

**Minutes**  
**Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board**  
**Hearing Room A, NH PUC, 9 AM – 12:30 PM**  
**August 13, 2010 Meeting**

\*Items underlined and in color are hyperlinked to documents.

Members in Attendance: Richard Ober of NH Charitable Foundation, Meredith Hatfield of the OCA, Eric Steltzer of NH OEP, Chris Skoglund for Robert Scott of DES, Daniel Feltes of NHLA, Madeline McElaney for Wes Golomb of NH SEA, Beth Fischer for HBRANH/Build Green NH, Ben Frost for Dean Christon of NH Housing & Finance, Bob Reals, Jr. of NH DRED, Representative Jim Garrity, Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Gil Gelineau of PSNH, Charles Niebling of New England Wood Pellet and Thomas Palma for George Gantz from Unitil Energy Systems.

Link to Meeting Agenda: [MEETING AGENDA](#)

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION, CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The meeting began at 9:10 with introductions.

**2. APPROVAL OF JULY 9, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes required a change and were approved with that change motioned by Representative Garrity and seconded by Meredith Hatfield.

**3. SB 323 Study: Discussion [SB323](#)**

Deborah Schachter – The RFP has been drafted. The language of the statute is in the RFP. The PUC is the contracting party.

After this meeting it is the intent to finalize the RFP, issue the RFP by August 25 with responses due by September 27<sup>th</sup>. The committee is duty-bound to have an interim report to the Legislature by November 1<sup>st</sup> and it is hoped that by that date the contract will be complete.

Meredith Hatfield –The EESE Board will need to be involved in order to help the consultant along the way. The EESE Board agenda will probably include having the consultant at meetings, so expect a high level of engagement.

We are considering doing webinars and call in seminars to try and reach people all over the state.

The Legislature has very specific language about the funding of this project and it requires the PUC to look for available of funds from existing programs first.

Commissioner Below – A background document will be placed on the website. [Document](#)

A detailed discussion followed.

#### 4. MUNICIPAL ENERGY SERVICES WORK GROUP

Ben Frost – Committee met a few weeks ago to discuss and distinguish between Municipal Lease Agreements and Power Purchase Agreements. We did not come up with any conclusions and we need to come up with clear recommendations as to how to distinguish between the two.

#### 5. UPDATES

##### RFP'S AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FUND

Barbara Bernstein – There are two tiers in the review. The first review committee is almost finished with reviewing Category II proposals. There are a few more candidates to interview and we are hoping to be able to pass along recommendations to the Commissioners by the end of August.

Dick Ober asked when the process will be completed. Commissioner Below indicated as soon as possible.

Meredith Hatfield asked about the C&I renewable energy rebate program.

Kate Epsen – An Order of Notice was released and a Technical Session will be held on August 19 and the hearing will be held on August 30 at 10:00 am. C & I refers to renewable facilities under 100 Kw in non-residential buildings.

#### 6. OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Beth Fischer – The committee meets every 2 or 3 weeks. On September 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting at PSNH. The committee will invite 25 people to join the group. These individuals come with great backgrounds and bios in understanding what we are trying to do. They represent different entities to help get consumers to make decisions to become energy efficient.

Dick Ober – What do you hope to achieve and what happens after the 8<sup>th</sup>?

Beth Fischer – The goal is to try and figure out what the message is and after the 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a plan and it will require money. We will get back to the Board with a budget and figure out how to fund this. The goal is to have something by the first of the year.

Meredith Hatfield – We have tried to cover all sectors of the state. All the utilities will have a PR person present.

Beth Fischer – We plan on working collaboratively with the Board of Better Buildings Advisory Committee to get the word out.

#### 7. PACE LEGISLATION

Ben Frost - [Handout](#)

PACE Legislation will be law on August 27<sup>th</sup>, [HB 1554](#), RSA 53-F. The Jordan Institute is the driving force behind the Legislation. We are in a wait and see situation with PACE due to obstacles at federal loan institutions.

**Commissioner Below** – NARUC wrote a very strongly worded letter the Obama Administration in support of resolving the impasse so PACE can move forward. [Letter](#)

**Charlie Neibling** – Has there been discussions about Beacon Communities?

**Eric Steltzer** – Yes, they have received word from DOE that Better Buildings grant funds cannot go towards PACE. The one bill in congress specific to PACE is [HR 5766](#), which has been filed.

## 8. BETTER BUILDINGS

**Eric Steltzer** – Everything is coming together. DOE rebranded the name from Retrofit Ramp-Up to the Better Buildings Program because better branding was needed, In New Hampshire this is still part of the larger Beacon Communities concept.

We have created a Statewide Advisory Committee and OEP is taking the lead. We've had 2 out of 3 community meetings and will meet with Berlin in September. The contract with CDFA was approved by Governor & Council in July. Draft versions of the contracts have been sent to the municipalities and the plan is for the contracts to go to Governor & Council in September.

A detailed discussion followed.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Meredith Hatfield** – In the CORE docket there has been a joint filing for gas & electric efficiency programs. There is a Pre-Hearing Conference on August 31. This will be a quick docket and will take place in the fall.

**Beth Fischer** – We are active in the certification process for lead removal. Anyone who is doing any kind of construction work will need to be certified by the end of the year.

**Meredith Hatfield** – [HB 1377](#); feed-in tariffs meeting has been scheduled.

**Charlie Niebling** – The biomass industry has a [vision](#) and here is a [document](#) breaking it down.

**Madeline McElaney** – The NH Sustainable Energy Association will be hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> Home Energy Conference and it will be held at the Grappone Center on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The [brochure](#) is on the EESE Board Website.

**Dick Ober** – During the next meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>, would like to discuss the following:

- a) Work at getting the “big” strategic questions in order and present to the Board. Where were priorities in 08 & 09 and have we achieved them?
- b) Presentation by CLF Ventures and RGGI grantees to get a better understanding of how ARRA grants and RGGI dollars are working together at the municipal level.
- c) Over next several Board meetings would like to have presentations from a series of grant awardees.

**We will be meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup> at the PUC, Room 100, 9:00 – 12:30.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 10:40.**