

Minutes  
Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board  
Room 100, 21 S. Fruit Street, Concord, NH  
March 13, 2009 Meeting

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

**Members in Attendance:** Richard Ober of NH Charitable Foundation, Jack Ruderman of NHPUC, Steve Eckberg for Meredith Hatfield of the OCA, Eric Steltzer of NH OEP, Joanne Morin for Robert Scott of DES, Alan Linder for Daniel Feltes of NHLA, Susan Olsen of NH Municipal Association, Dick Henry of the Jordan Institute, Wes Golomb of NH SEA, Ben Frost for Dean Christon of NHHFA, Roy Duddy of NH DRED, Karen Rantamaki, State Energy Manager, Brian Wujcik of Home Builders and Remodelers Association of NH,

**Non-Voting Members in Attendance:** Gil Gelineau of PSNH, John Puc of National Grid, Cindy Carroll of Unitil, Kathy Beliveau for James Grady of Lightec, Inc., Charles Niebling of New England Wood Pellet,

**Link to Meeting Agenda:** [Meeting Agenda](#)

**Welcome & Chair's Remarks.**

**Chairman Ober** convened the meeting at 9:03 A.M.

Chairman Ober went over the agenda items for the meeting and then asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. {Introductions followed}. He noted this was a very opportune moment in energy policy due to the amount of significant public investments in the near future and the policy foundations laid in recent years. He reminded everyone to keep in mind some of the important themes when it comes to defining goals: Carbon/Cost Reduction, Jobs, and Sustainability of Programs.

**Adoption of February 13, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

**Chairman Ober** asked for a motion to approve the 2-13-09 minutes. **Susan Olsen** moved to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded. There were no corrections. The motion was unanimously approved.

**1. Updates**

**Joanne Morin** noted that New York was making certain adjustments to RGGI allowances. She noted that it is not a major shift and certainly not enough to affect the market.

She also noted that there is a new [point carbon](#) report saying that due to the economic downturn, emissions are down and that the CO2 cap is down. She urged people to not overreact to this report because there is a 3 year compliance period and emissions are going to fluctuate.

**Jack Ruderman** commented that he had attended the 2009 Building Energy Conference and recommended it for the future. He noted that there were over 100 vendors present and that there were many new products showcased including a combined heat and power unit for the home. He noted that these units were common in Japan and that there were many other products which can really change the market and how people think about renewables. He also noted that the NY Power Authority and NY City have massive programs aimed to reduce energy consumption by as much as 30% in the next 10 years.

In Regard to the RGGI RFP, **Jack** commented that the PUC was still fielding questions. All [questions and their corresponding answers](#) are shown on the PUC Website and the [spreadsheet](#) used to calculate energy savings would be posted that day. Jack noted that the deadline would still be March 23<sup>rd</sup> (although later, Jack Ruderman sent out an [addendum](#) to the RFP which moved up the deadline for the energy savings calculation only).

**Joanne Morin** noted that the [NH Climate Action Plan](#) report would be released on March 25<sup>th</sup> as well as the announcement of the new Energy and Climate Collaborative, which will coordinate implementation of the plan on the same day. She noted that the membership of the collaborative was still being finalized and that everyone was welcome to attend the press release of the report on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. in the House chambers. She noted that there would be overlap between members of the EESE Board and the Energy and Climate Collaborative.

**Ray Gosney** noted that he had attended the Winter Meeting of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) last month and that Google presented regarding their emergence into the energy market. He noted that Google entering the energy market shows how important energy issues really are and that they were entering the market in an imaginative and bold way. He noted that they were looking to partner up with manufacturers and to interface between businesses and homes. They wanted to go from 'load following mode' to 'load shaping mode' by controlling what is going on with end users.

**Domenic Armano** noted that if you wanted more information regarding Google Energy, you could visit their energy related website at [www.google.org](http://www.google.org).

## 2. 2009 Legislation

**Charlie Niebling** noted that the hearing for [SB98](#) regarding boilers and other pressure vessels was recessed to Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. He also noted that the legislature seemed more inclined to act on the bill rather than creating a study group. He noted that this bill was mainly intended to look at other countries standards and try to get the best, cleanest and most efficient product available. He noted that Europeans are building to a much more efficient standard with their equipment but it is currently illegal to install that equipment in the USA. **Amy Ignatius** noted that there was a provision in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Funds that certain funds had to be used to purchase American made products only.

**Joanne Morin** noted that [SB73](#) regarding State Government Energy Consumption, as well as the environmental disclosure bill, have been re-referred to next session.

**Chairman Ober** noted that [HB354](#) and [HB375](#) have been deemed inexpedient to legislate because they have been referred to the EESE board as previously discussed, and will now be part of the EESE board charge.

**Gil Gelineau** presented slides to the group regarding "[Increasing the Benefit from the System Benefits Charge](#)" by Geo-Targeting. This presentation included informational topics such as:

- o Background of Geo-Targeting
- o NH's Current Situation
- o Why not Geo-Target?
- o Implications of [RSA 374-F:4](#)
- o Potential Next Steps

Discussion then ensued regarding whether or not [RSA 374-F:4](#) should be repealed so that System Benefits Charges can be used for Geo-Targeting purposes. An extensive discussion ensued.

**Alan Linder** wondered how the low income population would be affected in NH if this was to be implemented since many low income programs are funded by SBC funds. **Gil Gelineau** noted that a portion of the SBC funds would be used for this purposed and that the low income programs would still receive their SBC funding - this would just provide a new benefit. He noted that Geo-targeting could be a more intelligent way of strategically using the funds we already have.

**Amy Ignatius** noted that she thought that Geo-Targeting was a great idea but that a generation distribution charge bill passed last year and she wasn't sure if there needed to be a legislative change made to [RSA 374-F:4](#).

**Jack Ruderman** asked how the system was not working now and how much could a change like this increase rates even more? **Gil** noted that this method would ultimately be cheaper than our current method.

**Wes Golomb** wondered if there was a reason that that [RSA 374-F:4](#) was written the way that it was. **Amy Ignatius** noted that it was written as is in order to promote competition.

**Roy Duddy** voiced his concern regarding SBC funds being taken from energy efficiency and being used for something new. He wondered what the pros and cons would be for geo-targeting and what the return on investment would be.

**Bob King** recommended the implementation of a linear rate structure. For example, the more a customer uses then the more that customer pays. He noted that this would ultimately promote conservation.

Ultimately it was decided that a subcommittee should be created to study geo-targeting. **Chairman Ober** asked for volunteers for this subcommittee and the volunteers consisted of: **Susan Olsen, Ray Gosney, Dick Henry, Steve Eckberg, Gil Gelineau, Rep. David Borden and Jim Grady.**

### **3. Energy Efficiency Potential Study**

**Alan Linder** discussed the [draft motions of NHLA from the last EESE board meeting](#). He noted that after the final report was released, NHLA had questions regarding the report and how it would be used. He noted that the importance of this study cannot be understated and that NHLA had concerns regarding some potential inaccuracies within the report, especially with the low income data. He also noted that the final report already recognized several of NHLA's comments but asked the board to now consider the following motions presented.

**Alan Linder** summarized the 3 motions and then a member vote was taken as to whether or not to act on these motions.

Regarding Motion 2009-01: *WHEREAS, the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board, as part of its charge under RSA 125-O:5-a,I(a) to review available energy efficiency programs and incentives, and having recently been made aware of data and information concerning the need and demand for energy efficiency in New Hampshire, believes that "Additional Opportunities for Energy Efficiency in New Hampshire" study may have understated the need and demand for energy efficiency by residential customers, including low-income New Hampshire residents.*

**Chairman Ober** asked Scott Albert from GDS Associates for his opinion on the motion, as author of the report.

**Scott Albert** responded by noting that this report should be 'Phase 1' of what should be considered by the board. He noted that GDS did not study policy issues and that their ultimate goal was to determine where there could be energy savings and at what cost. He also noted that the report was not designed to focus on low income data. He ultimately supported the motion and EESE board review and analysis of public policy.

**Dick Henry** noted that he shared the notion that some of the low income figures were understated but that this report should not be considered the final 'bible' but merely a chapter within.

**Alan Linder** moved to vote on the motion. The motion was seconded by **Rep. David Borden** and all voting members were **in favor** of the motion.

**Steve Eckberg** noted that his vote represented that of **Meredith Hatfield**<sup>1</sup>. **Jack Ruderman, Joanne Morin and Karen Rantamaki** abstained from the vote. **Chairman Ober** said his practice as chair will be to abstain from all voting unless the board was deadlocked on a matter.

Regarding Motion 2009-02: *WHEREAS, as part of its statutory charge to develop a plan to achieve the state's energy efficiency potential for all fuels under RSA 125-O:5-a,1 (b), the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board will consider, and respectfully recommends that the public utilities commission consider, the "Additional Opportunities for Energy Efficiency in New Hampshire" study as one of a number of relevant inputs, including, but not limited to, the reports on energy efficiency potential from New Hampshire's Climate Change Task Force, the recommendations of the public and Board members, and other evaluations and studies on energy efficiency and sustainable energy.*

**Alan Linder** moved to vote on the motion. The motion was seconded by **Wes Golomb** and all voting members were **in favor** of the motion. **Jack Ruderman and Joanne Morin** abstained from the vote. **Chairman Ober** abstained from all voting (unless necessary for passage).

Regarding Motion 2009-03: *WHEREAS, as part of its charge at RSA 125-O:5-a,1 (d) to provide recommendations to the public utilities commission and to coordinate and promote energy efficiency and sustainable energy programs in the state, the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board recommends the Commission provide interested parties and members of the public with the opportunity for public comment on the final "Additional Opportunities for Energy Efficiency in New Hampshire" study, including input on the use of the study by the Commission.*

**Joanne Morin** noted that she too believed that certain aspects of the report were understated but that to call on the PUC to reopen public comment on a

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<sup>1</sup> Chairman Ober asked persons who were attending the meeting on behalf of an EESE Board member to vote only if they knew that it was the expressed intent of the member to vote in favor or against a particular motion. Otherwise, designees were asked to abstain from voting.

report that is so technical could potentially bring the report into too much question and ultimately make it unusable by the PUC in the future.

**Eric Steltzer** agreed and wondered how further input would change the report since it is already finalized. He also noted that EESE board comments were already received by GDS Associates and many of them already taken into account. He noted that he believed that the EESE board had already served its purpose in regard to the report. **Ben Frost** echoed **Eric Steltzer's** notions.

**Dick Henry** wondered if there was a mechanism in place to communicate with the PUC as improved data comes in, in order to update the report and ensure that this report continues to be a living document.

**Alan Linder** moved to vote on the motion. The motion was seconded by **Ben Frost** and all voting members were **opposed** to the motion with the exception of **Alan Linder**. **Jack Ruderman**, **Joanne Morin** abstained from the vote. **Chairman Ober** abstained. This motion did not pass.

**BREAK** - The meeting recessed at 10:38 a.m. for a short break and resumed at 10:46 a.m.

#### **4. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009**

**Amy Ignatius** noted that she had sent a link to **Chairman Ober** regarding [Weatherization](#) and the [State Energy Program](#). (These links are now on the EESE board website). She noted that the NH Office of Economic Stimulus released a [report](#) which placed all energy related projects into one document. She also noted that the U.S. Dept. of Energy issued a [press release](#) which provided some clarity regarding how the weatherization program works.

**Amy** noted that the 2 main OEP run programs receiving large amounts of funds would be the Weatherization Program and the State Energy Program. The weatherization program would be expecting approximately \$23 million in funding and its guidelines had changed in order to increase eligibility to 200% of the federal poverty guideline (formerly 150%) and the maximum assistance per dwelling would be \$6,500 (formerly \$2,500). The State Energy Program would be expecting approximately \$25 million in funding.

She noted that the State must submit initial applications for funds and then distribution of funds would be made in steps. There would be accountability for these funds and the state would have to show that good progress was being made in order to receive its next allocation. She noted that although it was unlikely, technically the state could have its funding revoked at any given

time if it did not comply with federal guidelines, reporting guidelines and show that progress was being made.

**Amy** noted that the entire amount of funding must be fully obligated by September 30, 2010 and then parties would have 3 years to spend all of the funds from the date obligated.

She noted that there were some provisions in certain programs such as the public works programs (though not in the weatherization program) that required the purchase of American manufactured products such as iron and steel unless a waiver was granted due to excessive cost or unavailability.

She noted that OEP would put summaries of all programs on their [website](#) and would update the new information as it becomes available.

**Amy** commented that Bud Fitch, Director of Office of Economic Recovery, will require all state agencies to report all competitive opportunities so to make sure that all agencies apply for everything available to them and will require everyone to look at existing programs or set up new programs which will allow for the leveraging and coordination of funds for maximum benefit. She also noted that the government was looking for maximum code compliance with a goal of reaching 90% compliance within the next 8 years.

**Karen Rantamaki** wondered if the weatherization program would still apply to dwellings which had been weatherized in the past. **Amy** noted that she believed that it would be available to them as long as the dwelling had been weatherized prior to 1993, otherwise it would not eligible.

**Charlie Niebling and John Puc** wondered if there were federal guidelines in place regarding objectives and specific reporting protocols. **Amy** noted that OEP was in the process of working on standard financial reports and other progress reports which would show as much reporting information as possible, including carbon reduction amounts, etc.

**Chairman Ober** reminded everyone that there was a [link](#) on the nh.gov website which provided information regarding all of the programs which will receive stimulus funding.

**Joanne Morin** noted that there would also be a [Diesel Emissions Reduction Act](#) targeting diesel vehicles which would be part of the stimulus funds. DES would be handling this program and all questions regarding the program could be directed to [Joanne Morin](#).

## **5. Reports from Work Groups**

**Joanne Morin**, reporting for Meredith Hatfield, chair, discussed the [Outreach and Coordination Work Group](#). She noted that the work group has met twice and

has decided to think about the short term for the time being, and are trying to pull existing programs and organize all of the current information available. She noted that members of this work group were very concerned about the public knowing where to go and making sure that funds are being used in conjunction with stimulus funds.

She also noted that another major concern of the work group was that the EESE board was still just a volunteer organization and that the depth of the issues required more than just volunteer services. She also noted that they want to make sure that people are directed in the right way and that the proper level of care is taken. She noted that the next meeting of this work group would be scheduled soon.

**Dick Henry** presented some slides entitled, [Overarching Principles for the EESE Finance Committee to Consider](#). This presentation focused on:

- o The Problems;
- o Energy Use by Sector and Fuel Type;
- o Priorities;
- o Metrics;
- o Funding;
- o Integration;
- o Education; and the
- o Development of Screens.

This presentation was very useful to the board in understanding many of the areas for possible consideration by the board and its subcommittees. He also noted that there was a link to a similar and very useful energy cost calculator (much like the one in the presentation) on the OEP website and it can be found [here](#).

**John Puc** discussed the [Workforce Development and Technical Advisory work Group](#). He noted that this work group focused on much of what was addressed in Dick Henry's presentation. He noted that there was a mutual focus on training commercial auditors and creating a workforce consisting of consistent reporting and standards for safety and quality assurance and control. He also expressed the need for an evaluation component in order to show what measures were taken and what was saved.

**Dana Nute** commented that CAP agencies are working on hiring more crews, auditors, etc. **Alan Linder** reminded everyone that this was a good opportunity to hire low income citizens and train them to do this type of work.



Many noted that this work group meeting had many different attendants such as members of Homebuilders and Remodelers Association of NH, independent contractors, HVAC technicians, insulators, and members from the Community College and State College system, etc.

**Rep. David Borden** discussed the [Public Sector Work Group](#). He noted that the first meeting consisted of discussions regarding what was going on in each member's areas. He noted that at the next meetings there would be discussion regarding specific challenges being faced, collection of data in regard to state energy consumption, figuring out a resource base and what is currently available and developing and helping people to understand a hierarchy of needs. He also noted that it is important to involve energy committees in these subcommittees. Rep. Borden commented on the need for better code enforcement and the strict certification of contractors. Lastly, Rep. Borden noted that he would like to add members to this work group.

**Chairman Ober** discussed the [Financing Work Group](#). He provided a handout at the meeting of [Energy Efficiency Related Funding](#). He noted that this handout was meant to be a simple summary of the public funds available in the next two years in an effort to increase understanding, reduce duplication, enhance collaboration and provide guidance to the state agencies responsible for distributing the funds. He commented that some goals of the work group were to identify short term challenges as well as tangible goals.

He noted that timing was important and that many current events will affect others. For example, knowing what will be included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act can aid the PUC with its RGGI programs.

**Scott Albert** noted that it was important to be careful to not overstep on the current infrastructure of businesses already providing energy related and other services to people. While it is important to use all resources available to us and to enhance our work forces, there are already many companies out there which are already providing services to people and the last thing anyone would want would be to inadvertently harm a business.

#### **6. Renewable Energy: Initial Discussion to Get on Our Agenda**

**Chairman Ober** stated the need for a focused presentation on renewable energy. He noted that much of the focus has been given to energy efficiency. Members agreed that a presentation on challenges and opportunities in renewables would be useful.

#### **7. Other**

**Charlie Niebling** noted that there was a conference from 4/29-4/30 in Nashua regarding the usage of biomass for heating purposes. He noted that the website for more information was [www.heatne.com](http://www.heatne.com).

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The next meeting of the ESSE board is scheduled for Friday, April 10, 2009 at the PUC (Hearing Room A).

Subsequent meetings of the EESE Board are scheduled for May 8, 2009 and June 12, 2009 (the second Friday of every month) from 9 am - 12 pm and will be held at the NH PUC, Hearing Room A, 21 South Fruit Street, Concord, NH 03301.

There being no other business to come before the board, **Chairman Ober** adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.