

DRAFT Minutes
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board
Public Utilities Commission, Room A, Concord, NH
9AM – 12:00 PM
January, 13, 2012 Meeting

***Items underlined and in color are hyperlinked to documents.**

Members in Attendance:

David Borden of NH Sustainable Energy Association; Daniel Feltes of NH Legal Assistance; Timothy Fortier of NH Municipal Association; Ben Frost for Dean Christon, NH Housing Authority; Representative James Garrity; Jackie Hanscome for Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager; Michael Licata for Patti Carrier, BIA Designee; Dana Nute of Belknap-Merrimack Community Action Agency; Bob Reals, Jr. of Dept. of Resources and Economic Development; Jack Ruderman of NH Public Utilities Commission; Deborah Schachter of NH Charitable Foundation; Robert Scott of Dept. of Environmental Services; and Eric Steltzer of Office of Energy and Planning.

Non Voting Members in Attendance:

Michael Behrmann of Revolution Energy, LLC; Michael Bruss of Bruss Construction; Vice Chair George Gantz of Unutil; Gil Gelineau of PSNH; Debra Hale of National Grid; Kate Peters of NH Community Development Finance Authority; and Carol Woods of NH Electric Coop.

1. Welcome and Introductions

In the absence of a Chair, Vice Chair George Gantz introduced the new Board Members. In the past, PUC has provided a minute taker for the meetings, but now the Department of Environmental Services and the Office of Energy and Planning will share that responsibility. The Board thanked Diane Bateman for all of her organization of the Board meetings/schedules/etc. as well as her past service as minute-taker for the Board. The breakfast was sponsored this morning by Unutil, and sponsorship of the breakfast will be open to others on a rotating basis. The cost is \$134.00. The Board thanked NH Charitable Foundation for its breakfast contribution for the past three years.

2. Minutes of December 9, 2011, EESE Board Meeting

The minutes of the December 9, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously as filed. (Ruderman/Borden)

3. EESE Board Membership

Bound by statute for membership, new members of the Board were chosen by appointment and process. We have some partnering members and some new members. Thank you to the out-going members of the Board and welcome to the new members. Patti Carrier has stepped aside and Michael Licata is here on behalf of BIA, but we will look for the BIA input to re-designate as appropriate.

The position of Beth Fischer as a Home Builders and Remodelers Assoc. of NH will need to be filled.

4. Legislative Monitoring Subcommittee – Michael Licata

The first meeting of this subcommittee met on Monday and reviewed the charter for the subcommittee as well as discussed the bills coming up this year. It looks to be an active year on energy issues including topics connected to generation assets, RPS voluntary standards including solar and thermal component, eminent domain, and repeal of RGGI.

5. Energy Study Recommendations Working Group

To synchronize the upcoming bills with this working group, the Legislative Monitoring Subcommittee will provide the Working Group with the list of proposals. Upon a motion duly made/seconded (Frost/Fortier), the Board unanimously voted to authorize this Working Group to review the energy study recommendations as they pertain to the upcoming bills.

Deborah Schachter and Chris Skoglund updated the Board. Members of the group include Steve Eckberg, Ben Frost, Representative James Garrity, Dick Henry and Jack Ruderman. Reviewing the time horizon, impact of request, cost, consensus, and trying to elevate and bring to the top what can be done is the concern. The group will meet monthly. Vice-Chair George Gantz offered administrative assistance from his staff to the group to help compile all of the documents submitted for review. Diane Bateman will be in the loop, and anyone wanting to be in the loop is to contact Chris Skoglund. Upon a motion duly made/seconded (Ruderman/Nute), the Board unanimously voted to have Deborah Schachter and Chris Skoglund co-chair this group.

6. RGGI Grantee Presentation – Retail Merchants Association – Joseph Lajewski & Barbara Bernstein

Provided Powerpoint presentation entitled “Giving Power Back.” One of the recipients of the project was Young’s Restaurant. The energy efficient project was \$68,000 to \$72,000, and he received \$15,000-\$16,000 of assistance. The business is now enjoying a very comfortable temperature and is now saving \$12,000 a year in reduced energy costs. The one-on-one conversations with business owners will help to educate them and make them feel confident in the savings they will see. Rebates are a big driving factor for the businesses. The audit shows the savings, so the conversion rate is extremely high. For those who decide not to move forward, it is because it is not financially feasible for them. The funding is to run out by the end of 2015.

BREAK

7. EESE Board Governance

The Board reviewed a draft handout of the Statement of Governing Principles. It is appropriate to codify the way this group operates and then place the document

on the web. Suggestion to amend “E. Meetings” last sentence as follows: Each meeting must be noticed a minimum of “x” number of days in advance, and draft minutes made available for public inspection within five business days, in accordance with RSA 91-A.

Section E.b.

Whether decisions can be made with or without consensus was discussed. The Board has in the past been cautious when there was not full consensus of the Board. Consensus can sometimes be impossible to achieve. If there is a single opposition, that opposition can prevent the Board from moving forward. Some felt the Board should do everything by consensus. Some felt the Board should be very careful of the wording because if it makes recommendations, those recommendations should be by vote. Some expressed the opinion that in the case of non-consensus, the majority would rule, but the minority opinion could be expressed. The members by Statute are the voting members. Any member has the opportunity to pursue their own case to the Legislature or the PUC regardless of the position of the Board. A suggestion was made to allow for a minority opinion to include non-voting members. But if it is the voting member who has the difference of an opinion, input would be provided to help understanding on both sides of the issue, rather than the appearance of only half of an opinion going forward with the decision of the Board. There is non-voting participation on the Board. If the Board doesn't take a contrary opinion into account, it would not be good. If there is a perception that the Board rolled over, that would be bad as well.

The Legislature has structured this Board this way. There should be a fair and open process. Alan Linder suggested adding the following: “shall reflect the majority and minority positions as well as the position of the non-voting members.” Vice Chair George Gantz will work on this and present it at the next meeting.

This Board is of a policy nature, and it is expected that the members bring their interests to the table. But it is pecuniary in that those are the things that the Legislature wants to see. So, the Board is trying to create a process that is transparent.

Officers and Responsibilities.

The Secretary of the Board can be a member, and they do not oversee preparation for the meeting, nor do they take the minutes. The Secretary position is to lighten the load of the Chair.

Committees.

The Board would like to see clarification on the question raised regarding voting by voting members and non-voting members, as well as the question about consensus of the committee. When there becomes a stumbling block on the committee, the committee should bring the block to the Board. The Board makes

the decision. A suggestion was made to have at least three EESE Board members on each committee. Committee meetings need to follow the rules of 91:A. The role of the committee is to advise the Board.

EESE Board Energy Legislation Monitoring Document

This committee would be advisory in nature and needs to comply with 91:A. With input from Deborah Schachter, Ben Frost, and Chris Skoglund, Vice Chair George Gantz will put forward for the next meeting a final version of the document to act upon with full consensus.

8. Municipal Energy Working Group

Julia Dundorf reported energy efforts being done including energy security measures for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and helping to facilitate innovative financing.

Eric Steltzer reported that the group is planning on meeting quarterly as a group with small groups meeting as needed and bring their information to the Municipal Energy Working Group. Working with the Local Energy Working Groups will continue, and the Municipal Energy Working Group plans to aggregate the resources. This group has not met in six months, and if this is set-up to be that bridge, the Board could provide some structure for that. Eric Steltzer will come back to the Board with a charge or straw proposal for the group for what would make sense for this Group, how it would operate; and the Board will discuss this. Timothy Fortier and Kate Peters volunteered to help.

9. Outreach and Education Working Group

This Group has not yet met in January. Robert Scott and Carol Woods volunteered to be in the Group. The Outreach and Education Working Group will come back to the Board with a formal request.

10. Program Updates

The Renewable Energy Fund: Working on a draft of a new RFP to be released in two weeks for the funding of 1M dollars. Five awards were given out last time. The RFP will be similar to last year, and it will be technically neutral.

Rebates opportunity was successful; in fact residential photovoltaic and wind were a little too successful. If we don't make changes before the end of the year, we might run out of money. The Group will supply other options.

Wood Pellet Program is new and a result of the success of the wood pellet industry. There is a steady flow of applications.

RGGI Fund brought in close to \$1.8 million, and we will move into a new three year block. The hope is that there will be more robust applications.

The Union Leader came out critically against RGGI calling it a deficit spending program because RGGI has taken in \$32 million, but it has allocated \$34 million. RGGI has made grant awards on money coming in, not deficit spending. If we had to pay out all of the grants, we would technically have enough money in the fund to pay it all out. The six grants we gave out in 2010 are still going strong. We are waiting to see how the auction proceeds shape up for the coming year.

The Appliance Rebate Program is ending.

ARRA programs are given until June to finish all their work for both weatherization and energy programs. Approximately 2800 units have been weatherized with a hope to finish 3200-3300 by the time the money is gone. By the end of June, all projects will be completed.

BetterBuildings runs through to 2013. The Community Action Agencies will be working with BetterBuildings to help weatherize units for those who are eligible.

Button Up – Workshops are taking place January, February, and March.

CORE Program – The program has been approved, and things are moving forward. There is \$20 million, and programs for all customers are filling up fast.

11. Other Business

Next Meeting: Friday, February 17, 2012.

Meeting adjourned.