

MINUTES
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-0:5-a
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429
9am – 12 pm
Friday, July 18, 2014

Attendees:

Board members non-voting: Kate Peters (PSNH, Acting Chair); Debra Hale (Liberty Utilities); Michael Behrmann (Revolution Energy); Tom Palma (Unitil); Craig Snow (NHEC)

Board Members voting: Deborah Schachter (NHCF); Brandy Chambers (OEP); Jack Ruderman (PUC); Becky Ohler (NHDES); Meredith Hatfield (NHOEP); Kate Epsen (NHSEA); Susan Chamberlain (NHOCA); Carmen Lorentz (DRED); Dennis Labbe (NHLA); Dana Nute (for Laura Richardson of Jordan Institute); Jackie Hanscome (for Karen Rantamaki – State Energy Manager); Matt Labonte (State Fire Marshal’s Office); Rep. Chuck Townsend;

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting commenced at 9:05 AM.

2. Minutes of June EESE Board Meeting

The June EESE Board meeting minutes were adopted.

3. Draft State Energy Strategy

The main agenda item for the day is review and comments from the Board on the draft 10-Year State Energy Strategy. OEP made a presentation of the DRAFT Strategy to the EESE Board at the last meeting on June 20. Becky Ohler (DES) has organized comments received and drafted a letter which she presented to the Board. Discussion about this DRAFT letter followed.

4. Break (15 minutes for coffee and conversation)

5. Discussion related to Draft State Energy Strategy continued.

The Board discussed content and form of the draft letter. Suggestions were made to: focus main points at front end and reiterate later if needed; clarify intent of language on grid modernization; clarify language on net metering; correct details in footnote 6; clarify language regarding reference to RSA 374-G related to utility investment in distributed generation resources.

Becky made edits to the letter on the fly with projector presentation of changes for Board review. Timing is important so we need to get changes to the letter made and send it to OEP.

The Board discussed placing additional emphasis on development of financing options including a “Green Bank,” increased focus on use of C-PACE, and the level of specificity that should be included in addressing energy efficiency. Discussion also focused on what should be said about the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) at this time. Should the language be specific in comparing NH to other Northeast states or be more general in suggesting that we have a strong and enabling EERS to avoid lost economic benefits?

The Board discussed several clarifications on language in the section of the letter which addresses transportation energy expenses and policies. The Board agreed that highlighting support for the Strategy’s recommendations regarding the California Low Emission Vehicle program and Zero Emission Vehicle program was worthwhile.

The Board agreed that the letter should emphasize support for setting specific goals and the EESE Board’s willingness to be a resource to provide assistance in this regard. There was discussion about whether specific goals should be suggested in this letter of support or whether the EESE Board, at this point, should speak more generally about the goal setting process. The Board generally agreed that it would be not be productive to introduce specific new ideas or numerical goals at this time.

There was some additional discussion about whether the letter should suggest that specific goals and targets be included in the strategy.

Motion to approve and send letter was made and seconded. Motion passed.

The question was raised whether the EESE Board should share our letter of support with the press. If that action were taken we would need a contact person and clarity about what the press should get from six page letter. EESE Board does not commonly send items to the press. We’d need to be very clear about what is represented and the message. Perhaps a better time to reach out/speak up would be with release of final report. This was received favorably as the report itself will identify needs for legislative and policy action. Thus outreach and leadership at that time would be very useful.

- 6. Board Committee and Program Updates**
 - a. O&E Committee.** No updates.

- b. Legislative Committee.** No updates.
- c. PUC.** Sustainable Energy Division reported that the 2013 RPS compliance deadline was June 30, 2014 so annual reports have come in along with compliance payments to the Renewable Energy Fund (REF). The final total estimate of payments is right around \$18 million. We only have approval to spend \$7.9 million. We will go to Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee (JLFC) to request authorization to spend additional amount. There is concern about the outcome of this effort. It was suggested that the Board send a letter supporting authorization to spend these funds through the REF rather than using them for other State Budget needs. This was done in a prior instance. Other support strategies that would be useful were also discussed.

A Motion was made and seconded to draft a letter from the Board to JLFC requesting approval of the full REF fund spending. Motion passed.

The PUC is working to finalize its RFP for the annual C&I RFP solicitation to be issued in August. They're working to enhance and improve selection criteria to be used in evaluating RFP responses.

Electric Division reported that work on the EERS "straw proposal" is on-going. There are several more interviews to conduct. Several utilities have requested to come back for another meeting to raise points they feel strongly about.

- d. OEP.** Brandy Chambers, Energy Policy Analyst at OEP announced this will be her last meeting. She is leaving her position at OEP. OEP continues to work on final version of 2014 State Energy Strategy. Final version is due September 1. We are currently incorporating comments, and will continue to do so. The final report will come from us and not Navigant.
- e. Other.** No other business raised.

Motion to adjourn, all in favor. [11:11 am]