

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 April 20, 2018

Attendees:

Board Members: Ryan Clouthier (SNHS); Brian Buckley for D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Becky Ohler (DES); Katherine Garfield (BIA); Rep. Herbert Richardson (House of Representatives); Raymond Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Rep. Robert Backus (House of Representatives); Donald Perrin (DAS); Kate Peters (Eversource); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Joseph Doiron (OSI); Karen Cramton (PUC); Scott Maslansky (CDEFA); Ben Frost (NH Housing); Kate Epsen (NHSEA); Michael Behrmann (Revolution Energy)

Others: Liz Nixon (PUC); Chris Skoglund (DES); Azanna Wishart (PUC); Stephen Tower (NH Legal Assistance); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Michael Fitzgerald (DES); Chris Ellms (OSI); Greg Wade (ISO-NE); Joe Fontaine (DES); Carleton Simpson (Unitil); Kristen Barry (TRC)

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Approval of the March 16, 2018 EESE Board Meeting Minutes

- Joe Doiron moved. Ray Burke seconded. Approved unanimously with the following edits:
 - Ray Burke requested an amendment to page 4, under the Program Updates section for NHLA that the wording be changed from “Proposal filed...” to “Proposal will be filed soon...”
 - Becky Ohler requested an addition to page 4, under the Program Updates section for DES, bulleted item “The New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiers Climate Change Steering Committee” – no information was included in the minutes; it will be added.
- The EESE Board’s Annual Report was approved with revisions by the Board in March. Revisions have been incorporated and the report will be posted to the EESE Board webpage

3. Review and Approval of Revised Building Code Statement

- Chris Skoglund presented the revised draft policy statement with the requested language clarification in regard to cost effectiveness calculations. Footnote 5 was updated and a handout was provided for the footnote update.
- It was agreed that the Board will take a two phase approach, settling on the approval of the language first and a discussion will follow in regard to the appropriate recipients of the policy statement.
- Brian Buckley moved approval of the report. Ben Frost seconded. All in favor with one opposed.
- The Building Code Review Board (BCRB) will look at each section of the code this summer. Public notices will be sent out with the meeting dates. The BCRB will then reconvene in the fall to consider each section and whether the codes should be approved for New Hampshire. It was therefore suggested that it is premature to make a public policy statement to the Legislature.
- Ben Frost moved the policy statement be posted to the EESE Board webpage and sent to the Building Code Review Board. Ray Burke seconded. All in favor with one abstention.

4. Overview of the New State Energy Strategy

- Joe Doiron and Chris Ellms presented an overview of the new State Energy Strategy and highlighted each of the Strategy's eleven goals. The goals provide a platform for policy initiatives to reduce rates, promote business and economic growth, and protect the environment. The strategy is designed to evolve as technology changes. Several topics were addressed in the strategy including:
 - Subsidies for fossil fuels and renewables
 - Funding for low income fuel assistance and weatherization programs
 - Transportation initiatives
 - Demand response/peak load reduction
 - New Hampshire's goals relative to other New England states
- A question and answer session was held with the request that more in depth conversations be conducted individually.

5. Discussion of EESE Board Priorities (tabled from March meeting)

- A copy of NHLA's suggestions was distributed and discussed. The original list was very ambitious for a volunteer Board and NHLA suggests the Board focus on Building Codes and the continued development of the EERS. All in attendance agree that the suggestions by NHLA capture what the role of the Board should be in the near term.
- Minor edits will be incorporated into the priorities for review at the next meeting.

6. Overview of VW Mitigation Plan

- Becky Ohler presented an overview of the draft plan, highlighting how the funds will be allocated and program goals. New Hampshire's plan of deploying the full 15% to EV infrastructure is consistent with other New England states.
- There will be seven listening sessions around the state starting April 30th. The schedule is listed on the Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) website. Written comments will be accepted until June 5th.
- After the listening sessions and written comments, a final plan will be drafted and submitted to the trustee for review and approval. After approval, funds will be made available to the state. The desire is for funds to be available this fall.

7. Working Group Reports

- EM&V:
 - The group is seeking to have the contract for their technical consultant considered for approval at the next G&C meeting. The responses to the RFP for EM&V studies are currently under review.
- Lost Base Revenue:
 - KW savings discussion and preliminary report from utilities will be discussed at the May 16th meeting.
- Finance & Funding:
 - Contractors were invited to comment on their perception of interest from customers on various financing options/mechanisms. Gas customers seem to prefer on-bill financing. For more details, please refer to the presentations and meeting notes that are on the EERS working groups webpage.
- Performance Incentives (PI):
 - The working group is currently reviewing different PI methodologies and will attempt to gradually obtain consensus on which methodologies to adopt.

8. Legislative Updates

Updates were provided for the following bills:

- SB577 and SB365 provide support for biomass plants (Burgess Plant and other biomass electric plants). – These bills are being heard by the House's Science Technology and Energy Committee.
- HB559 – relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund – voted ought to pass by the House, but was voted ITL by Senate Finance Committee 3-3.
- SB446 – relative to net energy metering limits for customer-generators – this bill would increase the net metering limit to 5 MW. This bill recommitted to the House's Science Technology and Energy Committee with an amendment by Rep. Harrington.

- HB317 – prohibiting the PUC from increasing the system benefits charge without legislative approval. The bill language was changed from “legislative approval” to “general court approval”. Some still think this is problematic for the EERS programs.

9. Board and Program Updates

- PUC:
 - Low/Moderate Income (LMI) – issued RFP last month and several proposals were submitted. Beginning to review the proposals.
 - Commercial & Industrial Solar Rebate Program (C&I) – the deadline for submitting applications is Monday, April 23rd. If more applications are received than funding available, a public lottery will be scheduled.
 - Residential Solar Program –approximately \$600,000 in applications were received prior to the lottery. Approximately 100 applications are on the waitlist. Azanna has completed processing all non-wait listed applications.
 - Biomass/Pellet Rebate Programs – open, but with limited funding still unreserved. Barbara Bernstein, who has led the thermal initiative and was instrumental in the biomass industry, is retiring today.
 - Value of DER – A scope and timeline report is being drafted and the will be filed by Staff to the Commission in the near future.
 - Liberty Battery Storage Pilot Program Docket – DE17-189 a revised procedural schedule was posted on April 12th.
 - 2018 RPS Review – kick-off meeting was held on April 16th. Warren Leon, Executive Director of CESA provided an overview of national and regional RPS trends and Karen Cramton gave an overview of New Hampshire’s RPS. The session was well attended by stakeholders with broad interests. There are two more stakeholder meetings scheduled. The May meeting will discuss RPS classes. For details please refer to the webpage dedicated to the 2018 RPS Review.
<http://www.puc.nh.gov/Sustainable%20Energy/Review%20RPS%20Law.html>
- Other:
 - NHSEA and the New Hampshire Clean Tech Council are hosting an energy storage event on May 8th from 8 to 10a.m. at Sheehan Finney’s offices in Manchester.
 - Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership will have an all-day EM&V Annual Public Meeting: Advancing EM&V in the Region and the Industry in Nashua on May 8th. Les Stachow from the PUC will be a presenter.

10. Next Meeting

- Friday May 18, 2018 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Public Utilities Commission , Hearing Room A

11. Meeting Adjourned at 11:26 a.m.