



Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2026, CHEAPR Board Meeting via ZOOM || [View Recording](#) (Passcode: .s2NLd*.)

Present:	Board Members: Deputy Commissioner EQ Emma Cimino, Kevin Moss (Green Bank), Paul Wessel, Eric Sandstrom, Kate Rozen & Cora Barber on behalf of Rebecca Andreucci (DOT) CSE Staff: Andrew Chesser and Sara Stockman CT DEEP Staff: Tracy Babbidge, Paul Farrell, Walter Barozi, Wade Packer and Nicole Foertsch
Not in Attendance:	Bradley Hoffman, Jody Ellant, Bryan Cafferelli (DCP) and Julia Dumaine / Jason Small (PURA)
Next meeting:	September 10, 2026
Prepared by:	Nicole Foertsch, DEEP

The June 11, 2026, meeting of the CHEAPR Program Board was held and recorded online via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss program updates, sales data, administrative changes and additional program implementations of items in Public Act 22-25.

Call to Order and Announcements

- ***Opening:*** The meeting began at 3:02 p.m. where Air Bureau Chief Tracy Babbidge and Deputy Commissioner Emma Cimino welcomed everyone. Emma also expressed her appreciation for everyone who took the time to be at the meeting and highlighted that for September, DEEP staff will look into board member appointments after reviewing recent member participation and lack of quorum. DEEP plans to reach out to the respective legislative appointees regarding their appointments to the board after election season is over and have a full update next meeting.
- ***Attendance:*** Board member attendance was recorded where DEEP Deputy Commissioner Emma Cimino, Kevin Moss, Paul Wessel, Eric Sandstrom, Kate Rozen and Cora Barber on behalf of Rebecca Andreucci were present and provided quorum.
- ***Minutes Approval:*** Since quorum had not been met at several of the past CHEAPR Board meetings, a digital form was sent out this week to board members to vote on past meeting minutes if quorum was not met again. Because quorum was achieved through board member attendance, the minutes from [September 11, 2025](#), [December 11, 2025](#) and [March 12, 2026](#), were brought forward for approval. Paul Wessel moved to accept the minutes, Kate Rozen seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Staff Reports

- ***Data Update:*** [Atlas Public Policy](#) reports that national EV sales and market share increased after the end of 2025, likely influenced by rising gas prices earlier this year. March saw roughly 100,000 EV sales—the highest since the federal tax credit expired—bringing Q1 totals to about 227,000, a 39% drop from Q1 2025.

According to the New York Times, [several positive trends emerged in Q1 2026](#): Tesla sold more EVs globally than in Q1 2025, Cadillac EV sales rose 20% even as GM's overall sales fell 10% and used EV sales grew significantly.

The heavy-duty EV sector also saw progress. [Tesla's first Semi rolled off the production line in April](#), following finalized plans in February. The truck can travel up to 500 miles on a single



charge and gain about 300 miles in 30 minutes using a megawatt charger. Deliveries are expected to begin later this year.

- Eric Sandstrom commented on the national EV sales and market share saying that from a dealership perspective, the numbers look accurate to him as a rise in sales occurred after the wintertime. But he shares that the rise could also be from the fact that retailers are “dumping” their EV inventory and are not replacing it as EVs leave the salesfloor. He says manufacturers have also decreased their offerings of EV models and trims. Therefore, the data might not actually be an uptick, it could be that inventory that has been sitting for a while is finally being sold.

State-level EV data show Connecticut’s market share holding steady at 6.3% in Q1, with a slight increase in sales according to the [Atlas Public Policy EV Market Dashboard](#). CT was the only state in the region to see growth, as neighboring states experienced declines in both market share and sales. The top five selling models were the Tesla Model Y, Tesla Model 3, Chevy Equinox EV, Toyota BZ, and Honda Prologue. Updated statewide registration numbers from CT DMV will be presented at the September meeting once July data is received.

- **CHEAPR Stat Highlight:** CHEAPR rebate redemptions continued to rise into Q2. Although rebates dipped from January to February, they climbed again and peaked in April at 445.
- **Budget Update:** As of May 31, 2026, a total of 1,348 rebates have been redeemed, totaling just over \$2 million. Of these, 1,111 were Standard rebates, 152 were Rebate+ New, and 85 were Rebate+ Used. Compared to this time last year, the program spent only about one-third of the funds used by June 2025 and has issued roughly half as many rebates. Notably, Rebate+ Used activity has grown, with 85 rebates redeemed so far this year compared to 79 by this point last year.

Approximately \$3 million is currently reserved for applications in the pipeline—up from about \$1 million at this time last year. Much of this pipeline consists of Rebate+ applications, further indicating that Rebate+ participation is increasing in 2026.

- **Master Contract Update:** DEEP is continuing work with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to renew the Mobile Sources Master Contract, which expired at the end of last year. This contract covers the Scope of Work (SOW) for CHEAPR, the eBike Incentive Program, and other mobile-source projects, and allows selected vendors to bid to administer these programs. DAS issued an RFP earlier this year, DEEP has evaluated the submissions, and DAS is now negotiating contracts with qualified vendors. Once that is complete, a new SOW for CHEAPR will be released for vendor bids. Because this process will take several more months, DEEP has extended an interim SOW with CSE to keep CHEAPR operating through at least the third quarter.

Updates on Public Act 22-25

- **eBikes:** eBikes Round 2 is nearly complete, with only a few remaining approved vouchers left to be redeemed. As noted at the March Board meeting, Round 3 is being planned for a Q3 2026 launch. Round 3 cannot begin until the Mobile Sources Master Contract is finalized with DAS and a new SOW for CHEAPR and the eBike program is issued for vendor bids.



- **Legislative Updates:** Several CHEAPR-related updates came out of the recent legislative session:
 - House Bill 5153 is now [Public Act 26-124](#), DEEP's minor revisions bill. It removes the requirement to prioritize Environmental Justice (EJ) residents at the same level as income-qualified residents, effectively creating a three-tier rebate structure in which EJ-based vouchers can be set above the standard rebate but below income-qualified levels.
 - Public Act 26-24 (formerly Senate Bill 413) made a small change to the eBike program by increasing the maximum allowable motor wattage from 749 to 750, potentially expanding model eligibility for Round 3.
 - DEEP also monitored Senate Bill 416, which originally proposed expanding used-EV eligibility to seven model years and replacing the used-vehicle MSRP cap with a \$35,000 point-of-sale price cap. This did not pass.
 - While not directly tied to CHEAPR, DEEP staff wanted to highlight the amendments made to the state's zero-emission school bus goals. This bill establishes an interagency working group that will evaluate and develop recommendations on the use of alternative fuels in school bus fleets. The group is looking for members from DEEP, Department of Public Health (DPH), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Education (DOE), CGB and many others. The group will be responsible for a report due to the legislature in February of 2027. More information on the working group can be found [in section 36](#).
- **CHEAPR & eBike Annual Report(s):** DEEP and CSE are finalizing the [CHEAPR & eBike Annual Report](#) for calendar year 2025, which provides a program overview using incentive data and participant survey results. DEEP is also completing the [CHEAPR Annual Legislative Report](#) for the same period, developed alongside CSE's report and supplemented with additional sections required by statute to assess program status and effectiveness. Once published, both reports will be shared with board members and posted on the [CHEAPR Resources](#) page.

Board Roundtable

- Kevin Moss asked about budget figures about what CHEAPR is currently seeing going forward given the recent RGGI auctions.
 - Tracy Babbidge responded that the auctions were this past Thursday, and allowances sold at a fairly high price, but accounting is still working on the allocations so the exact numbers aren't known yet, but she guesses it will be a few million dollars. Paul Farrel added that with the funds CHEAPR also gets from DMV, the budget will be in a good place when we work on a full SOW later this year to create a third tier of incentives and possibly change incentive amounts.
- Paul Wessel asked when DEEP will anticipate the discussion on changes of Rebate+ with the model years and sales price.
 - Tracy responded that we are working on things now, especially preparing for a new SOW and we can put it on the agenda as a discussion point at the September and December meetings. Paul F. added we will certainly be ready to begin talking about it with the Board in September as the staff is currently looking at other state programs to see how CHEAPR can be better aligned or even be better than what other states are offering.
- Kevin Moss asked if there was anything related to adjusting incentive level figures to certain amounts regarding legislative changes that came from this past session.



- Tracy responded that there are no mandatory levels that CHEAPR must meet, and no new changes were made in that aspect.

Public Comments

- None to report

Adjournment

The meeting was closed by **Tracy Babbidge** at **3:40** p.m.

The next Board Meeting will be held on **September 10, 2026**.



Attachment A: Attendee Report

1.	Walter Barozi
2.	Paul Farrell
3.	Wade Packer
4.	Nicole Foertsch
5.	Tracy Babbidge
6.	Emma Cimino
7.	Andrew Chesser
8.	Kevin Moss
9.	Sara Stockman
10.	Cora Barber
11.	Rebecca French
12.	Eric Sandstrom
13.	Kate Rozen
14.	Craig Peters
15.	Paul Wessel
16.	Barry Kresch
17.	Paul Aresta