

DRAFT Minutes
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EESE) Board
Public Utilities Commission, Concord, NH
9 AM – 12:00 PM
Friday, December 13 2013

In Attendance:

Jack Ruderman, Public Utilities Commission; Alan Linder, NH Legal Assistance; Brandy Chambers, Office Energy Planning; Brian Ramsey, Business & Industry Association; Laura Richardson, Jordan Institute; Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager; Deborah Schachter, NH Charitable Foundation; Becky Ohler, Department of Environmental Services; Mike Fitzgerald, Department of Environmental Services; Rep. John Mann for Rep. Robert Introne, NH House; and Kate Epsen, NH Sustainable Energy Association; Kendall Buck, for Tricia Newhall-Grahame, NH Home Builders & Remodelers Association, Senator Martha Fuller-Clark, NH Senate; Representative David Borden, New Hampshire House of Representatives.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Kate Peters, PSNH, Acting Chair; Carol Woods, NH Electric Cooperative; Deb Hale, Liberty Utilities; Tom Palma, Unitil; and Michael Behrmann, Revolution Energy.

1. Welcome and Introductions. A list of attendees is available at the EESE website.

2. Minutes of November EESE Board meeting were approved.

3. Strategic Planning – Governance and 2014 Areas of Focus.

a. **Governance.** The Board revisited the *Statement of Governing Principles* drafted in February, 2013. The Board discussed the process that would be followed to make policy recommendations. In the past the Board has been reluctant to make policy decisions without consensus. There was discussion about the need to allow for dissenting opinions while allowing the board to seek, but not be bound by consensus. [Statement of Governing Principles, E.b) page 3.] After further discussion Alan Linder agreed to work with Kate Peters on language that will allow the board to reflect dissenting opinion while supporting the majority vote.

b. **2014 Areas of Focus.** The Board discussed what its work plan should be for next year. Comments fell into two broad categories: continued education and outreach items.

i. **Education opportunities discussed:**

1. Presentations of projects being implemented in New Hampshire. (the presentations given on the GHGERF projects were noted as examples,

in particular the presentation from the NH Community Loan Fund on the project to implement energy efficiency projects for resident owned manufactured home parks.)

2. Information on Utility programs and projected results.
 3. Presentations on Regional Issues including ISO –NE, and programs in other states.
 4. Discussions with BIA about Businesses interest in energy efficiency.
- ii. **Outreach.** Discussion of outreach opportunities included:
1. Providing input on SB191, the State Energy Strategy was discussed as a priority.
 2. Note specific recommendations of the VEIC study and develop action steps.
 3. Continue to support efforts for a NH EERS including educating NH General Court on the importance of an EERS.

It was brought to the attention of the EESE Board that Alan Linder, NH Legal Assistance, would be retiring at the end of the December. Members of the Board extended their thanks for his many contributions to the Board and wished him well in his retirement.

4. **EERS Recommendations.** Based on the recommendations of the VEIC [EERS study](#), Board members discussed the need for the state to develop an EERS and how the EESE Board can help to move that process forward. Based on this discussion the following motion was made, seconded, and approved:

The EESE Board communicate in writing to the Commission to request that the Commission initiate an informal, non-adjudicatory stakeholder process, at its earliest convenience, on the subject of whether and how to move forward on an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard, using the November 15, 2013 *Final Report, Increasing Energy Efficiency in New Hampshire: Realizing Our Potential* as an input.

The Board further discussed the difficulties of gaining support for increased spending on energy efficiency without economic analysis to show the gains that would be achieved. Based on this discussion the following motion was made, seconded and approved:

The EESE Board send a written request to the utilities inviting them, to the extent resources allow, to conduct a (“supply side”) analysis of the rate impact of achieving reduction in energy use equivalent to 1.6% of 2012 electric sales, as outlined in the November 15, 2013 Final Report, *Increasing Energy Efficiency in New Hampshire: Realizing Our Potential*.

5. **Board Leadership.** After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to have Kate Peters stay on as the Board’s Chair. Discussion noted the excellent job she has done in

this role. The vote was approved; Kate is checking with PSNH management to ensure that she can continue to participate.

6. Board and Program Updates:

- a. **Outreach & Education:** Activities of the Outreach & Education Committee will resume after the New Year.
- b. **Legislative.**
 - i. HB 532 made it out of House Subcommittee and Committee for Municipal and County Government and goes to House floor January 8th. This bill cleans up existing PACE language to eliminate the project size cap of \$60,000, focus the program just on commercial projects (to address concerns of the federal housing officials).
 - ii. SB 154 calling for state wide energy efficiency program that tapped SBC funds to cover defaults and also tapped State Treasurer for many program responsibilities was **marked as** Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL) meaning it was killed.
- c. **PUC updates.**
 - i. The competitive grant program saw 11 grant awards totaling \$4.3 million. Of those, 1 withdrew so now there are 10 grants totaling \$3.8 million. G&C has approved 3; 7 additional competitive grants going to G&C December 20 and 2 will be on the G&C agenda in January.
 - ii. New non-residential wood pellet boiler program application has been submitted to the Commissioners and the draft order has been prepared. The PUC hopes to launch the program in the next week. The program offers 30 % of the system cost up to 50,000, plus an additional 30% of cost for thermal storage up to \$5,000 with a system cap of 2.5 million BTU. The program has been designed to serve market from small town hall to commercial & industrial users.
 - iii. Group net metering interim administrative rules have been developed, sent to **JELCAR** and is currently on their agenda for December 19, 2013. The rules may be approved early.
- d. **OEP updates.**
 - i. The SB99 stakeholder sessions (Citizen Workshops) have been completed and the final report will be submitted to the legislature before the due date of December 31, 2014. Citizens may still submit comments to OEP until December 20, 2013.
 - ii. The Energy Advisory Council created under SB191 is having the first meeting with the chosen consultant, Navigant, December 17, 2013. All project updates will be posted on OEP's website:
<http://www.nh.gov/oep/energy/programs/SB191.htm>.
- e. **Department of Administrative Services updates.**
 - i. Two large performance contracts will be on the agenda for the next G&C meeting.

7. Adjourned. The meeting was adjourned just before noon.