

City of Boston BERDO Review Board
Public Meeting Minutes
Zoom Virtual Meeting
July 8, 2024, at 4:30 pm
[View recording here](#)

Board Members in Attendance: Stephen Ellis, Hessann Farooqi, Lovette Jacobs, Gail Latimore, and Jack Nelson.

Board Members not in Attendance: Rashida Boyd and Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata

Staff Present: Diana Vasquez, and Zengel “Ziggy” Chin.

Others: Approximately nine (9) members of the public attended this meeting.

Motion to Nominate Acting Chair

4:33 pm: Environment staff D. Vasquez led a vote for Acting Chair. Board Member L. Jacobs made a motion to nominate Board Member S. Ellis to serve as Acting Chair. Board Member J. Nelson seconded the motion. All Board Members in attendance (5) were in favor. The motion carried at 4:34 pm.

Call Meeting to Order

4:34 pm: A meeting of the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance, hereafter referred to as (BERDO), within the Air Pollution Control Commission, was called to order on July 8 at 4:35 pm. This meeting was held virtually.

Roll Call

4:35 pm: The following BERDO Review Board members were in attendance: Acting Chair Stephen Ellis, Hessann Farooqi, Lovette Jacobs, Gail Latimore, and Jack Nelson.

The following Environment Department staff were in attendance: Diana Vasquez, and Zengel “Ziggy” Chin.

Others: Approximately nine (9) members of the public attended this meeting.

First Agenda Item: Approval of Meeting Minutes.

4:36 pm: The Review Board voted on approving the [June 24 Meeting Minutes](#). Board Member G. Latimore made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Board Member J. Nelson seconded the motion. Five (5) Board Members voted in favor. The motion carried at 4:37 pm.

Second Agenda Item: Administrative Updates

4:37 pm: Z. Chin shared that Hessann Farooqi has joined the Review Board and that the Environment Department is working with the Mayor's office to fill remaining open seats. The Building Decarbonization Advisor Program request for proposal went live. The deadline for bids for the RFP is August 15. The Environment Department received applications for flexibility measures and will be reviewing them for completeness. If none are deemed complete by Friday, July 12, the following Board meeting will be August 12.

D. Vasquez presented the processes for the different flexibility measure applications.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for either July 22 or August 12.

4:44 pm: Board Q&A Session

- S. Ellis asked if the Environment Department will be providing the entire application as well as the cover page when sharing the flexibility measure applications with the Review Board.
 - D. Vasquez answered that the cover page will be the first page and the entire application will be included as well.
- S. Ellis asked what would happen if the Environment Department did not receive enough responses from the Review Board when reviewing the applications.
 - D. Vasquez clarified that the evaluation sheets are for the Review Board members' individual note-taking while reviewing applications. If a member needs more time to review the application, they can request an extension as long as the application is still within the timelines written in the regulations.
- S. Ellis asked for confirmation if the Review Board could suggest edits to the cover page and evaluation sheets.
 - D. Vasquez confirmed that if the Review Board has any suggestions to improve the cover page and evaluation sheet the Environment Department will enact those changes.
- H. Farooqi asked if there have been any applications for the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund (the Fund).
 - D. Vasquez answered that there have not been any applications yet and reminded folks the application deadline is July 31.

- G. Latimore asked for more information on how organizations would complete a joint application for the Fund.
 - D. Vasquez recommended that in the project proposal section of the application, it is outlined that the project will be a collaborative effort between different organizations. There should also be a main applicant who would be the main point of contact and receive the grant through direct deposit.
- G. Latimore inquired if the Environment Department has created a document to help the Review Board evaluate applications for flexibility measures and the Fund.
 - D. Vasquez explained that the project evaluation sheet that has been shared with the public outlines the evaluation criteria for projects for the Fund. There are evaluation sheets for the different flexibility measures that have been shared with the Review Board to help them as they start to review applications.

4:53 pm: Acting Chair S. Ellis opened a public comment period.

- D. Heimann asked in the chat if the evaluation sheets for the Review Board are available online.
 - D. Vasquez answered that the evaluation sheets are primarily meant for the Review Board members, but the Environment Department may consider posting a public-facing version.
- M. Cappadona asked if the Environment Department is interested in a BERDO-specific supply option through an aggregation energy program from Colonial Power Group.
 - H. Payne said she would be happy to talk and see if that would be BERDO eligible. Boston Community Choice Electric is BERDO eligible and building owners are encouraged to join if possible. This could be an alternative option for building owners with larger loads, and she is happy to discuss this further.

4:58 pm: Acting Chair S. Ellis closed a public comment period.

Third Agenda Item: RDH Building Science Technical Capacity Training Session II

4:59 pm: RDH conducted a 'Beyond the Building' training session.

6:03 pm: Board Member G. Latimore left the meeting.

Meeting Adjournment

6:37 pm: Board Member L. Jacobs made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member J. Nelson seconded. All board members in attendance (4) voted in favor. The motion carried at 6:37 pm.