

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Minutes for January 15, 2021

Attendees:

Board Members: Donald Perrin (DAS); Madeleine Mineau (Clean Energy NH); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Becky Ohler (DES); Kate Peters (Eversource); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Jack Ruderman (NH Housing Authority); Scott Maslansky (CDFA); Stephen Tower for Ray Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Tonia Chase (BIA); Karen Cramton (PUC); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Matt Siska (GDS Associates); Marc Prindiville (NH State Fire Marshal's Office); Theresa Swanick (NH Municipal Association).

Others: Azanna Wishart (PUC); Brian Buckley (PUC); Brianna Fiorillo (Clean Energy NH); Kelly Buchanan (Clean Energy NH); Megan Ulin (Revision Energy); Chris Skoglund (DES); Christa Shute (OCA); Gary Cronin (PUC); Mark Lemanger (Eversource); Sarah Brock (Vital Communities); Liz Nixon (PUC); Emily Roscoe (Clean Energy NH); Melissa Elander (Clean Energy NH); Tom Palma (Unitil); Missy Samenfeld (Liberty); Dorothy Currier.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Madeleine Mineau called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Approval of the December 18, 2020 EESE Board Meeting Minutes.

- Bruce Clendenning moved. Karen Cramton seconded.
- Approval of the December 18, 2020 minutes. All in favor.

3. Vote – 2021 EESE Board leadership positions

- Becky Ohler nominated Bruce Clendenning as Vice Chair. Theresa Swanick seconded.
- Bruce Clendenning nominated Madeleine Mineau as Chair. Don Kreis seconded.
- A roll call vote was held. All in favor of both nominations.
- Congratulations to the 2020 Chair and Vice Chair!

4. EERS NH Saves Program Update – Kate Peters

- The Commission issued an order approving a short-term extension of 2020 Energy Efficiency Programs and System Benefits Charge Rate in the EERS docket until a final order regarding the proposed 2021-2023 Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan is issued. They expect to issue a final order within eight weeks.
- The System Benefits Charge (SBC) rate from 2020 remains into 2021 until the Commission issued its final 2021-2023 EERS order.
- The utilities met with the implementation contractors and teams, and decided to move ahead on all existing programs.
- Both Util and Eversource had Demand Response pilots in 2020. They are working on signing up customers within the parameters of the prior year's budget. Liberty is doing the initial groundwork but not signing up customers.
- The Energy Optimization pilot is temporarily paused.
- Workforce development - an RFP was issued in the fall. Responses were received and the review process is underway.
- Liberty gas business issued a proposed aerial mapping program. The program cannot proceed at this time. The intent was to have the customer rollout of services happen in the fall of this year. A data collection process needs to be completed. The opportune time to do that would be in March. The delay in the Commission's decision will affect the ability to complete the data collection.
- Util is not pausing any of their programs.
- A rollout meeting is scheduled with C&I vendors in February.
- The postponed 3rd-quarter EERS status meeting that was originally scheduled for December will be held on February 1st.
- A Board member asked if the utilities will stop running their programs if the Commission does not issue an Order on or before the eight-week extension deadline. They will not stop running their programs.
- Are the income eligible programs proceeding? Yes.

5. Discussion of Potential 2021 Presentation Topics

- Panel presentation for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in New Hampshire.
- Workforce development – developing a statewide strategy.
- The emerging technology of indoor agriculture and how it relates to load growth, battery integration and time-of-use rates.
- Retro-commissioning.
- The CARES Act had a variety of energy related components – overview of act
 - .Madeleine shared a link: <http://www.icontact-archive.com/archive?c=158093&f=3435&s=307785&m=1039920&t=a437be91702cf541c0cf117f5582505a4a2d2b64c2f993860a6e715f437c9ede>
- Panel discussion on offshore wind.

- Housing issues in the state of New Hampshire
- Clean Energy Fund
- Clean transportation for rural areas
- Exploration of successful incentive programs and structures in solar friendly states
- Low interest financing for residential clean energy projects
- Demand response battery programs and integration
- EV battery/charging/grid interaction – value and versatility of tapping EV battery to assist load management at the building and grid levels.
- Changes happening at FERC and how those discussions are progressing
- The Department of Administrative Services annual energy report and vehicle purchasing guide.
- Energy efficiency and clean/renewable enable programs that the utilities are working on in other states

6. Legislative Updates

- Bills of interest
 - HB315 – relative to the aggregation of electric customers
 - HB549 – relative to the energy efficiency resource standard and the systems benefit charge
 - HB371- relative to the proceedings of the public utilities commission on rates and charges – (the proceedings shall be subject to the rules for contested cases under the administrative procedures act).
 - HB213 – relative to the elimination of useful thermal energy from the renewable energy classes.
 - HB309 - relative to computation of renewable energy credits (revises the methodology for sources that are net metered).
 - HB351- relative to the systems benefit charge
 - HB119 – relative to legislative approval of the New Hampshire general court for increases in the systems benefit charge.
 - HB80 – relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund

8. Board and Program Updates

- PUC – Karen Cramton
 - On January 8, 2021, the annual RFP for the Non-residential (C&I) Competitive Grant program was released. Proposals are due February 12, 2021. RFP is seeking proposals for Class I, Class I Thermal, and Class IV projects. The minimum grant request amount is \$150,000. The maximum grant request amount is \$500,000. The total funding available is \$1.1 million.

- The Clean Energy Fund working group is close to finalizing a consensus proposal on the use of the funds and allocations to the proposed programs to be supported by the fund. The working group is meeting on January 20, 2021.
 - Last Friday in Docket IR 20-192 a hearing was held on the impact of Covid on the renewable energy industry. The docket will remain open until next Friday for written comments.
 - Renewable Energy Fund programs are open and accepting applications.
 - On January 25th, from 10 to 4:30 the Commission will have its first technical session on the investigation into the compensation energy storage projects for avoided transmission and distribution costs. This is a legislatively mandated investigation.
 - For EESE Board voting members the financial disclosure form RSA 15-A is due today by 4:30 p.m. Please email forms to the Secretary of State and copy to Lori Davis.
 - There is a required training that all EESE Board members must complete. Once the Commission has the link, it will be emailed to the Board with instructions.
- DES – Becky Ohler
 - DES has been working with Administrative Services to update the vehicle bids for the state. In the past years, we have tried to include more fuel-efficient vehicles and electric vehicles on the state bid but the timing was off. The conventional vehicle bid would go out before the electric vehicle bid and vehicles would have already been purchased. This year all vehicles went out to bid at the same time and so conventional and electric vehicle contracts were all released at the same time. This year's vehicle list also includes total cost of ownership calculations and the Chevy Bolt comes in as the least expensive vehicle based on total cost of ownership. Municipalities and certain non-profits can purchase from the state bid. Chris Skoglund shared a link for the vehicle contract <https://apps.das.nh.gov/bidscontracts/contracts.aspx>.
 - Bruce Clendenning – The Nature Conservancy
 - TNC started to speak to sponsors and there will be some variant of virtual energy week later this year.

8. Meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.