

Minutes
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (ESEE) Board
Public Utilities Commission, Concord, NH
9 AM – 12:00 PM
Friday, September 13, 2013

Members in Attendance

Brandy Chambers, Office of Energy & Planning; Susan Chamberlin, Office of Consumer Advocate; Jack Ruderman, New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission; Michael Fitzgerald, NH Department of Environmental Services; Alan Linder, New Hampshire Legal Assistance; Tricia Grahame, Home Builders & Remodelers Association of NH; Jeffrey Cyr, State Fire Marshall's Office; Ben Frost, New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority; Laura Richardson, Jordan Institute, Kate Epsen, NH Sustainable Energy Association; Jackie Hanscom, Department of Administrative Services for Karen Rantamaki.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance

Kate Peters, PSNH; Cindy Carroll, Unitol; Carol Woods, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative; and Michael Bruss, Bruss Construction.

1. Welcome and Introduction

New members of the Board include Laura Richardson, Kate Epsen and Ben Frost.

2. Minutes of July ESEE Board Meeting

- The Board approved the minutes of the July 12, 2013 ESEE Board meeting with no amendments.

3. Board Leadership

- Kate Peters, current ESEE Board Chair, has completed her term with CDFA and the Better Buildings project. She is now working for PSNH. The Board discussed several options for continued leadership including an Interim Chair, an Acting Chair, or voting on a member to be the new Chair. After discussion, it was determined that it would best serve the Board if Kate Peters stays on as the Acting Chair at least through the end of 2013. It was suggested that Kate send an email to the Board asking everyone to consider possible candidates for the position of Chair. Ben Frost moved that Kate Peters remain the Acting Chair while the Board seeks a new Chair. Mike Fitzgerald seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- The Board acknowledged the excellent job that Kate Peters has done as Chair and thanked PSNH for allowing her to continue as the Board's Acting Chair until a new Chair can be found.

4. Board Schedule and Work Plan

- The Board discussed its Legislative charge, the frequency with which it should meet, and the projects it should be involved with this year. There was discussion of doing a strategic planning session, though no vote was taken. It was suggested by Alan Linder that the Board review its statutory charges set forth in its governing statute, RSA 125-O:5-a, I, and choose one or two of the mission items to focus on for 2014."
- It was determined that the Board should continue to meet monthly at least through October and November, and topics it should focus on include:

- The State Strategic Energy Plan being developed by the Office of Energy & Planning;
- The goals of the EERS study;
- Legislative developments that will require the Board's input in the coming months;
- Guidance to the reorganized and revitalized Education & Outreach Committee;
- Input to the CORE docket; and,
- The EESE Board Annual Report to the Legislature due December 1.

5. CORE Docket Update

- Carol Woods, NHEC, provided an update on the CORE filing due September 13, 2013. This filing covers and changes or updates pertaining to the second year of the two-year plan submitted last year. The program expected to receive \$6 million in RGGI proceeds; \$5.7 million was received. The programs are increasingly fuel neutral. Utility representatives have met with the Local Energy Working Group (LEWG) and many municipalities to assess needs and have learned that technical assistance means many different things depending on needs. The utilities want to continue to work with the LEWG to learn how to coordinate better and they hope to build audits and programs currently underway through the next year. They will continue to provide needed flexibility to municipal programs and coordination with the gas utilities.

The CORE program's quarterly update meeting is Monday, September 16, 2013 at 9:00 a.m., at the PUC. The meeting schedule for the CORE filing is expected to be set at this meeting; however, a hearing date of December 6, 2013 has been established.

6. Presentation on Smart Grid

- The presentation on Smart Grid was postponed.

7. Board & Program Updates

- **Federal Legislation**
 - Chuck Henderson, Special Assistant for Policy and Projects, for Senator Jeanne Shaheen, discussed the Shaheen-Portman Senate Bill titled the Energy Savings & Industrial Competitiveness Act (S. 1392). If enacted, this legislation will spur the use of energy efficiency technologies in the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors of our economy. It is estimated to create 136,000 jobs by 2025, and by 2030, the bill will also net annual savings of \$13.7 billion and lower CO2 emissions and other air pollutants by the equivalent of taking 22 million cars off the road. Send questions to Shaheen staffer [Sarah Holmes](#).
- **State Legislation**
 - The RPS Study Committee has held an organizational meeting and elected Senator Jeb Bradley as its Chair. The scope of the Committee is very broad. A Stakeholder meeting has been scheduled for October 8, 2013 and is expected to allow a wide range of organizations to participate.

- There are two bills related to PACE to help fund commercial projects. HB 532 would lift a cap on the amount a municipality can fund under this program and SB 154 would establish a statewide entity to run a PACE program.
 - There may be a bill this session to change the current four-class structure of the RPS to just one class, but details are not yet available.
 - SB99 – Following up on passage of this bill last session, there was recently an informal forum on wind project development and siting issues, organized by NHSEA, The Nature Conservancy, and ConservationNH. Specific topics were the state Site Evaluation Committee structure and process, and wind project siting criteria. Meredith Hatfield of OEP spoke about the SB 99 process.
- Program Updates – Jack Ruderman, PUC Sustainable Energy Division
 - The FY 2014 budgets are being finalized. This year our state appropriation is \$7.8 million, plus we are bringing forward obligated or reserved funds from FY13 for a total FY14 budget of close to \$10 million..
 - The current rebate and RFP programs will continue and may be expanded to include a commercial C&I biomass heating program pending Commission approval.
 - The SED continues to work on the administrative rules for the thermal portion of the RPS. The draft report is done and a Stakeholder Meeting will be held September 24, 2013.
 - The REF annual report is being drafted and is due to the Legislature on October 1, 2013. The SBC report is also due at this time.
 - The RGGI report will likely be submitted to the Legislature on November 1, 2013.
 - The PUC’s biennial report to the Legislature is due in December.
- OEP – No additional updates.
 - DES is planning a mini-retreat for the Outreach & Education Subcommittee next week to develop a plan to move forward.

8. **Adjourn** – the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes Submitted by Barbara Bernstein, PUC