



# Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

JB Pritzker, Governor

## Hydrogen Economy Task Force September 10, 2024 8:30 am to 10:00 am Minutes

### Location:

Virtual WebEx Video Conference

Meeting link:

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=mdc5240e908369876488e9fff049cb0ca>

Meeting number: 2632 370 1862

Password: ZmEMXmm8m53

Host key: 447925

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Access code: 2632 370 1862

Host PIN: 2827

- I. Call to order at 8:32 am.
- II. Roll Call of Membership by Aaron McEvoy.

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

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

III. Approval of 7.9.24 Minutes

Catherine Stashak moved to accept the minutes from July 9, 2024. Sarah Duffy seconded. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Chair Report

Representative Terra Costa-Howard mentioned that there was no report from the Chair at this time.

V. Topics Presentation (Workforce)

Presentations for the 45V Tax Credits started with Linda Larsen, Associate Director for Research at the Climate Jobs Institute at the University of Illinois School of Labor and Employment Relations. She spoke about Growing the Hydrogen Workforce in Illinois.

Petros Sofronis asked, "What about jobs in the economy and markets? What about the future markets, spot markets? Chicago is the center. So, what are the perspectives there? And how do you advise our task force to see whether we can make a recommendation to the state in that regard?"

Linda Larsen asked for the question to be rephrased.

Petros Sofronis said how can we make Chicago like American Mercantile Exchange What we have now, where producers can meet with end users, right, in order to buy their hydros. Of course, I am talking, I mean in the future now, but how we, our state can take, I mean the initiative to be the first.

Linda Larsen replied saying the Midwest hydrogen hub is trying to do exactly that. How can we bring investors into Illinois? How can we attract businesses? How can we attract end users? I think there is a lot of skepticisms still around hydrogen, skepticism that it can go big and that we can build out the infrastructure and address the costs, cost challenges. So, you know, I think at this time we really do need to be investing in more research and development to make sure that we can get it feasible. But yeah, we need to, we need to be doing a lot more convening of industry leaders and attracting businesses to come and invest in our state. Yeah, I mean yeah Yes.

John Horek added, just maybe a comment to help think about like where are the hydrogen jobs to add to that thinking the idea of, I guess they keep being called hydrogen derivatives, right? So, like where do you use hydrogen to make sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), to make clean, green ammonia fertilizer? These newer industries are green steel. So, like when you kind of look for those maybe categories where that's happening, certainly like Illinois leading on (SAF) is a major, you noted it there like ammonia fertilizer production, but like the hydrogen piece is not always so clear, it might be kind of integrated in that process, but it's definitely the enabler. It is the reason that those are happening. So, it is like the lesser, say like the lesser the use cases that are obviously just not as good. Like we are not really going to have hydrogen cars, but that is

something people think of, but we will have SAF. So just that idea maybe is a different way to think about where the jobs will be.

Speaker Chynna Hampton the Equity Director for Climate Jobs Illinois under the Illinois AFL CIO from spoke about Climate Jobs IL: CEJA Equity Initiatives.

Jim Hoyt said, one thing you mentioned was offshore wind farms as being one of the I guess jobs that kind of being covered or talked about here. How I am curious given whether the focus on jobs is going to be more Illinois specific or not? And when I saw offshore wind, you know since we are not a coastal, we are not a coastal state, and I do not know how much we are looking to put in like Michigan. I was just wondering how you kind of contextualize that, right? How does that, how does that fit into Illinois jobs? Because a lot of what we are seeing obviously with the energy transition in Illinois is a loss of fossil jobs, right? And so, thinking about all this and how are we overcoming that loss of fossil jobs? So maybe you can help me kind of put those pieces together if you, if that's something you've thought about.

Chynna Hampton replied saying, yes, I can speak to just kind of what our idea was when we added in the offshore wind for training and again Jim, that is in relation to like you said, some of the work earlier on in the year, we were able to work with diamond offshore wind, on just kind of some community outreach and engagement, talking to some folks on the southeast side of the city just to talk to them a little bit about opportunities that would be coming down the pipeline in their community. And so, we wanted to ensure that we were thoughtful in our process as we were having those conversations not only with Diamond Offshore Wind but with the community to ensure that we added that into our green energy curriculum because it is a thing. What we want to essentially have happen is yes, we want to ensure that we have these career opportunities in Illinois so folks can take advantage of those opportunities. But we also want to be able to take this or take our training model across the nation. So being able to, you to have folks utilize our curriculum nationwide. And so, I think, you know, to note, we have folks that are in Washington State that are asking about our program and what we are doing with Higher 360 Partners. We have folks at the Texas AFL CIO, talking to us about our program model and how they could essentially utilize it. So, we want to of course train our folks here, but we definitely want to share what we're using and how it's working across the nation.

Speaker Ray Ziganto a Partner Relations Manager with IMEC. Spoke about The Future of Manufacturing in the Hydrogen Economy.

Dana Wynn asked, if a community to college wanted to get like a list of some potential businesses that they might be able to recruit to be serve on their advisory committees if they are working in these emerging spaces like hydrogen, electric vehicles, or anything. Do they reach out to contact IMEC to make those connections if they do not have a connection in their own area already?

Ray Zignato replied, they certainly can. They can really reach out to us, and we are mission driven, so our goal is that if we don't have the answer, we're going to find somebody that does. We

partner very closely with IMA, Illinois Manufacturers Association, and we have a number of other wonderful relationships throughout the state, the workforce boards, of course. So, the short answer is absolutely yes. If they need help and want to make connections, please reach out, send them my way, I will make sure they get the answers they need.

VI. MachH2 News

Dana Wynn motioned to have MachH2 News agenda item moved up from item #9 to item #6 and all other items will fall in line thereafter. Catherine Stashak second. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Dr. Elizabeth Kocs from GPI Energy spoke about Midwest Alliance for Clean Hydrogen: Delivering on the Promise of U.S. Department of Energy's Clean Hydrogen Hub Program.

Petros Sofronis asked one question I have is with regard to a project that you had mentioned with the Nicor gas company, who are the end users that will use the hydrogen that will transport it to their locations.

Dr. Elizabeth Kocs replied saying, it is a short pipeline. It is nearby, unfortunately I cannot divulge the industrial users there at this point, but as you know, after the award, we are happy to have.

Petros Sofronis asked where are the negotiations right now? Are we going to get the funding?

Dr. Elizabeth Kocs replied saying, we sure hope so. We are very near the end of negotiations, so we're hopeful that we will be hearing shortly. So, we are keeping our fingers crossed.

Dana Wynn asked So this is going to be a question for Ray about what Elizabeth just shared about the timeline. So as far as like working with manufacturers across the state. In those like three ecosystem areas that you discussed during your presentation does that seem feasible as far as that timeline for where we are looking to go into this phase three and phase four and like getting manufacturers where they can become knowledge able about what's coming with the hydrogen economy and everything? And is that something that IMEC can assist us with if that is part of an updated recommendation to come with our new report this year?

Ray Zignato said I will answer your last question first. Can we help with that? Absolutely. Does the timing work? I would think, so where are we in those twelve to 18 months? Are we nearing the end or at the beginning?

Dr. Elizabeth Kocs said we have not even started; we haven't even been awarded. The jobs will not be impacted until phase three. So, we have phase one is up to 18 months and then phase two is up to three years. So, we have up to four and a half years before, we must really, we ensure that the workforce is in place.

Ray Zignato said our efforts for the other programs that I mentioned, like EV and Quantum and the DOD, we measure those in months, not years, so we have an excellent window to be able to assist.

VII. Old Business

Representative Terra Costa-Howard mentioned that there was no old business to discuss at this time.

VIII. Task Force Administrative Business

Representative Terra Costa-Howard mentioned that there was no task force administrative business to discuss at this time.

IX. Task Force Members information share

Representative Terra Costa-Howard mentioned that there were no task force members wanting to share information at this time.

X. Audience Comment Period

Representative Terra Costa-Howard opened the floor for public comment. No one from the public requested to comment.

XI. Adjournment.

The adjournment of the meeting was motioned by Pat Devaney. Second by Jim Hoyt at 9:58 am.

Future Meetings

- a) Tuesday, November 12th at 8:30 am