

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

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

DRAFT Minutes for March 16, 2018

Attendees:

Board Members: Ryan Clouthier (SNHS); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Becky Ohler (DES); Katherine Garfield (BIA); Rep. Herbert Richardson (House of Representatives); Raymond Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Jeffrey Cyr (State Fire Marshall); Rep. Robert Backus (House of Representatives); Donald Perrin (DAS); Kate Peters (Eversource); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Wood (NHEC); Joseph Doiron (OSI); Karen Cramton (PUC); Theresa Swanick (NH Municipal Association); Scott Maslansky (CDFA); Henry Herndon for Kate Epsen (NH SEA)

Others: Liz Nixon (PUC); Brian Buckley (OCA); Chris Skoglund (DES); Stephen Eckberg (PUC); Azanna Wishart (PUC); Jeff Archibald (ICF); Stephen Tower (NH Legal Assistance); Tom Fuller (Eversource); Miles Ingram (Eversource); Melissa Birchard (CLF); Mary Downes (Unitil)

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Don Kreis called the meeting to order at 9:02.

2. Approval of the February 16, 2018 EESE Board Meeting Minutes

- Ryan Clouthier moved. Ray Burke seconded. Approved as submitted with one abstention.

3. Review & Approval of 2017 EESE Board Annual Report

- A draft version of the 2017 Annual Report was distributed to Board members in advance of the meeting.
- There was a discussion about the Introduction section and the statement regarding “*recommendations for action...*” It was noted that there were no recommendations stated in the report. The Board agreed that if there were any recommendations to report for 2017, then they should be included within the annual report. If there were no recommendations, then “*recommendations for action*” should be deleted.
- It was suggested to include recommendations for the upcoming year, e.g., focus on building codes, EM&V efforts and the Board’s role in regards to EERS.
- It was also noted that there are a few formatting errors that need correction and a few necessary grammatical revisions required prior to a final version being submitted.
- Ray Burke volunteered to make the necessary edits.
- Representative Backus moved to approve the annual report subject to the inclusion of recommendations, grammatical corrections and necessary format revisions. Karen Cramton seconded. Unanimously approved.

4. Report from the EM&V Working Group on its 3 year Strategic Evaluation Plan:

- Brian Buckley noted that PUC will be hiring a consultant soon and that the consultant will help with finalizing the EM&V Plan that is required by the EERS (DE 17-136).
- Brian Buckley and Miles Ingram shared a slide presentation that provided a primer on EM&V, explained the Strategic Evaluation Plan that will serve as a roadmap for which programs to evaluate and when, and the process for/status of the development of a NH-specific Technical Resource Manual.
- Discussion and Questions & Answers followed the presentation:
 - In regard to finding a baseline for evaluation, do building codes have an impact on those baselines? Yes, for example, moving from the 2009 codes to the 2018 codes would have an impact on claimed savings. The point was made that if compliance with the current code (2009) is very low then it might not actually be the baseline.
 - Strategic Evaluation Plan Framework – Stage 4 (Reporting) – how do we envision the EESE Board being involved? The public presentation of the draft plan is a good opportunity for EESE Board involvement. The Board’s input could be gathered and provided as written comments and line edits to the draft plan.
 - The intent is not for the EESE Board to be involved in the development of the EM&V technical methodology, analysis and process, but rather serve as a public forum for presentations on the impacts of evaluations.

6. Report of Building Codes Committee

- A draft policy statement was distributed to Board members in advance of the meeting. NHLA revised the draft policy statement and provided copies during the meeting. Becky Ohler moved to accept the revised draft policy. Theresa Swanick seconded.
- It was proposed that some minor tweaks be made in regard to the 4th paragraph to clarify what data was used to derive the potential energy savings of the 2015 IECC as compared to NH’s current 2009 IECC. Specifically, it was agreed, that the methodology and source of assumptions used in the calculations and assumptions be incorporated into the footnotes.
 - It is important to provide the data to support the results. Include either a long footnote or an appendix to illustrate the data and model.
- It was also suggested that references to providing the policy statement to the Legislature be removed.
 - The Building Code Review Board (BCRB) is charged with making recommendations. But some Board members believed it was premature to send this to the legislature when the BCRB hasn’t decided which codes it would or would not adopt. The BCRB has decided to review the 2018 (International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and has officially appointed subcommittees for this purpose. The BCRB will meet through November or December before the subcommittees review and present back to the BCRB with suggested amendments. If they move forward then legislation may be introduced in January for approval to ratify the BCRB’s recommendation to adopt.
- Don Kreis asked if the Board wanted to delegate refinement to the footnotes as a working group or to work on it and bring it back. It was suggested working on it and submitting it to Don, as chair, for finalization. Ray Burke stated that NHLA would support that suggestion with the understanding that the document would be sent to the Building Code Review Board but *not* the Legislature.

- Several Board members indicated they would need to discuss, or receive authorization, from their agencies or organizations prior to approving policy statements or positions.
- A question was posed as to whether majority rule applied at EESE Board meeting. As Chair, Don said he would like to drive the Board as close to consensus as possible. It was noted that the EESE Board Governance document requires a 2/3 majority for approval of policy statements..
- Joseph Doiron moved to table the vote until the next meeting. Ray Burke seconded.
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- The motion passed with 11 in favor, 0 not in favor, and 2 abstentions.

7. 2018 Priorities Document

- Tabled until next month. In the meantime feedback/comments can be sent to Don. He will incorporate suggestions onto the Priorities document for discussion during the April meeting.

8. Legislative Updates

- In connection with New Hampshire Energy Week, Representative Herbert Richardson received the Legislative Energy Champion award.
- HB1358 – Relative to decisions by the Site Evaluation Committee on year deadline. Tabled
- HB1550 – Requiring electric bills to include cost of renewable energy standards (RPS) – should be voted on by the House of Representatives next Wednesday.
- HB1796 – Electric Oversight Committee – passed unanimously by ST&E and on consent calendar.
- HB114 – relative to RPS – passed by the House.
- Next Tuesday four Senate bills are scheduled for public hearings in ST&E:
 - SB448 – Establishing a committee to study the establishment of a state department of energy.
 - SB321 – Relative to group host net energy metering.
 - SB366 – Relative to members of the Site Evaluation Committee.
 - SB367 - Relative to the PUC review of group host agreements.
 - The Hearings will start at 10:00 a.m.
- HB559 – Relative to expenditures from the Energy Efficiency fund. Passed the House with amendment.

9. Board and Program Updates:

- **PUC:**
 - JLCAR approved the 2500 rule revisions relative to biodiesel and directed the Commission to open a docket to review rules in regards to thermal generation derived from methane gas. There will be a technical session at the PUC on March 26th. The docket number is DRM18-017.
 - Value of Distributed Energy Resources working group met several times to develop a value stack and define the scope for the study. A report on the scope and timeline is due to the Commission by April 23rd.
 - Non-Wires Alternatives – a public hearing to consider staff's recommendation to proceed with a study rather than pilot projects was held this week. Low/Moderate Income (LMI) Program as required by SB129 (2017) –There was a public hearing to

hear comments on a suggested LMI program which issues an RFP for community solar projects providing direct benefits to LMI customers. Waiting on Commission Order. If the program is approved, an RFP will be issued and grants awarded by the end of this fiscal year.

- Commercial & Industrial Solar Rebate Program will re-open on Monday, March 19th. The rebate amount has been reduced to \$0.40 per watt with a maximum of \$50,000 per applicant. It is anticipated that there will be higher demand than available funding; therefore, a public lottery will be held to sequence applications for review and funding.
- Liberty's Battery Storage Pilot Program docket (DE17-189) is proceeding and on track as defined in the procedural schedule.
- **OSI:**
 - Governor Sununu spoke at the Energy Breakfast and announced 15 percent (maximum allowed) of the VW settlement will be allocated to the deployment of EV charging stations.
 - The updated State Energy Strategy will be available by the next EESE Board meeting.
- **DES:**
 - The New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers Climate Change Steering Committee
 - The Northeast states are working collectively on an Electric Vehicle Awareness Campaign aimed at increasing knowledge about and adoption of EVs by the public. The states are working with a media consultant. Due to budget restrictions the campaign will primarily be pushed out through social media platforms.
- **Other :**
 - **Eversource** sponsored Energy Week. They are also in process of contracting statewide with a media outreach agency. There will be a re-launch of the NHSaves website. Eversource is also partnering with NHDES's Pollution Prevention program to do outreach for energy efficiency and are starting with brewers.
 - **NHEC** has launched a 'green button' on their website so that consumers can access their usage. They are offering rebates for electric vehicles. They have approved an off-peak EV charging rate.
 - **OCA** – bi-monthly meeting on Monday, March 19th at 2:00 – will be looking at a fuel security study.
 - **NHLA** – Proposal filed relating to extending electric assistance program for competitive energy suppliers.

10. Meeting Adjourned at 11:12 a.m.