



**Draft
Meeting Minutes**

June 16, 2022 CHEAPR Board Meeting via ZOOM || [View Recording](#)

Present: See [Attachment A](#)

Next meeting: September 15, 2022

Prepared by: Katie Katrichis, DEEP

I. Call to Order and Announcements

Meeting started at **3:02 pm**.

DEEP Air Bureau Chief Tracy Babbidge called the meeting to order on behalf of Commissioner Dykes and provided opening remarks.

Call of attendance for Board Members. There is a quorum.

Approval of 3/17/22 meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Katie Dykes. Tony Cherolis seconded.

II. Staff Reports

1. Budget Update: There have been about 2,200 rebates paid out this year to date. Total funds allocated to CHEAPR is approximately \$9MM, of which \$4MM has been disbursed
 - Since the last board meeting, 282 new rebates were issued, including 85 BEVs and 3 Rebate+. 55 additional applications currently in queue.
 - Most rebated EVs continue to be the Toyota Rav4 Prime, Prius Prime, and Nissan Leaf.
 - CHEAPR statistics page is updated and now includes several improvements including identifying dealers by numbers of rebates processed.
2. Public Act 22-25 and its impact on the CHEAPR Program
 - An Act Concerning the Connecticut Clean Air Act – establishes new requirements that will enable DEEP to better address air pollution in Connecticut.
 - Some provisions of this law will directly impact the CHEAPR program, including the following:
 - Increased funding for the CHEAPR program,
 - Increased MSRP cap from \$42K to \$50k as of July 1, 2022,
 - Board membership expanded by five members and the board is now advisory,
 - Income thresholds added for program participation to include household incomes up to 300% of the poverty level,
 - Focusing on benefit to EJ communities by establishing a pre-purchase qualification for a voucher to be used at point of sale,
 - Expanded program applicability to businesses, municipalities, nonprofits, and indigenous peoples tribes,
 - Requiring DEEP establish an incentive program for electric bicycles, and
 - Requires DEEP to establish CHEAPR program marketing.
 - This Act requires significant changes to the CHEAPR program; DEEP will need to develop and/or amend scopes of work (SOW) for all new requirements.

3. DEEP's Work Plan to Implement Public Act 22-25

	Short term, including current scope of work	Medium term (Q3 2022)	Longer term (Q4 2022)
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CHEAPR	Increase current MSRP Changes to the Board New funding	Adjusting LMI eligibility Eligibility expansion	Marketing outreach Add LMI voucher program
eBikes	Research on existing programs Stakeholder informational session 7/21/22	Scope program Develop SOW Issue SOW	Program launch Outreach materials

Board changes: PA 22-25 named PURA chair to the Board and legislative leaders are required to appoint ten additional members

4. PA 22-25 updates: Increasing MSRP Cap
 - Dealer portal changes (CSE),
 - Updates to CHEAPR website, and
 - New program collateral.
5. PA 22-25 updates: Focus on LMI
 - Targeted marketing for LMI and outreach, SOW will be developed.
 - Development of entirely separate parallel LMI voucher program.
6. DEEP will develop a SOW to include income verification and a voucher program
7. PA 22-25 updates: eBike program
 - DEEP must address fundamental program design questions, including:
 - Rebate or voucher,
 - Max income eligibility,
 - Rebate levels,
 - Determine how to both maximize and measure air quality benefits from an E-bike incentive program, and
 - Next Steps DEEP to issue a request for information in July to assist in setting basic program design elements for future SOW DEEP to hold a listening session to obtain additional stakeholder input.
 - DEEP to reach out to e-bike incentive program administrators in other jurisdictions

III. Board Roundtable

1. *Bryan Garcia asked for more clarity on how voucher payouts for eBikes will work. Paul Farrell answered that this is uncertain at the moment but DEEP plans to address this during the RFI process. Tracy Babbidge added that DEEP also will take a look at what other states/jurisdictions have done and how they've structured their incentives.*
2. *Amy McLean commented that she would like to see LMI outreach be more of a priority in general outreach but especially that which pertains to eBikes.*
3. *Tony Cherolis suggests DEEP pinpoint more concrete milestones and dates. He expressed a desire to see LMI be DEEP's top priority in implementation. He also recommended DEEP get multiple quotes from multiple vendors for the amount of marketing work that will have to be done for CHEAPR and its related programs moving forward.*
4. *Marissa Gillett (CT PURA Chairperson) stated that there is a potential to leverage PURA's marketing funds to CHEAPR outreach and that she can assist with that if needed.*
5. *Tony Cherolis' announced that he will be stepping down from the Board after this meeting. Commissioner Dykes and the Board offered Tony much thanks for his service.*

IV. Public Comments

1. *Gannon Long, Operation Fuel stated her support for Public Act 22-25 and asked DEEP to contact her with promotional materials for the 7/21 meeting once they are available. She also urged DEEP to prioritize reaching out to legislators and filling those empty seats on the Advisory Board as well as to keep the focus on EJ communities as the statute requires. In addition, she also suggested that perhaps DEEP should retain a more local consultant than CSE.*
2. *Elizabeth Arnone, employee at an unnamed EV company asked when the \$50k MSRP cap goes into effect. Paul Farrell answered that the goal is July 1 but that's not an official date*
3. *Rachel Hiskes offered applause to DEEP for getting Public Act 22-25 through and asked how supply chain issues and dealer wait times will affect eligibility and vouchers. She also asked if hybrid vehicles will be included in the new program.*
 - *On supply chain issues: the fees for vehicles aren't static, they can fluctuate based on economic conditions. DEEP will also address this with the new collateral.*
 - *PHEVs are still eligible for CHEAPR funding under the new program.*
4. *Barry Kresch, EV Club of Connecticut couldn't attend today's meeting, but he sent an email that will be posted on the CHEAPR Board website. His comment pertained to a desire to see more data and information on the CHEAPR website, specifically about dealers.*
 - *DEEP has been working with CSE to overhaul the CHEAPR Board site – envisioning a new website model with additional information, including dealerships.*
5. *Paul Braren, EV Club of Connecticut inquired about vehicle eligibility: dealerships often markup the price of the car that they sell. Would a vehicle with a \$50k MSRP Cap that was actually sold for \$53k still be eligible for a rebate or a voucher?*
 - *MSRP values are taken from OEM websites while some trim levels are excluded, adding options will not exclude an otherwise eligible vehicle if the final purchase price exceeds \$50K. DEEP will clarify this in future public messaging about the program.*

V. Adjournment

The meeting was closed by Tracy Babbidge.

The next Board Meeting will be held on September 15, 2022

Meeting adjourned at **4:14 pm.**



Attachment A: Attendee Report

Board Members:

Katie Dykes, Commissioner DEEP
Marissa Gillet, Chair PURA
Michelle Seagull, Commissioner DCP
Bryan Garcia, Connecticut Green Bank
Paul Wessel, GNH Clean Cities
Amy McLean, Acadia Center
Anthony Cherolis, Center for Latino Progress

Others:

1. Tracy Babbidge
2. Paul Farrell
3. Walter Barozi
4. Amanda Vanega
5. Andrew Chesser
6. Ben McMillan – CT DEEP
7. Carmen DeSoto
8. Charles Rothenberger
9. Craig Peters-Capitol Clean Cities
10. Danny Briere
11. Dave McIntosh
12. Elizabeth Arnone
13. Ernesto Depiano
14. Gannon Long, Operation Fuel
15. Gregory Orsini
16. Harrison Nantz
17. Haylee Scibek
18. John Athas
19. John Morgan
20. K Terry
21. Katie Katrichis
22. Karyn Vice
23. Lori Demaine
24. Marcus Gilmore
25. Mark Bielecki
26. Meghan
27. Paul Aresta
28. Paul Braren (EV Club of CT | TinkerTry.com Owner)
29. Paul Kritzler
30. Peter Babich
31. Rachel Hiskes
32. Shatorah Robertson
33. Taren
34. The Kowalski Group
35. Thomas Regan Lefebvre