

DRAFT Minutes  
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EERE) Board  
Public Utilities Commission, Getz Room 103  
9 AM – 12:00 PM  
Friday, January 18, 2013

**Members in Attendance**

Deborah Schachter from NH Charitable Foundation; Susan Thorne from Office of Energy & Planning; Steve Eckberg for Susan Chamberlin from Office of Consumer Advocate; Jack Ruderman from Public Utilities Commission; Chris Way from Department of Resources and Economic Development; Mike Fitzgerald from Department of Environmental Services; Alan Linder from NH Legal Assistance; Luke Benson from Home Builders and Remodelers Association; Ben Frost for Dean Christon from NH Housing and Finance Authority; Dana Nute from Jordan Institute; Kate Peters from NH Sustainable Energy Association; and Karen Rantamaki from Department of Administrative Services.

**Non-Voting Members in Attendance**

Gil Gelineau from Public Service of New Hampshire; Debra Hale from Liberty Utilities; George Gantz from Unutil; Carol Woods from New Hampshire Electric Cooperative; Michael Bruss from Bruss Construction.

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

- George Gantz from Unutil offered to sponsor breakfast.

**2. Minutes of December EERE Board Meeting**

- The Board approved the minutes of the December 14, 2012 EERE Board meeting.

**3. Dissemination of EERE Board Final Report on SB 323 Energy Policy Study – Update**

- George Gantz, Deborah Schachter, and Kate Peters met with the Governor’s transition team. They also met with the Science, Technology, and Energy Committee. STE and EERE Board may have a joint meeting in the future. They also met with Senators Odell, Bradley and Prescott. George noted that Meredith Hatfield, who was part of the transition team, is now director at Office of Energy and Planning. Kate noted that legislators are looking for input on energy issues. Deborah noted that George shared that NH is lagging other states in investments in energy efficiency.
- Mary Downes summarized the information that she has received on the report dissemination:
  - PUC Chairwoman Ignatius mentioned the report at the Business and Industry Association’s energy conference in December.
  - Mary received 23 responses that people have added it to websites or included it in conversations or blogs.
  - Mary noted that the following entities have provided outreach on the report: Bruss Construction; Climate Collaborative (aka Collaborative 2.0); Concord Steam; EC3 Consulting Group; GDS Associates; Home Builders and Remodelers; Liberty Energy; LighTec; NH Charitable Foundation; NH Community Development Finance Authority; NH DES; NH Electric Coop; NH OEP; NH Sustainable Energy Association; Northeast Energy

Efficiency Partnership (NEEP); PSNH; REPA-NH; Revolution Energy; The Jordan Institute; The Way Home; TRC; Unitil; and Better Buildings Berlin.

- Chris Skoglund is developing a presentation based on the speaking points. Chris will send a draft around for comment from the board. This presentation can be used in a webinar or other outreach opportunities.
- Sam Evans Brown of New Hampshire Public Radio contacted George Gantz about a 5-part series on energy.
- Senator Shaheen's staff wondered if the EESE board is going to do a press release about the final report and whether the EESE Board should reach out to NHPR's Exchange. Mike Fitzgerald noted that the PUC does not typically do press releases. Commissioner Harrington offered that the PUC could help with a press release through Debra Howland. Mike Fitzgerald also offered DES' assistance. Any press release through OEP must go through the Governor's office.
- Chris Skoglund suggested looking beyond the report and following up with the organizations and groups identified in Report's Summary Matrix to determine if implementation for early work has begun.
- Julia Dunderf mentioned a webinar on the EESE Board Final Report on the Independent Energy Study. The webinar will take place in March and be paired with an overview of existing energy policy.
- George Gantz acknowledged the enormous effort that went into this report. He especially thanked Chris Skoglund and gave him a small thank you gift on behalf of the board.

#### 4. **Statewide Energy Conservation Plan – Presentation**

- Karen Rantamaki (State Energy Manager) and Susan Thorne (OEP) gave a presentation on the statewide energy conservation plan.

A discussion followed the presentation:

- Commissioner Harrington asked if the state has looked into the demand response market. Karen responded that the state does have a contract with an aggregator with 7 facilities enrolled. Four additional agencies are interesting in enrolling. The income from demand response is allocated to a state fund for energy efficiency. \$160,000 has been reinvested. Karen is the contact at the state.
- Deborah Schachter mentioned that she was in two meetings in state buildings where the windows were open during a snow storm. Susan said that these buildings need to be audited and retrofitted. Mary Downes added that the energy issues in some of these buildings, some of which are quite old, are challenging to address.
- Chris Skoglund said that the state has a large number of potential energy efficiency projects but cannot get to all of them due to a lack of funding and resources. Chris linked this to Chapter 13, *State Government Leading By Example*, of the VEIC report.
- Karen said that the energy conservation plan and the Dept. of Administrative Services (DAS) annual energy report are on the DAS website and the Sunspot website for state employees.
- DAS is required to present the statewide energy conservation plan to the Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President, chair of the senate energy and natural resources committee, and chair of the house science energy and technology committee.

- George Gantz asked that when the presentation is posted to add links to it as well as the annual energy report on the EESE Board webpage at the PUC.
- Natalie Hildt from NEEP noted that the USDA is working with organizations such as NEEP on a 3 year contract to provide technical staff that can work with states and communities.
- Julia Dundorf noted that the state could use this opportunity to transfer lessons learned to municipalities and schools.
- Chris Skoglund said that the local energy working group is meeting with members of the NH Government Finance Officers Association to develop a relationship between the two groups in order to help improve how energy is managed by municipal staff.
- Scott Albert asked if the state is also looking at water and transportation. Karen said DAS looks at water and sewer and has implemented water conservation measures at some buildings. Transportation is tracked by another group within DAS. There is a plan for reducing fuel consumption in the state fleet.

## 5. Board and Program Updates

Jack Ruderman – PUC

- The PUC will submit a request to the legislative fiscal committee to carry forward \$2.6 million in unspent fiscal year 2012 funds that would be added to the \$5.7 million already in the approved budget for fiscal year 2013. The PUC will then request authority to budget and expend the remaining \$13.5 million. All rebate programs are up and running, and the PUC is hoping to get the C&I Request for Proposals for renewable energy projects out by mid to late February.
- George Gantz asked if the excess ACPs in Class III happened because of a market discrepancy, where it was more economic for parties to pay the ACP in NH and then sell RECs in another state with higher REC prices. Jack agreed and explained that this will be true for calendar year 2012, too. It is still more profitable to sell Class III RECs in the Connecticut market than in NH. A few bills propose changing the Class III percentage and capping revenues to the Renewable Energy Fund. George noted that the VEIC study said that a consistent policy is needed.

Susan Thorne – OEP

- Meredith Hatfield, the new director, will start on January 28. The interim director will stay at OEP.
- On Feb. 1, OEP will take the DOE Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) grant to the legislative fiscal committee and then to Governor and Council on Feb 6. DES will be involved in implementing the grant. The first phase will be to draft a plan, and the second phase to complete the plan. The contract must be completed by the end of September. DOE may consider extending the contract to the end of December for phase 2.
- Leftover ARRA funds (several \$100,000's) will be used for a climate change project in conjunction with DES.

Local Energy Working Group (LEWG)

- Tim Fortier 's position at the NH Municipal Association was eliminated so Chris Skoglund and Julia Dundorf will serve as the LEWG liaisons to the EESE Board.
- Julia is looking to increase the participation of municipal, school, and community members on the Local Energy Working Group.
- The energy calendar is out.
- On April 13, LEWG will hold a conference at Winnisquam Regional High School. Representative Ian Raymond will deliver the welcome. They are looking for speakers. See [www.NHenergy.org](http://www.NHenergy.org)
- Chris said that the Pay for Performance (P4P) program contract with TRC was extended in December 2012 by the Executive Council out to June 2014. Contact Tom Rooney at TRC for more details.
- In February, the Georgetown Climate Center will coordinate a transportation and climate initiative. Becky Ohler will present on this in February.
- Ben Frost said that NH HUD has a \$1 million grant, and 21 grants have been given to municipalities. Round 2 is open for municipal efforts related to regulatory reform for sustainability and smart growth. February 12 is the deadline.
- April 19 is the state employee energy conference for state employees who serve as state agency energy coordinators.

## **6. Legislative Update and Discussion**

- Mike Fitzgerald prepared a summary of energy-related bills.
- April 4 is crossover from House and Senate.
- George Gantz noted Senator Odell's bill on a state energy plan.
- David Borden was present at the meeting and offered to answer questions. He noted that some bills were not on the summary. On behalf of the S,T, and E committee, he thanked everyone for the briefings.
- George noted that the Governor has asked for bipartisan support on legislation to provide for certainty beyond the 2-year election cycles.
- Steve Eckberg noted that three bills relate to RGGI—one to eliminate it.
- Deborah Schachter noted three bills of interest related to energy efficiency, the EESE Board and establishing a committee to consolidate energy positions.
- Ben Frost noted that HB 144 prohibits the state, counties and towns from working with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). There is hearing on Jan. 24 at 1:30 at LOB.

## **7. EESE Board Leadership**

- George Gantz turned to Deborah Schachter who nominated Kate Peters for the Chair. Mike Fitzgerald seconded the nomination. The Board unanimously elected Kate as Chair.
- Kate thanked George on behalf of the board and presented him with a gift.
- Commissioner Scott, on behalf of the commission, thanked George for all of his hard work.

- George's resignation is effective at the end of this meeting, but he will be available ex officio to chair.
- George turned the Chair to Kate.

#### 8. EESE Board 2013 Schedule

- Karen noted a conflict for the April meeting date as it is the same day as the state employee energy conference.

#### 9. EESE Board 2013 Agenda – Discussion

- Kate Peters suggested setting up a committee for tracking legislation. Deborah Schachter, Mike Fitzgerald, Gil Gelineau, and Mike Licata want to be on the committee.
- Kate turned to David Borden to see if a meeting would be helpful. He said yes and asked to include his Senate counterpart, Senator Prescott.
- Senator Prescott has asked for a list of sustainable energy projects that have been done around the state.
- A discussion followed about the development of a project list:
  - Mike Fitzgerald mentioned that DES has developed a list of RGGI projects by town and Executive Council district. OEP has done a lot of projects, especially from ARRA, and has an overview.
  - Gil Gelineau asked what specific information would be useful. Utilities have done 800,000 efficiency projects including lighting, and 10,000-11,000 commercial projects.
  - George Gantz suggested gathering a few stories with pictures and then present numbers in such a way that they mean something.
  - Mike Fitzgerald along with DES Commissioner Burack met with Senator Prescott, who wants to understand the economic benefits (e.g., job creation) of sustainable energy programs. Senator Prescott noted that Ross Gittell of UNH had done economic studies of the RPS and RGGI programs.
  - Kate Peters suggested a two phase development approach 1) a list of projects; and 2) ready-made examples, or case studies.
  - Michael Bruss said that the outreach and education committee can help with these efforts.
  - Chris Skoglund noted that there are some case studies stories on the PUC website and offered that the local energy working group could help, too.
  - Deborah Schachter suggested that the whole list be compiled then one story in each senate district with a photo and 2 or 3 sentences and how it was funded.
  - Chris Skoglund will be the point of contact.
  - Carol Woods asked what the overall message is: to fund programs that are not funded or to keep funding existing programs? As we look at legislation, we will see the themes and match relevant topics.
  - Mary Downes noted that even though ARRA funding has been exhausted, these projects are important.

- Carol Woods noted that the outreach and education committee can help out and suggest content.
- Gil Gelineau said that one of questions is always what is the benefit? For every dollar spent, what do the customers get in return?
- Mike Fitzgerald said that the end result could be a report of the EESE board which tracks energy efficiency funds.
- Mike Bruss noted that market transformation should be discussed.
- Gil noted that is useful to put all of the data into perspective: Of the annual demand for electricity --10.8 billion kwh -- how much is taken care of by energy efficiency? How does NH compare to other states? What should the policy be?
- Kate suggested that the Board broaden from presentations to forums bringing in expertise with more discussion. Topics could include a discussion on market transformation with contractors; discussions with municipalities concerning needs and barriers; and a discussion with banks on financing. Kate asked for feedback on format and topics. Many liked the ideas.
  - Mike Fitzgerald suggested hearing from investors about investment opportunities.
  - Alan Linder said that the above ideas of Kate and Mike are consistent with the following two duties of the EESE Board as set forth in our governing statute:
    - 1) Compiling a report of resources of available energy efficiency, conservation, and sustainable energy programs and incentives pursuant to RSA 125-O:5-a, I(a), and
    - 2) Investigate potential sources of funding for energy efficiency and sustainable energy development and delivery mechanisms for such programs, and review investment strategies to increase access to energy efficiency and renewable energy resources, pursuant to RSA 125-O:5-a, I(j)
  - Deborah Schachter asked what the EESE Board's role is in relation to an energy plan. Kate suggested that the legislative committee can turn to the Board for feedback.
  - Chris Skoglund again raised the idea of following up with the organizations and groups identified in Report's Summary Matrix to determine if implementation for early work has begun.
- Deborah noted that there is a letter being drafted to the Governor related to the Renewable Energy Funds urging that the funds not be directed to fill holes in the budget. The EESE board seldom takes position, except the Board did take a position on diverting funds from RGGI to the General Fund.
- The PUC is following up on open EESE Board seats: a finance seat, municipal seat, and fire marshal.