

# 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 19, 2018

### Attendees:

**Board Members:** Ryan Clouthier (SNHS); Joseph Doiron (OSI); D. Maurice Kreis (NH OCA); Stephen Eckberg for Karen Cramton (NH PUC); Chris Skoglund for Becky Ohler (DES); Katherine Garfield (BIA); Theresa Swanick (NH Municipal Assoc.); Rep. Herbert Richardson (NH House); Raymond Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Jeffrey Cyr (State Fire Marshall); Rep. Robert Backus (NH House); Michael Mooiman (Jordan Institute); Brianna Brand for Kate Epsen (NH SEA); Donald Perrin (DAS); Kate Peters (Eversource); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Wood (NHEC); Scott Maslansky (CDFA)

**Others:** Liz Nixon (NH PUC); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Brian Buckley (NH OCA); Sam Nutter (Clearesult); Michael Hagan (City of Keene); Gregory Wade (ISO New England); Stephen Tower (NH Legal Assistance); Azanna Wishart (NH PUC)

### 1. Welcome and Introductions:

- Don Kreis called the meeting to order at 9:03.
- Jordan Institute is closing – Michael Mooiman said he would be resigning after today

### 2. Approval of December EESE Board Meeting Minutes:

- Changes in minutes (4 work groups, fifth working group) – Don Perrin moved, Katherine Garfield seconded. Unanimously approved.

### 3. EERS Board Committee Updates:

- Need a new Chairperson

### 4. Building Codes in NH:

Presentation by Stephen Eckberg (NH PUC) and Michael Hagan (Code Enforcement Officer, City of Keene):

- Steve introduced Azanna Wishart as Jon Osgood's replacement tasked with approving energy code applications submitted to the PUC.
- International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) covers several codes (plumbing, heating, pool & spa, electric, energy). The codes are updated every three years (2009, 2012, 2015, 2018). Meetings are held (to adopt new sets of codes), are followed by public hearing, then get voted on.
- In New Hampshire, the Building Code Review Board (BCRB) is made up of representatives from several trades and associations.

- Most of New Hampshire uses the 2009 IECC code standard. BCRB skipped 2012 codes and is reviewing 2015 codes. Legislature has passed on ratifying the 2015 code standards. BCRB in discussion of whether to move on from 2015 codes and focus on 2018 codes.
- PUC's role in Energy Code is administrative and educational. Applicants submit EC-1 form to PUC (usually in digital format); they are reviewed and approved. Some towns do not go through PUC and administer code approvals directly through town office (e.g., Keene and Durham).
- PUC approved 1,752 Energy Code approval requests in 2017 (8 percent higher than the next highest year).
- There was general discussion on building houses based upon the different code standards and changes, financial impacts to contractors, homeowners. Financial impact summaries for 2012 & 2015 were handed out. Looked at home building costs/savings in regard to fuels, electricity, and ventilation systems.
- Any town has the ability to adopt codes that are more stringent than those approved at the state level. Example: City of Keene participates in FEMA program where properties become eligible for reduction in insurance rates (15 percent). FEMA requires that houses be built to the most current code requirements. Town of Durham has adopted 2018 code.
- General discussion about providing more education, training programs, and information to Legislature.
- General discussion about what neighboring states are doing in regard to codes.
- BCRB may benefit hearing from EESE Board to determine whether to review 2018 codes. Working group established to develop policy recommendations: Jeff Cyr (DES) Chris or other designee (DES), Brian (OCA), Don Perrin (DAS).

#### 5. Legislative Updates:

- HB317 (requiring Legislative approval of future increases to System Benefits Charge for electric customers) passed 173-171; now pending in Senate.
- HB592 (requiring all RGGI proceeds to be rebated to ratepayers) defeated 187-158.
- HB114 – (floor vote expected February 7<sup>th</sup>) – would cut Class I Renewable Energy Credits from 15 percent to 6 percent.
- Other pending bills:
  - HB 1230 == Establishing a legislative commission to study the effect of carbon pricing – January 31<sup>st</sup> press conference with other states and 11:00 a.m., gathering at Walker House.
  - HB559 – reallocates RGGI proceeds so that commercial and industrial customers get direct rebates and the majority of residential rebates are allocated to low-income energy efficiency programs. After favorable (197-147) floor vote, referred to House Finance – House to vote again thereafter.
  - SB321 – eliminates requirement that group net metering customers take default service from local utility. Passed by voice vote in Senate; now pending in House.
  - SB367 – streamlines PUC review of group host net metering agreements. Passed in Senate by voice vote; now pending in House.
  - SB446 – expands Net Energy Metering eligibility limit from 1 MW to 5 MW and allows projects of up to 20MW to net meter 5 MW.

- HB1202 – Authorizes towns to establish revolving loan funds for group net metering. Pending at House Science, Technology and Energy Committee.
- HB1338 – Would establish a legislative study committee to consider changes in law to promote microgrids. Pending at House Science, Technology and Energy Committee..

## 6. Board & Program Updates:

### A. PUC

- Karen Cramton had just returned from a meeting of the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, which approved the PUC's proposed changes to the – Puc 2500 (Renewable Portfolio Standard) rules . Changes incorporate SB129 adopted in 2017 – with a hoped-for effective date in February.
- Residential solar program open with a maximum \$1,000 rebate. Applications being accepted through February 1<sup>st</sup>. If applications exceed funding, a public lottery will be held to determine queue for rebate processing. Applications received after February 1<sup>st</sup> will be logged and processed on a first come, first served basis.
- Commercial and Industrial program is closed but looking to see if any projects have been cancelled or expired.
- Grant programs were moving forward – working with Office of Strategic Initiatives & DES - now interviewing, scoring RFP's.
- Net metering docket – four working groups:
  - Low and Moderate Income – proposals single family homes to multi-family housing – meeting at end of January.
  - Value of Distributed Energy Resources – scope and timeline by February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Non-Wires Alternatives – working on – no updates.
  - Time of Use rate pilots – working on- no updates.
- Karen reminded voting members to submit their financial disclosure forms to the Secretary of State, with copy to her – they were due on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

B. Office of Strategic Initiatives: Expects to issue revisions to State Energy Strategy in the first quarter of 2018.

### D. Other:

- OCA Staff Attorney Brian Buckley was introduced as the EESE Board's representative to the EM&V (Evaluation, Monitoring and Verification) working group. The working group will be meeting more often now that the Energy Efficiency Resource Standard has officially been launched.. Still developing RFP contracts for EM&V studies and one for EM&V consultant. Comments on EM&V documents, things identified in resolution in EERS Committee related to demand reduction opportunities in process evaluations. Noted that email meetings are not allowed.
- New Hampshire Electric Cooperative -- Carol Wood described the Co-op's electric vehicle program – providing incentives \$600 for plug-in; \$1,000 for battery; and for level 2 charging stations at commercial locations. Last year 40 vehicles, 20 batteries, 1 motorcycle were incentivized. Goal for 2018 is 100 vehicles.

- The Co-op has installed two PV arrays: in Raymond 18 kW and 37 kW; the Co-op's 2 MW solar project in Moultonborough project has been commissioned and will generate REC's. It is located behind a Co-op substation in the woods on a 12 acre lot.

7. Annual Report:

- Karen & Don were working on it and plan to present it for approval at the February meeting.

8. Next Meeting:

- Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m., Public Utilities Commission, Hearing Room A

9. Meeting Adjourned at 11:10 a.m.