind of being a little late, but very excited to help. and excited how far it has come since I last caught the call.

Senator Ellman stated that there is a link to that University of Illinois deployment strategy on our HETF website. Recommends it as there are some really good members on that team.

Dorothy Davidson commented concerning MachH2 and community benefits. We have a stop work completely on anything to do with community benefits DEI and A and Justice 40. Just so you know, and you are aware just based on the executive order came out.

Michael Wang agreed with what is said now from the federal government stop work or the DEI community benefit and community engagement area. So, this is new development from the federal government, but since we are a state task force, if we feel the state can step in some of the important aspect to cover some of the areas. Maybe that is where the report can make some statement that the federal government is not going to support these areas, whether there is a need for the state government to step here.

Dorothy Davidson added what I would suggest while we have this comment, it talks about community benefits. What we have been pushing with Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) and DOE is that there is no question, workforce development, any large capital investment companies are going, we have got to do this. Workforce development is a key factor and a key part of MachH2.

Senator Ellman added that is what this particular portion of the, the community benefits plan is in discussion of. That is a great point. Asked for additional comments and if anyone feels that those were great things to address?

Sarah Duffy asked for clarification of the outline, if the intent was to capture the meeting topics and things that we discussed over the course of the year? Do I have that right? That each chapter kind of represents like one of the topics that we covered in a meeting?

Senator Ellman said not necessarily, as far as I understand.

Sarah Duffy added I know we had a session on heavy duty, and I think we had a session on storage or something. So that is kind of why I was thinking maybe that was what the intent was. Then in that case I am curious, was the intent to cover things that were not in... I am wondering why there is not really anything on that piece that was just mentioned about

community engagement and any EJ things or anything. I know we covered that in the last report, so I am just curious whether we were intentionally trying to cover things that we did not cover in the last report, or what the thinking was.

Senator Ellman shared one of the thoughts that I had was that EJ, so to me the impact on communities, impact on people really should be... I was considering it more of a through line that could be discussed in different portions of the chapters. So, for example in the you know it is pretty explicit in the transportation area where communities that are near these are impacted and would be most have the biggest benefit.

Sarah Duffy said I have not read the full report yet, so if it is sprinkled throughout, that is great. I was more just going based on like the chapter titles and kind of the topic listing and I just was not sure if that was like a choice to cover different ground than we did in the first report, so I just wanted to make sure I understood as I went in and like read the entire thing that I was not commenting on things that we decided to do purposefully.

Gabriela Garza asked can you remind me, are we still trying to vote today or you are taking more comments?

Senator Ellman said that is what I would like the task force to do. So here is how I understand it. We could have a motion to publish as is, the motion could be seconded and then we could have discussion. And then we could amend that motion to say, why do not we, give ourselves time to submit some more additions or recommendations and vote on it. Electronically, which we have that option as well so, it is really up to us. So, what we would need to do is have some kind of motion to move forward. We can move to just publish as is or we could move to, submit recommendations to staff if.

Gabriela Garza said, we do have a lot of manufacturers and multiple industries that are mentioned in the report, and I would love the opportunity to check in with them and see if there is anything that they could see would be valuable to add in the report. I know I am not directly a member of the task force, but just wanted to see if that was an option.

Patrick Devaney said to add to that, I heard from a number of people that they have not gotten through the whole report. I was able to, I cannot say that I focused on every word of it, but I was able to work through it yesterday afternoon and it is very well written and thorough and kudos to everybody who did the heavy lifting on it. I just made one suggestion of an addition I do not think it is going to be objectionable, and it is not clear to me whether that is been added to it just in one of the CEJA workforce programs that was not name checked in it. So, if we could have like a week to go through, whether you do some type of a tentative motion pending a final report. Then one way that we have approached it in the past is send out the final after the additions are made and instead of trying to get somebody to vote see if there are any objections to publishing and then move forward. So that way you do not have to have a whole other meeting to approve it. Sometimes that is a useful way to go about it. And typically, with this group, I think everybody is trying to work together to build a consensus on everything that should go smoothly, so that is just an idea.

George Letavish added that he thinks maybe similar to the comments that just came in there, I would prefer to wait to publish if possible or that just in advance knowing that would be my

where my vote would be at. Just since the draft did go out yesterday as DCEOs representative, I need to talk to DCEO leadership for comfortability with, just with some of the sections before I would take a vote on behalf of our agency. I think for me, things I flagged it just I again as Pat said I think the report was very well written and appreciate all the hard work everyone put into it. For potential some wordsmithing, I just need to make sure the agency is comfortable with some areas that could potentially be perceived as maybe future funding commitments. Especially now in this budget season when things are talked about like to do something else or some of those types of things we have to think where there could be perceived responsibility and making sure folks are comfortable with that. And I think that is the biggest thing and then also like on the some of the CEJA things, there are CEJA programs the DCEO operates. They came over to us last year, so, I want to make sure that the folks who actually operate those programs have an opportunity to review those sections for any comments.

Senator Ellman said yes, we can to that to confirm that factual accuracy. What we could do, and I mentioned a little bit of this before, is a potential motion could be to give members of the task force a week to provide comments back to staff. If there are particular and so that those comments can be folded in and we might have to reword this motion so that it is clear, but those comments, those additions could be worked into the report by our technical writer which would imply some edits for clarity. However, if there is specific language that you want to provide, please do so in a document that can be referenced and linked to within the report.

Catherine Stashak motioned to delay the publication for a week (February 18, 2025), so that more comments can be delivered. And if there are additional reports as well, they can be referenced through a link in the report. Dr. Petros Sofronis second. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Senator Ellman added the task force members to take a look at the report, provide your comments back to Aaron within a week and if there are any specific language that you want included in a document that we can then reference.

VIII. Task Force Members information share

Dana Wynn shared there is an event that is happening as a National Renewable Energy Lab in Golden Colorado. I met a couple of folks from that lab when I was at the **ASY** conference in Anaheim in October and it is a technical college and community college training opportunity. It is a two-day training event that the Golden National Lab is hosting. So, I do not have the specific details, and I will not be attending, but some of our workforce partners with the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN), who are working very closely with me with the REVUP EV project. They are going to have at least two attendees and possibly three. So, I may have some information to share from them, that will be occurring next month in that 1st week of March.

IX. MachH2 News

Dorothy Davidson stated she thinks the key word is pause, which is where we are right now, everybody knows that word. We had after 45V came out on January 3rd, all of our projects are looking at it now to see what the final ruling how it impacts their business cases. So that

their pledge was kind of to be done by what we thought was the 60 days normally for a congressional review period. So, the beginning of March, I am expecting answers back from all the projects so far it has been positive. No, no's which is a good thing. Unfortunately, after that then the executive order came out, we have a pause. We got one on, as I said before CBP, Justice 40 and DEINA totally stopped work on all activities on that. All the rest of it, it had been business as usual, keep going and that kind of changed as of last week. It is even there are saying we cannot direct you to do anything anymore because they cannot give us a determination that if we go forward and they release remove the pause, whether they would actually pay us back retroactively. So, we do have a core group and the projects themselves that are working at risk, recognizing where we are. But we're anxious to them to make the decisions and kind of give us the guidelines to go forward because the projects are we are very excited about this.

X. Audience Comment Period

CEO of H2 Power. I want you to point out that there will be a workshop, a free workshop downtown Chicago next week at Plante Moran and a clean hydrogen market data workshop. I put the link in the chat (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1133552047689?aff=oddttdtcreator>). It is on Tuesday, the 18th all morning basically and these people are coming from various places in the country, including from Colorado to talk about this database that is helping developers and investors in the infrastructure for clean hydrogen in the country.

XI. Adjournment

The adjournment of the meeting was motioned by Catherine Stashak. Second by Representative Terra Costa Howard at 9:23 am.