Pursuant to a notice and agenda dated June 11, 2021, the one hundred thirteenth (113th) meeting of the Program Planning Committee (the “Committee”) of the NEW YORK STATE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (the “Authority”) was convened at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, by videoconference.

The following members of the Committee were present:

Richard Kauffman, Chair of the Authority
Sherburne Abbott
Marie Therese Dominguez
Jay Koh
Gil Quiniones

Also present were Board Members Arturo Garcia-Costas, Kate Fish, and Sadie McKeown; Doreen Harris, President and CEO; Janet Joseph, Senior Vice President for Strategy and Market Development; John Williams, Vice President for Policy and Regulatory Affairs; Peter J. Costello, General Counsel and Secretary to the Authority; Sarah Osgood, Executive Director of the Climate Action Council; Sara L. LeCain, Senior Counsel and Secretary to the Committee; and various other staff of the Authority.

Richard Kauffman called the meeting to order. The meeting notice and agenda were forwarded to the Committee Members on June 11, 2021 and to the press on June 14, 2021. The meeting was held via videoconference, and Richard Kauffman asked Sara LeCain to conduct a roll call. Each Member indicated their presence and Sara LeCain confirmed a quorum was present.

Richard Kauffman indicated that the first item on the agenda concerned the approval of the minutes of the one hundred twelfth (112th) meeting of the Committee, held on April 27, 2021.
Whereafter, upon motion duly made and seconded, and by unanimous voice vote of the Committee members, the minutes of the one hundred twelfth (112th) meeting of the Committee, held on April 27, 2021, were approved.

Richard Kauffman indicated that the next item on the agenda was an update from the Climate Action Council. This item was introduced by the Climate Action Council’s Executive Director Sarah Osgood.

Ms. Osgood began the presentation by reviewing the requirements set out in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (“CLCPA”). Ms. Osgood discussed the CLCPA’s requirement of a forty percent (40%) investment in disadvantaged communities and relevant criteria being developed. CLCPA also established a 22-member climate action council (“Council”) and its main job to deliver a scoping plan for recommendations on achieving greenhouse gas limits outlined in the CLCPA. The draft plan is scheduled to be released by the end of the year with a public comment period to follow on the draft plan. Ms. Osgood discussed that the Council began its work in March 2020 and convened the Advisory Panels in Fall of 2020. The recommendations by the Advisory Panels and Just Transition Working Group will assist the Council in developing the draft scoping plan. Ms. Osgood explained that the Just Transition Working Group was also tasked with conducting a study on job creation and workforce disruption related to the transition to a low carbon economy. Ms. Osgood also explained that the Climate Justice Working Group was tasked with establishing criteria to identify and develop a list of disadvantaged communities to which the 35% to 40% of the CLCPA-mandated investment must benefit.

Regarding the CLCPA’s timeline and progress, Ms. Osgood stated that in April and May 2021, the Advisory Panels and Just Transition Working Group presented their recommendations, development, and outreach to the Council. Ms. Osgood explained that the Council is now analyzing the recommendations of the Advisory Panels and Just Transition Working Group to determine societal costs and benefits as well as emissions reductions for the draft scoping plan. Following the public comment period, the Council is required to finalize the scoping plan by the end of 2022.
In response to a statement from Mr. Kauffman, Ms. Osgood discussed programs NYSERDA implemented prior to the CLCPA. Sarah explained that NYSERDA: (1) established the Tier 4 large scale renewables program to deliver renewable energy to the New York City area; and (2) expanded the Tier 1 renewable energy eligibility for new facilities. These programs resulted from the Public Service Commission’s expansion of the clean energy standard to meet the key provisions contained in the CLCPA - 70% renewable energy by 2030.

Ms. Osgood also discussed how some of the findings from the Advisory Panels and Just Transition Working Group have implications for NYSERDA programs, particularly the energy efficiency, housing and transportation recommendations. With respect to energy efficiency, and housing, Ms. Osgood discussed how greenhouse gas emissions, both direct and indirect, are attributable to the building sector and how electrification is the largest driver of those direct emissions reductions. Ms. Osgood also discussed some of the mitigation strategies and enabling initiatives the Council developed to assist with decarbonizing buildings.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Koh, Mr. Williams indicated that work is being performed to address resilience outcomes, strategies, adaptation measures. In terms of planning and calculating for climate risk, Ms. Williams explained that in infrastructure investments going forward, the Council will be looking at its integration analysis work and various Advisory Panel outputs to address future climate change.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Garcia-Costas, Ms. Joseph discussed the role of manufactured housing as it relates to the single-family sector. Ms. Joseph explained that the energy efficiency, and housing panel did discuss manufactured housing, but did not put forward a recommendation solely on it. Ms. Joseph stated that NYSERDA has several programs to address this sector and improve manufactured housing.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Kauffman regarding marginal costs, Ms. Osgood explained that the Council’s integration analysis is taking all the recommendations from the Advisory Panels to determine what the incremental costs and benefits will be.
In response to an inquiry from Mr. Kauffman regarding coordinating with other States, Ms. Joseph explained that this type of coordination is being conducted with other programs such as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Ms. Joseph also pointed out that NYSERDA is coordinating with several regional and national organizations to work on appliance standards and carbon-neutral appliances.

In response to an inquiry from Ms. Abbott, Mr. Williams explained that NYSERDA’s currently work on the ClimAID project will pull together the best scientific, academic, and economic experts to help understand current Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (“IPCC”) standards or other information coming out of studies and emergent literature that will assist New York with remaining on the forefront of climate change.

A discussion ensued among members Mr. Koh, Commissioner Dominguez, and Ms. McKeown addressing resiliency and financing issues.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Garcia-Costas, Ms. Osgood explained that the Climate Justice Working Group is currently developing the definition and criteria of disadvantaged communities and public hearings will take place before the definition is finalized. Ms. Joseph described the difficulties associated with electrifying buildings.

In response to the discussion regarding financing issues, Ms. Harris introduced John Lochner, Vice President for Innovation. Mr. Lochner indicated that NYSERDA is working with the Department of Financial Services’ Director of Climate Finance to address some of these issues.

Mr. Kauffman indicated that the next item on the agenda was a review of the Program Planning Committee Charter. The Authority’s General Counsel, Peter Costello stated that pursuant to the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005, each of the Authority’s Committees adopted Charters setting forth each Committee’s responsibilities. One of those responsibilities is to periodically review its Charter and determine what, if any, amendments need to be made. These recommendations would then be presented to the full Board for approval at its meeting. A copy of the current Program Planning Committee Charter was included in the Members’ meeting package.
Management did not recommend any changes to the Program Planning Committee Charter at this time.

Whereafter, upon motion duly made and seconded, and by voice vote of the Members present, the following resolution was adopted.

Resolution

RESOLVED, amendments to the Authority’s Program Planning Committee Charter as presented for consideration at this June 22, 2021 meeting, with such non-substantive, editorial changes and grammatical changes as the President and Chief Executive Officer, in her discretion, may deem necessary or appropriate, is recommended for adoption and approval by the Board.

Mr. Kauffman indicated that the last item on the agenda was other business. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara L. LeCain
Secretary to the Committee