Meeting Minutes: Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority Board of Directors

Date: 10/16/2024
Minutes prepared by: Parisa Rostamkhani
Location: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Conference Room 600 / Hybrid

Attendance:

- The meeting began at approximately 9:34am
- Present: Kumar, Haagenson, Fowler, Kohlasch, Nelmark, Teiken, Warmuth, Wyckoff, Benjamin, McKinnon, Perushek,
- Mills arrived at am 9:42am
- Warmuth left at 10:50am, Benjamin left at 10:55am

Approval of Agenda:

- Motion: Kumar, Second: Wyckoff
- Unanimous approval- roll call vote

Approval of Minutes from the September 18, Board Meeting:

- Motion: Kumar, Second: Haagenson
- Unanimous approval - roll call vote.

Management Analysis and Development (MAD):

- Lisa Anderson provided an overview of the coverage of engagement that has been completed so far. Board members shared feedback and insight on their engagements so far with various groups and people.
- Katherine Teiken provided a brief update on the strategic plan draft. Three meetings are left to go, and the goal is to have an initial strategic plan draft for the board to share input at the November 20 board meeting.
    - Strategic plan content headers that have been discussed within the workgroup are:
    - Introduction
    - Terminology
    - Target underserved markets
        - Meeting our commitments to environment justice communities.
    - Programs and related annual goals
        - Tax credit “bridge” lending (public)
        - Accessing pooled lending
        - Debt financing
        - Loan loss reserves (mostly residential)
    - Outreach and marketing strategies
    - Plan development process

- Stephanie Klein shared the investment strategy working draft. The draft is to be posted for a 30-day comment period and distributed as required. The investment strategy must be adopted by December 15th but can be revisited and revised as needed. Any changes and questions were asked to be said before voting began.
    - **Motion**: To approve the investment strategy draft for public comment
        - Motion: Kumar, Second: Teiken
        - Unanimous approval – roll call vote

Renewable Energy Partners, Inc. Loan:

- Peter Klein presented a proposal for a credit loan agreement to fund a $1.2M loan with Renewable Energy Partners, Inc. The loan funds will be used to purchase and install solar renewable energy systems on four Minneapolis school district buildings. MnCIFA will file a UCC lien on all of the equipment needed. All contracts with the School District and Xcel Energy will be assumable by MnCIFA should REP not be able to complete its loan obligation. The equipment will be installed on school property so neither a mortgage, or a PACE assessment is available.
- If project is approved, no other projects will be brought to the board until after the strategic plan is finished in December.
    - **Motion to authorize loan to Renewable Energy Partners:**
        - Motion: Fowler, Second: Wyckoff
        - Unanimous approval – roll call vote

Executive Director's Report:

- Peter Klein updated the awarding of the Coalition of Green Capital funding. The process has taken longer than anticipated to receive funds. Currently it is back and forth between 14 of the 18 sub recipients and the CGC with finalizing the wording of the agreement in order to fund the $25M. Anticipating by November to have those funds.
- There is concern from MMB that MnCIFA statute does not directly allow the spending and deployment of funds. There is now an ongoing negotiation with MMB on if MnCIFA needs a change in statute.
    - This brings an action item that the board delegate to the chair authority to approve any legislative agenda that MnCIFA would bring forward. Once approved, this would be an item that would be brought forward to the board at the next meeting.
    - **Motion to delegate the authority to approve any legislative agenda to the chair**:
        - Motion: Kohlasch, Second: Wyckoff
        - Roll call vote:
            - **Yes**: Kumar, Haagenson, Fowler, Kohlasch, McKinnon, Nelmark, Sultanova, Teiken, Wyckoff
            - **Abstained**: Mills
            - Motion carries

Open Discussion:

- There will be another public comment meeting in November.

- Bali Kumar gave an update on the hiring process for the Executive Director search. Looking to have a new permanent Executive Director by the November board meeting.

Motion to Adjourn:

- Motion: Kumar, Second: Wyckoff
- Unanimous approval – roll call vote
- Meeting ended approximately 11:21am