

# 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 15, 2017

### Attendees:

**Board members:** Ben Frost (NH Housing Finance Authority); Ryan Clouthier (SNHS); Joseph Doiron (OSI); D. Maurice Kreis (NH OCA); Karen Cramton (NH PUC); Becky Ohler (NH DES); Rep. Herbert Richardson (NH House); Rep. Robert Backus (NH House); Raymond Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Brianna Brand for Kate Epsen (NH SEA); Donald Perrin (DAS); Kate Peters (Eversource); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Michael Behrmann (Revolution Energy); Katherine Garfield (BIA)

**Guests:** Liz Nixon (NH PUC); Melissa Birchard (CLF); Bruce Clendenning (TNC); Roger Stephenson (EDF); Christine Donovan (VEIC); Joel Anderson (ST&E Staff)

### 1. Welcome and Introductions:

Meeting started at 9:05 am.

### 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Meeting minutes from November 17, 2017 were approved. Final minutes will be posted on the EESE Board's website.

### 3. EESE Board Committee Updates:

- EERS Committee Update (Don Kreis):
  - The EERS Committee did not meet since the last EESE Board meeting.
  - The enhanced stakeholder process initiated by the EERS Committee paid off and a settlement agreement (Settlement) with unanimous support from all parties was presented to the Commission on 12/13/17.
  - The Settlement proposed three working groups will be formed to continue to discuss issues related to Performance Incentives; Funding and Financing; and Benefit Cost Test.
  - The Settlement proposed a fourth work group is established to address issues related to Evaluation, Measurement and Verification (EM&V) and this group will include a designee from the EESE Board;
  - Utility representatives noted the NH process compares favorably to the process in other states, with more open and honest conversation, increased transparency, and a high level of trust among intervenors.
  - The hope is that the Commission will issue an order before the end of the month so the utility programs can begin on January 1.
- Per the EM&V working group referenced above, Don Kreis noted that the Board needs to name a member to that group. It may be either a member or a designee and the first call of the group is

Monday, 12/18/17. After inquiring if there was interest in serving in this role by a Board member, Don nominated NH OCA Staff Attorney Brian Buckley to be the EESE Board designee. Brian worked for the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships for three years and thus has policy expertise in this field. Following general discussion the following motion was made by Don Kreis, seconded by Becky Ohler, and approved unanimously:

That the EESE Board approve Brian D. Buckley to serve as the EESE Board designee to the Evaluation, Measurement and Verification working group established by the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard Settlement Agreement under Docket DE 17-137.

Mr. Buckley will serve at the pleasure of the Board.

#### **4. Election of Officers for 2018**

Ben Frost noted that he has served a 16 month one-year term and was ready to step aside, and requested nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Prior to nominations Ben was applauded for being a thoughtful and steady chair and his work in support of the Board and its work was noted with appreciation.

Bob Backus then nominated Don Kreis to serve as the Chair of the EESE Board for the coming year and Joe Dorion nominated Becky Ohler as Vice Chair.

The nomination slate was put forward for a vote and the candidates were unanimously approved by the Board.

Don Kreis noted that he did not think it would be appropriate for him to continue as chair of the EERS committee, but that the committee does not at this time have anything before it.

#### **5. Legislative Updates**

- Representative Richardson shared a draft legislative hearing schedule for January.
- Retained bills will be voted on the first week of January.

#### **6. Board and Program Updates:**

- Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Updates:
  - It is time for Board members to complete the annual Statement of Financial Interest. Karen passed out the forms and asked that they be returned to the PUC, not directly to the Secretary of State, so she may track them. Send to the attention of Margaret Raymond.
  - Renewable Energy Fund – residential and commercial & industrial solar rebate programs are still closed, but the residential program will open again on 1/2/18 with a maximum rebate of 20 cents per watt, up to \$1,000 maximum. People who have had solar installed in the interim can still apply (Step 2 only) from 1/2/18 to 2/1/18. A lottery will be held for applications received during that period to determine the order of review and funding allocation. PUC staff will look at the C&I rebate program in January/February and will hold a public input session on the path forward.
  - Net metering – the working groups continue to meet. The low/moderate income working group met and will meet again in January. Discussion followed about the availability of minutes for the working group sessions.  
The non-wires alternatives working group also met and discussed whether the scope should be expanded to include demand response, energy efficiency and other resources. Public comments

were requested and received, and are under review at the PUC.

- Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) Updates:
  - State Energy Strategy – In connection with its effort to produce a revised edition of the State Energy Strategy, OSI conducted a series of public comment sessions around the state and also solicited written comments. All comments that were received are available on the OSI website. They had a good consultation with the House ST&E and Senate ENR committees. The updated final Strategy is slated for release in the first quarter of 2018.
- Department of Environmental Services (DES) Updates:
  - VW Settlement – DES is working with OSI on development of a Beneficiary Mitigation Plan. The agencies intend to provide a public comment period of at least 2 weeks and will give advanced notice of the draft report release date.
  - RGGI Auction was held 12/6/17 and the clearing price was \$3.80. Virginia is likely joining RGGI and that will make the RGGI region the 4<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world.
- Other Business:
  - Kate Peters noted that during the EERS Settlement Hearing the Commissioners questioned whether four working groups were feasible. She noted that that this is a good reminder that the group meetings will need to be very productive. A further request was made that the meeting dates be made available on the EESE Board web page as well as on the EERS Docket page.
  - Don Kreis is working with the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) on comments relative to the Clean Energy Fund and the use of those assets. They are promoting effective use of those funds and comments will be sent the PUC and OSI.

**7. Next Meeting – Friday, January 19, 2018 – Location TBD**

**8. Adjourned at 10:22 am.**