

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

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

Members in Attendance:

Eric Steltzer from OPE; Steve Eckberg from OCA; Jack Ruderman from PUC; Bob Reals Jr. from DRED; Becky Ohler for Mike Fitzgerald from DES; Representative Naida Kaen from NH House; Daniel Feltes from NH Legal; Dean Christon from NH Housing and Finance; Dana Nute from Community Action and Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manger.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Gil Gelineau from PSNH; George Gantz, Vice Chair from Unitil; Carol Woods from NHEC; Michael Bruss from Bruss Construction; Michael Behrmann from Revolution Energy and Kate Peters from NH CDFA.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Included a brief review of the membership changes. The BIA added Brian Ramsey as their representative. With Bob Scott's (DES) confirmation as a PUC Commissioner, Mike Fitzgerald would be the DES representative. Steve Eckberg from the OCA would take the seat left by Meredith Hatfield. The HBRANH are still in the process of identifying the representative to replace Beth Fischer.

2. Minutes of February 17, 2012 EESE Board Meeting

- The minutes were approved with changes following a question from Steve Eckberg and Karen Rantamaki (DAS). Steve asked that the new OEP energy price tracking metric for wood pellets clarify that the pellet prices are for bulk delivery. Karen asked that the minutes be changed to reflect that the State Energy Conference occurs on May 18th rather than May 8th.

3. EESE Board Leadership Discussion

- Discussion began with description by the EESE Board Vice-Chair, George Gantz, of high-level issues that were related to the future of the Board.
- The NH LBA has been engaged in an audit of the PUC. This has included stakeholder interviews with several EESE Board members, including George Gantz and former Chair, Dick Ober (NHCF). The EESE Board has been included in the audit as they are attached administratively to the PUC.
- The LBA has shared draft findings confidentially with Vice-Chair.
 - They noted that the EESE Board is an all-volunteer body that possesses limited resources, a fact which may have restricted the Board's capacity to meet its statutory obligations.
 - They recommended some type of enabling legislation be considered in the coming years, a fact which may mean the EESE Board could be under

consideration in 2013.

- The Board discussed the Audit and implications, noting that: the criticism was not of the Board as an entity but of its capacity; the recommendations in the audit did not necessarily provide details as to how issues should be addressed; and that the weight that the legislative audits receive in the legislature is dependent upon the political context.
- Steve Eckberg noted that the PUC has requested feedback from stakeholders in light of the audit process.
- The audit findings will be wrapped up in the next month
- A second issue was raised concerning the influence of the VEIC Study. While the study does not have specific recommendations related to the EESE Board, it is expected that the VEIC Study Review Committee, a working group of the Board, will bring content forward for the EESE Board to consider in the months and years ahead.
- Rep. Naida Kaen noted that with the legislature turning over every two years it is difficult for a comprehensive energy policy to be developed. The EESE Board could bring a level of continuity to the discussion.
- George Gantz noted that this would be outside the legislative and regulatory process, and Kate Peters (CDFA) noted that more outside voices would be needed.
- Eric Steltzer (OEP) also noted that OEP had received federal funds from the US Department of Energy to create a statewide plan to increase energy efficiency (EE) capture from 0.6% of annual retail sales to 1.6%. OEP is still working to finalize contract with DOE but will eventually hire a consultant and engage in a stakeholder process to understand opportunities for EE in greater detail.
- The next steps for this process will be the release of an RFP for a consultant with potential EESE Board member input in the next 1-2 months. It was determined that OEP could use the EESE Board members as a resource by reaching out to them directly and that this would not be taken on a specific EESE Board project.
- The question was posed concerning the attributes that the Board wished to see in a Chair and a Vice-Chair.
- Rep. Kaen noted that the individuals should project an image of neutrality and not fall to any one end of the continuum of views.
- Ben Frost (NHHFA) noted that the Chair needs to be perceived as being objective but that they also recognize the tremendous amount of work that is required.
- Jack Ruderman (PUC SED) noted that there may need to be a narrowing in focus of the leadership and the Board. Strategic planning may be required to clarify the key items that will be tackled in the next 3 years.
- George Gantz noted the Board may want to consider how to utilize collective leadership and allow the Chair to take on a more manage-like role.
- It was decided following a suggestion from Michael Bruss (Bruss Construction) that a small group could work on some of the issues discussed and would bring proposals to the full Board for their discussion and approval. This committee could include: Mike Fitzgerald, Ben Frost, Kate Peters, Jack Ruderman, Deborah Schachter (NHCF), and Eric Steltzer. Other Board members who wish to participate should call or email the George Gantz.

4. Municipal Energy Working Group (MEWG) – discussion of new purpose document

- The Board held a follow-up discussion to the February 2012 EESE Board meeting discussion on the same topic.

- Eric Steltzer presented the Board with a document that outlined a role for the MEWG and then presented the Board with three options included:
 - Keeping the MEWG as described in the document;
 - Dissolving the MEWG and recomposing with a broader mandate; and
 - Assigning a liaison to the Local Energy Working Group (LEWG).
- The Board discussed the options with the Vice-Chair asking individuals on the MEWG to speak to the three options. The members, having not discussed what their collective recommendation to the Board would be, ultimately supported different options.
- The Board also heard from Julia Dunderf (CA-CP) regarding the composition and roles of the Local Energy Committees and their relation to municipal and school energy consumption.
- The Board members in their discussion noted that the EESE Board would not be ceding its statutory obligation if it were to track the efforts of the LEWG with a liaison, but would be avoiding duplicative meetings.
- The Board held a straw poll to determine the support by each of the three options. The liaison option won.
- Dan Feltes (NH Legal Assistance) asked that there be clarification regarding transparency and how to ensure the liaison is representing the Board.
- Ben Frost suggested that the liaison's role should be to report to the EESE Board but not to represent the EESE Board on the LEWG. Becky Ohler (DES) noted that in the liaison's report out to the Board, NH RSA 91-A should be satisfied as it would be a public meeting with notes that would be posted.
- A motion was made and seconded that the MEWG would be put on hold and the chair would appoint a liaison to the LEWG. The liaison would not represent the EESE Board but would report back to the EESE Board on the work of the LEWG.
- The Board voted unanimously in support.

BREAK

5. Outreach and Education (O&E) Working Group – discussion of direction

- The Chair of the O&E Working Group, Mary Downes (OEP), provided a presentation on the group's work and requested the Board input concerning direction going forward. The presentation provided some background on the work of the group, recent recommendations from several high-level studies and proposed 3 potential areas for O&E working group to consider. There was also an ask for the nomination of a co-chair from among the Board members as Mary is a non-Board member.
- As part of the presentation, Julia Dunderf provided an update of the Button Up NH program that was funded through an OEP RFP that grew out of O&E Working Group efforts.
 - Button Up is a continuation of a program that had been hosted in New Hampshire. This iteration was designed around the successes and challenges from previous iterations and engaged more partners and sought to build stronger networks within communities in addition to reaching the residential and commercial audiences.
- In the discussion of what the working group should focus on, George Gantz suggested the addition of a 4th item that focused on sustaining the strong work already occurring such as the Button Up program. Mary Downes noted that this will be an issue going

forward as ARRA funding will be winding down next month.

- Mike Bruss suggested focusing on how to leverage programs that are already occurring and working with existing statewide groups such as the NH Sustainable Energy Association and the NH Preservation Alliance.
- George Gantz asked about the potential to take the VEIC Study “on the road.” The working group could look into identifying the expertise in the O&E field to develop a communication process and pathway. Kate Peters noted that there will be a need to develop messaging in order to convey specific concepts. George Gantz noted that this could occur at this committee.
- Eric Steltzer asked if the O&E Working Group could help the utility programs think through and develop their new customer engagement programs. Steve Eckberg volunteered to look into being co-chair with Mary. Michael Bruss volunteered to participate as well.

6. Program Updates

- **CORE Program**

- Gil Gelineau (PSNH) described the proposed programs that had been approved for development under the 2012 CORE Docket.
 - PUC provided until March 31, 2012 for the utilities to provide a letter regarding planned program, then they could proceed developing a pilot program.
 - Utilities have engaged in 5 months of research regarding other programs around the country. Recent 2 hour presentation was given to share findings of the research.
 - Intention of the program is to communicate directly with the customer. The initial program will target 25,000 average customers that seek to get a representative sample of user types in order to understand the challenges and benefits that will occur if the program is scaled up. The pilot will last for 1 year.
- George Gantz noted that the pilot was utilizing best practices to bring in customers and allow them to feel engaged. It’s intended to pursue behavioral changes as opposed to hardware so it will cut across homes already served and those not yet served by traditional CORE programs.

- **Renewable Energy Fund**

- REF received 25 commercial and industrial proposals valued at \$10-15 million. The pool of available funds is \$1 million. As this is the second round of funding, the quality of the proposals is expected to be high now that the pool of applicants has had an opportunity to see what made the cut in the last round of proposals.

7. Energy Policy Discussion

- **Energy Study Recommendations Working Group**

- The co-chair, Chris Skoglund (DES) noted that the committee has not yet met again since the last EESE Board meeting but will continue their deep review of the specific recommendations in the VEIC Study. In addition the Committee members are beginning to take a closer look at the more global

recommendations in the study and plan to have a more direct report out at the next EESE Board meeting in April.

- **Legislative Monitoring Subcommittee**

- Mike Licata (BIA) provided an update on legislation that has been tracked by the Legislative Monitoring Subcommittee including:
 - SB 218 in the Senate and the corresponding HB1428 in the House that would modify the NH Renewable Portfolio Standard. It was noted that there are significant differences between these pieces of legislation and that not clear how and if they could be reconciled;
 - HB1238 that would require PSNH to divest its generation assets. A recent amendment by Representative Kaen would send the issue to the PUC for study;
 - HB311 may be brought back by Representative Holden (R) and Cali-Pitts (D) which would allow for aggregation of small renewable generation assets that are “behind the meter”;
 - HB1490 that would have, as introduced, repealed the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), has modifications being considered that would withdraw NH from the program in 2015, give allowances away for free, rebate all allowance costs over a dollar to ratepayers, and move all auction proceeds from the GHGERF to the CORE programs. It was noted that the EESE Board would not be affected by any of the current changes being considered as part of 1490.

8. Other Business

- The next meeting of the EESE Board will be on April 18, 2012 at the NH PUC from 9 am – 12 pm in the Getz Hearing Room.