

# 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 May 17, 2019

### Attendees:

Board Members: Becky Ohler (NHDES); Rep. Robert Backus (House of Representatives); Donald Perrin (DAS); Marc Prindiville (State Fire Marshal's Office); Madeleine Mineau (Clean Energy NH); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Tonia Chase (BIA); Joe Doiron (OSI); Karen Cramton (PUC); Theresa Swanick (NH Municipal Association); Scott Maslansky (CDFA).

Others: Azanna Wishart (PUC); Chris Skoglund (NHDES); Stephen Eckberg (PUC); Matt L'Heurecx (Resilient Buildings Group); Kathy Corey-Fox (Bernstein Shur); Liz Nixon (PUC); Tom Rooney (TRC); Rep. George Saunderson (House of Representatives); Andy Duncan (Lakes Region Community College); Annemarie Wamsted (CLF); Melissa Birchard (CLF); Christine Donovan (VEIC).

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

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

### 2. Approval of the April 19, 2019 EESE Board Meeting Minutes

- Joe Doiron moved. Bruce Clendenning seconded.
- Approval of the April 19, 2019 minutes. All in favor. Two abstentions.

### 3. Legislative Updates

- Science, Technology and Energy Committee (ST&E) finished their hearings and executive sessions on all assigned bills last Wednesday. A number of bills introduced and voted on this session focused on promoting energy efficiency, storage, and renewable energy growth in New Hampshire.

- HB582 - relative to the regional greenhouse gas initiative cap and trade program for controlling carbon dioxide emissions (i.e., eliminates the \$1 threshold, allocate auction proceeds based on load by sector; all residential sector proceeds will fund energy efficiency programs as defined in current statute and the commercial and industrial (C&I) proceeds will be fully rebated to C&I customers). This bill passed.
- SB284 – establishing a statewide, multi-use online energy data platform. This bill passed.
- HB365 – relative to net energy metering limits for customer generators (i.e., increases the net metering cap from 1MW to 5MW). This bill passed.
- SB166 – relative to net energy metering limits for customer generators. This bill was retained.
- SB124 – relative to RPS standards after 2025. This bill was retained.
- An agreement was not reached on a bill regarding energy storage. This bill will go to committee of conference.

#### 4. Energy Efficiency Resource Standard – Review of the EERS 2020 plan update process, progress, and discussion of considerations for 2021 and beyond – presented by Brian Buckley, Office of the Consumer Advocate.

- The presentation included three key points: a historical context of energy efficiency and System Benefits Charge (SBC); an update on 2019 plan commitments; and 2020 update and beyond.
  - Historical Context and SBC –timeline of the establishment of EERS and where it is now.
  - Update on 2019 Plan Commitments – covered bill and rate impact analysis; active demand reduction pilot; cost-effectiveness screening; performance incentives; and energy optimization.
  - 2020 Update and Beyond – potential study; EESE Board EERS Committee Stakeholder Consultant; and timeline.
- Discussion points:
  - Energy efficiency in demand side management, and the utilities obligations as program administrators and performance incentives.
  - Energy efficiency relative to energy code enforcement to capture savings.
  - Is there a desire to address the energy code issue up front for the 2020 planning process? It was noted that NEEP has offered to staff a working group to look at code enforcement. Other states are funding code compliance through their EE programs, but utilities would not be able to claim a benefit unless we know the baseline compliance rates.
  - How does energy optimization work in relation to encouraging electrification while reducing demand? Is there an opportunity for load shifting? General discussion

regarding the need for businesses to be appropriately incentivized to change their usage patterns. Right now, the “peak” period is all day (7 a.m. to 6 p.m.), which is too broad – businesses can’t shut down all day.

- Electric use management built in to newer technologies.
- General discussion of unregulated fuels, noting that Vermont has the equivalent of a system benefits charge for such fuels.

## 5. Board and Program Updates:

- PUC:
  - All renewable energy fund (REF) rebate programs remain open with funding available. The individual program pie charts are updated monthly, generally within the first week of the month.
  - On Wednesday, five grant proposals were on the Governor & Executive Council agenda. All were approved. Three of the grants were for Low-Moderate Income (LMI) projects:
    - Laconia Area Land Trust at the Pine Hill neighborhood: Solar panels will be installed on six multi-family housing units that will serve 12 families.
    - White Rock Cooperative Estates: A ground mounted solar array will be installed and residents will receive a lot rent reduction benefit. The ROC will own the array on day 1.
    - Gaslight Village Cooperative: A ground mounted solar array will be installed. The developer will own the array for five years after which the community will have the option to purchase it. Residents will receive a lot rent reduction benefit.
  - The remaining two grants are Commercial & Industrial (C&I) competitive grants:
    - Froling Energy manufactures precision dry chips (PDCs). The grant will allow them to install at combined heat and power unit to dry chip using heat derived from PDCs and generate electricity. This additional drying capacity allows them to expand their operations.
    - Burgess Bio-Power’s grant will support a project to capture waste heat from their electricity generator’s cooling towers to heat a new greenhouse located onsite to grow vegetables.
  - The locational value of distributed generation study RFP has closed. Proposals were received and the quantity received and ranking will be posted to the website as the information is known.
  - Grid Modernization is moving forward. There was a technical session this past Wednesday where process and next steps were discussed. A memo will be going out to stakeholders.
  - Unutil Time of Use pilot had a technical session this past week.
  - Rate cases are upcoming for Eversource and Liberty Utilities.

- DES:
  - Transportation and climate initiative (includes 8 states plus D.C. – New Hampshire is not part of the initiative) issued a statement to work together to develop a cap and invest plan/program to reduce emissions.
  - For now, Virginia will not be joining RGGI.
  
- DAS: Last week the DAS and the State Energy Manager hosted the Annual State Energy Conference. It was well attended. The Governor awarded Excellence in Energy Efficiency awards to: New Hampshire Department of Transportation; New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation Waste Management Project; and Peter Sun of New Hampshire Department of Administrative Services.
  
- State Fire Marshal: HB112 relative to the mechanical licensing board has gone to the Senate.
  
- Clean Energy NH is hosting Renewable Energy Taxation 101 on Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at UNH School of Law from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
  
- New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority has CDBG and tax credit programs. They are trying to work with architects and the New Hampshire Housing Authority to include energy audits, building codes and energy efficiency retrofits into projects requesting funding.
  
- ISO-NE – The Demand Resource Working group will host a teleconference on May 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. You can find details at the ISO website: <https://www.iso-ne.com/event-details?eventId=138157>

At the June EESE Board meeting, the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) will present on demand response. RAP recently published a white paper and will present their findings to the Board. If anyone has advance questions, please email Karen Cramton.

9. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

\*\*Thank you to the New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority for providing the refreshments.