

## **Energy and Environment Working Group Meeting Minutes**

*Thursday, September 13, 2018*

10:00 a.m.

Center for Health Information Analysis  
501 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02116

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Kay Doyle (Chair)

Taryn LaScola

Alex Pollard

John Fischer

LIST OF DOCUMENTS: Agenda

Finding a quorum, Chair Doyle called the meeting to order. The first order of business was the final listening session of the public comment period for the Working Group. Chair Doyle informed those present that the meeting was being recorded. Chair Doyle called Fred Green to the table to give his public testimony.

Mr. Green stated that he has been a commercial flower grower for 35 years and is a consultant to the cannabis industry. He specializes in design and also works on operational issues. He believes the current LPD may be misguided. He has 2 concerns. The first is that the 36 watts per square foot, even accounting for the latest LED technology, is too little to properly grow marijuana. He says that the lowest he can get is between 38 and 42 watts per square foot. Mothers and clones generally take up 20% of the cultivation floorspace. He also believes that having an LPD can be a limiting factor for cultivators. He then brought up tissue-cultured plants which are grown in test tubes. Tissue-cultured plants would replace mothers and clones and the square footage that they normally would take up. He believes that tissue-cultured cultivation offers many benefits to growers. He wants to bring best horticultural practices to the cannabis industry. Mother plants generally use 250 gallons of water per year. By eliminating mother plants, you can save 20,000 to 30,000 gallons of water per year.

Chair Doyle thanked Mr. Green and asked Carter Wall to offer her testimony.

Ms. Wall stated that she works for Franklin Beach Energy and they provide energy consulting services to commercial and industrial companies. The current cannabis industry reminds her of the early days of the solar industry. The state invested money to propel that sector. Ms. Wall believes that investment would be a boon to the state and the industry to help them attain their energy goals. She believes there is a sense of urgency now because businesses are spending money on capital now. She has teamed up with the Association of Energy Engineers, New England Chapter and UMass-Lowell to hold the region's first cannabis efficiency technical roundtable, held on December 6, 2018. The goal of the roundtable is to start building a

community of practitioners and spread technical knowledge. At that conference, they will announce a professional association of energy efficiency providers. Ms. Wall will send an invitation to the Cannabis Control Commission.

Ms. Wall also discussed the need to document compliance. She has ideas on how the Commission can help businesses document compliance. She will submit full written comments to the Working Group as well.

Chair Doyle then reminded the audience that the Working Group was accepting comments until 5:00pm, September 14, 2018.

Chair Doyle then moved to the next agenda item: discussing the formation of a written guidance document by the Working Group. John Fischer then suggested utilizing existing groups he regularly works with on solid waste issues. He would like to have a meeting with solid waste industry stakeholders in order to get input for the Working Group. Mr. Fischer stated that a meeting by the Working Group to discuss waste issues could be held in December.

Mr. Pollard then discussed the energy part of a guidance document. He could have a straw proposal in October and something more substantial at a later meeting. He would like 90 minutes to 2 hours for the next meeting, being held on October 12, 2018.

Ms. LaSchola then stated that agricultural processes would take some time to develop. Chair Doyle mentioned that many of the cannabis industry participants are new to this and so may require more information than is typically given in guidance documents. Ms. LaSchola said that December would be a good timeframe for when MDAR would have recommendations.

Chair Doyle gave a final reminder to the public to submit written comments. Ms. LaSchola made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Pollard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned.