

Minutes
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
Public Utilities Commission, Room A, Concord, NH
9AM – 12:15 PM
Wednesday, April 18, 2012 Meeting

***Items underlined and in color are hyperlinked to documents.**

Members in Attendance:

David Borden of NH Sustainable Energy Association; Kendall Buck for Luke Benson of NH Home Builders; Ryan Clouthier for Dana Nute of Community Action Agency; Steve Eckberg of Office of Consumer Affairs; Mike Fitzgerald of Environmental Services; Timothy Fortier of NH Municipal Association; Representative Frank Holden for Representative James Garrity; Alan Linder of NH Legal Assistance; Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager; Brian Ramsey representing BIA; Bob Reals, Jr. of Dept. of Resources and Economic Development; Jack Ruderman of NH Public Utilities Commission; Deborah Schachter of NH Charitable Foundation; and Eric Steltzer of Office of Energy and Planning.

Non Voting Members in Attendance:

Michael Bruss of Bruss Construction; Vice Chair George Gantz; Gil Gelineau of PSNH; Kate Peters of NH Community Development Finance Authority; and Craig Snow for Carol Woods of NH Electric Coop.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Breakfast sponsored this morning by the NH Charitable Foundation.

2. Minutes of March 9, 2012, EESE Board Meeting

Minutes of the March 9, 2012, meeting were approved unanimously as corrected. (Borden/Linder).

3. EESE Board Updates

Leadership Transition

Vice Chair Gantz is retired from Unitil, but will remain with Unitil as a part-time consultant; so he will continue on the EESE Board as Vice-Chair. The group on leadership qualities/succession has not yet met, but will do so and report back to the Board.

LBA Audit

The LBA audit of PUC/OCA/EESE Board has been completed and was recently presented to the Fiscal Oversight Committee. A brief section of the report (3 pages) addresses the EESE board and contains a recommendation that: “The Legislature may wish to reconsider whether the EESE Board’s purpose, objectives, and functions can be accomplished with the limited authority and resources available to it.” Dick Ober, George Gantz and Deborah Schachter met with LBA staff in an exit interview. It is possible that the audit may be referred to

a relevant legislative policy committee, in which case one or more hearings could take place. The audit will become public and the portion relating to the EESE Board will be posted to the PUC's website under the EESE Board heading.

Municipal Energy Working Group

Vice Chair Gantz appointed David Borden as the EESE Board liaison to the Local Energy Working Group (LEWG). Several members of the Board attend the monthly meetings of the LEWG, including Tim Fortier who is that group's co-chair. There is a LEWG meeting today on municipal financing. Chris Skoglund's participation with both groups (MEWG & LEWG) has especially been great. The LEWG recently hosted its 4th annual Local Energy Conference, which 200 people attended, including many municipal officials as well.

Outreach and Education Working Group

There was good discussion last month about what issues the Group could take on. Several individuals indicated they would help Mary Downes and Julia Dunderf move forward. Michael Bruss will report back to the Board next month.

4. **[RGGI Grant Presentation](#) – CSNE/UNH RGGI Year Two Evaluation**
Matt Magnusson of UNH gave a presentation on the results of the Year Two RGGI grants report.
5. **[Presentation](#) on Unitil's Smart Grid Pilot**
Tom Palma of Unitil gave a presentation on the results of Unitil's smart grid pilot program.

BREAK

5. Other Updates, Continued

Commissioner Bob Scott said that the PUC was the primary focus of the LBA Audit. The PUC is interested in receiving feedback on sustainable energy programs as well as how it does its job in general. Board members or other interested parties can either contact him or Deborah Howland, Executive Director of the PUC.

Alan Linder is now an official voting member of the EESE Board, representing NH Legal Assistance.

Eric Steltzer reported that **ARRA** is wrapping up for the Office of Energy and Planning. GDS was commended for doing a great job with the energy Code Compliance Roadmap to increase compliance with the building energy code. The Enterprise Energy Fund is a revolving loan fund with CDFR and it has completed its projects.

Karen Rantamaki said the Annual **State Energy Conference** for state employees is taking place May 18th and is open to all State Employees. Several workshops will take place during the day, and there will be a few vendor displays.

Laura Richardson recently gave a presentation on the state's **wood pellet rebate program** at NESEA's Building Energy conference in Boston. The program is offered across the State. The program has spurred the growth of companies delivering pellets and companies installing pellet systems.

OEP was awarded a competitive grant from DOE's State Energy Program in order to develop a plan for increasing energy efficiency efforts in New Hampshire. The award was finalized in February and OEP is now drafting an RFP for a consultant. OEP hopes to get the RFP out to the EESE Board by Monday and get a quick turnaround to collect feedback. If anyone is interested in bidding, they should refrain from supplying any comments on the RFP to prevent any conflicts of interest. The RFP will be released in late April/early May with hopes of going before the Governor and Council in July. It is a two-phase program, with funding secured till September 2012 and upon successful accomplishments will be extended to September 2013.

Kate Peters update on BetterBuildings – Working on expanding the program beyond the three communities they have been working in. Deadlines have been given on projects, and we are looking at 90 projects that are interested. There probably will be additional funding to put to other uses, but they will put together an application for commercial uses throughout the State. The application could go out this week. Kate will send to Diane Bateman for posting to the site. Because of the time constraint, CDFA Grants Management is giving priority to those projects which already have had energy audits performed.

Jack Ruderman on RGGI, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Education Fund, Renewable Energy Fund – On March 24 the Commission announced that all funding for the residential renewable energy rebate program for photovoltaic and small wind systems had been expended/obligated. The PUC will continue to accept applications but all new applications will be placed on a waiting list for funding. We hope to have access to new ACP funds after July 1st. The PUC will also be considering a reduction in rebate levels for this program. We will be issuing a notice that we will ask people for feedback on a straw man proposal.

On the Wood Pellet rebate program, OEP is making an additional \$100,000 available. The new funding must be approved by the legislative Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council. We are reviewing grant proposals for renewable energy projects in the non-residential sector. We received 26 responses to the RFP. There is a four member review committee. Interviews will be set up this week. All the proposals will be scored and then passed on to the PUC Commissioners. After final selections are made, we will go to G & C for approval.

Natalie Hildt of Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships – NEEP has completed a new study on high efficiency lighting. Two more reports are in the works. The NEEP summit is June 13-14 and the theme is making the business case for efficiency.

6. Legislative Monitoring Subcommittees – Bill Status at Cross-Over

Representative Holden reported on multiple pending bills relating to the RPS, RGGI, PSNH divestiture, net metering, smart meters, and eminent domain.

7. Energy Study Recommendations Working Group Update and Discussion

George Gantz reported on the VEIC study of energy policy in NH, which was completed last fall. There are [links](#) to the report on the EESE Board website. The EESE Board has created a committee chaired by Deborah Schachter and Chris Skoglund to dive into the details of the study and highlight key recommendations for the legislature. There are hundreds of recommendations in the 14 chapters. The process has been more difficult than anticipated.

Deborah Schachter reported that the committee has made significant progress but that much work remains to be done. The committee has completed an analysis of the overarching recommendations found in [section 1.8](#) of the report. The Group agreed that NH needs a clear, consistent, and comprehensive statement of the State's energy policy enacted as legislation. Other issues have been more challenging in terms of reaching consensus. There may be certain recommendations in the study that result in a majority position and a minority position.

Chris Skoglund said that these are not stand alone principles in the report – many if not most of the recommendations are interrelated. We have some goals and deadlines, but overall, we are all working towards an energy vision for NH, and we see energy and the economy as intertwined.

The group will continue as a committee and come back to the Board. The Board may wish to submit recommendations regarding the VEIC report along with its annual report which is due to the Legislature by November 1st. We want to make sure we have time to do this. The EESE Board meetings will be restructured so as to allow for more time on the agenda for this important work.

8. Other Business

Next Meeting: TBS. Schedule for June, July, and August will be 2nd Friday of each month.

Meeting adjourned.