

**State of Illinois**

**Hydrogen Economy Task Force**

**January 13, 2023**

**9:00am – 11:00am**

**Minutes**

**Location:**

*Virtual*

WebEx Video Conference

Join link: <https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=ma31e5ddf9be72038eda894ddc62598f6>

Meeting number (access code): 2452 854 0585

Meeting password: vQtFU2t6hr3

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 9:02 am.
  2. Roll Call of Membership

John O’Conner, DCEO Program & Policy Development Manager, conducted a roll call of task force members.

Rep. Terra Costa Howard: Yes

Patrick Devaney: Yes

Sarah Duffy: Yes

Sen. Laura Ellman: Yes

Patrick Evans: Yes

Haley Hoke: Yes

Jon Horek: Yes

Jim Hoyt: Yes

Elizabeth Irvin: No

Chad Kruse: Yes

Dan LeFevers: Yes

George Letavish: No

Carly McCrory-McKay: Yes

Dulce Ortiz: No

Chad Parker: Yes

Sen. Sue Rezin: Yes

Dr. Petros Sofronis: Yes

Catherine Stashak: Yes

Michael Wang: Yes

Rep. Keith Wheeler: No

Michael Woods: Yes

Dana Wynn: Yes

Carrie Zalewski: Yes

There were 19 of 23 appointed members present at the time of the roll call. Quorum was established (13 of 23).

1. Review of 11/29/22 Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes had been circulated to the task force prior to the meeting, including revisions proposed by Michael Woods and Dr. Petros Sofronis.

Carly McCrory-McKay made a motion to approve the November 23rd minutes, and the motion was seconded by Michael Wang. The vote was conducted by roll call with all members present voting ”Yes” to adopting the minutes as revised.

1. 2023 Meeting Schedule

Senator Ellman opened the discussion of setting the 2023 meeting schedule, suggesting that meeting every two months was appropriate. After a discussion regarding the best day of week and best time of day for task force meetings, Senator Ellman suggested meeting at 8:30 the first Tuesday of every odd month (March, May, etc.). This was agreed to by members present in a voice vote, with no members opposing.

1. Task Force Member Training

Task Force members were reminded of ethics and Open Meetings Act training requirements. The ethics training required of all state employees satisfied the former requirement. Members facing difficulties in completing either of the requirements were asked to reach out to Senator Ellman or John O’Conner.

1. MacH2 Presentation

Colleen Wright, Erik Larson, John Holladay, and Stacey Halliday made a presentation to the task force on behalf of the Midwestern Alliance of Clean Hydrogen (MacH2). The presenters discussed the challenges and promise of investing in Illinois’ Hydrogen economy. Specific points of emphasis included the importance of attracting a DOE hydrogen hub, MacH2’s ongoing efforts and approach, and how the HETF can help make the hydrogen economy vision a reality in Illinois.

The MacH2 team noted the potential for adoption of hydrogen-based technologies to generate economic growth and jobs while decarbonizing the economy, allowing the state to better meet climate goals. However, significant barriers remain, including the cost of hydrogen and the infrastructure needs associated with connecting hydrogen suppliers with end users. The team noted that attracting a portion of DOE’s expected $7 billion investment in regional hubs for hydrogen would be a huge lift for the region.

The team cited Illinois’ ample supply of carbon-free nuclear energy as a strategic asset for the MacH2 proposal. MacH2 is among the 33 “concepts” that DOE is encouraging to proceed. MacH2's project would ultimately produce an estimated 100,000 metric tons of hydrogen and bring benefits to local communities, including promoting environmental justice for communities that have been historically disadvantaged. MacH2 is currently evaluating potential projects’ alignment with their vison and the priorities of the US DOE.

The presenters noted that the HETF could provide a significant boost to MacH2’s by promoting incentives and grants. This would help the group to leverage greater impacts and make establishment of a midwestern hub more attractive to DOE.

The presentation sparked questions from task force members, resulting in a several discussions. These includes supply chain challenges, approaches to understanding and addressing environmental justice concerns, and the relationship between biofuels and hydrogen-based technologies.

1. Federal Grant Opportunities

John O’Conner briefly noted two NOIs issued by the US Department of Energy in December: one pertaining to the First Phase of $1.5 Billion in BIL-Funded Programs for Electrolysis, Manufacturing, and Recycling and another regarding funding in support of the hydrogen shot goal. He indicated he would send an email to task force members including the links from the US DOE announcement.

1. Task Force Working Groups

Senator Ellman summarized the proposed working group structure she had circulated to the task force prior to the meeting. This structure specified four working groups and summarized the subject matter to be addressed by each. The proposed working groups included 1) Regulatory/Safety, 2) Workforce/Entrepreneurship/Education, 3) Communities, Environmental Justice, and 4) Commerce Development and Investment.

Dr. Sofronis recommended adding a fifth working group to assess the potential scope for interstate coordination. Senator Ellman agreed with this recommendation. Patrick Devaney suggested explicit consideration of labor standards by the Workforce/Entrepreneurship/Education working group. There was also a short discussion of whether to establish an additional working group to address basic science. After a short discussion, it was agreed that this topic was beyond the scope of the task force.

John O’Conner indicated that he would circulate a revised version of the working group structure to task force members, asking members to identify which working groups, if any, they wish to participate in. This information with be shared prior to the March meeting, during which the task force is expected to formally establish the working groups and their respective memberships. The task force was reminded that Open Meetings Act requirements will apply to any working group with more than six members.

1. Close

Senator Ellman adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.