# Meeting Minutes: Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority Board of Directors

Date: 04/17/2024
Minutes prepared by: Lissa Pawlisch / Peter Klein
Location: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Conference Room 100 / Hybrid

## Attendance:

- The meeting began at approximately 9:35 AM
- Present: Kumar, Haagenson, Fowler, Kohlasch, McKinnon, Nelmark, Perushek, Sultanova, Teiken, Warmuth
- Absent: Benjamin, Wyckoff.

## Approval of Agenda:

- Motion: Haagenson, Second: Fowler
- Unanimous approval - roll call vote

## Approval of Minutes from the March 20th, 2024, Board Meeting:

- Motion: Kumar, Second: Nelmark
- Edit to the minutes; under other items, remove “G” to correct a typo.
- Unanimous approval - roll call vote

## Approval of Minutes from the March 26th, 2024, Special Board Meeting:

- Motion: Kumar, Second: Haagenson
- Made one edit to the minutes; Fowler was the 2nd on the motion to adjourn.
- Unanimous approval - roll call vote.

## Approval of Bylaws:

- Board members discussed the final version of the Bylaws which includes the creation of two subcommittees. The initial membership of the two committees is:
- Strategic Plan and Investment Strategy Committee:
    - Co-Chairs: Warmuth and Teiken.
    - Members include: Sultanova, Haagenson, Kohlasch and Perushek.
- Credit Committee:
    - Chair: Nelmark.
    - Members include: McKinnon, Benjamin, Tieken, Sultanova, and Fowler.
- Motion: Kumar, Second: Fowler
- Unanimous approval - roll call vote.

## Approval of Per Diem Policy

- Board members discussed the policy with the following as clarifying points:
    - The per diem applies to any Board member that attends a meeting, either in-person or remotely.
    - Maximum per diem is $55/day, no matter how many meetings in the day or the number of hours spent. Those that travel can also request reimbursement.
- Motion: Kumar, Second: Haagenson
- Unanimous approval – roll call vote

## Update on Environmental Protection Agency's Funding:

- Brendon Slotterback presented the funding potential from the EPA. He covered the three funding pools (NCIF, CCIA and Solar-for-All). MnCIFA is a named recipient under the Coalition for Green Capital (CGC). CGC is one of the three awardees under NCIF but CGC only received half of what it was expecting. We have also been working with the other two. The three winners under NCIF were:
    - Climate United ($7 billion).
    - Coalition for Green Capital ($5 billion).
    - Power Forward Communities Coalition ($2 billion).
- MN Housing also provided letters of support for the Climate United and Power Forward and plans to pursue funding through those entities.
- Of the CCIA Awardees, MnCIFA provided a letter of support for the Justice Climate Fund which is LIDAC focused. The other awardees include: Opportunity Finance Network focused on CDFIs; Inclusive Capital focused on Credit Unions; Appalachian Community is focused on fossil transition communities; and Native CDFI is focused on work with Native CDFIs and tribal nations.
- How do we have robust stakeholder discussions with CDFI leaders in MN and MnCIFA will work to coordinate its efforts with recipients of CCIA funding.
- The next steps are the award finalization process which should occur within a month or so.

## Management Analysis and Development (MAD) Programs:

- Lisa Anderson, Stacy Sjogren and Stephanie Klein presented MAD's proposal to lead MnCIFA through its public process of developing its Strategic Plan and Investment Strategy.
- Feedback on MAD's draft proposal stressed need and interest for further engagement. To make sure we are authentic and intentional, that we want to make sure that we are clear on what has been done, what communities have yet to be engaged, and what relationships need to be built.
- The initial proposal will be broadened to be iterative and planful, summarizing and theming from the Board. The process will be guided by what the statute requires and mixing that with methods that are appropriate for the audiences.
- When communities are engaged, we will want to be sure we are building on what we have already learned. What do we know and what questions remain. Give an opportunity to go deeper and identify with whom we have not engaged. If we go back without that grounding, people may feel unheard.
- We need to leverage the connections of Board members.
- Looking to MAD to coordinate the larger effort. There may be other partners we want to draw in who already have expertise.
- When we come back with a proposal, it will showcase the iterative process. It will be a heavy lift for the Strategic Plan and Investment Committee. Strategic planning will need to be a bit ahead of the investment component so that it represents the overall strategic priorities.
    - Listening sessions will help Board members gather feedback on community perspective. Both specific projects and conceptual feedback.
    - Targeted hearings on Strategic Plan. Anticipating four (at minimum) of those meetings. At least one will be outside of the Metro. All Board members are invited. Likely to happen in summer. This will allow time to gather feedback to help shape the document.
- A small portion of funds set aside to support development of governance of the board overall as well.
- Timeline: there milestones we should be aware of. That will be the first thing to establish when we have the contract in place. December 15th is final deadline. Final draft must be done 30 days in advance to allow for public comment. Also need to go to Legislative committees. Want drafts in place by early October.
- There needs to be clear guidance to subcommittee with clear expectations and asks. What questions do you have for stakeholders. Which stakeholders have we heard from to date, who have we missed.
- Board members will revisit their comments at the initial Board meeting relating to their hopes for MnCIFA.
- Another group we could connect with is the Governor's Council on Climate Change.
- PCA can help with guiding the "why" MnCIFA needs to act and act quickly.
- Next Steps: Finalizing the inter-agency agreement.

## Open Discussion:

- Hiring:
    - We have an administrative assistant who will start on April 24 - Parisa Rostamkhani. 100% focused on MnCIFA.
    - Looking at other position descriptions looking to start bringing on some higher-level staff, including the Executive Director position. We are gathering position descriptions from other states that we can edit for our needs.
    - NYSEEC has a capitalization of about $40MM and the have 20 employees. That is probably where MnCIFA will grow to in 2025.
    - Communications will eventually be a full-time position, but we will contract that out in the near term.
    - Commerce is currently providing accounting and human resource support. That is a position that will likely be filled this year.
    - As we build a new organization, we need do it with equity and engagement from the start. Change the processes as a starting point.
- The search for outside funding was discussed. We are working with private financial institutions and the philanthropic community to leverage our funding.
- Open Board Seat Update: A pool of very strong candidates was received, and one was recommended to the Governor's Office. The vetting process has begun.

- Robert Woods requested to speak to the Board. His comments related to the need to work with Environmental Justice communities and that historical financing methods have not worked and will not work in the future. He indicated that he will be making a proposal for funding to MnCIFA for the Board to consider.

- Next Board Meeting 5/15, 9:30-11:30.

## Motion to Adjourn:

- Motion: Kumar, Second: Fowler
- Unanimous approval – roll call vote
- Meeting ended approximately 11:32am