

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Minutes for September 17, 2021

Attendees:

Board Members: Ryan Clouthier (Southern NH Services); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Becky Ohler (DES); Kate Peters (Eversource); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Ray Burke (remote) (NH Legal Assistance); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Tonia Chase (BIA); Karen Cramton (Dept. of Energy); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Representative Kat McGhee (NH House of Representatives); Representative Michael Vose (NH House of Representatives); Matt Siska (GDS Associates); Jack Ruderman (NH Housing Authority); Don Perrin (DAS).

Others: Josie Gage (OCA); Maureen Reno (OCA); Azanna Wishart (Department of Energy); Mark Lemenager (Eversource); Bob Backus; Madeleine Mineau (Essex Hydro); Wendy Thomas; Cecilia Viggiano (EBP); Steve Eckberg (Department of Energy); Liz Nixon (Department of Energy); Kelly Buchanan (Clean Energy NH); Sam Evans-Brown (Clean Energy NH); Chris Skoglund (DES); Megan Ulin (Revision Energy); Linda Coleman; Erin Cosgrove (NEEP); Meghan Hoye; Erin Cosgrove.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting was held in person at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services location on Hazen Drive in Concord, NH. Remote access and participation was available through Teams.
- Bruce Clendenning, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
- The Acting Chair confirmed, and noted, a quorum of the voting EESE Board members were physically present at the meeting location. Raymond Burke participated from a remote location stating he was not able to be present onsite.
- Non-voting members and other individuals participated either remotely or in person.

2. Approval of the August 18, 2021 EESE Board Meeting Minutes

- Representative McGhee moved. Ryan Clouthier seconded.
- Discussion of whether, and how, to attribute stated opinions and comments in the August minutes. This change to the meeting minutes and the ensuing discussion were necessary because during the August meeting some EESE Board members requested that their

statements be reflected in the minutes. Past practice for minutes was for the minutes to reflect discussion topics, summarize discussions, note decisions made, next steps, etc.

- It was requested that the August draft minutes be updated to specifically note the names of individuals whose opinions and comments were stated in minutes.
- Representative Vose made a motion to table the approval of the August minutes, pending updates. Becky Ohler seconded the motion.
 - All in favor.

3. Energy Efficiency (EE) Committee Discussion

- EE Committee
 - The Board Acting Chair circulated an EERS/EE Committee document containing recommendations to EESE Board members.
 - Becky Ohler made a motion to move forward with the recommendation to reestablish an EE Committee. Tonia Chase seconded motion.
 - Discussion on the motion:
 - Rep. Vose suggested there are too many people on the committee as almost all EESE Board members were recommended to be members of the EE Committee. He suggested maybe having one Utility representative instead of all utilities participating.
 - Becky Ohler noted that everyone on the list is needed
 - Eric Stanley did not see a reason to reduce membership and noted that each utility company is different. He also stated that Liberty would want to be represented on the Committee.
 - Don Kreis indicated that when he was Chair of the Committee, the membership was 16 and he never felt that was too big. The Committee work was getting done.
 - Other points included: Committee meetings are public, and if the Committee's purpose is to represent all stakeholders then all stakeholders should be included; various opinions need to be heard; stakeholders are more likely to support a plan that they helped create
 - Don Kreis noted that 3 or 4 years ago when the EESE Board approved the Committee's statement of purpose it did not identify members. Then, 16 people showed up and the Committee Chair did not know if everyone was present when votes were required.
 - The EE Committee administration discussion:
 - Will the Committee need a Chair and Vice Chair? Bruce Clendenning recommended Ray Burke for Chair. While Ray was honored to be considered, he is unable to commit at this time.
 - Does this committee need to be reflected in the governance document?

- Bruce Clendenning made a motion to approve the proposed EE Committee with the addition of a Chair and Vice Chair; noting that Committee members are not required to be EESE board members.
 - Vote: 9 approved; 2 abstentions (Representative Vose and Karen Cramton)
- Open items to be considered by a sub-group prior to October EESE Board meeting:
 - How should committee seats be filled?
 - Each agency can designate its member; each utility is a member
 - Maybe put a call out to organizations that have participated in the past and ask if they are interested. Bruce will reach out to the organizations.
 - Who will decide the Committee Chair?
 - Who calls first meeting?
 - What does NGO mean? Only non-profits or can businesses volunteer for those positions?
- Don Kreis thanked Bruce Clendenning for his efforts on drafting the recommendations and the end result.

4. Presentation – Supporting Rural Communities through Transportation Investments

Presenter :Cecilia Viggiano - EBP

New Hampshire is longer a participant in the regional transportation initiative. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is interested in studying the benefits of rural transportation initiatives and hired EBP as a consultant to conduct a study. The results of that study are being presented to the EESE Board.

- The report and presentation will be posted to the EESE Board’s webpage. The following is a summary of topics presented.

Summary of results:

High cost for transportation in rural area. Population tends to be older and more people with disabilities. Approximately 7% have no car. If you don’t have a car then there is often not public transportation service and/or it might not be adequate. Also considered broadband connectivity for access.

What type of investments options were considered as part of the study? The type of investment options are noted below:

- Personal and Public vehicle electrification
 - Improved air quality

- Lower fuel and maintenance costs
- Freight electrification
 - Better air quality
 - New jobs – installing chargers and intermodal facilities
- Improving shared mobility and public transit
 - Better air quality
 - Better access to jobs and service
 - Lower transportation costs
- Supporting economic development in rural town centers
 - Broadband connectivity and investment in town centers
 - Shorter distances between housing and jobs, reduced miles traveled
 - Better air quality
 - Safety

Each option was evaluated and timeframes were noted. The full report shows additional findings and analysis.

The EESE Board Chair extended a thank you to Cecilia on behalf of the Board.

5. State Energy Strategy

- The Board's comments, developed on June 18th, were submitted to the Office of Strategic Initiatives and were handed out to all in attendance. These comments were approved with one abstention. The document now includes a summary page.
- Chris Skoglund requested a discussion on how to proceed and how new topics could be added to the study. For example, more discussion is needed on grid modernization. Should the Board have future conversations on the outcomes and determine the priority for which the board wants to discuss these topics? Are there topics the Board wants to see addressed? Which topics do we want to have small subcommittee to consider and then bring back recommendations to the Board for consideration?
- The State Energy Strategy will be discussed again during the October meeting and the Board will set priorities.

5. Board & Program Updates

- Representative Vose
 - ST&E held a subcommittee meeting this week. All recommendations voted on unanimously to full committee.
 - Next sub-committee meeting in 2 weeks

- Ways and Means sub-committee met on HB614 and HB624 –
 - Municipal exemption to RPS with amendment passed out of committee
- PUC
 - No one in attendance
- Department of Energy
 - No updates
- Department of Environmental Services
 - Funding opportunity for EV fast chargers infrastructure in the state using VW monies
 - DES is the lead agency for VW monies
- Eversource
 - Utilities are drafting the EERS Triennial report which includes program highlights and stats. The complete report will be available in near term.
- OCA
 - Filed a motion for rehearing with the PUC in docket DE 20-092. This is the docket in which the EERS has been stalled since December. Its recent order was inadequate and inappropriate, and illegal. If the PUC continues to refuse to approve an EERS plan, OCA will take them to the NH Supreme Court.
 - Utilities have also filed a motion for rehearing.
 - Next Wednesday there is a meeting of the EERS Committee.

7. Meeting adjourned at 10:56 am