

DRAFT Minutes  
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EESE) Board  
Public Utilities Commission, Getz Room 103  
9 AM – 12:00 PM  
Friday, March 8, 2013

**Members in Attendance**

Deborah Schachter from NH Charitable Foundation; Brandy Chambers from Office of Energy & Planning; Steve Eckberg for Susan Chamberlin from Office of Consumer Advocate; Jack Ruderman from Public Utilities Commission; Chris Way from Department of Resources and Economic Development; Mike Fitzgerald from Department of Environmental Services; Brian Ramsey from the BIA; Alan Linder from NH Legal Assistance; Jeffrey Cyr from the State Fire Marshall's Office; Representative Townsend from the NH House; Ben Frost for Dean Christon from NH Housing and Finance Authority; Dana Nute from Jordan Institute; and Kate Peters from NH Sustainable Energy Association.

**Non-Voting Members in Attendance**

Gil Gelineau from Public Service of New Hampshire; Debra Hale from Liberty Utilities; Carol Woods from New Hampshire Electric Cooperative; and Clay Mitchell from Revolution Energy.

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

- Kate Peters noted that in order to reduce costs, the coffee and pastries had been sourced from a local grocery store and that donations would be appreciated.

**1. Minutes of February EESE Board Meeting**

- The Board approved the minutes of the February 15, 2013 EESE Board meeting.

**2. Panel Discussion – Municipal and School District Projects**

- The EESE Board began with a panel on municipal/school projects that included Kevin O'Maley from the City of Manchester; Neil Barry from the Merrimack Valley High School; Theresa Swanick from the Town of Effingham; and Tom Rooney from TRC, Inc.
- The panel began with some starter questions to initiate the conversation and each panelist introduced themselves, their recent work and some of the barriers and opportunities surrounding energy projects at the local level.
- Barriers to projects including awareness/ familiarity with energy efficiency and renewable energy options and finances measures as well as limited technical assistance to provide the handholding necessary for some communities to move forward. It was noted that some communities simply do not have the staff to track energy costs much less initiate and manage projects. These communities must rely on either the equipment they've had for decades or community volunteers to lead.

- Funding was also identified as a barrier. While energy projects can be financed such that they are cash positive using performance contracts and power purchase agreements, payback for many projects is still too long for communities to take on. There are often competing community demands for limited tax dollars (e.g., teacher positions vs. first costs associated with a new boiler). As incremental costs come down or funding becomes available these projects are likely to move forward.
- There was a discussion of the need for continued data tracking for communities and school systems across the states so that municipalities and schools could compare their facilities to their peers and learn from one another. There was also interest in greater availability of automatic/electronic energy data reporting to communities to enable them to better track their energy consumption over time.
- Communication to decision makers and voters was also discussed; highlighting the potential role that project benefits beyond dollars and cents could play. This includes the impact projects could have on occupants comfort, health and performance (e.g., student achievement).
- Ensuring that project administration is as simple as possible was noted as important. This might be PUC and CORE programs requirements or developing technical assistance to help overcome administrative hurdles.
- Familiarity and comfort with finance options was discussed as were potential issues related to municipal lease purchase agreements. The leases currently conflict with state statute and this requires a legislative fix. This issue is being considered by the Local Energy Working Group.

### **3. Break**

### **4. Energy Efficiency Resource Standard Implementation Plan - Overview**

- Becky Ohler from NH DES and Brandy Chambers from NH OEP introduced a newly launched effort to develop an implementation plan for a New Hampshire Energy Efficiency Resource Standard. The plan development is funded through a federal grant from the Department of Energy.
- The Vermont Energy Investment Corporation is leading a consultant team that will develop the plan. GDS Associates and Jeff Taylor and Associates will also be involved. The process will include a review of other state efforts, an update of a prior GDS's analysis of energy efficiency potential for the state, and a broad stakeholder process. There will also be an economic analysis that looks at the costs/benefits on the supply and demand side of various energy efficiency scenarios.
- The development plan builds on the work of the EESE Board Final Report on the Independent Energy Study and the Board may be called upon to provide ongoing stakeholder input throughout.

- The team provided a PPT of the proposed project, which included a review of the relevant prior history. This included the GDS Report, the Independent Energy Study and the RFP issued to select an EERS development plan consultant.
- A key point is that the plan will include a target to annually capturing energy efficiency in an amount that is equivalent to an additional 1 percent of retail electric sales. ACEEE currently puts NH at capturing 0.64 percent of retail sales per year and it was noted later that ISO-NE, in its forecast of energy efficiency put NH's projected capture between 2015-2021 at less than 0.5 percent.
- The final product will be a report aimed at key policy makers. Will be a more condensed document that is policy oriented. Will look for stakeholder input in terms of how to cast and frame findings.
- The final report is due September 29, 2012. This is a vastly compressed time frame. The original project was projected to take 16 months but unavoidable delays moved the start date back.
- It was noted that there may be a energy policy strategy due in May 2014 (per SB 191). Syncing the EERS development plan with the timeframe of this strategy should be considered.
- In response to a question, it was noted that the EERS development plan will focus on the development of an *electric* EERS and will not include the analysis of a thermal element.
- If there are any questions or comments, it was noted that they should be directed to Becky Ohler from NH DES and Brandy Chambers from NH OEP. It was further noted that Representative John Mann from the NH House Science, Technology and Environment Committee would be serving as the legislative liaison to the development plan project team.

## **5. Board and Program Updates**

### *Independent Energy Study Team*

- The Independent Energy Study subcommittee provided an overview of its presentation on the EESE Board's report. The PPT summarizes the report and its development process and includes complete speaking points. The PPT is available with the meeting materials.

### *Legislative Subcommittee*

- The legislative subcommittee provided a thorough update of energy legislation under review in the House and the Senate. The committee meets Mondays before the EESE Board meeting.

### *Outreach & Education (O&E) Subcommittee*

- It was noted that the O&E subcommittee is in the process of revitalizing itself and will report next meeting.

*NH Electric Utilities*

- The NH utilities were recently recognized by the EPA as a national leader for the Home Performance with Energy Star (HPwES) Program. This included the unique partnership with the Better Buildings program. They were also recognized for their adoption of the Energy Star Homes version 3. Most programs use a lower version.

*Local Energy Working Group*

- The Local Energy Working Group will be hosting its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Local Energy Solutions Conference at Winnisquam Regional High School in Tilton NH on Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>. Registration is now open on [www.NHenergy.org](http://www.NHenergy.org).

**6. Adjourn**

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