

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 January 18, 2019

Attendees:

Board Members: Karen Cramton (PUC); Becky Ohler (NHDES); Rep. Robert Backus (House of Representatives); Donald Perrin (DAS); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Joseph Doiron (OSI); Raymond Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Marc Prindiville (State Fire Marshall's Office); Madeleine Mineau (Clean Energy NH); Kate Peters (Eversource); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Sen. Martha Fuller-Clark (Senate); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Brian Buckley for Donald Kreis (OCA); Katherine Garfield (BIA).

Others: Matthew Mailloux (OSI), Melissa Birchard (CLF); Azanna Wishart (PUC); Chris Skoglund (NHDES); Liz Nixon (PUC); Matt Siska (GDS Associates); Ellen Hawes (Acadia Center); Mike Mooiman (Franklin Pierce University); Matthew Christie (TRC); Geoff Ketcham (NH Legal Assistance); Kate Epsen (ISO-NE).

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Becky Ohler called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. Approval of the December 7, 2018 EESE Board Meeting Minutes

- Joe Doiron moved. Representative Backus seconded. It was requested the following items be amended:
 - On page 3, second bullet, Ryan Clouthier nominated Joe Doiron.
 - On page 3, fourth bullet, Brian Buckley was nominated as Representative, not Chair, of the EM&V Committee.
- Approval of the December 7, 2018 minutes as amended above. All in favor with one abstention.

3. EERS Committee – Discussion and action on memo from EERS Committee Chair, Don Kreis, specific to membership and the purpose and duties of the Committee

- Membership: the following members/entities are proposed in Mr. Kreis' memo: Ray Burke or Stephen Tower, NH Legal Assistance; Kathy Garfield, BIA; Madeleine Mineau, NHSEA/Clean Energy NH; Becky Ohler, NHDES ex officio; Scott Albert, GDS; Kate Peters, Eversource; Cindy Carroll, Unitil; Eric Stanley, Liberty; Carol Woods, NHEC; Don Kreis, OCA; Melissa Birchard, CLF; Ellen Hawes, Acadia Center. Other individuals volunteering for membership: David Borden (contacted the Chair prior to the meeting), Senator Martha Fuller-Clark, and Matt Mailloux. The PUC will continue to participate in committee sessions but will not be recognized as an official member.
- The Committee plans to meet on a monthly basis.
- Don Kreis submitted a memo to the Board regarding the purposes and duties of the EERS Committee in 2019. The memo outlined the Committee's purposes and duties as formalized by the EESE Board in 2016, and presented updates to the purposes and duties for 2019.
- 2019 & 2020 will be important years for the Committee as the development of the next EERS the next three-year plan begins.
- Brian Buckley was asked to speak about the role of the technical consultant to the EERS Committee and stakeholders. He noted that the technical consultant is included in the settlement agreement. The consultant will provide technical expertise to the EERS Committee and work directly with the utilities to help better design programs and encourage communication between members and stakeholders.
- Motion to accept the 2019 Committee purposes and duties as outlined in Mr. Kreis' memo, and to add members noted above to the Committee. Brian Buckley motioned. Bruce Clendenning seconded. All in favor.

4. Legislative Updates

Representative Backus and Senator Fuller-Clark provided an overview of legislation relevant to the EESE Board in the current session, including:

- HB156 – Establishing a Commission to study the establishment of a state Department of Energy.
- HB157 – Deletes certain criteria for inclusion of methane gas as a class III renewable energy source. Increases the class rate for biomass. Changes the exemption period for certain electrical supply contracts.
- HB209 – Requires the PUC to adjust the rates of payment in to the renewable energy fund for Class III-biomass/methane according to the Consumer Price Index instead of a fixed rate.
- HB166 – Provides for funding of energy efficiency programs through the system benefits charge.

- HB183 – Establishes a committee to study the changes in law necessary to allow for microgrids in electricity supply.
- HB238 – Establishes a legislative task force on applications of microgrids in electricity supply.
- HB365 – Increases the net metering cap from 1 MW to 5MW.
- HB412 - Establishing a committee to study the long-term consequences of decommissioning nuclear power plants.
- HB582 - Requires the energy efficiency and sustainable energy board to provide recommendations to the public utilities commission on the energy efficiency and renewable energy funds. Requires rebates from the use of auction proceeds to all commercial and industrial retail energy ratepayers. Requires that any funds remaining in the energy efficiency fund at a year's end be retained for use in subsequent years, and forbids use of the fund for any but its intended purpose. Repeals the contingent repeal of the regional greenhouse gas initiative program.
- HB112 -Clarifies the definitions of persons licensed by the mechanical licensing board and requires business entities to show proof of good standing and insurance.
- SB - Relative to net energy metering by low-moderate income community solar projects.
- SB72 - Repeals the requirement that the public utilities commission estimate and give credit for the total yearly production for customer-sited sources that are net metered and for which class I or II renewable energy certificates are not issued.
- SB76 - Relative to the prohibition of offshore oil and natural gas exploration.
- SB123 - Requires the public utilities commission to adopt rules for reporting lost and unaccounted for gas by natural gas companies. The bill also prohibits electric distribution companies from acquisition of natural gas capacity or supply or interests in natural gas infrastructure at ratepayers' expense.
- SB122 - Requires the public utilities commission to allocate certain funds to school districts for energy efficiency projects. Repeals a rebate to retail electric ratepayers. Requires the public utilities commission and the department of environmental services to submit a report with recommendations for allocations of auction proceeds.
- SB124 - Revises the required minimum percentages of classes I to IV renewable energy in the electric renewable portfolio standards through the year 2040.

Further discussion was held on the following issues:

- Relative to Building Codes – in light of the in-depth discussions on this issue and the Policy Statement relative to building codes issued by the Board in April 2018 members were asked whether the EESE Board should take a position on any of the following bills:
 - HB247 – Updates the definition of the state building code to include the 2015 editions of the International Building Code, the International Existing Building Code, the International Plumbing Code, the International Mechanical Code, and the International Residential Code.

- HB562 - Updates the definition of the state building code to include the 2015 editions of the International Building Code, the International Existing Building Code, the International Plumbing Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Energy Conservation Code, and the International Residential Code.
- The Board discussed the proposed cost impacts to home owners if the code is updated. A survey of builders done by the Building Code Review Board (BCRB) found that the cost increase would be approximately \$14,000. A study completed by the State of Rhode Island found that the net cost was zero.
- An evaluation completed last year on the Energy Star Homes Program stated that the baseline previously used was the 2009 IECC and should be updated to 2012 because builders are generally building to the 2012 code, not the 2009 code.
- It was noted that insurance rates will increase if the code is not updated.
- It was mentioned that by updating all codes except for the energy code, will cause confusion because so many of the codes reference each other.
- There was a discussion about whether the Board should take specific legislative action on building code bills, or has the Board made its intentions clear with its policy statement submitted to the BCRB. The Board agreed to the latter.
- HB413 (Rep. Mann) – Relative to the Membership of the EESE Board:
 - The Board discussed the bill’s intent to add 2 more voting members from non-profit organizations. It was noted that this would trigger a change the number of members needed for a quorum. The Board also discussed other possible amendments to the EESE Board’s statute such as removing outdated, completed, objectives and updating the charge of the Board.
 - It was suggested to establish a working group to develop possible revisions to the Board’s statute and to present those recommendations to the Board at the February meeting. Representative Backus, Madeleine Mineau, Bruce Clendenning, Karen Cramton, Kate Peters, and Brian Buckley volunteered for the group.
 - Representative Backus indicated that his committee could wait until after the next EESE Board meeting to schedule a hearing on this bill to provide the Board time to work with the bill’s sponsor, Representative Mann
 - Motion to establish a working group and approve its members – Bruce Clendenning motioned. Madeleine Mineau seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - The meetings of this working group will be noticed and minutes will be posted. Madeleine Mineau was tasked with convening the working group.
 - POST-MEETING NOTE – on 1/22/19 language for SB 205 (Sen. Watters) was released which also proposes adding a representative of the NH Bankers Association to the Board.

5. Work Group, Board and Program Updates

- EM&V:
 - HEA/HPwES, C&I non-lighting impact and process evaluations still ongoing.

- In December DNV-GL provided a memo explaining some of the methodologies behind their database. They are working on revisions based on ease of use recommendations. The recommendations will go to the Benefit-Cost working group for review.
- Market Assessment is nearing completion, and we expect a finished product from Navigant/Illume in the next month or two.
- The group is moving ahead with development of the TRM by exploring options related to the eTRM that Massachusetts adopted. An RFP will be sent out in the spring to take a look at the utility benefit cost model assumptions, other states' TRMs, and recent evaluations to produce a NH-specific TRM.
- Two new evaluations agreed to in the 2019 Energy Efficiency Settlement, both of which will be coordinated extensively with the benefit-cost working group.
- Application of the National Standard Practice Manual principles and Resource Value Framework to New Hampshire, for which an RFP is being developed and is pending release.
- Review of how states are accounting for impacts associated with energy optimization strategies, for which an RFP is being developed and is pending release.
- A Potential Study RFP is in development. The scope is being revised based on high value input from Staff's consultant.
- Board Member Updates:
 - Clean Energy NH was awarded a Tillotson Fund grant for the next three years. The focus will be on Energy Efficiency in Coos County. There will be a municipal energy circuit writer for a group of communities. They will utilize energy tracking benchmarking and will work with the utilities to do energy audits. The second year will be focused on weatherize campaigns.
 - Eversource reported, that the American Council for an Energy Efficiency Economy (ACEEE) awarded the Exemplary Program Award to New Hampshire's Home Performance with Energy Star and its Low Income Energy Efficiency program. They acknowledged the comprehensive approach to energy savings and the partnerships with other energy efficiency programs.
- PUC:
 - Sustainable Energy Division hired a new Analyst who will be handling the thermal pellet rebate programs, thermal facility certification and other thermal initiatives.
 - The Commission recently released orders; Energy Service rates for Eversource and Liberty, and the Liberty Battery Storage Pilot Program. Orders are available on the Commission's website.
 - The Low-Moderate Income Solar Program (SB129) issued an RFP last year and three projects were awarded grants. All projects are complete and operational. Staff recommended to the Commission to continue the program as an RFP competitive grant program for the next two years. Public hearing and written comments were taken and Staff is anticipating a Commission Order in the near term.

- On January 2nd there was a public hearing to receive comments on Staff's recommended scope for locational value of distributed generation within the context of the net metering docket. Written comments were also received.
- C&I competitive grant proposals are being reviewed.
- OSI:
 - A grant supported by US DOE SEP funding was awarded to the elementary school in Hill, NH to implement energy efficiency measures. A community member donated \$50,000 to the school for computers. The school will also look at a biomass boiler and solar panels in the future.
 - Volkswagen settlement – \$3.27 million was awarded to DOT to support state fleet improvements (diesel for diesel switch). OSI and DES will be releasing a school bus solicitation next. There will be two solicitations: alternative fuels and electric buses.
 - OSI is researching software for the WAP, LIHEAP and possibly EAP programs.
 - OSI contracted with Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) to look at electric vehicle infrastructure as part of travel and tourism. An RFP has been posted.
- DES:
 - Working with the EV Commission and other state agencies on the coordination of EV charging infrastructure.
 - SB517 – In January the SB 517 EV Commission held a brainstorming session to help prioritize their work over the coming year. Both commission members and attendees participated and there were some clear recommendations, including providing clear guidance to OSI on the use of VW funds for EV charging infrastructure. The next meeting will be Friday, January 25th at 9:00 a.m. in Room 203 where they will present an overview of the recommendations.
- Other:
 - Kate Epsen - ISO-NE has two planning working groups to forecast impact of energy efficiency and distributed generation: Energy Efficiency Forecast Working Group (EEFWG) and Distributed Generation Forecast Working Group (DGFWG). Two meetings are upcoming – EEFWG on February 8th 10:00 – 11:00 and DGFWG on February 15th 9:30 – 12:30. The updated CELT report is released on May 1st using these forecasts. As of last report, New Hampshire was the only state in the region showing positive load growth.
 - Chris Skoglund - The NH Food Network updated their 1979 action plan. It included climate change and energy efficiency.

6. Topics for Future EESE Board Meetings

- Building Codes
- Utility/Community Action Programs (CAP) on HEA program and OSI on how to access LIHEAP.
- NHSaves program updates.

- Presentation from RAP on rate decoupling and implications for energy efficiency.
- Clean Energy investment opportunities. (The Nature Conservancy & Coastal Enterprises)
- LMI solar grant recipient presentation.
- Liberty Battery Storage Pilot
- Vermont Energy Education Program – funded by the utilities to provide education to schools
- ENCON presentation about energy efficient evaporators
- Hill School project (OSI project)

7. Next EESE Board Meeting – Friday, February 15, Public Utilities Commission, Hearing Room A

8. Meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

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