

**State of Illinois**

**Hydrogen Economy Task Force**

**September 5, 2023**

**9:00am – 11:00am**

**Minutes**

**Location:**

*Virtual*

WebEx Video Conference

Join link:

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=me199d2489f5936663f13a54d76a6820a>

Meeting number (access code): 2634 547 9840

Meeting password: F3mdCK9hMy3

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 9:03 am.
  2. Roll Call of Membership

Rep. Terra Costa Howard: Yes

Patrick Devaney: Yes

Sarah Duffy: Yes

Sen. Laura Ellman: Yes

Patrick Evans: Yes

Rep. Bradley Fritts: No

Haley Hoke: Yes

Jon Horek: Yes

Jim Hoyt: No

Elizabeth Irvin: 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: No

Michael Wang: No

Michael Woods: Yes

Dana Wynn: Yes

**There were 15 of 22 appointed members present at the time of the roll call. Quorum was established.**

1. Review of 9/5/2023 Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes had been circulated to the task force prior to the meeting. Patrick Devaney moved to accept the minutes and Doug Scott 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 discussed the need to ensure that new hydrogen users and developers are well informed as hydrogen usage expands. The State should provide support so that local first responders/fire marshals can receive accurate and timely information on hydrogen usage and best practices, and also receive training on the unique properties of hydrogen. He also went on to list some key questions for regulators.

b. Workforce/ Entrepreneurship/ Education

Pat Devaney shared that his working group has met with people in the production and distribution of hydrogen and users of hydrogen. From those meeting they have learned that most of the education comes from the venders themselves and there is no standardized curriculum. After touring a few facilities that work with hydrogen they have learned that there is a need for a trained workforce that have the technical skills of working in this industry. It will be important to create an educational curriculum for community colleges/universities that would provide better training.

c. Communities, Environmental Justice

Dana Wynn noted that the working group has agreed that the education component needs to include something available for the general public, local officials, and policy makers that communicates the benefits and possible impacts on their communities. They believe that having a community benefits plan in Illinois and all EJ communities where hydrogen projects are being proposed should be part of the project development.

d. Commerce Development and Investment

Rep. Terra Costa Howard shared that this working group has been meeting with individuals and companies in the industry and have reported that they see a lot of cross over between education and workforce development along with the industrial development. A recommendation that they hope to be making is to push for labor standards as new jobs are created.

VI. V. Preparing Annual Report

a. Scope/contents of report

Going forward, representatives from the working groups, working in groups of fewer than six members to avoid OMA violations, should continue discussions on the contents and structure of the report.

b. Process/timetable for approving work products and recommendations for report.

The Task Force agreed to add an extra meeting in October to accelerate development of the report.

VII. Adjournment

Senator Ellman adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.