

Minutes
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
Public Utilities Commission, Concord, NH 9 AM – 12:30 PM
November 12, 2010 Meeting

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

Members in Attendance: Richard Ober of NH Charitable Foundation, Jack Ruderman of NHPUC, Meredith Hatfield of the OCA, Eric Steltzer of NH OEP, Robert Scott of DES, Wes Golomb of NHSEA, Beth Fischer for HBRANH/Build Green NH, Bob Reals, Jr. of NH DRED, Representative Jim Garrity, Dick Henry of the Jordan Institute, Mike Licata for Patti Carrier of BIA, Representative David Borden, Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Planner, Senator Martha Fuller-Clark, Dan Feltes and Alan Linder of NH Legal Assistance

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Gil Gelineau of PSNH, Jim Grady of Lightec, Inc., George Gantz from Unutil Energy Systems, Janet Ackerman of People's United Bank, Charlie Niebling of New England Wood Pellet and Carol Woods for NH Electric Cooperative

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** The meeting commenced at 9:05am.
2. **Minutes of the October EESE Board Meeting.**
 - Approved with one minor change.
3. **Presentation by RGGI Grantee: Business Finance Authority – Jack Donovan**
 - Received \$2 million RGGI grant in 2009 for a revolving loan fund for businesses and non-profits; the goal is to provide funds for energy efficiency measures that reduce energy use and costs.
 - 100% of grant money goes into loans. BFA pays all administrative and legal costs.
 - Committed all funds within 5 months
 - Closed loans totally \$1.25 million
 - One project completed and in repayment.
 - Project totals:
 - i. 570,625 square feet
 - ii. 653 employees
 - iii. \$4,078,00 in funding leveraged
 - iv. Annual energy savings of 50,643 therms, 1,375,080 gallons of oil and 2,543,303 kWh.
 - One project is completed and money is being returned to the fund. There is no lack of demand for the money.
 - There are some obstacles that make it challenging to get companies on board and make commitments. These obstacles include:
 - a. Low energy prices.
 - b. Skepticism about returns on energy efficiency investments.

- c. There are sometimes delays in receiving equipment because no one keeps inventory on hand anymore.
- d. There is a lack of funding continuity.
- BFA tailored the program around customer needs and wants. People typically approach BFA. The next step is that they get an energy audit and then discussions occur with the company. The company needs to have some percentage of leverage; there isn't a definitive amount and no specific requirements. This is strictly about efficiency.
- BFA hopes that businesses who participate in the program get the word out on savings once they realize that there are significant savings to be had.

4. **ACEEE [Report](#): Overview and What it Means** – Natalie Hildt and Jim O'Reilly

- NH is ranked 22nd in the country in this ranking of policies and programs.
- Energy Efficiency is the perfect fit for New Hampshire because of increased independence, job growth, and innovation.
- A discussion ensued about what the report means for NH and the EESE Board's work

5. **2010 EESE Board Report and 2011 Priorities** – Discussion

- EESE Board Annual Report is due to the Legislature on December 1st.
- The EESE Board submitted one formal policy recommendation to the Governor and legislative leaders in 2010. The EESE Board Resolution expressed concern about the diversion of RGGI funds to the General Fund, and recommended that all current and future funds dedicated to energy efficiency and sustainable energy be used solely for the purposes for which they were intended.
- The Board provided an interim report, as required by SB323, on the status of the SB323 study development process on November 1, 2010.
- The 2010 report should focus on accomplishments of the past year and work plan for 2011.
 - a.) The EESE Board should focus on its core responsibilities
- NH must do more to see that the Legislators are aware of the importance of energy efficiency
 - a.) It is important to have energy efficiency as a higher priority because:
 - i.) Provides jobs.
 - ii.) Saves money.
 - iii.) Helps avoid business decisions being made that could have negative effects
 - iv.) Board needs to remember that they are not just an advocate but also a leader and should provide recommendations to improve programs, try and produce programs and policies to move forward
- Note success stories and meet with legislative leaders.

Reminder that the only paid work for anything to do with the EESE Board is for the SB 323 consultant.

Break at 10:55 and resumes at 11:10

Continued with 2010 EESE Board Report and 2011 priorities

Jack Ruderman

- The Sustainable Energy Division realizes that they need to produce some case studies to highlight RGGI success stories..
- There is a plan to create a 2 to 4 page document on “What is RGGI”? and also several one to two page case studies.
- Would also like to explore opportunities to organize some sort of ribbon cutting or local events highlighting successful RGGI projects or programs.

Detailed discussions on how the Board should proceed. Suggestions are below:

- The Board should be practical.
- There are limited resources available to work with.
- Would like to hear from CSNE on its evaluation of RGGI grants.
- Seem to keep coming back to the SB 323 study:
 - a.) If all is done right, could answer a lot of questions.
- Educate, don't mandate.
- At the December meeting, identify what may happen in the “Free Market” .??
- 2010 report should be about what we've done in 2010 and what we would like to do going forward.
- Do a briefing session with the new Legislators.

6. Committee Reports

SB 323

- [Report](#) to Legislature was released.
- Contractor has been identified.
- Will meet to finalize funding aspects.
- The first opportunity for the EESE Board to meet the consultant should be in early 2011.
- The 323 subcommittee will then begin to have regular meetings with the consultant.

Outreach and Education

- Report is ready to go.
- Looking at a draft RFP to be funded with ARRA money.

A detailed discussion followed.

Municipal Energy Working Group

- There are several challenges
 - a.) Setting up a reliable database to provide reliable energy consumption data is a difficult task.
 - b.) Standards should be set for energy auditing.
 - c.) Direction needed to keep municipalities going when ARRA funds run out. A brief detailed discussion followed.

7. Program Updates and Discussions

Better Buildings

- Kate Peters has been hired as full-time project director for Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA).
- Working with Jordan Institute.
- Monitoring and evaluation - \$400,000 available.
- Staff hires – job announcement went out.
- Doing more conversations with more organizations to do collaborative work.

RGGI

- Preparing grant award packages for the December 8th Governor and Council meeting. The deadline is November 24th.
- RFP for municipal services. Have ARRA funds available and we have met with OEP to discuss a possible joint/combined RFP.

REF

- Commercial and Industrial Rebate Program is in an “any day” status.
- Solar Hot Water Program – increasing the Federal portion of the rebate from \$750 to \$2000. The Federal portion is subject to Governor and Council approval. This rebate will be retroactive and payments will be issued to those who already received the \$750 rebate.

Chairman Ober had to leave the meeting at approximately 11:55 and the meeting was continued by the Vice-Chairman, Eric Steltzer.

Other ARRA Programs

- Home heating rebate program has exhausted all ARRA funds and has been shut down.
- www.Greenlaunchingpad.com will be meeting in a week.

- Energy Enterprises has 27 businesses contracted that are of various sizes and types of businesses.
- Five more energy code workshops have been scheduled. There is also a free download of the IECC 2009 code book at www.nhenergycode.com.
- OEP's Weatherization goals have been met and the program is going well.

8. Other Business

- NHSEA has their 4th Annual Conference on November 20 at the Grappone Center and will also meet December 2 at Lakes Region Community College.
- Button-up NH is going strong. Have 35 workshops and many partners.
- Energy Notebook, is now available as a facebook page.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20