

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Minutes for June 17, 2022

Attendees:

Board Members: Ryan Clouthier (Southern NH Services); Maureen Reno for Don Kreis (OCA); Ray Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy) via Teams; Amanda Noonan for Chris Ellms (DOE) via Teams; Donald Perrin (DAS); Jack Ruderman (NHHFA); Phil Biron (State Fire Marshal's Office); Patrick McDermott (AARP); Joe Fontaine (DES); Doria Brown (NH Municipal Association) via Teams; Scott Maslkansky (NHCDFR)

Non-voting Participants: Mark Lemenager (Eversource); Cindy Carroll (Unitil) via Teams; Matthew Siska (GDS Associates) via Teams; Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Carol Woods (NH Electric Coop)

Others: Chris Skoglund (Clean Energy NH); Megan Ulin (ReVision Energy); Andrew Hatch (Resilient Buildings Group); Kim Dragoo (Liberty) .

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.
- Ray Burke (standing in for Bruce Clendenning who dialed in) called the meeting to order at 9:14am

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

- Ryan Clouthier motioned. Pat McDermott seconded.
- Approval of the April 2022 minutes. All in favor. No abstentions.

3. Presentation: Rural Northern New England EV Toolkit – David Roberts, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation.

- Informative presentation by Dave Roberts covering everything from the pros and cons of purchasing and owning an electric vehicle, to the current New England EV Infrastructure and what the future of EV looks like in NH as compared to other states and incentive

structures.

Q: Are any efforts being made to provide EV charging and service stations to areas of low income?.

A: Most EV charging tends to be in areas to accommodate those vacationing or traveling through NH.

There was discussion about rural areas relying on home charging and how progress is being made to support those areas.

Q: Are there State Incentives?

A: Discussion of competitive incentives being offered in other areas that could increase the participation in EV purchasing .

Q: What electric rate was used in the comparison of EV to current fuel rates?

A: 0.2215

Q: Does Plug Share platform show EV charging stations and service departments?

A: Currently the Plug Share only shows charging stations however many of those listed are often dealers which provide service.

Q: What is the comparison of EV costs to the current price of gasoline?

A: Chris Skoglund offered to share a chart showing gas price/EV comparison.

Q: Does the list show the latest proposed (increased) electric rates?

A: Chris Skoglund offered to add those rates to the chart prior to sharing it with the Board.

4. Presentation Update on the 2022-2023 State EE Plan, utility response to PUC interpretation of RSA 374-F:3

- An update regarding the 22/23 EE plan being approved and highlighted some of the similarities of the plan being an updated version of the 2020 EE plan. There are roughly eight filing requirements that the utilities will need to provide additional data on. The 2024-2026 plan process has already started to kick off as part of the EESE Board and (?) or just EE? EE committee meetings.

- The utilities have filed a motion for rehearing and clarification on the most recent order as there are a few questions related to items such as the timing of reporting being due in July and January and this simply does not provide enough time for the utilities to gather and report as needed. One of the larger concerns is related to the requirement for 65% of planned annual and lifetime savings to be electric. This requirement puts programs like Home Performance with Energy Star, Home Energy Assistance and Energy Start homes, in jeopardy of substantial program changes including changes to funded measures and/or significant adjustments to scale and size of projects.

Q: What are the short- and long-term impacts of the 65% interpretation?

A: Utilities said they may need to look at offering different programs, changing program structure, perhaps even changing structure and offerings mid-stream.

- There was discussion in reference to NH Electric Co-op's (NHEC) current geographic territory. It is predominantly residential which makes the impact on them significant. Comparing the last program year where NHEC achieved 71.5% annual and 41.5% lifetime to show how a 65% lifetime requirement would require significant changes.
- TRM (what is TRM?) updates to assumptions could further exacerbate the issue.
- There was discussion that it might be helpful for the legislators to send a letter of clarification of HB549 to the PUC. It may provide a quicker resolution to any unintended consequences. Because the legislators are not intervenors, a letter may not have the ability to impact the decision.
- Businesses that will potentially be impacted are the same businesses that HB 549 was trying to protect.

Q: Will the 65% rule have a direct impact on low income?

A: The utilities explained the rule would require less MMBtu savings. The focus would be on electric savings therefore this would reduce the amount of overall energy savings provided to low-income customers.

5. Update from Energy Efficiency Committee

- The committee is working with the utilities to draft a monthly schedule. A full procedural schedule will be complete by next week and will be distributed to the full EE committee.. There was discussion around the difference between the last triennial plan and this triennial plan. The primary concern is the lack of a consultant to help with planning and discussion.

6. Update re: scheduling Education and Outreach Committee meeting.

- Discussion regarding HB 549 for providing funding for outreach and education. Amanda Noonan will help manage the process and will meet with Bruce next week to draft a schedule. It will be provided to the full committee at which time roles and responsibilities will be defined.
- Pat McDermott expressed that there may be training opportunities within the commercial realtors as well as the opportunity to connect with PBS to help raise awareness and educate communities.

7. Board updates:

Board Members:

Don Perrin has accepted a position as Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds and may relinquish his role on the Board.

Bruce Clendenning announced that he has accepted a position change within the Nature Conservatory that will include a more regional approach to his energy works. He has discussed this transition with Vice Chair Ray Burke and as he will continue to be engaged in Energy Policy efforts in NH, to some extent, he currently intends to continue his service as Chair of the EESE board.

8. Motion to Adjourn at 10:54

- Ryan Clouthier moved. Pat McDermott seconded. All in favor.