

Minutes
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
Public Utilities Commission, Getz Hearing Room, Concord, NH
9AM – 12:00 PM
February 17, 2012 Meeting

***Items underlined and in color are hyperlinked to documents.**

Members in Attendance:

David Borden of NH Sustainable Energy Association; Stephen Eckberg for Meredith Hatfield, Office of Consumer Advocate; Michael Licata, BIA Designee; Alan Linder for Daniel Feltes of NH Legal Assistance; Representative Naida Kaen; Dana Nute of Belknap-Merrimack Community Action Agency; Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager; Bob Reals, Jr. of Dept. of Resources and Economic Development; Jack Ruderman of NH Public Utilities Commission; Deborah Schachter of NH Charitable Foundation; Robert Scott of Dept. of Environmental Services; Eric Steltzer of Office of Energy and Planning; Alfio Torrisi for Ken Walsh, State Fire Marshal's Office.

Non Voting Members in Attendance:

Tom Belair for Gil Gelineau of PSNH; Vice Chair George Gantz of Unitil; and Debra Hale of National Grid.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair George Gantz thanked PSNH for sponsoring the breakfast. Board members and guests then introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of January 13, 2012, EESE Board Meeting

The [minutes](#) of the January 13, 2012, meeting was approved unanimously as filed. (Ruderman/Schachter)

3. EESE Board Membership Update

There are two open seats on the Board, one with the BIA and the other with the Home Builders and Remodelers Assoc. of NH. Vice Chair Gantz will ask both organizations to appoint new representative to fill these vacancies. The Board will also have a couple of Board member transitions coming up. Vice Chair Gantz asked that if anyone knew that they might be leaving the Board, they should consider a designee to the Board in their stead.

4. EESE Board Governance

The Draft of the EESE Board Statement of Governing Principles was discussed.

D. Member Responsibilities. Members of appointed committees and boards such as the EESE Board are required to file a statement of financial interest in accordance with RSA 15-A. While the State typically circulates this form to committee/board members, it has not done so with respect to the EESE Board.

However, members of the EESE Board should file the 15-A statement. A copy of the form may be found on the [Secretary of State's website](#).

There was also a discussion regarding conflicts of interests and in what circumstances Board members should abstain from a Board vote. It was noted that the Executive Branch Ethics Committee is available to provide guidance to Board members concerned about a potential conflict of interest.

E. Meetings. The last sentence under E. Meetings, *b) Policy Recommendations*, will be changed to read as follows: The Board will include a summary of discussion points in its statement of policy recommendation.

There was considerable discussion regarding paragraph *c) Decision-making Procedures*. Some members expressed concern about making decisions by majority rule (at least 51%), and there was a suggestion that a 2/3 majority instead be required. Other members spoke in favor of leaving the standard as is. Ultimately it was decided to leave the language unaltered.

F. Committees. Vice Chair Gantz explained some new language in this section. He noted that EESE Board committees or working groups are to serve in an advisory capacity and their work needs to come back to the EESE Board. The committees/working groups cannot represent the Board.

G. Administrative Matters. The last sentence of this section will be changed to read: "The Administrative support and contact for the EESE Board is designated by the PUC."

Upon a motion duly made/seconded (Borden/Nute), the [Statement of Governing Principles](#) with some minor wording changes was unanimously approved.

5. Municipal Energy Working Group

Eric Steltzer has drafted a straw proposal and sent it along to the WG for its review, and hopes to get that proposal back to the EESE Board by March or April. Alan Linder requested that the proposal be circulated to the Board.

6. Outreach and Education Working Group

Co-Chair Mary Downes reported that the group has been on hiatus and needs guidance from the Board. The group last reported on the findings of the Burgess Group, which was retained by the Office of Energy and Planning and produced a report with a set of recommendations regarding outreach and education. Vice Chair Gantz suggested that the WG prepare a report for the Board outlining progress to date and options for moving forward. Mike Fitzgerald from DES volunteered to work with the WG and help prepare this report, which will be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

7. RGGI Grantee Presentation – NH Community Loan Fund

Barbara Bernstein introduced Craig Welch from the NH Community Loan Fund and Rob Bowers from Belknap-Merrimack Community Action Program (BMCAP) for their [presentation](#) about the work they are doing with a \$2 million grant from the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund. The Loan Fund assists in the conversion of privately owned manufactured housing (mobile home) parks to member-owned co-ops known as Resident Owned Communities (ROCs). Together, the Loan Fund and BMCAP are weatherizing hundreds of manufactured homes with dramatic results in terms of energy savings and living conditions.

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8. Program Updates

The Renewable Energy Fund

The Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued and the PUC is taking questions via email, answers to which are being posted on the PUC's website. All grant proposals are due in by March 1st.

There is a lot going on legislatively. There was a hearing on SB 218, a bill that what would make changes to the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) law, including the addition of a thermal component. It would probably be somewhat challenging to implement this provision of the bill but the PUC would work with NEPOOL-GIS to determine how thermal RECs would be measured and verified.

RGGI

A hearing took place last week on a bill that would make changes to the state's RGGI law and then terminate the state's participation in RGGI. About 50 people came out with overwhelming support for the RGGI program, and very few people against RGGI.

Weatherization Assistance Program

The federal funding for WAP for the coming program years has been cut drastically down from \$1M to a little over \$500,000. This reduction will have significant impact in the number of homes the program will be able to serve. NH was fortunate to receive even its reduced amount. Some states, such as Vermont, did not receive any new Weatherization funding for the coming year.

Renewable Energy Feasibility Study

Tighe & Bond has been retained by OEP to identify favorable sites on State land for renewable energy, including wind and solar.

Biomass

OEP is tracking wood pellet pricing for bulk-fed delivery systems on their website. NHPR recently aired a great program on this.

BetterBuildings

BB is working with utilities on Home Performance with Energy Star. A draft agreement is in the works. BB will help to cover 50% of improvements being done and is offering online financing. BB has \$3M to devote to commercial improvements, and \$5M in applications have come in thanks to DRED. The next step is to have an audit by March 30th.

Energy Conference

Mary Downes is pulling together an energy conference with DAS and DES on May 18th for State employees to focus on behavior and energy efforts by State employees in their own homes.

Local Energy Solutions Conference – March 31st

This year there might be a tour included of the solar thermal installation at the Merrimack County Correction Facility. DRED is a sponsor. Please contact Bob Reals or Julia Dundorf if interested.

9. Energy Policy Discussion

a) Energy Study Recommendations Working Group Update

WG Co-chairs Chris Skoglund and Deborah Schachter reported. The 4th meeting of the review committee of the VEIC study was last week and the group continues to review the 11 subject matter chapters. The WG identified small teams of individuals to delve into each of these chapters. The recent meeting focused on discussions of chapters 7, 8 and 9: sustainable energy, smart grid, and CORE programs. Given different chapter authors within the report, and different levels of recommendation detail, etc. approaches to the chapters will vary. Some recommendations back to the EESE Board may relate to need for more discussion or information, e.g. a panel on adoption of smart grid for NH. (The report recommendations assume that smart grid is in place). The WG is now also planning to go back to chapters 1 and 2 to discuss the overarching policy recommendations at the next WG meeting.

b) Legislative Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Regarding RGGI and 2 RPS bills, the next call will be in two weeks. There was a brief call last week. Hearings on all of these pending bills are underway.

Net Metering–Eric Steltzer reported that the Legislature is looking to make some changes to net metering. HB1296 would increase the total amount of combined heat and power systems from 2 Megawatts to 4 Megawatts. SB258

would allow group net metering to occur. NH currently has a hybrid version of group net metering and there are different incentives for systems that are less than 100 kilowatts and systems over 100 kilowatts. The Senate bill seeks to modify the process in which to administer group net metering, whereby the utility would be responsible for transferring the credit between meters. Also the bill would increase the value for the excess electricity generated. The policy questions discussed by the board pertained to the socialization of the costs for net metering, the coordination of multiple incentive programs, and the effect of geo-targeting net metering to reduce electric load.

10. Other Business

Next Meeting: Friday, March 9, 2012.

Vice Chair George Gantz will be retiring over the coming few months, and will be stepping aside from the EESE Board. He will be in the position to serve as Vice Chair and Acting Chair for at least another two months. However, the Board needs to decide how it may want to approach appointment of a permanent Chair.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.