

**MINUTES
MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTER
BOARD MEETING**

February 27, 2026

Directors: Secretary Rebecca Tepper, EEA, Chair (Remote)
Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony, DOER (Remote)
Undersecretary Zenobia Moochhala, Designee of Secretary Eric Paley, EOED (Remote)
Mr. Robert Cohen, Designee of Secretary Lauren Jones, LWD (Remote)
Mr. Tom Galvin, RESHydro (Remote)
Mr. Sven Karlsson, Previvor Edge (Remote)
Dr. John Cook, Springfield Technical Community College (Remote)
Mr. Ed O'Sullivan, MassHire North Shore Workforce Board (Remote)
Mr. Bran Shim, Designee of Secretary Matthew Gorzkowicz, A&F (Remote)
Dr. Aisha Francis, Franklin Cummings Tech (Remote)
Dr. Yanlai Chen, Designee of President of the University of Massachusetts Martin Meehan (Remote)
Mr. Kola Akindele, Designee of President of Worcester Polytechnic Institute Dr. Grace Wang (Remote)

Staff: Dr. Jennifer Le Blond, Interim CEO
Summer Zeh, Esq. General Counsel and Board Secretary
Alexandra Zaltman, Chief of Staff
Jaclyn Leslie, CFO and Board Treasurer
Brooke Barton, COO
Alex Fung, Esq.
Michelle Beadle
Laurel Clark

Other Attendees: Undersecretary Michael Judge, EEA

A meeting of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center ("MassCEC") Board of Directors (the "Board") was held on February 27, 2026, 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 3:01pm

I. Opening Remarks

The following roll call was taken:

Secretary Tepper: Yea

Commissioner Mahony: Yea
Undersecretary Moochhala: Yea
Mr. Cohen: Yea
Mr. Galvin: Yea
Mr. Karlsson: Yea
Dr. Cook: Yea
Mr. O'Sullivan: Yea
Mr. Shim: Yea
Dr. Francis: Yea
Dr. Chen: Yea
Mr. Akindele: Yea

Secretary Tepper expressed gratitude for Dr. Le Blond's leadership of MassCEC as Interim CEO during this transition. Secretary Tepper gave an overview of the process taken to find a new CEO. She announced that after two rounds of interviews, the panel selected Benjamin Downing as the top candidate to be MassCEC's next CEO. Secretary Tepper offered a brief description of Mr. Downing's background and skillset. Other Board members expressed their confidence in Mr. Downing's abilities and enthusiasm for the role.

II. Executive Session: Nonunion Personnel Contract Negotiations

Secretary Tepper indicated that the Board would go into Executive Session for Purpose 2 of Chapter 30A, Section 21 of the Massachusetts General Laws, in order to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, specifically related to the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer position at MassCEC.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following roll call vote was taken:

Secretary Tepper: Yea
Commissioner Mahony: Yea
Undersecretary Moochhala: Yea
Mr. Cohen: Yea
Mr. Galvin: Yea
Mr. Karlsson: Yea
Dr. Cook: Yea
Mr. O'Sullivan: Yea
Mr. Shim: Yea
Dr. Francis: Yea
Dr. Chen: Yea
Mr. Akindele: Yea

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

To move into Executive Session for purpose 2 of Chapter 30A, Section 21 of the Massachusetts General Laws in order to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

II. **Authorizations: Termination of Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Appointment; Appointment of Executive Director and Chief Executive Director; Entrance into Employment Agreement**

The Board returned to Public Session at 3:34pm

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following roll call vote was taken:

Secretary Tepper: Yea
Commissioner Mahony: Yea
Undersecretary Moochhala: Yea
Mr. Cohen: Yea
Mr. Galvin: Yea
Mr. Karlsson: Yea
Dr. Cook: Yea
Mr. O'Sullivan: Yea
Mr. Shim: Yea
Admiral McDonald: Yea
Dr. Francis: Yea
Dr. Chen: Yea
Mr. Akindele: Yea

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

To terminate the appointment of Dr. Jennifer Le Blond as Acting Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center, and Acting Director of the Renewable Energy Trust Fund, effective as of 8:00am on Monday, April 13, 2026.

To authorize the Chair of the Board to negotiate and enter into an employment agreement with Mr. Benjamin Downing to serve as permanent Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center, and to set his salary and terms of employment in line with the Center's compensation philosophy and budget.

To authorize the appointment and employment of Mr. Benjamin Downing as Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center and Director of the Renewable Energy Trust Fund, effective as of 8:00am on Monday, April 13, 2026.

III. **Adjourn**

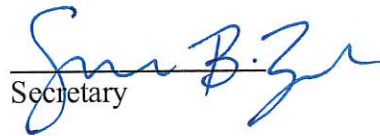
Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following roll call vote was taken:

Secretary Tepper: Yea
Commissioner Mahony: Yea

Undersecretary Moochhala: Yea
Mr. Cohen: Yea
Mr. Galvin: Yea
Mr. Karlsson: Yea
Dr. Cook: Yea
Mr. O'Sullivan: Yea
Mr. Shim: Yea
Dr. Francis: Yea
Dr. Chen: Yea
Mr. Akindele: Yea

With 12 yeas and 0 nays, it was VOTED, without further discussion or abstention, at 3:39pm.

To adjourn.


Chair
Secretary

Public Meeting Documents and Exhibits:

Meeting Agenda
Administrative Powerpoint