

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Minutes for June 18, 2021

Attendees:

Board Members: Ryan Clouthier (Southern NH Services); Pradip Chattopadhyay for D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Becky Ohler (DES); Kate Peters (Eversource); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Ray Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Tonia Chase (BIA); Karen Cramton (PUC); Tom Palma for Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Phil Biron (NH State Fire Marshal's Office); Representative Kat McGhee (NH House of Representatives); Representative Michael Vose (NH House of Representatives); Matt Siska (GDS Associates).

Others: Liz Nixon (PUC); Azanna Wishart (PUC); Mark Lemanager (Eversource); Megan Ulin (Revision Energy); Chris Skoglund (DES); Christa Shute (OCA); Kelly Buchanan (Clean Energy NH); John Gage; Josh Singer (Clean Energy NH); Kijana Plenderleth; Lloyd Kash; Kim Dragoo (Liberty Utilities).

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting was held in person at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Remote access via WebEx was also provided.
- Bruce Clendenning called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.
- The Acting Chair confirmed and noted a quorum of the voting Board members were physically present at the meeting location. Representative Vose participated from a remote location stating he was not present because he received no notice of the address of the meeting location so he participated remotely. No other individuals were present at his remote location.
- Non-voting members and other individuals participated either remotely or in person.

2. Approval of the May 21, 2021 EESE Board Meeting Minutes.

- Becky Ohler moved. Tonia Chase seconded.
- Two attendee names were misspelled and need correction.

- Approval of the May 21, 2021 minutes with above corrections. All in favor with two abstentions.

3. New Hampshire 10-Year State Energy Strategy – Discussion and Approval of Comments and Recommendations.

A draft recommendations document was circulated to board members and posted to the EESE Board webpage in advance of the meeting.

The Board discussed the draft document section by section. Chris Skoglund edited the draft document during the meeting.

- Introduction
 - There was discussion to amend the last sentence of the second paragraph to read “...should include benchmarks and tangible goals *supported by the cost benefit analysis* to enable the General Court...” The Board agreed to keep the sentence as is.
- Background/Context
 - It was suggested to include a footnote to Figure 2 on page two referencing the growth rate for the time periods illustrated. The Board agreed to remove the sentence, *this outflow of dollars is a significant drain on the State’s economy and equal to 7% of its annual Gross State Product (GSP).*
- Outcomes
 - Minimize NH’s regional cost share through NH investments –
 - There was discussion about singling out transmission costs, and the difference between business and residential ratepayers managing costs. The Board agreed to revise the sentence, “...sustainable energy will supply will help NH manage costs...” to “...sustainable energy supply will help many NH ratepayers manage costs...”
 - The Board also agreed to shorten the last sentence to “Energy efficiency investments compound over time.”
 - Strive to achieve cost-effective energy efficiency –
 - It was suggested to change the title to “Strive to achieve *all* cost-effective energy efficiency”.
 - There was discussion regarding the clarity of the first sentence, *energy efficiency is widely understood to be the least cost, cleanest, most plentiful energy resource.* It was debated whether there is data to support the sentence, from an economic standpoint. The Board agreed to delete the sentence and replace it with, *There is a great deal of cost-effective energy efficiency still available.*
 - The Board agreed to add *building energy codes* to the end of the paragraph.
 - A footnote was added to reference that the data is based on the ISO-NE CELT report from released in April 2021.
 - Expand fuel diversity and energy reliability –

- A member suggested that in the case of net metering, price volatility may be preferable than locking in on paying high rates for electricity.
 - It was noted that the Board not only looks at electric transmission but all energy sources. Diversity is competition. If there is choice, price is affected.
 - A Board member asked if oil and propane fit into cost-effective energy efficiency in this document.
 - It was suggested to add “end-use technologies” and add a footnote citing EV’s, heat pumps, storage, etc.
 - Support economic development by building local energy resources, businesses, and workforce –
 - A suggestion was made to change the second sentence to read, “Deep investments in *cost-effective* energy efficiency, *workforce development*, and support for in-state energy sources...”
 - A Board member suggested to remove the last sentence, “These are good paying jobs that will retain talent and wealth in the state.”
 - The Board agreed to the changes.
 - E. Incorporate resilience across all aspects of energy planning policy –
 - A Board member asked to clarify language on how weatherizing homes can help to prevent power outages and suggested that the focus should be on resiliency. There was a brief discussion but the paragraph was not amended.
- Recommendations
 - Invest in Grid Modernization –
 - No changes to this section.
 - Support Vehicle Electrification across the State –
 - No changes to this section.
 - C. Maximize Energy Efficiency –
 - A Board member stated that it is important to point out that low and moderate income ratepayers are most affected by increased electricity costs. The Board agreed to add, “...emphasize investments that benefit low and moderate income residents.”
 - The Board agreed to change the sub-title from “Maximize Energy Efficiency” to “Maximize Cost-Effective Energy Efficiency”.
 - Procure Additional Renewable Energy –
 - A member recommended to add “The EESE Board acknowledges that sustainable renewable energy, *including renewable thermal energy*, has the ability to provide clean and reliable *energy* for residents and businesses. All agreed.
 - Reduce Upfront Expense – (added to the list of recommendations)
 - *Develop programming, policies, and approaches that will support the reduction of upfront costs for residents, businesses, local governments, and manufacturers to adopt energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.*
 - Prepare for Changes to Grid Mix –

- No changes to this section.
- State Government Leadership by Example –
 - Add a footnote referencing HB1245.

Motion to pass the EESE Board comments on the 2021 State Energy Strategy with the acknowledgement that there will be minor grammar changes.

Representative McGhee moved. Tonia Chase seconded.

All in favor with Karen Cramton of the PUC abstaining. Note: Representative Vose was not present for the vote.

The Board thanked Chris Skoglund and Mark Lemenger for their work on the document.

4. Discussion of Summer EESE Board Meeting Schedule

The Board agreed to cancel the July EESE Board meeting and resume meeting in August.

5. Board & Program Updates

- PUC
 - There will be a stakeholder session on July 15th where the consultant will present the Value of Distributed Energy Resources Study scope and methodology.
 - Next Wednesday there is a meeting of the EERS Committee.

7. Meeting adjourned at 11:26