

**Minutes**  
**Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EESE) Board**  
**Public Utilities Commission, Concord, NH**  
**9 AM – 12:00 PM**  
**Friday, October 11, 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; Jeffrey Cyr, State Fire Marshall's Office; Ben Frost, New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority; Laura Richardson, Jordan Institute; and Representative Chuck Townsend for NH House; Kevin Peterson for Deborah Schachter, NH Charitable; Teresa Swanick, NH Municipal Associate and Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager.

**Non-Voting Members in Attendance**

Kate Peters, PSNH; Cindy Carroll, Unitil; Carol Woods, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative; Debra Hale, Liberty Utilities and Michael Behrmann, Revolution Energy.

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Minutes of September EESE Board Meeting**

Minutes of the September meeting were approved with no discussion.

**State Energy Strategy and SB99 – Meredith Hatfield**

Meredith Hatfield, Director of the Office of Energy and Planning (OEP), reported on the status of the State Energy Strategy (SB 191) and the Site Evaluation Committee process report (SB 99).

[SB 99](#) – OEP will have a report on the Site Evaluation Committee process by the end of the year. OEP has hired a consultant, the Consensus Building Institute, who will be running focus groups to gather input. Meetings will be by sector – energy generators, businesses, environmental groups, etc. If interested contact OEP. There is a [web page](#) established for this process and you can sign up for email notices there.

There will be five structured public meetings around the state in December where participants will be able to “vote” on various issues using electronic key pads.

[SB 191](#) – Developing a State Energy Strategy will entail a broader, big picture process. The draft strategy is due May 1<sup>st</sup> and final report December 1, 2014. There is an RFP out

now for a consultant to help with the work.

The EESE Board will have an opportunity to provide input. Transportation and land use are part of this work, an area that has not typically been included in the board's energy discussions. OEP will look at work already done through EESE Board and others – for instance, the [Independent Study of Energy Policy Issues](#), and the [GDS Energy Efficiency Potentials Study](#). OEP also has a [website](#) for this project where all information will be posted.

Julia Dundorf indicated that the Local Energy Working Group could help organize public engagement sessions. Kate Peters stated that the EESE Board may be able to help facilitate discussions at regularly scheduled meetings as well.

The final draft report will likely be due out at the end of this month.

### **Strategic Planning – mini session**

Kate Peters: Following up on last month's discussion, it is clear that monthly meetings are valuable to the members. Today the board will undertake some high level strategic planning. Input from the audience was invited as well.

As a whole strengths and weaknesses of the EESE board were brainstormed. A “SWOT” [document](#) with a summary of comments was created. Then attendees were split into 3 groups to discuss how the statutory charge to the EESE board and our strengths match up and suggest areas where the board might focus going forward. Additional discussion to follow up on these suggestions will occur at the next meeting.

The board then split up into 3 groups to explore how the board's legislative charge matches up with the board's strengths and capabilities. Each group reported back to the full board. See [notes](#).

The board will return to this subject and discuss next steps at the next meeting.

There was additional discussion regarding the State Energy Council charged with oversight of the State Energy Strategy and the opportunity for the board to provide input and direction to that body. Also, the board should seek additional clarity on the role of the board in the process of creating the State Energy Strategy.

There was a suggestion that we change the name of our board to something more descriptive of our purpose, such as the Energy Board.

### **Renewable Energy Fund Annual Report – Jack Ruderman**

Jack gave a [PowerPoint](#) presentation on the [2013 Annual Renewable Energy Fund Report](#) that was submitted to the legislature on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Report details how REF was used and recommends any changes. It also reports on net metering and group net metering

throughout the state.

The Renewable Energy Fund statute requires the funds to be split according to percentage of retail sales for the residential and non-residential (C & I) sectors. This year, the split between C & I and residential is not matching retail sales percentages due to a lack of demand from the residential sector. Looking for input from EESE board on whether PUC should be trying to ramp up residential demand or should they simply put the additional funds to C & I?

Discussion followed:

Is there any awareness of the multiplier effect of residential installs versus C & I installs in the local economy? That could be a reason to skew one way or the other.

There was an initial high uptake on the residential side – why has it slacked off? There is still a high demand for solar PV (residential), but demand for residential solar hot water has declined. NHEC has seen a similar trend in their program. PUC may need to increase solar hot water rebate – demand fell off when rebate came down. Need to increase the marketing to bring people to the program. PUC hasn't typically marketed the program – installers do the marketing.

There is about \$600,000 in funds above what the PUC has authority to expend. \$400K of that is going for the SB 191 and SB 99 studies.

Bob Scott noted that if the RPS program is working perfectly there will be no ACPs, so keep that in mind when making recommendations on program design and funding levels.

Mike Fitzgerald noted that the REF has leveraged significant private funds. We need to make sure the State Energy Council is aware of that leverage.

The board will carve out some time at the next meeting to discuss this further.

### **Board Leadership**

Need to nominate both a Chair and Vice Chair. Members can either nominate themselves or someone else. Please send ideas and thoughts to Jack Ruderman via email or phone. Kate encouraged all members to participate in this process.

### **Board and Program Updates**

Outreach and Education subgroup – Mike Fitzgerald provided an update on the work of the O&E ad hoc committee. The committee has had two meetings and one more is scheduled to finalize recommendations to the board. Will present recommendations at the next meeting.

## **Legislative**

Rep. Townsend – less than 20 LSRs that are energy related so far. No details on those bills yet. One is establishing an energy committee.

Laura Richardson – HB 532, PACE Energy Districts having a work session on Thursday.

## **PUC**

PUC Commissioner Bob Scott reported:

Monday PUC held a public forum for feedback on the CORE programs. Commissioner Bob Scott is inviting further written comments.

Staffing of CORE program: Jack Ruderman and Les Stachow have been added to CORE staffing.

FERC asked states to form an advisory committee a few years ago – [NESCOE](#), whose work ties to regional electricity issues. Three recent developments:

Brayton Point – large coal plant (1500 MW) in MA closing next year.  
Vermont Yankee nuclear plant also closing.

Enernoc – Company arranges for facilities to bid in demand response market. The company just delisted 500MW of Demand Response facilities. Reason for this is not clear, but could be the result of ISO-NE moving toward a performance-based market.

These developments put more demand on natural gas. Discussions are on-going on how to add more natural gas capacity, and who pays for it. Also talking about what is most cost effective – increasing supply or lowering demand.

FERC Order 1000 regards transmission building in the region. Right now if there is a transmission requirement in the region then the cost is socialized for all of New England. Impact of FERC Order 1000 is that it may also include RPS policies – could socialize costs of renewable energy transmission costs as well. For instance, if Maine installs an undersea cable to bring Quebec Hydro power to CT that cost might be socialized - all states pay a portion.

## **OEP**

ARRA SEP grant which funded energy efficiency and renewable energy programs is officially closed. OEP is in the process of aggregating program data and will report on results at a future meeting.

## **Other**

Early meetings of the State Energy Advisory Council are listening/educational sessions. EESE board might want to present to the Council its [recommendations](#) on the Independent Study of Energy Policy Issues.

RPS Study Committee – HB 542. At a recent session the study committee heard from numerous stakeholders including DES, PUC, NH Sustainable Energy Association, wood plants, BIA and utilities. Report is due early November on any recommended changes. Committee is inclined to recommend no legislative changes for this year. There is one LSR specific to the RPS but it is not known what the content of the bill will be.

Julia Dundorf: Local Energy Working Group update. Looking at 2013/14 workplan – doing more community engagement and harnessing mentor potential. Starting planning for Local Energy Solutions conference for 2014. Would like to get together with others that host annual/semi-annual conferences to coordinate efforts.

EESE Board Annual Report – Kate Peters will work on draft for review at next meeting.

**Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by Rebecca Ohler, DES