

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

## Minutes for October 21, 2022

### Attendees:

Board Members: Ryan Clouthier (Southern NH Services); Don Kreis (OCA); Ray Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Chris Ellms (DOE); Patrick McDermott (AARP); Representative Michael Vose (NH House of Representatives); Rep. Kat McGhee (NH House of Representatives); Doria Brown (City of Nashua) via Teams; Albdios Fioravante (DAS) via Teams; Philip Biron (State Fire Marshalls Office); Jack Ruderman (NHHFA); Mark Sanborn (DES);

Non-voting Participants: Marc Lemenager (Eversource); Mary Downs for Cindy Carroll (Unitil) via Teams; Matthew Siska (GDS Associates) via Teams; Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Carol Woods (NH Electric Coop); Scott Maslansky (Community Development Finance Authority) via Teams;

Others: Andrew Hatch (Resilient Buildings Group) via Teams; Chad Lhrig via Teams; Amanda Noonan (DOE) via Teams; Jody Carmody (DOE), Griffin Roberge (DOE) Joe Fontaine (DES) via Teams; Philip W. Lamoreaux (DES) via Teams; Fatima Masic (SNHS) vis Teams; Megan Hoye (Franklin Energy) via Teams; Elizabeth McKenna (Senator Jean Shaheen's Office); Beth Gilbert (Southern NH Services); Chris Skoglund (Clean Energy NH); Becky Ohler (DES) via Teams; Joshua Singer (Clean Energy NH) via Teams; John Davis (PSD Consulting) via Teams; Dana Knute (Resilient Buildings Group) via Teams; Eric Cosgrove (NEEP) via Teams; Michael Rossi (NNEP) via Teams.

The meeting was held in person at the New Hampshire Department Energy with remote call-in and video capability. Bruce Clendenning called the meeting to order at 9:02am

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of Draft Minutes from September 16, 2022 meeting of the EESE Board
  - Amended September 16, 2022 minutes to add Mark Sanborn and move Phil Lamoreaux and Joe Fontaine to Others.
  - Approval of September 16, 2022 minutes as amended. One abstention

3. Presentation on NH Opportunities from Inflation Reduction Act – Elizabeth McKenna, Office of US Senator Jeanne Shaheen
  - Presentation goes through the Law in the order in how it is written. The presentation is posted to the EESE Board website.
    - Question: How does the State effectively interact with the federal money:
    - Answer: Guidance is being worked on for the funding going to the State Energy Office.
4. Presentation on new NH approaches on Fuel Assistance – Beth Gilbert & Fatima Masic, Southern NH Services. The presentation is posted to the EESE Board website.
  - Question: How important is in person contact with a CAP agency?
  - Answer: COVID changes things for a bit, we are getting back into in person contact. Some folks still prefer to use mail in applications or phone calls.
  - Discussion on getting additional funding and understaffing.
  - Due to rising costs there is an influx of applications.
5. Update and decisions from Outreach & Education Committee
  - Presentation – Doria Brown on behalf of the Outreach & Education Committee
    - O & E ask to DOE is for an RFP for a vendor partner
      - Requested confirmation from Board that this is appropriate approach – Board confirmed that O&E Committee should continue on this path
    - Discussion on using many media platforms for outreach and education ie: tiktok, Instagram short form videos etc. and to take into account all of the demographics
    - Discussion regarding clarification of the Legislative intent for utilization of the \$400,000 the Board is tasked with expending to further the public's education regarding the benefits of energy efficiency
6. Update from Energy Efficiency Committee
  - The EE committee is having really good discussions and things are moving forward
7. Discussion and initial review of proposed changes to EESE Board Governance Document
  - The intent at this time is for some housekeeping of the governance document.
  - There was discussion as to whether the Chair/Vice Chair needed to be State Employees
  - It was mentioned that a look at the changes of 549 and what it might mean for the board and part of what is needed for the ongoing discussion
  - Agreement from Board that any proposed amendments to Governance Document should be provided to the Chair in short order, so an amended draft with all proposed changes can be available in advance of November meeting, when votes on proposed changes will occur.

8. The Chair explained that the Board’s annual report is being worked on; it is due to the Legislature December 1<sup>st</sup>, so we’ll be reviewing, voting on this at the next Board Meeting.
9. Legislative Updates
  - House STE Committee Passed judgement on retained bills
  - Working on drafting bills and LSRs through the election period
  - The SEC committee finished its work and issued a report; legislative action on their recommendations is anticipated
10. Board & Program Updates
  - a. Department of Energy
    - i. Residential Solar Rebates currently open and run as a lottery
    - ii. All Programs are open except for Residential Wind
    - iii. The department will be issuing some RFPs in the next few weeks
    - iv. Waiting for guidance from the federal government on many state energy program funds.
    - v. RFI through the New England states to look into transmission planning and specifically for offshore wind. Public comment period is currently open
  - b. Department of Environmental Services
    - i. First EV charging contract was approved through the Volkswagen settlement – to be constructed in Errol
    - ii. DOT funding must be corridor-based and it appears that the VW Settlement funds will also correspond to the designated corridors.
    - iii. Offshore wind summit was very successful, discussion focused on “what are the opportunities? What are the challenges?”
  - c. Board Member Updates
  - d. EM&V Workgroup Updates
    - i. Close to finalizing the selection of EMV third party contractors to review programs, look at process procedures, impacts and baselines
    - ii. Filed Strategic Evaluation plan was filed on March 1<sup>st</sup>
11. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 11:02
  - Motion by Chris Skoglund
  - Seconded by Mark Sanborn
  - No abstentions
  - A unanimous roll call vote to adjourn.