

**NYSERDA 251<sup>st</sup> Special Board Meeting**  
**April 7, 2021**  
Clean Copy of Transcript

**John Howard:**

Absolutely can. I'm, I am what it is. I made reference like being a Chair. It's, it's much like being pregnant. Either you are or you are not. And now I am. So, okay. Not pregnant.

**Chair Kauffman:**

<Laugh>. Okay. That's, that's good to know. Okay. Well that's great. So I will I will welcome you. All right. I think in the interest of time, I'd like, I'd like to begin the meeting, if that's all right.

**John Campagna:**

Yes.

**Chair Kauffman:**

So let me know when it's good to go.

**John Campagna:**

Recording has begun, so you can start when you'd like.

**Chair Kauffman:**

Okay. I'd like to call this meeting to order. This is the 251st meeting of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. Notice of the meeting was provided to the members and to the press on April 6, 2021. I directed a copy of the notice and agenda. Be annexed to the minutes of this meeting. Welcome to the meeting. This meeting is being conducted by video conference. The Authority will post a video and a transcript of this meeting on the web. To confirm that we have a quorum, I'd like to ask the Authority's Secretary Peter Costello, to conduct a roll call of each of the members in attendance. Peter,

**Peter Costello:**

Thank. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will first note your attendance for the record. And now take the remainder of the roll call. When I call your name, please indicate present. Authority Vice Chair Quiniones

**Vice Chair Quiniones:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

Shere Abbott.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

Chuck Bell.

**Charles Bell:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

Ken Daly.

**Kenneth Daly:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

And Commissioner Dominguez. were you able to join us?

**Commissioner Dominguez:**

Yes. Good morning.

**Peter Costello:**

Oh, good morning. Thank you. Kate Fish.

**Kate Fish:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

PSC John Howard.

**John Howard:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

Jay Koh.

**Jay Koh:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Seggos.

**Commissioner Seggos:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

And Mark Willis.

**Mark Willis:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you all. Mr. Chair. There are 11 members and attendance. Unanimous attendance. Therefore we have a quorum.

**Chair Kauffman:**

Okay. Thank you Peter. I'd like to acknowledge and welcome John Howard, Chair of the Public Service Commission. As a new member of the Authority's Board. The first item on the agenda concerns an executive session and a private session. The members will convene an executive session for the purpose of discussing the appointment of a particular person. In addition, the members will convene in private session for the purpose of discussing attorney-client privilege matters. May I have a motion for resolution number 1612 to enter into executive session to discuss the appointment of a particular person and to enter into private session to discuss attorney-client privilege matters.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

So moved.

**Kate Fish:**

Second.

**Members of the Board:**

<laugh>

**Chair Kauffman:**

Everybody's very eager today. I'm very pleased.

**Members of the Board:**

<Laugh>

**Chair Kauffman:**

When Peter calls your name, please indicate whether you are in favor by stating Aye or opposed by stating No.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you Mr. Chair. I will first ask for your Vote.

**Chair Kauffman:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Authority, Vice Chair Quiniones.

**Vice Chair Quiniones:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Shere Abbott.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chuck Bell?

**Charles Bell:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Ken Daly.

**Kenneth Daly:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Dominguez. Commissioner Dominguez, who's on mute?

**Commissioner Dominguez:**

This is what we're putting together. You know, the City's on Board.

**Peter Costello:**

Can you just, Commissioner Dominguez. I can hear you. Okay. Can I have your both please?  
Okay, I'll come back. Kate Fish.

**Kate Fish:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

PSC Chair Howard.

**John Howard:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Jay Koh.

**Jay Koh:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Seggos.

**Commissioner Seggos:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Mark Willis.

**Mark Willis:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

And Commissioner Dominguez, if I could try one more time. Okay. I think she's on other business. Nevertheless, Mr. Chair the resolution to enter into executive and private sessions has been approved.

**Chair Kauffman:**

Thank you. The members and the officers will now enter into an executive session and private session. During that time, the webcast will remain up. Upon our return, we will reconvene the meeting. So does everybody know what to do here? Members to go to a different a different place? Is that right?

**Sara LeCain:**

You should have all received link in your invite.

**Charles Bell:**

Okay.

**Chair Kauffman:**

I'd like to go forward here so we can, we can begin.

**John Campagna:**

Recording is back up.

**Chair Kauffman:**

Okay. Thank you. No formal action was taken during the executive and private session, but as a result of our discussions, we will now consider the appointment of Doreen Harris as President and CEO of the Authority. At the June 23, 2020 meeting, members appointed Doreen as the acting President and CEO the Authority. Prior to serving in this role, Doreen was the Vice President for Large-Scale Renewables, overseeing the State's nation leading advancement of renewable resources under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act and Clean Energy Standard, as well as spearheading the development of the State's development of offshore

wind resources. While serving as acting President and CEO, Doreen has led the Authority's continuing work in the advancement of innovative energy solutions to improve the State's economy and environment. I'll just add one other point that we've all been reading about what Abraham Lincoln did with infrastructure during the Civil War. And I think Doreen, you've been our Abraham Lincoln leading during the difficult crisis of the virus and helping to advance the State's clean energy infrastructure. So I'd like to have a motion for resolution number 1613 approving the appointment of Doreen Harris as President and CEO of the Authority. Effective today, April 7, 2021.

**Members of the Board:**

So moved.

**Members of the Board:**

Second.

**Chair Kauffman:**

Okay. Glad for everybody's enthusiasm. Okay. when Peter calls your name, please indicate whether you are in favor by stating Aye or opposed by stating No.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will first take your vote.

**Chair Kauffman:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Authority Vice Chair Quiniones.

**Vice Chair Quiniones:**

Enthusiastic. Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you. Shere Abbott. I don't think we have her back yet, so I'll save her for last. Chuck Bell.

**Charles Bell:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Ken Daly.

**Kenneth Daly:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Dominguez.

**Commissioner Dominguez:**

Wholehearted. Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Kate Fish.

**Kate Fish:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

PSC John Howard.

**John Howard:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Jay Koh.

**Jay Koh:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Seggos,

**Commissioner Seggos:**

Emphatic, enthusiastic, and wholehearted. Aye. <laugh>.

**Peter Costello:**

Great. Thank you. And Mark Willis.

**Mark Willis:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

And I'll just check for Shere Abbott one more time. Okay. Regardless, we have a quorum. So, Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to report that the appointment of Doreen Harris as President and CEO has been approved.

**Chair Kauffman:**

Thank you. Well congratulate Doreen on being named President of the Authority and look forward to continuing to work with you to further NYSERDA's nation leading Climate mission. So I think we can applaud.

**Chair Kauffman:**

Doreen, would you like to say a few words?

**Doreen Harris:**

You read my mind? Certainly. thank you all. To say the least, it is a sincere honor and a privilege to be appointed President, permanent President of NYSERDA. I firmly believe there no challenge poses a greater threat to our future than climate change. And no institution is better poised to meet that challenge head on than NYSERDA . And I am delighted to now lead the Authority into that future that we are collectively pursuing as a State. I am told that with this appointment, I am now the first President of NYSERDA who has previously held staff roles across the Authority. And in those 10 plus years, and specifically in the past 10 months as acting President and CEO, I have come to know the true value and globally significant impact that NYSERDA has had and will have into the future. From our creation as a public benefit corporation in 1975 to our expanded role in the nineties on behalf of the State energy office, and now to the convergence of crises and opportunities we now must address.

We have a call to act on climate change and accelerate the energy transition and it has reached new levels of urgency and appreciation. So under the framework of the CLCPA and as the State's Primary Clean Energy Agency, you know, we are key to implementing our State's ambitious goals. And so under my leadership, we must do everything we can to drive climate progress that works for people, you know, all New Yorkers and the coming years in my view will be looked back on as momentous for New York's clean energy transition and climate leadership. So I have been tremendously proud both to work for NYSERDA and now lead NYSERDA serving the people of New York State. And so tremendous thanks go to the dedicated work and excellence of our team and the outstanding guidance of this Board. The opportunities for us to increase our impact will continue to grow and drive toward the future that we all look for on behalf of all New Yorkers. So I want to thank you each for the trustee placed in me and for the opportunity to serve in this manner. Thank you.

**Chair Kauffman:**

Thank you Doreen. And again, congratulations and we look forward to our work together. So that concludes our, our formal agenda for this morning. We have one item under other business. At the beginning of March, the members received the Annual Board Member Performance Evaluation as required by the Public Authority's Law. This was emailed to you using an online tool. Qualtrics, as you know, this is an important opportunity for the members to provide feedback on the workings of the Board and its Committees. For those that have yet to complete the confidential form, please do so at your earliest convenience so your responses can be compiled in the annual report, in any recommendations can be reviewed by the Governance Committee and later the full Board. Are there any other matters the members would like to discuss? There being none. May I have a motion to adjourn the meeting?

**Charles Bell:**

So moved.

**Mark Willis:**

Sound moved.

**Sherburne Abbott:**

Second.



**Chair Kauffman:**

All right. All in favor?

**Members of the Board:**

Aye. Aye. Aye. Aye. Aye.

**Chair Kauffman:**

Opposed? The meeting's adjourned. Thank you all very much.