

## Minutes

Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board  
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 (Hearing Room A) Concord, NH  
June 12, 2009 Meeting

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

Members in Attendance: Richard Ober of NH Charitable Foundation, Jack Ruderman of NHPUC, Meredith Hatfield of the OCA, Mary Downes for Eric Steltzer of NH OEP, Joanne Morin for Robert Scott of DES, Alan Linder for Daniel Feltes of NHLA, Roy Duddy of DRED, Patti Carrier of NH BIA, Dick Henry of the Jordan Institute, Karen Rantamaki of NH DAS (State Energy Manager), Susan Olsen of NH Municipal Association, Wes Golomb of NH SEA, Brian Wujcik of Home Builders and Remodelers Association of NH, Rep. David Borden, and Sen. Martha Fuller Clark.

Non-Voting Members in Attendance: Gil Gelineau of PSNH, William Codner for John Puc of National Grid, Cindy Carroll of Unitil, James Grady of LightTec, Inc., Ray Gosney of NH Electric Cooperative, and Charlie Niebling of New England Wood Pellet.

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

### 1. Welcome & Introduction, Chair's Remarks

Chairman Ober convened the meeting at 9:08 A.M.; he welcomed everyone including first time guests Rep. Naida Kaen and Rep. Suzanne Harvey to the meeting and asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves. {Introductions followed}.

### 2. Approval of May 8, 2009 Meeting [Minutes](#)

Chairman Ober asked for a motion to approve the 5-8-09 minutes. Meredith Hatfield moved to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Roy Duddy. The motion for adoption was unanimously approved.

Chairman Ober reviewed the agenda and the plan for the meeting.

### 3. Updates

#### Energy & Climate Collaborative

Chairman Ober noted that the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Collaborative was held on May 14, 2009; second meeting to be held on July 9, 2009. [Tom Burack](#) was elected Chairman of the Collaborative. The Collaborative is not redundant to the

EESE board; it meets quarterly and supports the implementing bodies working on the 67 recommendations of the [Climate Action Plan](#), as well as identifies gaps in the implementation. See [New Hampshire Charitable Foundation](#) and DES website for more information. The Collaborative will have its own website soon.

#### RGGI

Jack Ruderman noted that there were 84 proposals received for the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund RFP. All were reviewed and ranked by the PUC Commissioners, along with an advisory panel of Jack Ruderman, Dick Ober and Eric Steltzer. The Commissioners have decided on the first 9 proposals to be granted. He noted that all 9 proposals in this first round were foundational proposals and all were contingent on Governor and Council approval. A 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of 12-15 + proposals would follow shortly. The winning proposals can be found [here](#) and consist of \$5.4 million in combined funding.

Discussion of the winning proposals ensued and many members of the board offered their thanks and appreciation to the Commissioners and advisory panel. Dick Henry proposed a motion of appreciation for a job well done. Rep. David Borden seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the board.

Jack described the Governor & Executive Council process to the board and then noted that he was attending a conference along with his counterparts from the other RGGI states regarding the process, programs and funding mechanisms of their programs and would report the information back to the board.

Finally, Jack noted that there was approximately \$6 million in the fund as of now. \$1.2 million has been deducted for the Stay Warm Initiative and \$.5 deducted million for RGGI Administrative costs. The next auction will be June 17, 2009 and there are 2 more auctions expected before the end of 2009 for a total of \$18-20 million, expected but not guaranteed.

#### ARRA

Mary Downes discussed ARRA funding with the board and noted that there were 3 main pots of money that were summarized [here](#).

In regard to the [Weatherization](#) program, she noted:

That the Weatherization application is in and that federal [Davis Bacon](#) (fair wage) Rules apply to some of these funds so OEP is now getting Davis Bacon training. She then deferred to Dana Nute for additional information.

Dana Nute noted that the first 17 workers have completed the weatherization training course through the CAP agencies and that more are expected to do so

in the coming months. He also noted that Davis Bacon rules generally do not apply to most in NH because the wage paid is higher than minimum requirement.

In regard to the [State Energy Program](#), Mary noted that:

The state's application was submitted May 12, 2009 and that OEP has received several requests for clarification from the U.S. Dept. of Energy so OEP knows that the application is moving forward.

In regard to the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program](#), Mary noted that:

The deadline for the submission of the application is now June 25, 2009. Dari Sassan of OEP was working on finalizing the plans for the program and the application. She also noted that the new administrative assistant has just started at OEP and there is still one opening for a [Procurement and Contract Compliance Officer](#). She noted that OEP director Amy Ignatius has been appointed as PUC Commissioner as of June 30, 2009, so the Governor's Office will be conducting a search for her replacement at OEP.

Chairman Ober and others thanked OEP for a job well done and for ramping up quickly and efficiently. Mary noted that this was confusing to many people and that there is money coming in through the state and that there is also money available through the U.S. Dept. of Energy. They want to position NH to take best advantage of all funds available and leverage them with other funds. She noted that OEP is happy to answer any questions or concerns that you may have and that you can [contact](#) the office with inquiries.

#### Legislation

The board had an open discussion (open to members and guests) regarding the energy related bills which have been brought forth this session and what their status was. Senator Martha Fuller Clark, Rep. Suzanne Harvey, Rep. Naida Kaen, Rep. David Borden, Charlie Niebling, Meredith Hatfield, Chairman Ober, Ray Gosney, Dick Henry and others all contributed to the discussion. The following bills were discussed:

[HB189](#) - Enabling Municipalities to establish Energy Commissions - Passed

[HB61](#) - establishing a definition of "sustainable energy" for purposes of the EESE board - Passed

[SB85](#) - relative to the Commission to develop a plan for the expansion of transmission capacity in the North Country - Passed

[HB395](#) - requiring electric utilities to offer renewable energy source options, allowing the PUC to make contingent grants and loans from the GHGERF, and relative to using the electricity distribution charge to fund

conservation and load management - In Senate Conference Committee - Likely to be Passed

[HB229](#) - clarifying the eligibility requirements for class IV renewable energy generating facilities and relative to renewable energy certificates - Passed

[HB585](#) - relative to outdoor lighting efficiency a/k/a "Dark Skies Bill" - Passed

[SB98](#) - establishing a commission to study state regulations governing installation of boilers, pressure vessels, and related high performance HVAC equipment - In House Conference Committee - Likely to be Passed

[HB303](#) - relative to motor vehicle emissions and motor vehicle idling - Inexpedient to Legislate

[SB68](#) - relative to the use of State Vehicles (concerning efficiency) - Passed

[SB127](#) - making renewable energy facilities eligible for certain bonds issued by municipalities and business and industrial development authorities - Passed

[SB73](#) - requiring state departments to reduce energy consumption and to make an annual report on their energy consumption reduction efforts - Referred to Study Committee

[SB97](#) - establishing a committee to study the standards and procedures by which certain information should be provided to electrical service customers - Passed

Chairman Ober noted that a priority of the EESE Board in the next two months will be to identify top legislative priorities related to the board's charge, and to work with legislative members of the board and other legislative energy leaders. He anticipates that these policy recommendations will be a major component of the EESE Board's annual report in the fall.

#### Federal Legislation

Charlie Niebling reported that Senator Shaheen proposed an [amendment](#) to [H.R.2454](#), the Waxman Markey Bill - which would allow RECS to be obtained for thermal output, when efficiency is over 50%. He noted that REC revenue streams could potentially be used to create and finance a thermal grid for communities or college campuses. He and Ray Gosney offered kudos to Senator Shaheen, a member of the Senate Energy and Commerce Committee, for supporting renewables and efficiency.

Dick Henry noted that [H.R.2187](#) has been referred to a Senate Committee. This bill known as the 'Public School Act' would provide funds for the modernization and upgrading of public school's in the US.

Finally, Meredith Hatfield suggested that staff from Senator Shaheen's office and the other three Congressional offices be invited to EESE Board meetings.

#### 4. Renewables Overview

There were no additional questions or discussion regarding presentations from the May EESE board meeting.

5. BREAK - The meeting recessed at 10:34 a.m. for a short break and resumed at 10:56 a.m.

#### 6. Strategic Planning Session - Part I: How to Increase EE & RE Activity in NH

Chairman Ober reported that he had retained Scudder Parker from VEIC to work as a planning consultant for the board for two meetings. Funding will come from a charitable grant. Chairman Ober handed out a document Scudder prepared titled, "Helping NH Support a Strong Economy through Creation of an Efficient and Sustainable Energy Future: Growing the Framework"

Scudder provided a brief introduction including his experience, education and background.

Scudder provided his observations. These included:

As we move the state in a new direction of energy efficiency and renewables, we will have to overcome many obstacles. For example, the vehicle mileage bill and boiler bills which are trying to change the old inefficient ways of the state. He noted the importance of trying to find all of the barriers and challenges ahead of us and keep moving forward with the good work.

He was impressed with George Gantz's presentation from the last meeting regarding Distributed Energy Resources as an example of how utilities are starting to think differently. He noted that it is no longer about playing the 'blame game' with utilities but realizing that this is a new business model for them with the potential for great partnerships.

He emphasized that he was not necessarily advocating bringing Vermont's model for Energy Efficiency program delivery to New Hampshire. He noted that he wants to help the board figure out what is best for NH. He noted the importance of determining the key characteristics for NH and deciding what the right policies and programs are for the state, building upon what we already have in place.

Chairman Ober reminded the board of the 4 major principles to keep in mind when working on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy initiatives: Long Term Economic Opportunities, Coordination, Sustainability, and Measurement.

#### Work Group Reports

Rep. David Borden presented slides regarding the [Public Sector Work Group](#).

Ray Gosney notified the board of a [website](#) providing information regarding collaboration with Town Energy Committees and [Clean Air-Cool Planet](#).

There was discussion regarding the leveraging of ARRA Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant funds with other ARRA funds and other potential uses. Dick Henry stressed the importance of having an oversight and verification function during the implementation periods.

Discussion ensued with board members and guests regarding the affect of ARRA funds on municipalities.

Joanne Morin noted that there were over 7,000 municipal buildings in NH and that there is a need for a centralized database for inventory.

Chairman Ober provided an update on the Finance Work Group. He reviewed the charge and statutory duty of the work group and reviewed a [handout](#) with some information regarding the recommendations of the work group and strategic questions.

Terry Large from PSNH then discussed the idea of beacon projects with the board. He defined these 'beacons' as lights that shine on what could be done and noted the importance of organized pilot programs that can be measured. He noted that there was a need to develop a screening/assessment tool. The board then discussed the idea of pooling public money with private money and focusing on target areas that can be hyper concentrated with public money in hopes to encourage additional private money.

Meredith Hatfield updated the board on the outreach and coordination work group. She noted that the work group has not met since its last update, when she reported that outreach and coordination is critical and requires a focused and sustained effort. She expressed her happiness to hear about the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund RFP grant going to UNH Carbon Challenge to do just that. She noted that the work group could act as an advisory group to UNH.

Dana Nute updated the board on the Workforce Development and Technical Advisory Work Group. He noted that the work group began as a very large group and has been streamlined into a smaller group. He noted that they have not met since their last update and that Roy Duddy is now the co-chair. Dana

Nute was contracted by OEP for statewide training for weatherization contractors. He noted the lack of certified workers in the state and noted that training is now currently available for CAP workers first but will be open to non CAP workers eventually (who will have to pay for the program).

A Massachusetts company was contracted for 10 air sealing and insulation trainings. This is an 8 hour course which provides certification at completion. The work group is also looking into the possibility of an OSHA safety training course.

Roy Duddy noted that they were trying to re-focus back to what the mission of this group is in order to be sure that the mission can be accomplished. He noted that smaller groups would be tasked with each mission/duty and they would report back to the larger group for more efficiency. Lakes Region Community College will take the lead for training to create a group of building analysts and skilled labor forces (with up to 50% cost sharing). They are also looking into internships - even at the high school level.

He also discussed funding mechanisms and funding collaboratives with Ocean Bank and private companies. He stressed the importance of collaborations for training, internships, outreach and education with other organizations such as the workforce opportunity council, NH job training council, homebuilders association, utilities, etc. so that we can leverage every dollar that comes in.

LUNCH BREAK - The meeting recessed at 12:37 p.m. for a short lunch break and resumed at 12:55 p.m.

Scudder Parker then spoke to the board for the remainder of the meeting.

He began by noting the NH does not have an overarching state policy on renewables and efficiency (He suggested that such a state policy is critically important to provide a foundation for many activities.

He noted that as a policy is written for NH, there is a huge opportunity in the electrification of the transportation sector, and perhaps the idea of a least cost plan involving fossil and alternative fuels should be considered.

Discussion ensued regarding such a policy for NH, including possible anchors and discussion of other states policies.

Some of Scudder's recommendations included:

- To create responsibility but do not over regulate
- To create clear strategies and goals from which to measure success
- To provide a clear performance directives so people can go out and thrive

- Figure out a way to adjust rates so that utilities can stay strong and costs to consumers are reasonable. He noted that he was a fan of decoupling to help achieve this.
- Identify all barriers in the way of achieving our goals, including statutory, regulatory, financial, and cultural barriers, and then figure out ways to overcome them. For example, the "split incentive" between landlords and renters for efficiency measures.
- Identify strategies for implementing useful legislation
- Implement coordination at a state level, and provide incentives for utilities to collaborate and create partnerships with the renewable energy community, and perhaps with beacon projects?
- To try to figure out solutions for all types of fuels, For example, ARRA funds to be used for fuel blind programs
- Most importantly - create the right model for NH that includes the right incentives.

Chairman Ober noted that Scudder facilitate the planning retreat at our July meeting, where we can continue the conversation on these important issues.

Chairman Ober noted that during the first few EESE board meetings every EESE member chose the leadership model for the board to operate under - now is the time to start making decisions to move us in that direction, beginning with the July meeting.

#### 7. Other Business

The Local Energy Solutions Conference will be held on June 20, 2009 from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. at the Grappone Center in Concord, NH. For more information, see <http://carboncoalition.org/Conference/>.

The Public Utilities Commission has issued an Order Approving a modified proposed Fuel Blind Home Energy Solutions Pilot Program for Unitil and PSNH, as part of the 2009 Core Energy Programs. Unitil will try this program out on 100 homes and PSNH will work on 200 homes.

\*\*\*\*\*

The next meeting of the ESSE board is scheduled for Friday, July 10, 2009 from 9 A.M - 2 P.M. Location TBD.

Subsequent meetings of the EESE Board are scheduled for August 14, 2009 from 9 A.M. - 12 P.M. and September 11, 2009 from 9 A.M. - 2 P.M. (the second Friday of every month) - Location TBD



There being no other business to come before the board, Chairman Ober adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.