

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Minutes for December 7, 2018

Attendees:

Board Members: D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Karen Cramton (PUC); Joe Fontaine for Becky Ohler (DES); Rep. Robert Backus (House of Representatives); Donald Perrin (DAS); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Joseph Doiron (OSI); Ryan Clouthier (SNHS); Theresa Swanick (NH Municipal Association); Raymond Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Marc Prindiville (State Fire Marshalls Office); Michael Behrmann (Revolution Energy); Madeleine Mineau (NH Sustainable Energy Association); Kate Peters (Eversource); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities).

Others: Sarah Brock (Vital Communities); Melissa Birchard (CLF); Brian Buckley (OCA); Azanna Wishart (PUC); Chris Skoglund (DES); Stephen Eckberg (PUC); Liz Nixon (PUC); Pat Martin; Matt Siska (GDS Associates); Scott Albert (GDS Associates).

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Don Kreis called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Approval of the October 19, 2018 EESE Board Meeting Minutes

- Joe Doiron moved. Ryan Clouthier seconded. Minutes approved with one abstention.

3. Presentation by Sarah Brock of Vital Communities - “Weatherize Upper Valley”

- A community based model that helps drive demand for energy efficiency and the NHSaves Performance program. The program was modeled on a program developed in Vermont to drive demand for energy efficiency.
- The program strategy is to bring together contractors, volunteer teams on the ground that run each town program, and residents.
- There is approximately a 50% conversion rate from the energy audit to energy efficiency measure implementation.

- Vital Communities focused on what worked in Vermont and the challenges that New Hampshire faces; one being the availability of contractors. One goal is to grow the contractor base and target underserved communities to tap ready demand.
- When asked, Vital Communities indicated, in their experience, a weatherization program alone spurs more energy efficiency projects than a combined weatherize/solarize program. However, in 2019, the Kearsarge region will focus on a combined solarize and weatherization campaign. In the winter, weatherization outreach will occur and in the spring, efforts will focus on solar outreach and installations.

4. Review of the EESE Board Annual Report

- There were three revision suggestions proposed:
 1. In the conclusion section mention the development of priorities for 2018 as was done in the prior year report.
 2. In section five mention the Building Code statement that the group worked on in April and include the statement as an attachment to the report.
 3. Add RPS and RGGI on Page 9, under policy issues.
- Motion to adopt the 2018 Annual Report subject to the 3 changes requested. Joe Doiron moved. Theresa Swanick seconded. Unanimously approved.

5. Legislative Updates

- Chris Skoglund and Steve Eckberg provided a handout consisting of the EESE Board's Policy Statement to the Building Code Review Board (BCRB); the Final report filed by the Committee to Study Procedures for Adoption of National Codes by the State of New Hampshire, and a listing of six legislative service requests (LSR) that are relative to building codes filed for 2019 legislative session.
 - Concerns were raised and discussion followed about individual municipalities adopting their own unique set of building codes, thereby confusing contractors and builders; what would happen if the state adopted all modern codes *except* the Energy Code; builders being held to more stringent codes and the impact it would have.
- Orientation meetings for new legislators are being planned. Representative Backus suggested that it would be of benefit to new members if the EESE Board could make some presentations to the Science, Technology & Energy committee.
- There will be a few RGGI related bills. One to implement 2016 RGGI program Review changes; the other regarding the allocation of auction proceeds.

6. Election of Officers

- Chair of EESE Board – Joe Doiron nominated Becky Ohler. Theresa Swanick seconded. No other nominations. Unanimously approved.
- Vice Chair of EESE Board – Ryan Clouthier nominated Joe Doiron. Don Kreis seconded. Bob Backus nominated Madeleine Mineau. Joe Fontaine seconded. A paper ballot vote was conducted of members present. Madeleine Mineau received 6 votes, Joe Doiron received 5 votes. Madeleine Mineau voted in as Vice Chair.
- Chair of EERS Committee – Joe Doiron nominated Don Kreis. Bob Backus seconded. No other nominations. Unanimously approved.
- Representative of EM&V Committee – Ray Burke nominated Brian Buckley. Madeleine Mineau seconded. No other nominations. Unanimously approved.
- The Board will consider Outreach & Education, and Legislative Monitoring Committee nominations in 2019.

7. EERS Working Group Updates

- EM&V:
 - Brian Buckley gave a presentation on the Cadmus report on the Energy Star products program evaluation. The presentation provided an overview of the program and highlighted impact evaluation, program savings, electric and socket program breakdowns, early replacements, and main takeaways. A detailed webinar is on the EM&V webpage.
- Lost Base Revenue:
 - The group has dissolved as it has completed its task. A report was issued in the summer.
- All other working groups did not meet but will reconvene in January 2019.

8. Board and Program Updates

- PUC:
 - The 2018 RPS Review report was submitted to the General Court. It is posted on the NH-PUC website along with a corresponding study on the REC market done by Sustainable Energy Advantage, LLC.
 - Commercial & Industrial grant program issued an RFP in October. Three proposals were received and are currently under review.
 - All rebate programs are open and accepting applications.
 - Low/Moderate Income program ran an RFP last year per Commission Order. Staff is drafting a recommendation to file with the Commission for fiscal year 2019 program processes.
 - There was a settlement hearing last week on the Liberty Battery Pilot docket.

- Staff filed a proposed scope and timeline document with the Commission for the Locational Value of Distributed Generation Study.
- The EERS 2019 Program Plan is scheduled for hearing on December 17th.
- DES:
 - Last week DES hosted a Climate Summit to discuss and consider causes and impacts of climate change. They hope to issue a report on the progress in 2019.
- Other:
 - Liberty gas launched a Black Friday Smart Thermostat sale. In past years they bundled promotions with manufacturer's rebates. This year, they set up an online store where customers could buy the discounted products direct. They sold 3,472 thermostats. In previous years, they sold 200 at most. It was an overwhelming success.
 - Mark Prindiville shared that the Fire Marshall's Office is conducting license renewal trainings with NH Department of Environmental Services. They are working with the heads of fuel companies to continue education on carbon monoxide. They are also working with the Red Cross and distributed over 2,500 carbon monoxide alarms to low income residents.
 - Scott Albert from GDS Associates shared that he would be transitioning to less hours and that Matt Siska will be managing the Manchester office.
 - Ray Burke recognized changes to the Board in the upcoming year and suggested a letter of recognition and thanks be sent to Herb Richardson.
 - Don Kreis thanked everyone for the opportunity to chair the EESE Board this past year. The Board thanked Don for all of his hard work and dedication.

8. Next Meeting

- The next EESE Board meeting will be held on Friday, January 18th, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at the Public Utilities Commission, Hearing Room A.

9. Meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.