

**Minutes**  
**Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board**  
**Public Utilities Commission, Concord, NH 9 AM – 12:30 PM**  
**December 10, 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, Chris Skolund and Mike Fitzgerald for 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, David Borden, Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager, Dan Feltes and Alan Linder of NH Legal Assistance and Ben Frost for Dean Christon of NH Housing and Finance Authority.

**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, Carol Woods for NH Electric Cooperative

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** The meeting commenced at 9:05am.
  - Chairman Ober formally thanked David Borden and Martha Fuller-Clark for their tremendous contributions to the EESE Board.
2. **Minutes of the November EESE Board Meeting.**
  - The November 2010 minutes were approved as submitted.
3. **Presentation – RGGI Grantee: Sarah Smith, UNH Cooperative Extension on behalf of North Country Resource and Development Area Council.**
  - Was funded in September 2009 and is for Large Woody Biomass Energy
  - Created a “roadmap” step by step document designed to be downloaded and used by communities to decide if woody biomass heating/cooling is a good choice for their energy future.
  - The roadmap is a detailed plan. The community gathers and evaluates the information and then ultimately will make the final decision.
  - There are two main components: 1) Establish community goals and 2) evaluate a biomass project.
  - The key importance to the life of the project is community involvement; without it, the project may not succeed.
  - The document strategically enables the community to make a decision; has been designed to be easily used in sub-sections as relevant.
  - North Country Resource and Development Area Council will take the first step to help a community get started on their project.

A short, detailed discussed followed:

4. **2011 EESE Board Priorities. [Memo from Chairman Ober basis for discussion.](#)**

- There were eight areas that were discussed; one of the activities has been completed: the 2010 report - leaving seven topic areas:
  - SB 323 Study –consultant on board
  - Beacon Communities – continues
  - Guidance to PUC on all of the funds charged to the PUC
  - Outreach and Education
  - Policy Opportunities
  - Climate Action Plan Implementation
  - Exploration of Systems Benefit Charge for Thermal

Highlights of the detailed discussion following included:

- **SB 323 –**
  - i. Study represents chance for careful look at the most relevant issues
  - ii. Awareness that public funding alone will not get us where we need to be re EE/RE goals
  - iii. Importance of private funding strategies as component of sound recommendations
  - iv. Communities need to get more involved
  - v. The Board will guide this study. In January or February, the consultant hired, VEIC, will be coming in and meeting with the Board to strategize.
  - vi. The SB 323 study could prove to be an effective tool to help guide other entities such as the PUC.
- **Larger Context: Challenges and Opportunities**

Discussion of new legislative priorities and perspectives on RGGI, Climate Action Plan, jobs, energy independence, role of government. The Legislature will be extremely focused on the budget. But three bills have been filed to repeal or amend RGGI. Opportunity to share information and to educate the new legislature. Exchange of views re EESE Board roles vis a vis policy issues and advocacy. Sense that EESE Board, legislatively created, can share information, recommend policy, and advise – rather than advocate. Agreement that better structure for raising policy issues would be helpful.

- i. Should have more conversations about the municipal sector, and opportunities to
- ii. educate about the importance of energy efficiency.
- iii. Recognition that much of the public funding for EE/SE is due to end. Leverage thus very important. Sense that energy study must answer questions about making private financing work in NH.

**Break at 10:40 and resumed at 11:02**

The meeting continued with 2011 priorities but was focused primarily on these three subject matters:

**1.) SB 323 – Deborah Schachter**

- i. Need to balance enthusiasm that SB 323 study can be a highly useful tool with reality that it will not answer every question and resolve every issue

- ii. Study Coordination Team will remain very closely involved with the consultant, and aim to ensure study's focus on the most important issues raised by the Board.
- iii. Team will continue to involve the Board actively in the process.

**2.) Networks – where can we get together and create more opportunities**

- i. Widely shared interest in better ways to exchange and consolidate valuable information: email list, web site, gateway, etc.
- ii. Possibility to piggy-back on the Beacon Communities program? To use the Energy and Climate Action Collaborative to provide a venue for problem solving?
  - a. If a Board member has an idea, send within enough time before the next meeting
  - b. Small ad hoc group was formed consisting of Mike Fitzgerald, Dan Feltes and George Gantz to work on this. Group should set up a diverse process to ensure that something is worth the Board's time.

**3.) Legislative Outreach.**

- i. Suggested that the EESE Board present to the Energy Committees and explain how the Board works and what we do - before public hearings on key issues.

**5. Committee Reports**

- Outreach and Education
  - There is great interest on the committee.
  - RFP has been released by OEP and January 4 is the deadline for responding.
  - Will need to come up with a plan for funding.

A short discussion followed.

- **SB 323**
  - There is a meeting on 12/10/10 at 1:30
  - There will be another meeting on 1/7/11 with the consultant, VEIC.
  - PUC staff will submit a proposal on funding and this will need to be approved by the Commission.
- **Municipal Energy Group**
  - Working on a process where municipalities will use energy audits as a tool. Hopefully by the end of February there will be a process that is clear, concise and cost effective. This process will not be mandatory; will only be used as a guideline.

**6. Program/Funding Updates**

- **Better Buildings**
  - Community Managers have been hired:
    - Nashua – Bob Eldredge
    - Plymouth – Madeline MacElaney
    - Berlin – Kimberly Battenhouse
  - Developing qualification for auditors
  - FHA powersaver program is finding Title I lenders
  - The advisory board is meeting regularly

- **RGGI**
  - G&C approved the six grant awards for 2010. They are all two-year programs. There are three continued programs and they are: BFA, Retail Merchants Association and DRED/Lakes Region Community College. There is one grant for large energy users and the grantee is TRC. Two grants were awarded for affordable housing. The recipients are NH Community Loan Fund and NH Housing Authority.
  - Carbon Solutions NE will be speaking at our next EESE Board meeting in January.
  - We will continue to meet and monitor our previous grantees.
- **REF**
  - On November 19, 2010 the C & I Rebate Program opened and is managed by Kate Epsen. There is \$1,000,000 of funding and seven applications received. The total amount of requested funds is \$90,000, so there is plenty of money. \$50,000 cap on the rebate.
  - 109 Solar Hot Water applications received. The Federal portion of the rebate was increased from \$750 to \$2,000.
  - Slow start to the Wood Pellet Rebate Program. Setting up meetings with the stakeholders to discuss ways to make the program more attractive to people.
- **ARRA**
  - Weatherization; the Department of Energy met and this is moving along.
  - Green Launching Pad; the RFP went out and the deadline for responses is mid-January. The program has five companies funded so far.
  - ECG is moving along nicely.
  - Energy Assurance has hired a contractor to help move the program along.

## 7. Other Business

- PUC and DES filed the RGGI and REF [report](#) to the Legislature.
- DES is losing Kathleen Brockett to Public Service to work on the Northern Pass project.
- NH Sustainable Association along with their program, [myenergyplan.net](http://myenergyplan.net) are sponsoring a video contest beginning in January.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.