



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Electric Vehicle Product Commission
Virtual Meeting
Friday, February 4, 2022

1. Pursuant to IC 9-13-3, the Electric Vehicle Product Commission (the Commission) meeting was called to order by Chairman Ben Wrightsman at 9:13 a.m. EST on Friday, February 4, 2022. The meeting was conducted virtually.

- a. Commission members physically present at the meeting:

Ben	Wrightsmen	Battery Innovation Center
Mike	Maten	GM
Danny	Ernstes	UAW
Paul	Mitchell	Energy Systems Network
David	Dukes	Stellantis
Rep. Mike	Karikhoff	State Representative
Rep. Carey	Hamilton	State Representative
Sen. J.D.	Ford	State Senator

- b. Commission members absent from the meeting:

Craig	Kelle	Toyota
Sen. Jim	Buck	State Senator

- c. The following staff were physically present during the meeting:

David Roberts, Executive Vice-President, Entrepreneurship & Innovation, IEDC
Emily Criss Totten, Director, Policy & Government Affairs, IEDC
Eli Eckhart, Government Affairs Coordinator, IEDC

- d. The commission briefly reviewed the previous meeting minutes and accepted the minutes with no corrections or questions.

2. For new business, the commission discussed the statutory purposes of the commission and assigned members to work on parts of the annual report.

Paul Mitchell: Paul opens by mentioning that the annual report requires numerous facts and data points and wonders who is the best person to compile the information. He is willing to offer assistance but has concerns about the vagueness of several



requirements and where to find the data. Also, he mentions that universities and education centers can help with data collection.

Danny Ernstes: Danny started by stating the need to make Indiana open to all EV infrastructure. He volunteered to work with the workforce development components of the commission, which are purpose numbers two, three, and four.

Paul Mitchell: ESN will work on commission purpose numbers six and eight and states that the first purpose may be tricky to accomplish.

Ben Wrightsman: Ben tasks the IEDC with providing data to assist the commission's first purpose, evaluating the inventory of existing electric vehicle product facilities and production capability.

Dave Roberts: After acknowledging the task, Dave announces his intention to work with the IEDC's data team to accomplish the task.

Ben Wrightsman: There is a need to account for EV inventory coming into the state to see where the state can increase EV part manufacturing and be competitive with surrounding states.

Danny Ernstes: In the previous meeting, we discussed mapping out Indiana stakeholders involved in EV R&D; this is essential data the commission should collect.

Ben Wrightsman: Ben points out that a significant amount of R&D is taking place in the state, and his company is working with many manufacturers. He will work to compile a list of these companies for the commission.

Paul Mitchell: Paul likes the idea of collecting this data but points out that some companies may have intellectual property concerns if the information is too revealing. He suggests that manufacturers could be consulted on how to best present the data, to ensure the data is collected in a manner that is useful to all without revealing confidential information or processes.

David Mitchell: As it relates to the commission's fifth purpose, many Indiana auto manufacturers' current processes are applicable to the production of EV components. There is only a significant difference in what power unit the components are being hooked up to.

Rep. Karikhoff: Asks how important it is to understand the current competencies of



manufacturers and whether prospective companies inquire about the workforce's ability.

Ben Wrightsman: Clarifying the commission's fifth purpose Ben notes that the purpose is intended to think about what capabilities, mainly employees and systems, exist within the state. He states that potential companies like to know this information; it helps them determine whether the state can handle and manage all aspects of EV production.

Dave Roberts: These data points help companies understand Indiana's landscape and how well the state can meet all aspects of EV production.

Paul Mitchell: Indiana has a legacy automotive industry that should draw potential business to Indiana. The legacy industry means we should have most of the necessary infrastructure in place, helping to ease production concerns. Paul suggests investigating what data points are currently not being collected to fulfill the commission's fifth purpose.

Ben Wrightsman: What competencies are companies inquiring about before investing in the state?

Michael Maten: One aspect a company asks about is the battery supply chain as there are complex chemical manufacturing and processing needs. Additionally, companies require workforce availability, low-cost energy, and green energy.

David Dukes: The competencies companies seek for machinery are similar to the needs Michael just mentioned.

Rep. Hamilton: This commission has a role in promoting a commitment to renewable energy to the legislature. Recycling and decommissioning of infrastructure are other aspects that will need focus. Proper disposal of components is essential for safety but will also lead to new job opportunities. The overall ecosystem of Indiana can also be improved through legislative mechanisms such as eliminating the license plate fee for EVs.

Sen. Ford: Indiana is at a fork in the road; this group can be the voice to put us further down the clean energy path.

Rep. Karickhoff: Remembers when Howard County had plans for wind and solar energy farms, which were met with hesitancy from the community. He states that there is a need to lessen all energy costs across the state; companies require access to



affordable energy. The industry also requires a large volume of workers who desire to work.

David Dukes: Building off Rep. Karickhoff, adds that power and utility costs significantly contribute to the per-unit cost.

Ben Wrightsman: Will work to put together a list of competencies that the fifth purpose requires. Tentatively, that list will include power, people, parts, place, and possibility.

David Dukes: Adds that the commission should also investigate how current capabilities can be leveraged to encourage investment.

Rep. Karickhoff: Believes the best way to grow Indiana’s EV ecosystem is for the commission to be unified in its approach to issues, especially if it would like to repeal the BMV fee on license plates for electric vehicles.

Ben Wrightsman: Each member will contribute research for the annual report as follows:

Commission Purpose	Assigned Member
1	IEDC
2	Danny Ernstes
3	Danny Ernstes
4	Danny Ernstes
5	Ben Wrightsman, David Dukes
6	Paul Mitchell
7	Paul Mitchell, Ben Wrightsman, Danny Ernstes
8	Paul Mitchell, Ben Wrightsman

Ben Wrightsman: Moves that the commission begins discussion on supporting activities.

- Next, the commission discussed additional supporting activities, with the following discussion:

Rep. Karickhoff: Noted that the commission should reach out to Rep. Soliday, the chair of the House Utilities Committee, as he has been supportive of clean and renewable energy. He went on to say that there is a need to lower the cost curve of power to



advance sustainability and meet industry manufacturing needs and concerns.

Paul Mitchell: Paul commented that it was nice to see some political party consensus on the need for renewable energy. He also informed the commission that prospective companies consider easy access to affordable clean energy when scouting new locations.

Ben Wrightsman: Ben would like legislative issues to be brought to the commission. The group will discuss the matter and create an action plan for whether the commission supports the topic or wants to intervene on the issue.

Rep. Hamilton: Is willing to take on Ben's action item of identifying relevant legislative concerns and bringing them to the commission for discussion.

Ben Wrightsman: For the sake of time, the commission should move to public comment; any additional supporting activities will be heard in the next meeting.

4. Public Comments

All public comment is being referred to Emily Criss Totten at ETotten@iedc.in.gov because of technical difficulties.

5. Scheduling of future commission meetings

Ben Wrightsman: Ben would like the commission to meet again this month. The group's consensus is to meet on February 25, 2022. The commission aims to host the meeting in person while also providing online access.

6. Ben Wrightsman adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.