

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Approved Minutes for February 15, 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); Michael Loughlin for Kate Peters (Eversource); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Ben Frost (NH Housing & Finance).

Others: Rep. John Mann (House of Representative); Kara LaSalle (Lakes Region Community Developers); Sal Steven-Hubbard (Lakes Region Community Developers); Brian Buckley (OCA); Henry Herndon (Clean Energy NH); Azanna Wishart (PUC); Tanya Wayland (PUC); Chris Skoglund (NHDES); Liz Nixon (PUC); Ellen Hawes (Acadia Center); Charlotte Harris (Office of U.S. Representative Kuster); Carl Brown (Vermont Law School); David Riley (Vermont Law School); Christa Shute (Vermont Law School); Jack Ruderman (Revision Energy); Cara Robeck (NHEEP); Angie Krysiak (NHEEP).

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Approval of the January 18, 2019 EESE Board Meeting Minutes

- Joe Doiron moved. Ray Burke seconded. All in favor with one abstention.

3. House Bill 413 and Senate Bill 205 relative to the EESE Board Membership – Report and Recommendation from Work Group – Discussion:

- It was suggested that Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) be a voting member of the Board.

- There was a discussion about broadening the legislative members to include those that are not specifically from the House Science, Technology and Energy and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committees. It was suggested that there could be a split; one member from the Science, Technology & Energy Committee and one representative of the Speaker's choice. It was decided to continue with the current statutory language for the Senate board member.
- It was noted that there are five nonprofit members of the EESE Board's EERS Committee. Increasing EESE Board non-profit members would allow more of the EERS members to be voting members of the EESE Board.
- It was suggested to make the investment representative be an investment, financial services and consumer lending representative with expertise in energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- The proposed changes to RSA 125-O:5-a include:
 - I.(a) – replace “a report” with “reports as necessary”.
 - I.(b) – replace “a plan” with “plans as necessary”.
 - I.(c) – replace “a plan” with “plans as necessary”.
 - I.(d) – add “***Serve as a stakeholder forum that makes recommendations to program administrators and the public utilities commission with respect to ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs.***”
 - II.(j) – Two members of the house of representatives, with at least one of whom shall be from the house science, technology and energy committee, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
 - Revise II (k) to read “One member of the senate ***energy and natural resources committee***, appointed by the president of the senate.”
 - II (l) – Change three to five representatives from not-for-profit groups....
 - II (p) – Add a new section to include the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority, or designee as a voting member.
 - III (d) – Change the description for the investment community representative to a representative from the investment, **financial services or lending** community with expertise in energy efficiency and/or renewable energy investments and financing.
 - Add III(e) to read: “***A representative of the New Hampshire Bankers Association, appointed by the chairman of the public utilities commission.***”
 - IV. – Change the quorum from seven members to a majority of voting members; change the annual report due date to January 31 and revise the scope of the report as follows: “to provide an update on activities ***during the preceding calendar year*** and recommendations for action including possible legislation.”

Don Kreis moved to adopt the proposed changes and have the Chair submit a request to Senator Watters and Representative Mann to amend their bills to include these recommendations from the EESE Board. Ben Frost seconded. Unanimously approved. (post-meeting note – the request was submitted to Sen. Watters and Rep. Mann on February 20, 2019)

4. Presentation: Vermont Energy Education Partnership/New Hampshire Energy Education Project (NHEEP) working with NHSaves

Cara Robeck (NHEEP) & Michael Loughton (Eversource)

- NHEEP's contract with NHSaves started in 2019.
- The program provides hands-on, interactive education to school children in grades K – 12, in addition to professional training for teachers.
- The project goal is to provide energy efficiency education to 160 classrooms per year.
- A question & answer session followed.

5. Break

6. Presentation: Renewable Energy Fund's Low-Moderate Income (LMI) Solar Program and Projects

Renewable Energy Fund's LMI Program and NH Solar Shares Overview – Karen Cramton (PUC); Mascoma Meadows Cooperative Overview – Krista Shute (Vermont Law School Energy Clinic); Laconia Area Community Land Trust/Avery Hill - Sal Steven-Hubbard (Lakes Region Community Developers) and Kara Lasalle (Lakes Region Community Developers).

- Renewable Energy Fund's LMI Program and NH Solar Shares Overview:
 - Overview of SB129 and the process undertaken to develop the Low-Moderate Income Program.
 - Karen Cramton presented an overview of the NH Solar Shares Project for the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI).
 - The community solar array is a 28.8 kW. The "roof-mounted" sections are atop picnic pavilions located beside the Common Man Inn's Frosty Scoops Ice Cream Stand. There are also ground-mounted arrays along an educational walking trail. The proceeds from the power provides direct benefits to 10 low-moderate income families through a "Solar Share" credit on their electric bill. They participate in the program for two years, receive energy education, and have the opportunity to pay their solar share forward at the end of the two-year period to another income verified family or individual.
- Vermont Law School Energy Clinic – Mascoma Meadows Cooperative:
 - Program model is structured to maximize direct benefits to low-moderate income (LMI) Resident-Owned Communities (ROCs). The project developer will own the community solar project for five years allowing the investor to leverage federal and state tax benefits to lower the overall cost of the project. After five years, the ROC may purchase the solar PV installation at fair market value. Direct ROC ownership will provide additional benefits to the LMI residents, including renewable energy certificate ownership and maximum compensation for energy produced.

- Financing for the project during the first five years is structured as a power purchase agreement (PPA) through which the ROC residents are able to purchase electricity for a rate of \$ 0.03 per kilowatt hour for the first two years. After two years, the energy rate will increase by 2% annually. After five years, the ROC is able to purchase the project using low interest financing from the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund. Under New Hampshire's Group Net Metering program, the ROC cooperative will qualify as a "host" and receive additional monetary benefits. The ROC, in turn, will provide direct benefits to its cooperative members (residents) in the form of lot rent reductions. By reducing lot rents, the LMI residents reduce their monthly expenses and avoid any unintended consequences to any other public benefits received.
- A question and answer session followed.
- Lakes Region Community Developers (LRCD): - Avery Hill:
 - Program model is structured to maximize direct benefits to low-moderate income (LMI) residents residing in community housing. LRCD applied for and received a \$75,000 grant from New Hampshire Charitable Foundation towards the installation of solar panels at six of their Avery Hill properties. The Renewable Energy Fund (REF) grant award completed the financing necessary to enable the project to move forward and provide long term benefits to Avery Hill residents.
 - The Avery Hill Solar project consists of six buildings, each with two 2- or 3-bedroom units. A roof-mounted PV system was installed on each building. The energy generated from the unit on each building powers the units in that building. Total array size equals 64.2 kW.
 - LRCD increased monthly tenant rent by a nominal amount of \$20 to cover debt service costs while assuming full responsibility of the twelve residents' electric bills. This provides the LMI residents with net positive monthly savings and will not impact their eligibility for other assistance programs.
 - A question and answer session followed.

7. Legislative Updates (Representative Backus and Representative Mann):

- HB156 – Establishing a Commission to study the establishment of a state department of energy – this bill is going to the House floor.
- HB365 – subcommittee established to work on this bill which increases the net metering cap from 1 MW to 5 MW.
- HB582 – relative to the reallocation of RGGI proceeds and changes to the EESE Board – there are other bills in the House and Senate which also make changes to the EESE Board and RGGI proceed allocations. There are negotiations about which bill(s) should move forward.
- HB466 - relative to the capacity of electricity customer generators for eligibility for net energy metering - a hearing was held.

- HB735 – relative to carbon pricing. There was a well-attended hearing. This bill will probably go to the Ways and Means Committee.
- SB286 – relative to aggregation of electric customers by municipalities and counties. Senate will hear this bill next week.

8. Board and Program Updates:

- EERS Committee:
 - The EM&V Working Group asked the EERS committee to labor with them on the Potential Study. The EERS Committee had a presentation by Lisa Skumatz (Skumatz Research Associates), and discussion about a more targeted theory rather than a generic potential study. The Committee felt a targeted study would be more useful and would involve the gathering of robust, granular data that would then be available for future analyses.
- EM&V Working Group:
 - The Home Energy Assistance (HEA) and Home Performance with Energy Star (HPwES), C&I non-lighting study is still underway. They are in the process of collecting survey information and utility data requests.
 - The cross cutting Non-Energy Impact (NEI) study is getting close to a finished product. It will be a database of NEIs from other states which, when modified to account for characteristics that are specific to New Hampshire, can be applied to the New Hampshire programs. Once the database is finalized there will be a sensitivity analysis and gap analysis followed by discussions with the Benefit-Cost working group.
 - There is now a draft report for the Energy Efficiency Market Assessment available.
 - The Technical Reference Manual will be completed in two stages; the first being the commissioning of an e-Technical Resource Manual (eTRM) based on one rebuilt in Massachusetts. The second stage will be verification, documentation, and revision of the savings assumptions currently underlying the state's energy efficiency programs. The process will kick off in late spring or early summer 2019.
 - Two evaluations are in procurement stage. The RFPs for the application of the National Standards Practice Manual (NSPM) and the Energy Optimization review have been released. The group is currently reviewing the bids.
 - Bill and Rate Impact Analysis- Pursuant to the 2019 settlement agreement, the group agreed to perform a bill impact analysis that accounts not just for the impact of the system benefit charge (SBC) or local distribution adjustment charge (LDAC) rate, but also the savings that accrue to participants and non-participants from program participation. There was a discussion about the utilities doing this in-house. The group decided to contract for outside expertise.
 - Potential Study - The group is in the early stages of preparing an RFP/Q for the potential study. Based on guidance from Skumatz Energy Research Associates (SERA), staff's consultant, the group will dive more into the existing conditions and

market than the previous study in 2009 had. It could cost more but it is an investment that will allow the group to better design their programs.

- Board Member Updates:
 - Bruce Clendenning shared that a report was issued yesterday by The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont on the scale of investment and policy tools needed to support transition to a clean energy economy and meet long term renewable and emission reduction goals in Northern New England. The Nature Conservancy will be hosting a briefing for interested stakeholders on February 25th at 10:00 a.m. in their Concord office.
 - Don Kreis shared that earlier this past week, the PUC staff issued a report outlining staff's recommendations on grid modernization. Stakeholders will have a two-month window to comment. The OCA has yet to decide if they are in agreement.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.