

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Draft Minutes for March 18, 2022

Attendees:

Board Members: Ryan Clouthier (Southern NH Services); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Becky Ohler (DES) via Teams; Steven Tower for Ray Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Liz Nixon for Chris Ellms (DOE); Representative Kat McGhee (NH House of Representatives); Representative Michael Vose (NH House of Representatives); Marc Brown (BIA); Donald Perrin (DAS); Jack Ruderman (NHHFA); Phil Biron (State Fire Marshal's Office); Patrick McDermott (AARP).

Non-voting Participants: Mark Lemenager (Eversource); Tom Palma for Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Matthew Siska (GDS Associates); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities).

Others: Jody Carmody (Department of Energy) via Teams; Chris Skoglund (Clean Energy NH); Joe Fontaine (DES); Azanna Wishart (Department of Energy); Megan Ulin (ReVision Energy) via Teams; Kelly Buchanan (Clean Energy NH) via Teams; Dick Henry (Jordan Institute) via Teams; Kim Dragoo (Liberty Utilities) via Teams; Andrew Hatch (Resilient Buildings Group) via Teams.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting was held in person at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services with remote call-in and video capability.
- Bruce Clendenning called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. Approval of the February 18, 2022 EESE Board Meeting Minutes.

- Jack Ruderman made a motion to approve the minutes. Ryan Clouthier seconded.
- Approval of the February 2022 minutes. All in favor. Three abstentions.

3. Presentation: 2022-2024 Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan – presented by Marc Lemenager of Eversource.

- The utilities filed the 2022 – 2023 plan on March 1st.
- Essentially, the 2020 plan was revised to current market dynamics and updated to comply with HB549.

- There is an update for HEA with the maximum rebate at \$15,000 per project with the ability to exceed that amount as authorized on a case-by-case basis. The rationale was based on actual costs per project. By updating the cap (from \$14,000 to \$15,000), projects are completed without the burden of unfinished work as most projects cost \$14,000 on average.
- Question: Have the utilities seen a downturn in the workforce? There is anecdotal evidence of workforce loss as well as inflation. Answer: Yes, there was some workforce supply loss. Another variable is inflation. Some money has been set aside for EM&V. Some exploration has been done to determine the needs in the workforce, but authorization is needed before moving forward.
- A high-level overview on savings:
 - Electricity - approximately 1.62% savings for the two-year term; .84% in 2022, and .78% in 2023.
 - Gas – combined savings of approximately 1.49% for 2022 & 2023.
- The utilities would be happy to address questions on specific program areas but must acknowledge that they are in the middle of data requests and may not be able to answer all questions.
- The utilities would like to set up a communication process with the EESE Board in regard to the \$400,000 for SBC funds that are going to the Department of Energy to promulgate the benefit of Energy Efficiency.
- A board member asked if a comparison could be made to the savings figures given just now to the savings for 2020, when the same amount of money was available? Answer: There are different baseline and savings assumptions. On the electric side, there are sizable changes in assumption values, mostly on lighting measures. A large portion of savings historically has been in lighting. The portfolio mix and measure mix for the 2022 model is much lower. There are less savings reflected in 2022 as a result of that.
- There has been and continues to be a backlog within the Home Performance Program (Liberty Utilities). There is tremendous demand and not enough resources to satisfy the demand, whether budgetary or lack of contractors. With escalating energy prices, it continues to be challenge.

4. Role of Energy Efficiency Committee Moving Forward

- Guidance is needed from the EESE Board to determine what this committee focuses its work on and what the Education and Outreach Committee does.
- The Department of Energy can give guidance and goals as to what outcomes need to be achieved. Outreach should be determined by the Department of Energy.
- An important question to consider is how the EESE Board can design programs using the \$400,000 to increase public awareness as to which energy efficiency programs can do for them to save money.

- It was pointed out by the Chair that the next agenda item concerns the outreach & education committee, and that this discussion should remain focused on the EE Committee's activities.
- The EE committee should focus on energy efficiency policy and being the enhanced stakeholder board.
- What are other states doing? Take a regional view and look to other states for guidance regarding workforce development and the availability of workers and skilled labor.
- Should consideration be given to hire a consultant?
- After discussion, it was agreed that the EE Committee should follow the path similar to the old EERS Committee.

5. Reformation of the Education & Outreach Committee

- There was a discussion of how, per HB 549, the Outreach & Education Committee will have \$400,000 to carry out efforts to “promulgate” the benefits of energy efficiency to the public, with the assistance & support of the Department of Energy. The DOE is still working out how those funds will be managed and made available.
- Committee Volunteers: Bruce Clendenning, Marc Brown, Jack Ruderman, Don Kreis, Matt Siska, Representative McGhee, Mary Downes, Becky Ohler or staff person from DES, Pat McDermott, DOE staff, utility reps.

6. EESE Board Representative to EM&V Working Group

- Discussion of whether EESE board should be represented by a state employee. It was generally agreed that this was the preference of a number of Members; and also, that non-Board members have carried out this role very effectively in the past.
- Don Kreis volunteered to serve as the EESE Board's representative but is open to someone else filling the role.
- It was agreed that Don Kreis would represent the EESE Board at EM&V Working Group.

7. Legislative Updates

- Representative Vose
 - Work is complete on all twenty-five Science, Technology & Energy (ST&E) bills. They have been adjudicated and will move over to the Senate. The ST&E will look at bills that have come over from the Senate.
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- Representative McGhee
 - HB1629 relative to default service for net metering passed the House.
 - HB1459 relative to recycling solar panels passed with an amendment.

8. Board and Program Updates

- Department of Energy – Liz Nixon
 - Consultants are working on the VDER study.
 - The RFP for the Low Moderate Income Solar grants has been re-issued.
 - Some of the renewable energy rebate programs are closed.
 - The State Energy Strategy should be ready by the next EESE Board meeting.
- DES – Becky Ohler
 - The RFP for installation of EV fast charging infrastructure received fourteen different proposals from forty different locations.
- The Nature Conservancy - Bruce Clendenning
 - New Hampshire Energy Week is April 11 – 15th.
- Clean Energy NH – Chris Skoglund
 - Clean Energy NH is hosting the Energy Innovation Conference on Tuesday, May 24th from 2 to 4:30 at the Derryfield School in Manchester. It will be a TED style event.
- OCA – Don Kreis
 - The PUC approved the settlement agreement in the data platform docket. The next step is to figure how it will be governed.

8. Adjourn –Meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.