

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 13, 2019

Attendees:

Board Members: Donald Perrin (DAS); Madeleine Mineau (Clean Energy NH); Becky Ohler (NH DES); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Tonia Chase (BIA); Karen Cramton (PUC); Kate Peters (Eversource); Ryan Clouthier (SNHS); Matt Mailloux (OSI); Representative Bob Backus (NH House of Representatives); Ray Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Michael Behrmann (Revolution Energy); Scott Maslansky (CDFA); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Ben Frost (NH Housing & Finance); Marc Prindiville (State Fire Marshal's Office).

Others: Azanna Wishart (PUC); Liz Nixon (PUC); Matt Siska (GDS Associates); Christa Shute (OCA); Chris Skoglund (NH DES); Mike Mooiman (Franklin Pierce University).

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Becky Ohler called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Becky Ohler announced that Joe Doiron is leaving the Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) to join New Hampshire's Department of Business and Economic Affairs. Matthew Mailloux was appointed to represent OSI on the EESE Board.

2. Approval of the November 8, 2019 EESE Board Meeting Minutes

- Representative Backus moved. Ryan Clouthier seconded.
- Representative Backus pointed out a grammatical error on page four, second bullet, comment by Tonia Chase. Insert the word "she" before "...brought up peak demand usage in doing business...."
- Approval of the November 8, 2019 minutes as amended. All in favor, with three abstentions.

3. Legislative Updates

- The House and Senate sessions will begin on Wednesday, January 8th.

- Hearings will begin on January 14th. This session, the House and Senate will be hearing several retained bills along with many new bills. The House will start the session with hearings on retained bills.
- Representative Backus is sponsoring HRC10 – A resolution urging congress to grant states broader authority to set higher environmental standards than those established under federal law.
- HB1365 - repealing the energy efficiency and sustainable energy board.
 - Becky asked if the Board should file a letter in support of the EESE Board.
- HB1445 - adding a building scientist to the Building Code Review Board
 - EESE Board members expressed strong support.
 - Chris Skoglund will draft a letter of support for the Board for discussion.
- HB1429 - relative to integrated distribution of energy utilities. This bill revises the requirements for, and the submission and evaluation of, least cost integrated resource plans prepared by energy utilities.
- SB72 (2019) - relative to issuance of renewable energy certificates was vetoed last session. Two new bills drafted to address the RPS Class II net metering credit; both are consistent with the 2018 RPS Review recommendation to change the capacity factor from 20% to 14%.
- HB1366 - relative to the computation of renewable energy credits. This bill revises the methodology for the public utilities commission to estimate renewable energy credits for certain sources and uses the ISO-NE determined factor for solar. It was reported that LSR2774 is similar but it specifies a capacity factor for solar.
- There are several net metering bills, four of which increase the capacity eligible to net meter for specific types of projects.

4. Matt Mailloux from OSI presented an overview of Executive Order 2019-06 an order preparing New Hampshire for future offshore wind development and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Offshore Renewable Energy Task Force.

- The federal led task force is the result of a seven-year effort of Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire State and local officials.
- The kick-off meeting was held on December 12th and was very well attended. The Governor spoke at the meeting.
- The Order establishes four advisory boards to the BOEM task force:
 - Fisheries, endangered species chaired by DES designee;
 - Workforce, economic development chaired by Business & Economic Affairs designee;
 - Existing off-shore advisory board chaired by Pease Development Authority designee;
 - Siting, transmission, and infrastructure advisory board chaired by OSI designee.
- The order requests that the following studies be conducted:

- Historical and forward looking greenhouse gas reduction potential during varying levels of system installations;
- New Hampshire’s existing port infrastructure and opportunities for NH to attract offshore wind supply.
- All meetings of the Advisory Boards will be open to the public.
- A live stream of the BOEM task force meeting is available through the OSI website.
- Mike Behrman suggested a presentation to the EESE Board. He will work with Matt on scheduling and topics.

5. EERS 2021-2023 Triennial Plan – Slide Presentation by Emily Levin of VEIC.

- The presentation summarizes the roles of the EESE Board and its EERS Committee, and other groups including the PUC Commissioners, Stakeholders, PUC Electric Division, and the EERS planning consultant (VEIC).
- The purpose of the EERS Committee is to have stakeholder involvement. Robust stakeholder input provides useful perspectives.
- Objectives for the EERS planning process and an overview of the meeting schedules of the EERS Committee and EESE Board were highlighted.
 - Key due dates for the first draft, verbal and written comments, and revised final plan and the processes leading up to the due dates.
- The EERS Committee’s current focus is to develop guiding principles for EERS planning and to provide guidance to the utilities in the near term on key topics that affect the overall direction of EERS planning and design of the energy efficiency portfolio.
- Some anticipated discussions include:
 - Determining the “right” level of ambition for energy saving goals.
 - Whether or not to include active demand, energy optimization, and geo-targeted energy efficiency in the EERS portfolio.
 - Potential updates to targets and the performance incentive (PI) framework.
- There was a discussion about New Hampshire’s ranking in energy efficiency compared with the other New England states as well as nationally. New Hampshire is currently ranked 20th nationally for energy efficiency.
- Don Kreis commented that the entire process is alternative dispute resolution and the best outcome would be for the utilities and interveners to come united to the PUC with a plan for the upcoming triennium.
- There was discussion about the people “on the ground” (i.e., contractors) that have insight and ideas about the marketplace for energy efficiency being included in EERS planning discussions.
- There was a discussion about whether, and how, the utilities should be compensated for lost revenues due to energy efficiency.

- There was a discussion about the types of technologies that are being incentivized and the true carbon footprint of those technologies.

6. Board & Program Updates:

PUC:

- A draft proposal was issued by PUC and OSI staff for the use of the Clean Energy Fund. The fund of \$5 million was established through a settlement in the Eversource divestiture docket. The fund is to be used for Eversource customers only. There will be a stakeholder session on Thursday, December 19th to discuss staff's proposal. The proposal includes recommendations for a loan loss reserve and interest rate buy downs.
- An order was issued for the new Eversource default service rate.
- Relative to the net metering docket, the contract for a consultant (Navigant) to complete the Locational Value of Distributed Generation study was approved by Governor and Council. The consultant is currently working with the distribution utilities on the data collection.
- On December 12th, a stakeholder session was held with solar installers and stakeholders to discuss the Commercial & Industrial (C&I) solar rebate program. In the Renewable Energy Fund budget secretarial letter, the Commission directed staff to allocate \$500,000 to the program and consider program modifications. The stakeholder session was held to discuss program changes and how to make the most effective use of the funds. Staff will issue a formal recommendation to the Commission. Written comments will be accepted.
- A technical session was held to discuss the 900 rules that require updates due to SB165 (Low/Moderate Income Community Solar 3 cent adder) and how best to implement as well as siting concerns on adjacent lots. Final rules should be filed with JLCAR by the end of February.
- Staff is currently working on RFPs for the Non-residential Competitive Grant Program and the Low-Moderate Income Community Solar Grant Program. Azanna Wishart will send notifications to the EESE Board once they are issued and posted to the website.

DES:

- An RFP was issued for Electric Vehicle direct current charging stations. DES is seeking bids for a single vendor to provide a number of charging sites along corridors in New Hampshire. Based upon the experience of other states this process seems to be the most productive and efficient. Applications are due in January. There is a webinar available on DES website.

OTHER:

- Kate Peters reported that Eversource recently announced its goal to be carbon neutral by the year 2030.

- Bruce Clendenning invited the Board to The Nature Conservancy's holiday party, which will be held on Thursday, December 19th.

6. Nominations for Chair & Vice Chair of the EESE Board:

- Representative Backus nominated Madeleine Mineau for the position of Chair. Madeleine accepted.
- Don Kreis nominated Matthew Mailloux for the position of Vice Chair. Matthew accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

**Thank you to Unifil for providing the refreshments.