

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Draft Minutes for July 17, 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); 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); Tonia Chase (BIA); Marc Prindiville (State Fire Marshal).

Others: Christa Shute (OCA); Chris Skoglund (DES); Megan Ulin (ReVision Energy); Eric Wind (PUC); Steve Eckberg (PUC); Azanna Wishart (PUC); Mark Lemenager (Eversource); Henry Herndon (Clean Energy NH); Jessica Chiavara (Eversource); Kelly Buchanan (Clean Energy NH); Samantha Laprinzo.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Madeleine Mineau called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Approval of the May 15, 2020 EESE Board Meeting Minutes.

- Matt Mailloux moved. Becky Ohler seconded.
- Approval of the May 15, 2020 minutes. All in favor.

3. Presentation and discussion on Community Power Aggregation – Guest presenter Henry Herndon, Clean Energy NH

- Community Power Aggregation (CPA) is a program in which towns, cities, and counties procure their own wholesale power and manage their own electricity portfolio. CPA may collaborate with utilities to build infrastructure and engage the retail customers in

their community (i.e., town, city and/or county), enabling innovation in technology and services.

- A summary of the presentation is below:
 - The benefits of a CPA is local control, lower costs, the ability to build and buy clean energy, and market innovation.
 - Community Power New Hampshire (CPNH) currently comprises three towns and one county in New Hampshire. CPNH is a public power joint action agency that provides service to CPAs. It is still in the design phase and has not yet established as a legal entity. The estimated launch date is early 2021.
 - CPAs are designed to work with NHSaves energy efficiency programs.
- Questions and Answers:
 - Is there a timeframe requiring utility data be received by following a formal request or is that a part of rulemaking? It is not a formal process. It will be part of rulemaking.
 - How many municipalities are seriously interested in launching a CPA? Approximately 12 are interested. There are more than six local aggregation committees in the state.
 - Is there an estimate of potential savings to the average residential consumer that is buying power from a CPA? A study done by Applied Economics Institute in Massachusetts noted a five to ten percent savings relative to the standard Eversource (MA) offer.
 - Since New Hampshire's default service is less than Massachusetts, would that mean less savings for New Hampshire residents? Not necessarily. The CPA can buy when market prices are low and CPAs are less encumbered by regulation giving them more flexibility to take advantage of market changes.
 - What risks are there and how do communities protect themselves and their ratepayers? By risk management. CPA's should ensure that they bring on staff that understand market risks.
 - If a CPA signs on for a longer contract and then the utility default service prices drop, then the CPA could lose its customer base (i.e., customers return to default service). If that were to happen and residents leave the CPA, is the municipality stuck with the cost of the remaining contract? Yes. The CPA would remain obligated to the PPA and if there were fewer customers buying the power as originally forecasted, the CPA would have to sell the extra power in the wholesale market, maybe at a loss. In order for a seller to sign a contract to sell to the CPA, they would need certainty that the buyer (CPA) is good for it. Moreover, as long as the CPA prices are not wildly high, a very small percentage of customers are likely to opt out.
 - If Eversource has 450,000 residential customers they provide competitively procured energy for, is the likely that pricing for a smaller CPA group will result

in lower prices? Aren't prices likely to be better for larger groups? There is economy of scale but that is not the only factor the impact the price.

- If communities decide to create a CPA, can they offer different rates based on load shape (i.e., when the customer's load peaks, time of customer's use, etc.)? Yes.
- If there were one large industrial customer that alters the overall community's load shape thereby impacting the rate for energy, what opportunities would a town have to exclude or recommend that the customer choose another supplier? The law establishes the CPA as an opt-out program; the CPA cannot exclude specific customer(s).
- There was a comment that residents have paid for stranded costs for years while lacking buying power. CPA's could make a difference. If they are properly designed it could be the success that restructuring needs.
- Are CPA's on the utilities radar? Yes, on the efficiency side, the utilities are collaborating more with community groups. There is interest in having conversations with CPA's.

4. Legislative Updates

- The legislative session wrapped up in June and there are several energy bills on their way to the Governor.
- Most energy bills were tabled due to the pandemic. Most bills voted on by the House and Senate were retained from last session. This session's bills were in some cases packaged into omnibus bills.
- The Governor signed HB715 into law. This bill requires the public utilities commission to investigate ways to enable energy storage projects to receive compensation for avoided transmission and distribution costs.

5. Board and Program Updates.

- EERS Committee Update – Don Kreis
 - Public comments are coming in on the draft EERS triennial plan. The EERS Committee will meet next Monday, July 20th. Written comments are due next Friday, July 24th. Don will circulate public comments to the EERE Board that have come thus far.
 - The final plan is to be filed with the Commission by September 1st. Approval is expected by December 31st.
- PUC – Karen Cramton
 - In June, Governor and Executive Council approved five non-residential renewable energy generation project grants. Two biomass (chip) thermal projects were awarded

grants: one awarded to Campton Elementary School; the other to Durgin and Crowell Lumber Company. Three hydroelectric plants were awarded grants to renovate/repair their facilities. Those facilities include: Sweetwater Hydroelectric, Woodsville/Rochester Hydro Associates, and Noone Falls Energy.

- RFP 2020-002 (<https://www.puc.nh.gov/Home/RFPs/2020-002/20200708-RFP-2020-002-LMI-Community-Solar-And-Grant-Agreement.pdf>) was issued last week for the Low Moderate Income Community Solar grant program. The due date for proposals is September 14th. The grant is funded by unencumbered funds remaining from last year's RFP solicitation.
 - The Puc administrative 900 rules (net metering rules) have completed the JLCAR process and have been approved by the Commission. The final step is for the Commission to establish an effective date. The amended rule include on-bill credits for group net metering, Low-Moderate Income adder, siting changes, and the alternative net metering tariff.
 - The Locational Value of Distributed Generation (LVDG) consultant presented the study's methodology and preliminary findings during a stakeholder session in June. Specifically, Navigant presented Study Step 3, determining the locations of the value of distributed generation resources. The final report is near completion.
 - Value of Distributed Energy Resources Study update: An RFP for a consultant to perform the study was issued and proposals have been received.
- OSI – Matthew Mailloux
 - The goal is to begin the state level offshore wind stakeholder process this summer.
 - DES – Becky Ohler
 - Electrify America (VW settlement) is investing \$2 billion in ZEV infrastructure, access, and education programs. They are planning four cycles of investment and are currently taking input for Cycle 3 which is to begin in 2022. DES is putting together recommendations for investment in New Hampshire.
 - The towns of Seabrook and Lebanon have each installed an EV fast charging station.
 - Five proposals were received for the RFP for Installation and Operation of Level 2 EV Chargers at the Green Street state-owned parking lot in Concord. Proposals have not been reviewed yet.
 - EM&V Working Group Update – Christa Shute
 - Most EM&V studies have finalized and the PDFs will be posted and distributed soon.
 - A draft of the Technical Resource Manual (TRM) will be submitted in September with the September 1st EERS triennial plan. The final TRM will be delivered at the end of the year.

- The group is issuing an RFP for large Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Impact and Baseline Studies. The RFP seeks proposals to undertake a study to improve the accuracy and reliability of the energy savings assumptions for large C&I programs. The Baseline Studies RFP seeks proposals to address the issue of defining appropriate baselines. The question focuses around whether minimum building energy codes should be the basis for baseline assumptions, or whether industry standard practice, or other baseline options are more applicable. The study will also look at the implications to the NHSaves program and whether additional ISP/baseline research is needed.
 - Kate Peters
 - In June the utilities sent notification to the PUC that they partnered with a firm to develop safety standards for in home contracted vendors. Vendor training has been held. Temporary suspensions have been lifted and contractors are now working under new safety guidelines.
 - Enhanced incentives will be in place for the remainder of the year.
 - The goal is to re-stimulate customers and to preserve the workforce. The enhanced incentives are working and there is a lot of interest in energy efficiency projects.
 - Eric Stanley
 - Customer feedback to the enhanced incentive showed a strong reaction so much so that they will not be extended that much farther into the year. Overall portfolio trend projecting to finish 30% below last year, mostly in the commercial sector. Residential and new construction is going well.
 - Cindy Carol
 - Unitil is seeing the same trends as Eric reported. The business sector has taken a big hit.
 - There was a ruling from FERC on the New England Rate Payers Association petition. It was dismissed.
 - Madeleine Mineau
 - The Local Energy Solutions Conference will be held virtually on October 29th and 30th.
6. The next EESE Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 14th. The focus will be on reviewing the EERS draft plan.
7. Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.