

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

**Members in Attendance:**

Jack Ruderman, Public Utilities Commission; Alan Linder, NH Legal Assistance; Brandy Chambers, Office of Energy Planning; Ben Frost, NH Housing Authority; Brian Ramsey, Business & Industry Association; Laura Richardson, Jordan Institute; Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager; Deborah Schachter, NH Charitable Foundation; Mike Fitzgerald, Department of Environmental Services; Kate Epsen, NH Sustainable Energy Association; Kendall Buck, for Tricia Newhall-Grahame, NH Home Builders & Remodelers Association.

**Non-Voting Members in Attendance:**

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

**Legislators in Attendance:**

Senator Martha Fuller Clark; Representatives David Borden, John Mann, and Ken Grossman.

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.**
- 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. Mike Fitzgerald suggested language to be included indicating that Board policy recommendations require a 2/3 majority vote of the board.
  - 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. Presentations by energy efficiency businesses.

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 energy policy study and develop action steps.
3. Continue to support efforts for a NH Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (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 Energy Efficiency Resource Standard Study ([\*Final Report, Increasing Energy Efficiency in New Hampshire: Realizing Our Potential\*](#)) 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 Public Utilities 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 an analysis of the rate impact of achieving a reduction in energy use equivalent to 1.6% of 2012 electric sales, as outlined in the November 15,

5. **Board Leadership.** After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to have Kate Peters stay on as the Board's Acting Chair for a term of six months. Discussion noted the excellent job she has done in this role. The motion was approved. Kate is checking with PSNH management to ensure that she can continue to participate in the Board.
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 8<sup>th</sup>. This bill cleans up existing PACE language to eliminate the project size cap of \$60,000, and to 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 the State Treasurer for many program responsibilities was voted Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL), meaning it was killed.
  - c. **PUC updates.**
    - i. The competitive grant program for renewable energy projects resulted in 11 grant awards totaling \$4.3 million. Of those, 1 applicant withdrew so now there are 10 grants totaling \$3.8 million. G&C has approved 1 grant; 7 additional grants are going to G&C on 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. The PUC hopes to launch the program in the next week or two. The program offers 30 % of the system cost up to \$50,000, plus an additional 30% of the cost for thermal storage up to \$5,000. Eligible systems are capped at 2.5 million BTU.
    - iii. Group net metering interim administrative rules have been developed and submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR). The rules are on the agenda for the JLCAR meeting on December 19, 2013. The rules may be approved as early as December or January.
  - 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. A performance contract for 4 buildings on Hazen Drive will be on the agenda for the next G&C meeting. DAS is also working on a separate performance contract for Cannon Mountain.
- 7. The meeting was adjourned just before noon.**