

**State of Illinois**

**Hydrogen Economy Task Force**

**July 11, 2023**

**8:30am – 10:30am**

**Minutes**

**Location:**

*Virtual*

WebEx Video Conference

Join link: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m95aaac240bd9928ea3d804e5c6304f13>

Meeting number (access code): 2467 314 7251

Meeting password: FAwUWC9S2Z6

Join by phone

+1-312-535-8110 United States Toll (Chicago)

+1-415-655-0002 US Toll

**Agenda:**

1. Call to Order – Senator Laura Ellman, HETF Chair.

* 1. The meeting was called to order by Senator Ellman at 8:32 am.
  2. Roll Call of Membership

Rep. Terra Costa Howard: Yes

Patrick Devaney: Yes

Sarah Duffy: Yes

Sen. Laura Ellman: Yes

Patrick Evans: No

Haley Hoke: Yes

Jon Horek: Yes

Jim Hoyt: Yes

Elizabeth Irvin: Yes

Chad Kruse: Yes

Dan LeFevers: Yes

George Letavish: Yes

Carly McCrory-McKay: No

Dulce Ortiz: Yes

Chad Parker: No

Sen. Sue Rezin: Yes

Doug Scott: Yes

Dr. Petros Sofronis: No

Catherine Stashak: Yes

Michael Wang: No

Michael Woods: Yes

Dana Wynn: Yes

**There were 17 of 22 appointed members present at the time of the roll call. Quorum was established.**

1. Review of 5/2/2023 Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes had been circulated to the task force prior to the meeting. Patrick Devaney moved to accept the minutes and George Letavish seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

1. Brief Discussion Regarding Development of Recommendations for HETF Report

Senator Ellman noted that the HETF is responsible for submitting a report to the General Assembly in December. The working groups will need to contribute to this effort by providing draft recommendations and proposals between now and December.

Elements of each working group’s research findings would be part of this plan. This could include identifying barriers to implementing a hydrogen hub and other facets of the hydrogen economy.

1. Brief Status Reports from Working Groups

a. Regulatory/ Safety

Daniel LeFevers indicated that working group met on June 30th and listened to a presentation by Tony Lindsay of GTA energy on “hydrogen 101” and safety. Hydrogen presents a different risk profile from other fuels. As hydrogen is deployed in the state, it would be useful to have a means for educating users, local fire marshals and first responders in areas where new hydrogen activities are going to be evolving.

b. Workforce/ Entrepreneurship/ Education

Dana Wynn noted that the working group discussed mapping out relevant workforce training resources. A proposal was submitted to present at a forum for community college CTE administrators and to talk about the task force and issues surrounding the use of hydrogen.

c. Communities, Environmental Justice

Dana Wynn noted that the working group has been discussing how best to identify environmental justice communities and the issues that must be considered. This group has spent much of its recent effort arranging for this meeting’s panel discussion.

d. Commerce Development and Investment

Rep. Terra Costa Howard shared that this working group has begun to draft a report including the uses of hydrogen and in the investment in the U.S. They have been listening to various presentations to get a better understanding of how companies in Illinois and nationally are currently using hydrogen

e. Interstate Coordination

Jon Horek noted that this group is serving as a conduit for working groups to surrounding states. The group has established ties with Minnesota and still working on Wisconsin and Indiana to establish where they are with hydrogen. If other working groups would benefit from conducting outreach with other state, the Interstate Coordination group will be pleased to assist.

VI. Panel on Hydrogen and Environmental Justice

a. Chris Pressnall, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Chris Pressnall presented a broad overview of environmental justice. It requires just and equitable distribution of environmental benefits and harms over time. Environmental justice can be seen as enhanced public outreach (more developed) and cumulative impacts. IEPA EJ start GIS mapping tools. USCPA has a revamped EJ screen which is now more user friendly. Anyone developing hydrogen needs to be aware that there are tools available online.

b. Lauren Piette, Earth Justice

This presentation focused on minimizing risks and maximizing environmental justice in a hydrogen economy. Hydrogen projects must never add to burdens in environmental justice communities, benefit environmental justice communities, and environmental justice communities must have meaningful say in decisions about hydrogen projects impacting their communities. The risks of a hydrogen economy include more health-harming air pollution, safety hazards, extending the lift of fossil fuels infrastructure and delaying electrification, and climate impacts. It is essential to have adequate and strong regulations in place at the outset to avoid the serious safety risks that could come from transporting, storing and using hydrogen. Illinois hydrogen can benefit all communities, but guardrails are necessary to ensure that this does not increase the risks.

c. Elizabeth Kocs, GTI Energy

This presentation discussed Community Benefits Plans (CBP). There are four sections to CBP: Workforce and Community Agreements looks at how someone is engaging with communities and what the communities really look like. Advancing DEIA is focusing on what a company has done or plans to do in their strategies in an effort to achieve more and create an inclusive brand. Good Jobs is focusing on what is being done about jobs and economic development as well as the importance of investing in the American workforce to retraining and attracting future workforce to new technology. Lasty, Justice40 focuses on disadvantages communities and how the benefits should be flowing to them. All four components of the CBP require an update at the end of each phase.

VII. Adjournment

Senator Ellman adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.