

**Iowa Energy Center Board  
Meeting Minutes  
March 8, 2018  
2:00 p.m.**

**Iowa Energy Center Board Members Present:**

Robert Berntsen	David Cwiertney	Debi Durham
Jennifer Johnson	Valerie Newhouse	Dan Nickey
Joel Schmidt	Timothy Whipple	Rick Olesen

**Iowa Economic Development Authority Staff Present:**

Brian Selinger	Adrienne Ricehill	Tim Waddell
Amber Buckingham	Ryan Young	Kristin Hanks-Bents
Stephanie Weisenbach	Shelly Peterson	Jennifer Klein

**Others Present:**

Brenda Biddle, IUB  
Julie Charlsen, ISU

## **Welcome and Introductions**

### **Roll Call**

Board Chair called the meeting of the Iowa Energy Center Board to order at 2:01 pm.

A quorum of the Board was established with the following Board members present: Stuart Anderson, Robert Berntsen, David Cwiertney, Debi Durham, Jennifer Johnson, Dan Nickey, Rick Olesen, Joel Schmidt, and Timothy Whipple.

### **Approval of February 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Rob Berntsen: Moved that the Board approve the February 13, 2018 meetings minutes.

Dan Nickey: Seconded the motion.

**Yes: 8      No: 0      Present: 0**

**Motion Passed**

## **Public Comment Period**

No comments.

## **Administrative Rules**

### **Rules provided (Attachment A)**

- Purpose
- Definitions
- Composition
- Added Terms
- Quorum and voting requirements
- Board Officers
- Meetings
- Added Grant Committee
- Added Loan Committee

Once the Board has approved the rules, IEDA will file a notice of intended action which includes a 20-day public comment period. Administrative Rules Review Committee meeting will be held to review the presented rules. Overall, the entire process could take 4 months.

To continue moving the adoption of the Programmatic Rules forward, IEDA will hold a discussion concerning the policy proposals and Programmatic Rules at the May 22, 2018, Board Meeting. Following the May Board meeting Programmatic Rules will be sent to the Board for review.

### **Summary of IEC Board Questions/Comments & IEDA Staff Response**

- Since there are many definitions of “Rural” which one will be used in the Administrative Rules?
  - It is an undefined term. It is also an undefined term in the statute and in the Iowa Energy Plan. When the Board moves to create or modify programs a discussion can be held to clarify the definition of “rural”.

### **Approval of IEC Board Administrative Rules**

Jennifer Johnson: Moved that the Board approve the Administrative Rules.

Rob Berntsen: Seconded the motion.

**Yes: 9      No: 0      Present: 0**  
**Motion Passed**

### **Other Business**

- Vacant Board Seats
  - Iowa State University has submitted an applicant to serve on the IEC Board. Awaiting approval from the Boards and Commissions Committee.
  - IEDA has spoken to several Private Colleges/Universities to fill the remaining Board position. Three colleges are currently in the process of completing an application to serve on the IEC Board.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Iowa Energy Center Board adjourned the meeting at 2:11 p.m.

Adrienne Ricehill  
IEC Board Administrator

# Attachment A

**261-403.1(15) Purpose.** The Iowa energy center is established within the authority with the following purposes:

- A. To expand workforce and career opportunities for workers in the energy sector to ensure that the state is able to attract and train professionals to meet the state's future energy needs.
- B. To support technology-based development by encouraging public-private partnerships and innovative manufacturers to develop and bring to market new energy technologies.
- C. To support rural and underserved areas and vulnerable populations by creating opportunities for greater access to energy efficiency expertise, training, programs, and cyber security preparedness for small utilities.
- D. To support the expansion of natural gas infrastructure to rural and underserved areas of the state where the absence is a limiting factor to economic development.
- E. To promote and fund research, development, and commercialization of biomass technology to benefit the state economically and environmentally by further realizing the value-added attributes of biomass in the development of bioenergy, biofuels, and biochemicals.
- F. To encourage growth of the alternative fuel vehicle market, particularly for electric vehicles, and the infrastructure necessary to support the market.
- G. To support efforts to modernize the electric grid infrastructure of the state to support increased capacity and new technologies.

**261-403.2(15) Definitions.** As used in these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Authority" means the economic development authority created in Iowa Code section 15.105.

"Authority's Web site" means the information and related content found at <http://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/> and may include content at affiliated sites whose content is integrated with that site, including the Iowa Energy Center Web site.

"Board" means the members of the Iowa Energy Center board appointed by the governor and in whom the powers of the Iowa Energy Center are vested pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.120.

"Center" means the Iowa Energy Center created pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.120. "Committee" means a committee established by the board.

"Director" means the director of the authority or the director's designee.

**261-403.3(15) Iowa Energy Center board.**

**403.3(1) Composition.**

- A. The power to oversee, approve, and provide direction concerning the programs established by the center shall be vested in a governing board consisting of the following members appointed by the governor:
- 1) One member representing Iowa state university of science and technology, in consultation with the president of that university.
  - 2) One member representing the university of Iowa, in consultation with the president of that university.
  - 3) One member representing the university of northern Iowa, in consultation with the president of that university.
  - 4) One member representing private colleges and universities within the state, in consultation with the Iowa association of independent colleges and universities.
  - 5) One member representing community colleges, in consultation with the Iowa association of community college trustees.
  - 6) One member representing the economic development authority, in consultation with the director of the economic development authority.
  - 7) One member representing the state department of transportation, in consultation with the director of the department of transportation.
  - 8) One member representing the office of consumer advocate, in consultation with the consumer advocate.
  - 9) One member representing the utilities board, in consultation with the chair of the utilities board.
  - 10) One member representing rural electric cooperatives, in consultation with the Iowa association of electric cooperatives.
  - 11) One member representing municipal utilities, in consultation with the Iowa association of municipal utilities.
  - 12) Two members representing investor-owned utilities, one representing gas utilities, and one representing electric utilities, in consultation with the Iowa utility association.
- B. The terms of the members shall begin and end as provided in Iowa Code section 69.19 and any vacancy shall be filled by the governor as provided for in this subsection. The terms shall be for four years and shall be staggered as determined by the director.

**403.3(3) Quorum and voting requirements.** Nine or more voting members of the board constitute a quorum. The affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum is necessary for any action taken by the center's board members.

**403.3(4) Board officers.** Members of the board elect a chairperson and vice chairperson annually and may elect other officers as and when the members of the board determine.

**403.3(5) Meetings.**

- A. Meetings of the center are held at the call of the chairperson or when two members of the board request a meeting. The board generally meets quarterly at the authority's offices located at 200 East Grand Avenue in Des Moines, Iowa. By notice of the regularly published meeting agendas, the board and its committees may hold regular or special meetings at other locations within the state. Meeting agendas are available on the authority's Web site.
- B. Meetings of the board and any committee it may establish are conducted in accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 21. Any person may attend and observe the proceedings of the board and committee meetings except for those portions of the meetings conducted in closed session pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.5. Persons observing may use cameras or recording devices during the meeting so long as the use of such devices does not interfere with the proceedings. The chairperson may order any person to discontinue the use of such a device if the chairperson believes it is causing an interference with the proceedings. The chairperson may have any person excluded who fails to comply with such an order. The chairperson may also exclude any person generally causing a disruption of the proceedings.