

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Minutes for May 15, 2020

Attendees:

Board Members: Donald Perrin (DAS); Madeleine Mineau (Clean Energy NH); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Becky Ohler (DES); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Karen Cramton (PUC); Kate Peters (Eversource); Matthew Mailloux (OSI); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Tonia Chase (Business Industry Association); Representative Bob Backus (NH House); Ryan Clouthier (SNHS); Jack Ruderman for Ben Frost (NH Housing Authority); Michael Behrmann (Revolution Energy); Scott Maslansky (CDFA); Ray Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Matthew Siska (GDS Associates).

Others: Christa Shute (OCA); Chris Skoglund (DES); Brianna Brand (Clean Energy NH); Melissa Elander (Clean Energy NH); Dan Clapp (ReVision Energy); Dana Nute (Resilient Buildings Group); Megan Ulin (ReVision Energy); Eric Wind (PUC); Steve Eckberg (PUC); Gary Cronin (PUC); Azanna Wishart (PUC); Dick Henry (Hot Zero); Mark Lemenager (Eversource), Emily Roscoe, Samantha Caputo (NEEP), Tom Rooney (TRC), John Branagan, Patricia Martin; Kathy Fox; Kelly Buchanan..

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Madeleine Mineau called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
- Welcome to Matt Siska of GDS Associates, recently appointed as a non-voting member of the EESE Board representing energy service providers. Matt has been an active member of the EERS committee.

2. Approval of the April 17, 2020 EESE Board Meeting Minutes.

- Matt Mailloux moved. Becky Ohler seconded.
- Bruce Clendenning requested an edit to the Nature Conservancy update from “utilize” to “could utilize”.
- Approval of the April 17, 2020 minutes as amended. All in favor.

3. Discuss changing date of August 21st meeting to August 14th, and canceling the June or July meeting.

- The EERS draft plan was scheduled to be submitted by June 1st. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic state of emergency, the utilities requested an extension. The new target date for submission is September 1st. VEIC suggested that the August EESE Board meeting be rescheduled to August 14th in order to give the Board ample time for a full review and feedback on the draft plan.
- It was suggested that the June meeting be canceled because there will be more to discuss on the EERS draft plan in July.
- The EESE Board plans to meet on July 17th as normally scheduled.
- Karen Cramton moved. Matt Mailloux seconded. All in favor of changing the August meeting to the 14th and canceling the June meeting.

4. Presentation and discussion of COVID-19 pandemic effects on energy efficiency and sustainable energy industries and programs in New Hampshire.

Madeleine introduced the topic by informing the Board that BW Research was looking at the nationwide impact of the pandemic on clean energy jobs. They found that in March/April 600,000 jobs were lost in the clean energy sector. That represent double the job growth over the past three years. Today, let's learn about the current situation in New Hampshire and consider what lies ahead with recovery. Are there considerations or recommendations for policies and programs?

- Kate Peters of Eversource:
 - Residential customers surveyed on the current situation responded that they were concerned, distracted, bored, and anxious. In March, a pause was placed on all in-home and on premise work. The majority of contractors have been laid-off or furloughed staff.
 - In the commercial sector, businesses are struggling. Small C&I customers are concerned about the economy and believe some businesses may close. Large commercial business are still operating and some continue to move forward with energy efficiency projects. Large C&I projects account for the majority of energy savings.
 - Safety first – protect workforce and customers. Coordinating program opening with MA, CT, RI and NH.
 - Solutions from an energy efficiency program perspective:
 - Training –virtual training for contractors during downtime offered at no cost.
 - Moving measures, product and service offerings to virtual services if
 - Product related programs such as move product offerings to online and processing rebates online.

- Virtual audits between contractor and customer via video and photographs.
 - Work Protocols – In looking toward moving back into the marketplace, the utilities have funded the development of workplace guidelines that contractors can use, starting with installing energy efficiency measures in unoccupied spaces, followed by measures that require more customer contact.
 - Incentive programs to overcome new market barriers. Increased incentives for small businesses first, then residential home performance jobs, followed by large businesses. The programs have not been rolled out yet but work is being done to finalize a plan.

- Dana Nute of Resilient Buildings Group:
 - Residential contractors are losing employees with specialized training. Most of the work they were doing was through the utility efficiency programs.
 - There is concern that the workforce will not be available when work resumes.
 - There are concerns with performing virtual audits in homes.
 - Resilient Building Group has been working with Community Action Programs.
 - Targeting work on empty building? School and municipal buildings energy efficiency work is challenging due to revenue uncertainty and prior cleaning/disinfecting with electrostatic cleaners.
 - Smart Start program has a waiting. Utilities are considering transferring funds to this program. (Kate Peters)

- Dan Clapp – ReVision Energy
 - On a national level, an increase of 300,000 solar energy jobs was forecasted for this year. The new forecast is 180,000 jobs; a 40% reduction. In 2018, New Hampshire’ solar industry lost 15% of jobs. The industry may see double the loss of jobs by the end of the pandemic.
 - ReVision furloughed employees in March but has begun to call back staff. The company has implemented strict health and safety protocols. Residential sales and installations are on hold. Projects and marketing continues in the commercial and industrial sector, but has slowed. Municipal permits have been going forward. All heat-pump installations have stopped.
 - Adopted safety first protocols.
 - All indicators point to a long economic slump. To help the renewable energy industry. Legislative policies such as increase “small” capacity limit for solar, pass the net metering bill. Allocate federal stimulus funds to clean energy initiatives. The Clean Energy Fund could be directed to small businesses and shovel ready projects. The Renewable Energy Fund C&I and Residential rebate programs could

temporarily increase incentive levels. Maine solar markets is growing, NH could consider a feed in tariff.

5. Legislative Updates – Representative Robert Backus

- The NH House has been attempting to seek opinion for the justices as to how we can meet remotely.
- The Speaker will schedule a session in early June at the Whittemore Center.
- Priorities remain the Net Metering bill, energy efficiency, and on the Senate side, the Broadband bill.
- Only 85 bills have been designated as priorities. Other bills can be refiled in four months.

6. Board and Program Updates.

- EERS Committee Update – Don Kreis
 - The next EERS Committee meeting will be held on Monday, May 18th at 1:00 p.m. via WebEx. The topic will be:
 - What savings target to adopt and what effect COVID-19 has on the target.
 - Whether to amortize the cost to the utilities and how to put an active demand program in place
 - What to do about workforce development and should basic changes be made to the way the committee plans; perhaps a three-year plan followed by a one-year plan followed by a two-year plan.
 - What inhibits flexibility in the strictures that the legislature has placed on the process?
- PUC – Karen Cramton
 - The Locational Value of Distributed Energy Resources Study is wrapping up with the consultant, Navigant. There will be a final WebEx meeting on Thursday, June 4th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. There will be a brief overview of study Steps 1 and 2. The main focus will be on Step 3 of the study. The report should be complete by the end of June.
 - The PUC issued an RFP looking for consultants to complete the Value of Distributed Energy Resources Study. Proposals are due today by 4:30 p.m. The Commission is accepting electronic proposals with paper copies to follow.
 - Agenda for the May 29th of the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules includes Puc 900 Net Energy Metering Rules.
 - The statewide multi-use energy data platform working group has a technical session coming up next week.

- The Renewable Energy Fund programs still have funding available. The Commercial & Industrial program is open. Approximately 50 applications were received when the program reopened, which reserved approximately 50% of the available funding. Staff is focused on getting the applications reviewed and turned around quickly.
- There is no update regarding the Clean Energy Fund.

There was a brief discussion about [HELIX](#) (Home Energy Labeling Information eXchange). HELIX provides home energy certification and rating investments and solar PV data and makes it available to the real estate market. The Sustainable Energy Division works with NEEP (Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships) from the perspective of the MLS system. On a quarterly basis, staff provides residential solar rebate data to NEEP to update the MLS. NEEP has partnered with ClearlyEnergy to build off HELIX to provide resources and tools for remote energy efficiency assessments, known as [Energy Estimator- Powered by HELIX and ClearlyEnergy](#). Homeowners have the opportunity to work with energy professionals to add extra information such as utility bill data, insulation, back-up heating systems, and more. Homeowners are then provided with a report that can include tailored energy efficiency recommendations and information about the NHSaves program.

- DES – Becky Ohler
 - The RFP for Installation and Operation of Level 2 EV Chargers at the Green Street state-owned parking lot in Concord has been released and the deadline for proposals is due June 8th. Questions and Answers are posted on OSI website. <https://www.nh.gov/osi/energy/programs/vw-trust-funding.htm>
Applicants may propose that either the state or the installer will own the system.
 - NHDES has been awarded Congestion Mitigation Funds by NHDOT which will be used to install public EV charging stations at three state-owned locations, NHDES on Hazen Drive, the PUC on S. Fruit Street and a northern location, either the Flume Gorge or Canon Mountain. VW Settlement funds will provide the required non-federal match.
- Chris Skoglund (DES)
 - The New Hampshire Code Collaborative (NHCC) is a volunteer group formed to support code adoption in New Hampshire. The group recently re-formed in 2019 after the original code collaborative stopped meeting in 2016. The group has developed a draft outline to establish participant’s common interests. Once the action list is finished and key priorities are established, the group would like to present to the EESE Board for feedback. NEEP has provided administrative support. If there is any interest, please reach out.
- EM&V Working Group Update – Christa Shute

- The contractor development of the Technical Resource Manual has kicked off. The goal is for a rough draft completion for July 1st and final draft completion for September 1st.
- The Home Energy Assistance Report and Home Performance with Energy Star report is almost ready for distribution.
- The Comprehensive Rate and Bill Impact analysis participant workbook is complete. The goal is for the utilities to include the workbook in the September version of the triennial plan.
- The 2020 Strategic Evaluation Plan is near completion with an RFP to be issued to contractors as well as participation in a Massachusetts lighting sales data analysis, which collected data on sales from surrounding states.
- The group has draft results on the residential baseline and continuing with the commercial baseline research.

6. The next EESE Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 17th.

7. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.