

**NYSERDA Special Board Meeting**  
**TRANSCRIPT**  
**April 7, 2021**

**Richard Kauffman:**

All right, I think in the interest of time, I'd like, I'd like to begin the meeting.

That's all right?

**Peter Costello:**

Yes.

**Richard Kauffman:**

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

**John Campagna:**

Recording has begun. So you can start when you like.

**Richard 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 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?

**Gil Quiniones:**

Present

**Peter Costello:**

Shere Abbott

**Shere Abbott:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

Chuck Bell.

**Chuck Bell:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you, Ken Daly.

**Ken Daly:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

And Commissioner Dominguez were you able to join us?

**Marie Therese Dominguez:**

Yes, good morning.

**Peter Costello:**

Good morning. Thank you.

**Peter Costello:**

Kate Fish

**Kate Fish:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

PSC Chair Howard

**John Howard:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

Jay Koh.

**Jay Koh:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Seggos

**Basil Seggos:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

And Mark Willis.

**Mark Willis:**

Present.

**Peter Costello:**

Thank you all. Mr. Chair, there are 11 members in attendance. Unanimous attendance. Therefore, we have a quorum.

**Richard 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 our attorney client privilege matters.

**Kate Fish:**

So moved.

**Basil Seggos:**

Second.

**Richard Kauffman:**

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

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. First, I will ask for your vote.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Authority Vice Chair Quiniones.

**Gil Quiniones:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Shere Abbott.

**Shere Abbott:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Chuck Bell.

**Chuck Bell:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Ken Daly.

**Ken Daly:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Dominguez. Commissioner Dominguez?

**Mark Willis:**

She's on mute.

**Marie Therese Dominguez:**

So, I'm new to what we're putting together, you know, the city's on board. Can you just.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Dominguez I can hear you, can I have your vote 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.

**Basil Seggos:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Mark Willis.

**Mark Willis:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

And Commissioner Dominguez, if I could try it 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.

**Richard 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?

**Sara LeCain:**

See the link in your invites.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Hey, I'd like to go forward here.  
So, we can, we can begin?

**John Campagna:**

Recording is back up.

**Richard 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 23rd, 2020 meeting, the Members appointed Doreen as the Acting President and CEO of the Authority. Prior to serving in this role, Doreen was the Vice President for Large Scale Renewables, overseeing the States 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 that. What Abraham Lincoln did with infrastructure during the Civil War, and I think Doreen, you've been our Abraham Lincoln. Leading NYSERDA 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 7th, 2021.

**Basil Seggos:**

So moved.

**Mark Willis:**

Second.

**Richard 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.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Authority Vice Chair Quiniones.

**Gil 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?

**Chuck Bell:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Ken Daly.

**Ken Daly:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Dominguez.

**Marie Therese Dominguez:**

Wholehearted Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Kate Fish.

**Kate Fish:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

PSC Chair Howard.

**John Howard:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Jay Koh.

**Jay Koh:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Commissioner Seggos.

**Basil Seggos:**

Emphatic, enthusiastic, and wholehearted Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

Great. Thank you. And Mark Willis.

**Mark Willis:**

Aye.

**Peter Costello:**

All right, 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.

**Richard 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. 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 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 corp in 1975 to our expanded role in the nineties on behalf of the State of 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, and as the state's primary clean energy agency, we at NYSERDA our key to implementing our state 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 opportunity is 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 trust placed in me and for the opportunity to serve in this manner, thank you.

**Richard Kauffman:**

Thank your Doreen and again, congratulations and we look forward to our work together.

So, that concludes 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 Authorities 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, and 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?

**Gil Quiniones:**

So moved.

**Kate Fish:**

Second.

**Richard Kauffman:**

All right all in favor?

**In unison:**

Aye.

**Richard Kauffman:**

All right. Opposed? The meeting is adjourned. Thank you all very much.

**Jay Koh:**

Thank you. Congratulations Doreen.

**Doreen Harris:**

Thank you.