

MINUTES
Iowa Energy Center
Board Meeting
August 8, 2024
1:00 p.m.

1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200 – Helmick Conference Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stuart Anderson, Chair
Craig Just, Vice Chair
Troy DeJoode
Naomi DeWinter
Debi Durham
Mayuri Farlinger
Anne Kimber
Christy Ryken
Taaf Vermeulen
Matt Washburn

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kelcey Brown
Erik Helland
Lanny Ziemen

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kristin Hanks-Bents, IEDA
Lisa Connell, IEDA
Emily Hockins, IEDA
Jeff Geerts, IEDA
Samantha Askland, IFA

Amber Buckingham, IEDA
Terry Roberson, IEDA
Abbie Christophersen, IEDA
Deanna Triplett, IEDA
Nick Michaud, IFA

Stephanie Weisenbach, IEDA
Kanan Kappelman, IEDA
Vicky Clinkscales, IEDA
Tim Morlan, IFA
Nicki Howell, IFA

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brenda Biddle, Iowa Utility Association

Jordan Elliott, Pearl Certification

I. Welcome and Introductions

a. Roll Call

Chair Anderson called to order the August 8, 2024 meeting of the Iowa Energy Center (IEC) Board at 1:02 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

Chair Anderson made a motion to amend the agenda by switching agenda item II. Fiscal Update with agenda item V. Appointment to the Grant Committee.

MOTION: On a motion by Mrs. Just and a second by Ms. Farlinger, the Board unanimously approved the amended agenda.

b. Approval of May 16, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

MOTION: On a motion by Ms. Kimber and a second by Mr. Just, the Board unanimously approved the May 16, 2024 IEC meeting minutes.

II. Appointment to the Grant Committee

Kristin Hanks-Bents noted that Iowa Code 403.36 provides that each year the board determines the size of the grant committee and appoints members to the committee. Ms. Hanks-Bents proposed a recommendation to increase the size of the grant committee by one person and to appoint Christy Ryken to serve on the Grant Committee.



MOTION: On a motion by Director Durham and a second by Ms. Farlinger, the Board unanimously approved increasing the size of the grant committee by one person and appointed Christy Ryken to serve on the Grant Committee.

III. **Competitive Grant Program**

a. Competitive Grant Program Update

Amber Buckingham provided high-level updates regarding the Competitive Grant Program. The next round of funding will launch in August with funding decisions made at the December IEC board meeting.

b. Grant Modification Policies and Procedures

Amber Buckingham shared that the IEC Grant Program Policies and Procedures Handbook provides guidelines for the administration of the IEC Grant Program and the IEC board reviews and approves the Grant Program Policies and Procedures Handbook annually. The IEC Grant Committee members met in early 2024 to review and make changes to the Handbook that will strengthen the Grant Program and provide clearer guidance to applicants and grant recipients.

MOTION: On a motion by Mr. Just and a second by Director Durham, the Board unanimously approved the changes to the IEC Grant Program Policies and Procedures Handbook.

c. Grant Modification Requests

i. 20-IEC-003

Iowa State University has requested a budget modification for award 20-IEC-003 to move \$32,000 from student tuition and equipment to salaries, wages, and payroll benefits to allow a postdoc to continue to work to complete project deliverables.

MOTION: Ms. Kimber made a motion to approve the budget modification for item III-C-I, 20-IEC-003. On a second made by Ms. Ryken, a roll call vote was taken with the following results; Yes: Stuart Anderson, Craig Just, Troy DeJooode, Naomi DeWinter, Debi Durham, Mayuri Farlinger, Anne Kimber, Christy Ryken, Taaf Vermeulen, and Matt Washburn; No: None; Abstain: None. The motion passed.

ii. 20-IEC-017

Iowa State University has requested a budget modification for award 20-IEC-017 to move \$22,833 from domestic travel, supplies/materials and other direct costs to salaries and wages, payroll benefits, and student tuition to allow a graduate student to continue work to complete project deliverables.

Additionally, ISU is requesting a second six-month no cost extension due to lab renovations that forced the team to stop working on the project. The new project end date would be 3/25/2025.

MOTION: Ms. Kimber made a motion to approve the budget modification for item III-C-II, 20-IEC-017. On a second made by Ms. Farlinger, a roll call vote was taken with the following results; Yes: Stuart Anderson, Craig Just, Troy DeJooode, Naomi DeWinter, Debi Durham, Mayuri Farlinger, Anne Kimber, Christy Ryken, Taaf Vermeulen, and Matt Washburn; No: None; Abstain: None. The motion passed.

iii. 20-IEC-009

Iowa State University has requested a budget modification for award 20-IEC-009 to move \$70,110 from supplies, materials, and other direct costs to salaries, wages, payroll benefits, equipment, student tuition and other direct costs due to unexpected additional research time and the necessary addition of an equipment line item.

MOTION: Mr. Just made a motion to approve the budget modification for item III-C-III, 20-IEC-009. On a second made by Ms. Durham, a roll call vote was taken with the following results; Yes: Stuart Anderson, Craig Just, Troy DeJooode, Naomi DeWinter, Debi Durham, Mayuri Farlinger, Christy Ryken, Taaf Vermeulen, and Matt Washburn; No: None; Abstain: Anne Kimber. The motion passed.

iv. 21-IEC-009

Iowa State University has requested a budget modification for award 21-IEC-009 to move \$69,596 from domestic travel, student tuition and supplies and materials to salaries, wages, and payroll benefits to allow members of the project team to complete more rigorous testing necessary to complete project tasks.

MOTION: Mr. DeJooode made a motion to approve the budget modification for item III-C-IV, 21-IEC-009. On a second made by Ms. Farlinger, a roll call vote was taken with the following results; Yes: Stuart Anderson, Craig Just, Troy DeJooode, Naomi DeWinter, Debi Durham, Mayuri Farlinger, Christy Ryken, Taaf Vermeulen, and Matt Washburn; No: None; Abstain: Anne Kimber. The motion passed.

IV. Energy Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program Update

Stephanie provided the board with an update on the Energy Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program. The program has not received a high volume of acceptable applications, so staff and the Loan Committee have met to discuss the priorities of the program and possible changes to the policies and procedures to align with projects in areas that have a higher need and to remove barriers to participation in the program. Next steps include reaching out for additional input from stakeholders to determine if changes would be beneficial. The next application deadline is November 7th and staff will bring an update to the board at the December IEC meeting.

V. Fiscal Update

Terry Roberson provided the board a fiscal update of the financial information for operations, grants, and loans.

VI. Other Business

a. Energy Office Updates

Kristin Hanks-Bents shared that the Reporting and Compliance Coordinator position is open for applications until August 11th and provided updates on the Grid Resilience Fund, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, the Energy Efficiency and Revolving Loan Fund and funding for a training program for energy auditors. Ms. Hanks-Bents also shared that an RFP will be released for an implementation contractor by the end of August and that IEC will be joining a technical assistance cohort for the Fuel Agnostic Energy Efficiency application. Staff is also working on finalizing the State Energy Security plan.

b. December 12, 2024 Quarterly IEC Board Meeting

Chair Anderson shared that there will be a board training after the December 12, 2024 IEC board meeting.

VII. Public Comment Period

No public comments were provided.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Anderson adjourned the August 8, 2024 IEC board meeting at 1:38 p.m.

Dated this 12th day of December 2024,

Respectfully submitted:

Approved as to form:

Nicki Howell
Interim Board Administrator

Stuart Anderson
Iowa Energy Center Board Chair