

## **CONNECTICUT GREEN BANK**

### **Board of Directors**

Minutes – Special Meeting

Strategic Retreat

Thursday, January 5, 2017

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of the **Connecticut Green Bank (the “Green Bank”)** was held on January 5, 2017 at Yale University, Kroon Hall, 161 Prospect Street, New Haven, CT

#### **1. Call to order**

Catherine Smith, Chairperson of the Green Bank and Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development (“DECD”), called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. Board members participating: Norma Glover; John Harrity; Reed Hundt; Rob Klee, Vice Chairperson of the Green Bank and Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (“DEEP”); Matthew Ranelli and Tom Flynn.

Members absent: Mun Choi, Pat Wrice, Kevin Walsh and Bettina Bronize

Staff Attending: George Bellas, Craig Connolly, Mackey Dykes, Brian Farnen, Bryan Garcia, Ben Healey, Dale Hedman, Bert Hunter, Alex Kovtunencko, Kerry O’Neill, Eric Shrago, Matt Macunas,.

Others: Dr. Jonathan Raab of Raab Associates, Ltd., acting as facilitator, Frances Beinecke. former President of the Natural Resources Defense Council (joined discussion for the last hour of the meeting).

#### **2. Public Comments**

There were no public comments

#### **3. Kick-Off – Successes and Shortcomings (12:00 to 12:45 – 45 minutes)**

##### **2011 to 2016 – What were the Connecticut Green Bank’s successes and shortcomings (or missed best practices) in its first 5 years?**

The Board first brainstormed key successes and shortcomings for the Green Bank in its first 5 years, compared the Board’s lists to staff’s lists, and then had an open discussion on the similarities and differences

Several next steps were identified, including:

- Continuing to work closely and build relationships with the utilities and the Energy Efficiency Board;
- Investigating how the creation of a private entity (e.g., CDFI, 501(c)3 non-profit, foundation, etc.) may help the organization achieve greater results; and
- Addressing various operational issues that need improvements.

**4. Strategic Issues to Address (12:45 to 4:50 – 245 minutes)**

**a. Issue #1 – The “Big Picture” – Towards 80% Reductions of GHG Emissions by 2050 (12:45 to 1:55 – 70 minutes)**

Commissioner Klee described the opportunity and challenges inherent in Connecticut striving to meet its climate action goals. Particular emphasis was on the transportation sector, building heating and cooling sector, and on electrifying these sectors while continuing to strive to reduce the carbon intensity of the electricity grid.

The Board members and staff then broke into 2 separate break-out groups to discuss the roles that the Bank could play to keep CT on a pathway to successfully achieving its 80% reduction target by 2050. The groups specifically were asked to consider the Green Bank’s potential role in the transportation, building heating/cooling sectors, and clean grid.

One of the next steps identified was:

- Working with DEEP and the utilities to develop new programs to support the GC3 in the areas of renewable thermal technologies, zero emission vehicles, and a cleaner electric grid;

**b. Issue #2 – Financial Position of the Connecticut Green Bank; Leveraging Resources for Public-Private Partnerships and Sustainability: Emerging Opportunities Like Bank of America (1:55 to 2:55– 60 minutes)**

Staff presented a slide deck reviewing the Green Bank’s financial position, and reviewed a recent strategic opportunity by Bank of America. The Board and staff then discussed the Bank’s financial strengths and accounting practices, as well as what kinds of opportunities this could open up.

One of the next steps identified was:

- Investing more of its financial resources into existing programs and products by putting in more of the organization’s capital;

**c. Issue #3 – Financial Position of the Connecticut Green Bank – Protecting Resources from Transfer to the General Fund: Strategies and Communications\* (3:10 to 4:00 – 50 minutes)**

The Board and staff discussed ways the organization might mitigate threats to its strong financial position.

Several next steps were identified, including:

- Providing an additional set of non-GAAP financial statements that brings the organization’s commitments into its financial statements (as opposed to the footnotes); and
- Allowing the President and CEO to work with the Chair of the Board of Directors to develop and implement a proactive strategy through the legislative session to manage the budget deficit.

**d. Issue #4 – The Green Bank Movement in a Trump Administration – Opportunities and Vulnerabilities (4:00 to 4:50 – 50 minutes)**

The Board and the staff discussed what insights they wanted to share about how a new federal administration might impact the pursuit of clean energy in the U.S., and what challenges and opportunities this might posit for the CT Green Bank.

Several next steps were identified, including:

- Pursuing the Bank of America investment as a strategy to communicating the importance of public-private partnerships in advancing the clean energy economy;
- Continuing to support the Green Bank Network and the Green Bank Academy to share best practices and lessons learned within the green bank movement; and
- Continuing to support federal legislation in support of green banks and/or infrastructure that supports clean energy with the Coalition for Green Capital.

5. Next Steps (4:50 to 5:00 – 10 minutes)

Green Bank staff will summarize and synthesize the information and ideas shared at this meeting and present some potential strategies to address these issues at the next Board of Directors meeting.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Catherine Smith, Chair