

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Minutes for December 9, 2016

Attendees:

Board members: Ben Frost (NH Housing Finance Authority); Dennis Labbe (NH Legal Assistance); Rick Minard (NH OEP); Karen Rantamaki (NH DAS); Brianna Brand for Kate Epsen (NH SEA); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Becky Ohler (NH DES); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Brian Ramsey (BIA); Kate Peters (Eversource); Mathew Labonte (NH Fire Marshal); Rep. Herbert Richardson (NH House); Scott Emond (NH HBA); D. Maurice Kreis (NH OCA); Karen Cramton (NH PUC); Ryan Clouthier (SNHS).

Guests: Tanya Wayland (NH PUC); Liz Nixon (NH PUC); Tom Frantz (NH PUC); Scott Albert (GDS Associates); Andy Duncan (Lakes Region Community College); Debra Howland (NH PUC); Martin Honigberg (NH PUC)

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Meeting started at 9:03 am. NH PUC Chairman, Martin Honigberg, welcomed the Board and reiterated both Commission and Staff's support for the EESE Board serving as an advisory board to support the successful implementation of the EERS per the settlement agreement. The Chairman encouraged the Board to continue to work collaboratively with PUC Staff in efforts to retain a consultant and review NH's first three-year EERS plan.

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Meeting minutes from November 18, 2016 were approved. Final minutes will be posted on the EESE Board's website.

3. Governance Document Review and Adoption

Ben Frost summarized changes made to the EESE Board Governance Document. The Governance Document was approved and adopted by the Board. The approved Governance Document will be posted on the EESE Board's website.

4. Formalization of Committees

- Per the Governance Document, committee members are to be identified by the Board and committee purpose statements established. EERS Committee members were identified by the Board Chair as: Rick Minard, EERS Committee Chair, Dennis Labbe, Brian Ramsay, Kate Epsen, Becky Ohler, D. Maurice Kreis and Megan Hoye, and utility representatives from Unitil Energy Systems, Liberty Utilities, Eversource and NH Electric Cooperative. The EERS Committee's purpose statement was adopted previously, on September 9, 2016 and is posted on the EESE Board's website.
- Per the Governance Document, Outreach & Education Committee members were identified by the Board Chair as: Scott Albert, Co-Chair and Mary Downes, Co-Chair, Bob Eldridge, Cindy Schweitzer, Robert Backus, Kate Peters, Andy Duncan, Carol Woods, D. Maurice Kreis, Dennis Labbe and Chris Skoglund. The proposed purpose statement was read, as follows: To assist the EESE Board to meet its statutory obligation to "Develop tools to enhance outreach and

education programs to increase knowledge about energy efficiency and sustainable energy among New Hampshire residents and businesses.” The Board voted to adopt the purpose statement.

5. EESE Board Committee Updates:

- Outreach and Education Committee (O & E) Update:
 - The Outreach and Education Committee held a meeting a week ago and the minutes have been circulated. There was discussion at the meeting, surrounding what the committee’s activities should be and how to prioritize these activities. The Committee decided to await specific O&E requests from the Board. The next committee meeting date has not been established.
- EERS Committee Update:
 - The RFP for a consultant has been released and posted to the Commission’s website. The PUC has agreed to balanced representation for the selection process. Two staff members will represent the PUC and two Board members will represent the EESE Board. Ben recommends to Board that Rick Minard and Becky Ohler represent the Board in the consultant selection process. The recommendation was agreed to by the Board.

6. Preliminary Overview of 3-Year EERS Planning Process

- The Utilities led a discussion outlining the steps being taken and the projected time-line to achieve the goal of a draft three year plan to submit to the EESE Board for comment by April 30th. The Board discussed steps taken by utilities in surrounding states to successfully implement their three year plan.

7. Discussion of 2017 Legislation (LSRs)

- The Board considered if there was a need to reinstate a Legislative Committee as had existed in the past to monitor LSRs that could potentially impact the Board and its stakeholders. It was determined that no committee is necessary, as several board members will actively track energy-related legislation and can update the Board as needed.

8. Board and Program Updates:

- Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Updates:
 - Grid Modernization meeting will be held Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at the PUC from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
 - DE 16-576, Net Metering Alternative Tariff – rebuttal testimony is due December 16, 2016. A motion is before the Commission to extend the hearing dates to March with a decision due by June 2, 2017.
 - The proposals for the annual RFP for the C&I renewable energy competitive grant program are currently under review and undergoing the scoring process.
- Office of Energy and Planning
 - OEP has proposed in its biennium budget to receive a General Fund contribution of \$25,000.00 in fiscal year 2018 to gradually add funding for the Office to provide matching funds for the Federally funded State Energy Program grant which is currently matched by PVE which is estimated to run out of money in the next eight or nine years.
- Department of Environmental Services (DES) Updates:

- After 10-years of service, Commissioner Burack will step down in the next few months.
- A public input session was held November 29, 2016 regarding potential uses of funding resulting from the Volkswagen settlement. NH would become the beneficiary of a minimum of \$29.85 million over 10 years, although there has been no definite decision from the State of NH as to whether or not to accept the funds. In the meantime, NHDES is looking for input on whether to focus on the public sector, which could benefit tax payers in the state, or focus on private companies. More information can be found at the DES website “What’s new – VW Settlement”. Fifteen percent of the funds will most likely be used to expand EV infrastructure in the state.
- Chris Skoglund has been named DES employee of the year. Congratulations to Chris!
- D. Maurice Kreis thanked NH SEA for inviting him to deliver the key note speech at the Local Energy Solutions conference held last month and congratulated NH SEA for their well-attended successful conference.

9. Possible Future Meeting Topics include:

- Energy Savvy Product Presentation
- NEEP presentation on Energy Efficiency/Management Software Products
- Massachusetts work on energy storage

10. **Next Meeting – Friday, January 20, 2016.**

- Preliminary Topics:
 - a. Annual Report
 - b. Election of Chair
 - c. Committee Updates

11. **Adjourned at 11:21 am**