

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

## Summary Notes for November 21, 2014

### Attendees:

**Board members:** Mike Fitzgerald (NHDES, Acting Chair); Steve Eckberg (PUC); Theresa Swanick (NHMA); Karen Rantamaki (DAS); Tom Belair (PSNH); Carol Woods (NHEC); Brian Ramsey (BIA); Ben Frost (NHHFA); Karen Cramton (NHOEP); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Susan Chamberlin (NHOCA); Mike Behrmann (Revolution Energy); Carol Woods (NHEC); Matthew Labonte (NHFM); Rep. Chuck Townsend (NH House), Carmen Lorentz (DRED)

**Guests:** Mike McQueeney (TRC); Becky Ohler (NHDES); Felice Janelle (NHDES); Dick Henry (Hotzero, LLC); Chris Skoglund (NHDES); Liz Nixon (NHPUC); Melissa Irwin (Student-Hopkinton High School); Nate Miller (UVLSRPC);

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

### 2. Minutes of October EESE Board Meeting

Minutes adopted as submitted.

### 3. Presentation - Energy Savings in Mixed Use Villages - The Connection Between Land Use and Energy

*Nathan Miller, AICP, Executive Director*

*Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, Lebanon, NH.*

Provided PowerPoint presentation that included an overview of the role the regional planning commission plays in assisting communities with detailed description of a study that was conducted for Lebanon, New Hampshire to evaluate the relationship between local land-use planning, transportation planning and regional energy consumption. The presentation had been developed with Andrew Gast-Bray, the former planning director of the City of Lebanon. (Presentation available on EESE Board website - <http://www.puc.state.nh.us/EESE.htm>).

The presentation noted that the region expected a significant growth in non-residential space (e.g., medical office and R&D space) in the future and was expected to see a rise in demand for residential development as a result of associated growth in employment. The study compared the impact of an emphasis mixed-use development over “traditional” zoning in the region. Mixed use offers numerous advantages:

- i. Fewer miles of infrastructure to maintain;
- ii. Increased opportunities to park once for multiple purposes (e.g. working, shopping, recreating);
- iii. Easier to develop and maintain viable transit services;
- iv. Costs less to maintain; and
- v. Generates up to 10x the tax revenue.

Energy savings that result from mixed-use development enables greater mode shift by improving opportunities to move away from single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) travel.

- i. Mixed-use that increases density along existing transit routes will encourage higher ridership

- (already one of the best rural riderships in the nation);
- ii. More mixed-use facilitates carpooling by increasing chance of matching people with the same schedule and route; and
- iii. Bicycling and walking are increased by incorporating bike-pedestrian infrastructure into mixed used development and maintaining it.

The “in-town” impact of mode shift, in vehicles mile traveled (VMT), in the City of Lebanon is projected to be:

- i. 2,915 VMT avoided/day; and
- ii. 728,750 VMT avoided/year.

The regional impact of the mode shift, in vehicles mile traveled (VMT), is projected to result in 3,640,000 VMT avoided/year as a result of future employees living in the city rather than living further away in other parts of the region. This results in a total of 4.4 million VMT avoided/year which will have a significant impact on the region’s air quality and energy use.

Barriers to implementing mixed-use will need to be addressed by educating the public and educating the decision makers on the city’s Planning Board and City Council.

Incentivizing builders & developers to build mixed-use can occur through:

- i. The planning board working with developers during the conceptual review phase, by communicating their interest and support for mixed use; and
- ii. Adopting form-based code which is not concerned with use per se but instead with how development looks and functions. Can expressly require mixed-use if desired.

The effort in Lebanon also includes coordination and dialogue with the City of Claremont, which is embracing its role as economic hub of Sullivan County. Claremont is looking at the re-development of former mill buildings and looking for synergies with efforts in Lebanon (e.g., developing transit connections between the communities).

#### 4. Board and Program Updates

##### **i. Outreach & Education Committee**

Not discussed.

PSNH held a webinar on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to raise awareness on the factors behind high energy prices in New England - Preparing for Winter Energy Prices: How PSNH Can Help You Plan. Information regarding the webinar was shared with the Board.

##### **ii. Legislative**

There was a review of a set of LSRs that had been filed to date relative to energy issues. The list will be made available on the EESE Board website for this meeting.

One item discussed was a possible clarification regarding the role of the Building Code Review Board (BCRB). The NH Attorney General had been asked to interpret the language in HB 137 (2012) to clarify whether the BCRB retained the authority to adopt new building codes. The AG has provided a written opinion that HB 137 changes did not remove the Board’s authority to adopt new energy codes. Some Board members have expressed interest in getting that better clarified in statutory language.

The EESE Board Legislative Committee will also reconvene and begin meeting in January.

##### **iii. PUC**

The PUC Commissioners heard comments on proposed changes to rules regarding the commercial and industrial PV and thermal rebates on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.

JLCAR approved amendments to [Puc-2500](#), the RPS rules with changes relative to the thermal energy component that has been added to the NH RPS Class I.

The review of applications for the competitive renewable C&I grant program is ongoing.

#### **iv. OEP**

An interim report was submitted to the legislature per HB 1129 (2014). The bill directs OEP “The office of energy and planning, in consultation with the public utilities commission, the department of environmental services, and the department of administrative services, shall convene stakeholder meetings to identify means to maximize cost-effective energy efficiency across all energy use sectors, including electric consumption, heating homes and buildings, and powering our transportation modes.” A final report is due July 1, 2015.

The [Weatherization Assistance Program](#) and [Fuel Assistance Program](#) (FAP/LIHEAP) are open and active. It was noted that the Fred Fuller bankruptcy would not have an impact on OEP’s FAP program.

OEP and DES just signed an MOU to fund DES work on mobile sources issues using the State Energy Program funding. The funds will be used to establish electric charging stations along major transportation corridors with the primary goal being to connect the NH portion of the Boston to Montreal corridor in support of agreements made by the New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers. The funds may also be spent on anti-idling projects for municipalities. OEP is also working to develop an MOU with DAS. Details to be provided.

OEP is also administering a grant under the Solar Challenge II program. GDS Associates and Steve Whitman are working on wrapping up a study on reducing the soft costs associated with solar installations. The [Local Energy Working Group](#) will host a webinar on their findings in January 2015.

#### **v. Other**

DES is currently working on comments on the EPA’s “[Clean Power Plan](#),” proposed under the Clean Air Acts section 111(d), relative to carbon emissions from existing electricity generation facilities.

DES is also working to bring electric car chargers to the new rest areas on interstate 93. They are working on getting universal DC fast chargers installed at both new northbound and southbound rest areas – currently chargers specific to Tesla vehicles are scheduled to be installed and DES efforts are to get chargers that will support other vehicle types.

The BIA will hold an [Energy Seminar](#) on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Radisson Hotel, Manchester.

Next Meeting will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup> and will include a review of the EESE Board’s Annual Report and discussion of the PUC proposal of the EERS.