# MINUTES MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTER BOARD MEETING

July 24, 2025

**Directors:** 

Secretary Rebecca Tepper, EEA, Chair

Interim Secretary Ashley Stolba, Undersecretary of Economic Foundations

Secretary Lauren Jones, LWD (Remote)

Assistant Secretary Kaitlyn Connors, Designee of Secretary Matthew

Gorzkowicz, ANF (Remote)

Dr. Yanlai Chen, Designee of President of the University of Massachusetts Martin

Meehan (Remote)

Terry Moran, Executive Director, Massachusetts Workforce Alliance (Remote)

Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony, DOER

Bob Haber, Principal, Proficio Capital Partners (Remote)

Dr. Aisha Francis, President, Franklin Cummings Tech (Remote)

Rear Admiral Francis McDonald, President, Massachusetts Maritime Academy

Lisa Theriault, Manager of Business Development, IBEW Local/National

Electrical Contractors Association (Remote)

Dr. John Cook, President, Springfield Technical Community College (Remote)

**Supporting Staff:** 

Dr. Emily Reichert, CEO

John Hitt, General Counsel and Board Secretary

Alexandra Zaltman, Chief of Staff

Brooke Barton, COO

Summer Zeh, Esq., Deputy General Counsel and Assistant Board Secretary

Jaclyn Leslie, CFO and Board Treasurer

Jennifer Applebaum, Managing Director Workforce Development Jennifer Le Blond, Managing Director Emerging Climatetech

Lena DeLuca, Esq. Michelle Beadle

**Daniel Gates** 

Other Attendees:

Michael Judge, Undersecretary of Energy, EEA

Robert Cohen, Policy Director, LWD and designee of Secretary Jones

Erin Hood Chris Lisinski Raija Vaisanen Marcella McNerney

Mallory Ewing

Dan Hibbs

Jenna Wills

Nahlia Yefet

Lauren Van Schepen

Elizabeth Youngblood

Erica Hines

Ana Marques-Jackson

Korina Anagnostopoulou

Maahi Jaiswal

Kevin Bugbee-Cassara

Zach Jylkka

Rylan Gonzalez

Rhys Webb

Peter McPhee

Jim Stanislaski

Aneeza Ahmad

Jess Brookner

**Daniel Gates** 

Jeremy Belknap

Aabha Latkar

Christopher Andersen

Sam Watters

Grecia White

Nicole Jacobsen

Georgia Connolly

Leslie Nash

Alison Kuznitz

Milindh Kashyap

**Stephanie Simmons** 

Alison Magoon

Benedikt Reynolds

Rebekah Pearson

Isabella McKinney

Jeannie Houde

Helena Altsman

Francesca Reznik

Edward Hsieh

Maddy Zeliff

Bruce Carlisle

Galen Nelson

Ross Palley

Ngoc Tran

Emma Stuart

Jasmine Li

Pepper Schneekloth

Catrina Damrell

George Morant

Devan DiLibero

Nick Lawson

Jonaliza Ceklic

Jess Brookner

Claire Hazzard

Janel Granum

Lauren Farnsworth

Lydia Hurley

Karl Adrianza

Susan Mlodozeniec

Eric Meyer

Katherine Straus

Soumya Atnoor

Caroline Friend

**Emily Pittsley** 

George Blagdon

Chris Sparks

Christina Dellaventura

Lisa Berry Engler

Devan DiLibero

Diego Huezo

Eli Goldman

Benjamin Christensen

Grecia White

David Wilson

Tim Griffin

Elizabeth Cleveland

Marianna Miller

Lindsay McCluskey

Heather Marciniec

Susan Stewart

Samuel Brandon

A meeting of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center ("<u>MassCEC</u>") Board of Directors (the "<u>Board</u>") was held on July 24, 2025, in person and via remote video conference. All participants could hear and be heard by each other throughout the meeting.

Seeing a quorum, Secretary Rebecca Tepper, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02.

#### I. Approval of Meeting Minutes of the May 15, 2025 Board Meeting

As the first order of business, the Board reviewed the draft minutes of the May 15, 2025, meeting. Upon a motion made by Admiral McDonald and seconded by Commissioner Mahony, the following roll call vote was taken:

Secretary Tepper: Yea Commissioner Mahony: Yea

Admiral McDonald: Yea Interim Secretary Stolba: Yea

Mr. Cohen: Yea

Assistant Secretary Connors: Yea

Dr. Cook: Yea Mr. Moran: Yea Dr. Chen: Yea Mr. Haber: Yea Ms. Theriault: Yea Dr. Francis: Yea

With 12 yeas and 0 nays, it was unanimously VOTED, without further discussion or abstention, at 10:03 am:

To adopt the Meeting Minutes from the May 15, 2025 Meeting of the MassCEC Board of Directors.

## II. Update from Chair and CEO

[Secretary Jones joined at 10:04.]

Secretary Tepper briefly discussed the Mass Ready Act, a comprehensive bill to reduce cost for customers.

[There was a brief pause in the meeting when the conference room display lost power. The in-person Board members moved to a different conference room with a working display and rejoined the virtual meeting.]

Dr. Emily Reichert, CEO, reviewed the upcoming Board schedule. She previewed the presentations and authorizations on the agenda for today and reviewed the outcome of the FY26 state budget.

# III. Authorization of Committee Assignments and Charter Updates

Alexandra Zaltman, Chief of Staff, presented Committee reassignments and new Committee charters. New Committee membership will balance the number of members and align membership with Director expertise. The Compensation Committee will now be the Compensation and Personnel Committee. The Audit Committee is now called the Finance and Audit Committee, with responsibility for the annual budget. Ms. Zaltman noted one change from the Committee membership presented in the materials, which is that the Secretary of EEA (Secretary Tepper) will join the Finance and Audit Committee.

Upon a motion made by Dr. Cook and seconded by Commissioner Mahony, the following roll call vote was taken:

Secretary Tepper: Yea Secretary Stolba: Yea Secretary Jones: Yea

Commissioner Mahony: Yea Assistant Secretary Connors: Yea

Dr. Chen: Yea Mr. Moran: Yea Mr. Haber: Yea Dr. Francis: Yea

Admiral McDonald: Yea

Ms. Theriault: Yea Dr. Cook: Yea

With 12 yeas and 0 nays, it was unanimously VOTED, without further discussion or abstention, at 10:24:

To adopt charters for the Finance and Audit Committee and the Compensation and Personnel Committee, and to adopt revised charters for the Investments Committee and the Workforce Development Committee, each as presented at this meeting.

### IV. Strategy and Authorization: Emerging Climatetech Division

Jennifer LeBlond, Managing Director of the Emerging Climatetech Division, presented the FY26 strategy for her division. She reviewed the overarching goals of the division. She acknowledged the impact of recent federal actions on the climatetech sector and how the division plans to respond to changing conditions.

Ms. Le Blond described the impact data for the Emerging Climatetech Division, including partnerships, awardees, committed funds, leveraged funds, and portfolio companies with successful exits. She highlighted one portfolio company, Cala Systems, a Massachusetts-based manufacturer of intelligent heat-pump water heaters. She also featured NewGrid, a Massachusetts company that develops software for electric power systems to maximize reliability and reduce costs.

[Kaitlyn Connors left the meeting at 10:34.]

Ms. Le Blond reviewed Emerging Climatetech's two-year vision and the supporting strategies. She then presented the division's FY26 budget request, including new bond funding under the Mass Leads Act. There was a discussion regarding how the requested FY26 budget compares to the division's FY25 actual budget. Ms. Le Blond described the budget impact of some roll-over funding from FY25.

[Secretary Jones left the meeting at 10:40.]

The Board expressed appreciation for the division's approach to staying the course considering federal cuts and continued support for all programs. In response to a Board question, Ms. Le Blond described a new map of climatetech companies that is a result of the Climatetech Corridor Roadshows. At the request of a Board member, Ms. Le Blond gave a description of the bond-funded program, which supports the acquisition of testing and demonstration assets.

Upon a motion made by Admiral McDonald and seconded by Commissioner Mahony, the following roll call vote was taken:

Secretary Tepper: Yea Admiral McDonald: Yea Commissioner Mahony: Yea

Secretary Stolba: Yea

Mr. Cohen: Yea Mr. Haber: Yea Mr. Moran: Yea Dr. Cook: Yea Dr. Chen: Yea Dr. Francis: Yea Ms. Theriault: Yea

With 11 yeas and 0 nays, it was unanimously VOTED, without further discussion or abstention, at 10:51 am:

To authorize the expenditure of up to \$37,200,000 for Emerging Climatetech programs, and further to authorize MassCEC's Chief Executive Officer (i) to enter into contracts and issue individual awards under the program in a manner consistent with the staff memorandum and (ii) to make program modifications, including modifications to award levels, provided that such modifications are consistent with the program goals set forth in the staff memorandum.

#### V. Strategy and Authorization: Workforce Development Division

Jennifer Applebaum, Managing Director of the Workforce Development Division, presented the Workforce Development Division's strategy and FY26 budget authorization. She reviewed the division's goal of growing a diverse and talented workforce to support the climatetech sector. She presented the current state of the Massachusetts clean energy workforce. Jobs in the industry have doubled since 2010. Employer difficulty in hiring has decreased for the first time compared to the prior year.

[Kaitlyn Connors rejoined the meeting.]

Ms. Applebaum presented the division's structure and staffing levels. She next described the division's impact data including number of internships, women and minority interns, small businesses supported, and training completion rate. She highlighted her team's work to increase career awareness (especially with women and minorities) and to catalyze the climate workforce ecosystem in Western

Massachusetts. The division launched a new Career Pathways curriculum to increase awareness of careers in climatetech.

Ms. Applebaum presented a two-year vision, to ensure a robust and inclusive talent pipeline, as well as the underlying strategies to achieve that vision. She then walked through the requested FY26 authorization budget for each strategy. There was a brief discussion of the upcoming expansion of Pell grant eligibility and how that impacts learners.

Upon a motion made by Admiral McDonald and seconded by Commissioner Mahony, the following roll call vote was taken:

Secretary Tepper: Yea Admiral McDonald: Yea Commissioner Mahony: Yea Interim Secretary Stolba: Yea

Mr. Cohen: Yea Dr. Cook: Yea Mr. Haber: Yea Ms. Theriault: Yea Mr. Moran: Yea

Assistant Secretary Connors: Yea

Dr. Chen: Yea Dr. Francis: Yea

With 12 yeas and 0 nays, it was unanimously VOTED, without further discussion or abstention, at 11:19 am:

To authorize MassCEC, by its Chief Executive Officer, to award and expend up to \$45,459,914 for the Workforce Development Programming (i) to enter into contracts and issue individual awards under the program in a manner consistent with the staff memorandum and (ii) to make program modifications, including modifications to award levels, provided that such modifications are consistent with the program goals set forth in the staff memorandum.

# VI. Organizational Q1-Q3 Metrics

Next, Sarah Kostecki presented the organizational metrics for Q1-Q3. She reviewed the annual metrics targets for FY25 and reminded the Board that the organization exceeded its FY24 target metrics. Most programs are on track to achieve their FY25 award targets, and the actual values will be presented at the October Board meeting. In response to a Board question, Ms. Kostecki clarified that the funds awarded target means that there is an executed contract for the funds. The funds awarded through Q3 have had outsized impact, exceeding the organization's leveraged funds goal and funds directed toward underrepresented populations and communities goal.

Finally, Ms. Kostecki provided the Board with an update on the CRM vendor selection, which she anticipates will be awarded in the coming weeks. Implementation of a new CRM will reduce the amount of work done manually and over email, in part by creating a grantee portal which will streamline the grantee experience, including searching for opportunities, submitting applications, reporting milestones.

#### VII. Adjourn

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Mahony and seconded by Admiral McDonald, the following roll call vote was taken:

Secretary Tepper: Yea Admiral McDonald: Yea Commissioner Mahony: Yea Interim Secretary Stolba: Yea

Mr. Cohen: Yea Dr. Cook: Yea Mr. Haber: Yea Ms. Theriault: Yea Mr. Moran: Yea

Assistant Secretary Connors: Yea

Dr. Chen: Yea Dr. Francis: Yea

With 12 yeas and 0 nays, it was unanimously VOTED, without further discussion or abstention, at 11:30 am:

To adjourn.

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Secretary

**Public Meeting Documents and Exhibits:** 

Meeting Agenda

Minutes from May 15, 2025

Compensation and Personnel Committee Charter

Finance and Audit Committee Charter

**Investment Committee Charter** 

Workforce Development Committee Charter

Authorization and Committee Assignments and Charter Updates Presentation

Emerging Climatetech FY26 Strategy & Authorization Presentation

Workforce Development FY26 Authorization Presentation

Organizational Metrics Update Q1-Q3 FY 2025