

FINAL MINUTES

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-0:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

9am – 12 pm

Friday, May 16, 2014

Attendees:

Board members: Kate Peters (PSNH, Acting Chair); Jack Ruderman (PUC); Theresa Swanick (NHMA); Karen Rantamaki (DAS); Ben Frost (NHHFA); Carol Woods (NHEC); Jeff Kelly (NHHBRA); Brian Ramsey (BIA); Becky Ohler (NHDES); Karen Cramton (NHOEP); Kate Epsen (NHSEA); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Susan Chamberlain (NHOCA); Mike Behrmann (Revolution Energy); Carol Woods (NHEC); Dan Feltes (NHLA); Dana Nute (Jordan Institute).

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Minutes of April EESE Board Meeting

Minutes adopted following the correction of an error in the list of attendees. (Carol Woods of NHEC was listed twice).

3. NH Greener Home Program – Chris Miller (NHHFA) & Mike McQueeney (TRC);

Provided PowerPoint Presentation that included an overview of the NH Greener Home Program that was managed by the NH Housing and Finance Authority with technical support provided by TRC Solutions and funded through the NH Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund administered by the NH PUC. TRC provided energy expertise while NHHFA provide financing expertise.

The program goals were to address the risks associated with energy price increases as affordable housing occupants are not resilient to price increases. In addition to the energy efficiency measures implemented as part of the projects, the building owners agreed to maintain the units as part of the affordable housing stock for an additional 20 years.

The PowerPoint presentation covered the:

1. Project selection criteria;
2. Project eligibility criteria; and
3. Sources of Project funding.

During the review of funding, it was noted that TRC was able to leverage additional funding for the project.

In an assessment of the project outcomes, it was noted that the Program was able to complete more projects and reach more units than first projected and that the verified savings were greater than projected. The savings were determined following an analysis of 12 months of follow-up data.

The project evaluation also noted how the projects were distributed geographically and could demonstrate the:

1. Project density;
2. Project cost density; and
3. Project savings density.

The evaluation noted that the projected energy savings (31%) were exceeded by actual savings (36%).

Also noted was that the projects involved commissioning to insure that equipment performed as intended. Through the commissioning they identified an electric meter that had failed and a solar thermal panel array that had been installed incorrectly.

The cost share of the projects varied. There were some projects that were comprehensive rehabs that went beyond energy improvements. For those projects that were energy only, the financing covered 100% of the project costs. The “cost share” for these energy projects came in the form of lost opportunity cost on the part of the building owner as they were agreeing to keep units in the affordable housing pool rather than rent at market rate.

4. NO BREAK

5. State Energy Strategy

Draft Strategy released on May 1, 2014 with the draft to be presented to the Energy Advisory Council following the May EESE Board meeting.

Becky Ohler (NHDES) presented on the EESE Board Energy Strategy subgroup review process. During the discussion, members were encouraged to engage in the development of the final Strategy rather than wait until the final submission on August 29, 2014.

Proposed process:

- May 22nd, will be next meeting of the subgroup at GDS from 1-3 PM;
- OEP asked to present to the EESE Board on the Strategy at the June EESE Board meeting;
- By June 27th, the subgroup will develop a draft comment letter, including additions, deletions or revisions, for the EESE Board to consider sending to OEP;
- On July 18th, the EESE Board will review the letter at their July meeting; and
- By July 22nd, comments are due on the Strategy to OEP.

The Board voted unanimously to approve this process.

There was a discussion of the next steps for the Strategy. It was noted that comments are being accepted by OEP until July 31st and the final draft will be submitted in August. The Strategy will be submitted to the legislature and the Energy Advisory Council will be done with its work.

It was noted that the EESE Board may also have a role, as a body and as individuals, in supporting the implementation of the recommendations of the Strategy. It was noted that, because the strategy

is non-binding and there is legislative turnover so frequently, the strategy recommendations will require champions.

Future Topics for Board Discussion

There was a brief discussion of topics the Board could address at future meetings. These included:

- Discussing the update to the 2015 CORE Plan and the 2016-2017 CORE filing;
- OPOWER and the outreach to PSNH & Liberty customers;
- Commercial PACE; and
- Interim EESE Board Leadership due to impending maternity leave of current Chair.

6. Board and Program Updates

a. Legislative

Legislative Subcommittee did not meet.

There was discussion of how **SB281** – *Wind Siting Criteria* – which would make wind siting more difficult, was tabled in the House.

There was discussion of how the Senate had attached the full language from the **SB281** – *Wind Siting Criteria* - to both **HB532** – *Commercial PACE Bill* - and the **HB1602** – *PSNH Divestiture Bill*. This amendment will require that both **HB532** and **HB1602** go to committee of conference.

There was also a brief discussion of **HB1129** - *Energy Efficiency Implementation Plan* – and the removal by the Senate of the language that clarified the impact of HB137 (2012) on the ability of the Building Code Review Board to update the state building energy code. Without this language, there will likely be a need for a formal opinion from the Attorney General's Office regarding the Board's capacity to adopt new versions of the energy code.

It was also noted that **HB1600** - *Energy Production for Net Metering* – passed in the Senate and this would streamline the reporting of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) for systems under 15 kW.

There was also discussion of **SB268** – *Funding Certain Energy Efficiency Programs* – which would allow the PUC to allocate future RGGI revenues to previous awardees. Due to differences between the House and Senate versions it will go to committee of conference

b. PUC

Jack Ruderman (PUC) noted that the PUC will be issuing an RFP for large-scale renewable projects. Will know level of funding after July 1st and will issue RFP in June or July and provide 4 weeks for proposals to be submitted.

Les Stachow (NHPUC) provided an update of the EERS outreach he has conducted to hear thoughts in advance of developing a straw EERS. Les noted that he would like more vendor participation. He is looking to have a draft EERS in June.

c. OEP

Karen Cramton (OEP) noted that the State Energy Program (SEP) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) grant are in the process of being submitted. Provided the applications are approved these programs will essentially be level funded from last year.

d. Other

Carol Woods (NHEC) noted that the utilities have begun brainstorming their next CORE Program Plan for 2015-2016 and will be meeting on May 22nd at PSNH from 9 AM – noon.

Kate Epsen (NHSEA) noted that she is looking for stories and examples to support Group Net-Metering efforts in the state.

Jack Ruderman (NHPUC) noted that the PUC issued Interim Group-Metering Rules in January and is now working toward issuing draft permanent rules in the near future.

The next EESE Board meeting will be on June 20th at 9 a.m. at the NH PUC in Hearing Room A.