

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 18, 2020

Attendees:

Board Members: Karen Cramton (PUC); Madeleine Mineau (Clean Energy NH); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Becky Ohler (DES); Kate Peters (Eversource); Steve Tower (for Ray Burke of NH Legal Assistance); Ryan Clouthier (Southern NH Services); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Donald Perrin (DAS); Jack Ruderman (NH Housing Authority); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Michael Behrmann (Revolution Energy); Matt Siska (GDS); Theresa Swanick (NH Municipal Association); Alexis LaBrie (for Matthew Mailloux of OSI); Scott Maslansky (CDFA).

Others: Nathan Phelps (Vote Solar); Kate Epsen (ISO-NE); Brianna Fiorillo (CENH); Kelly Buchanan (CENH); Chris Skoglund (DES); Christa Shute (OCA); Gary Cronin (PUC); Jason Morse (PUC); Liz Nixon (PUC); Matt Leahy (SPNHF); Melissa Elander (CENH); Pat Martin; Tanya Wayland (PUC), David Wiesner (PUC).

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Madeleine Mineau called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Approval of the November 20, 2020 EESE Board Meeting Minutes.

- Karen Cramton moved. Ryan Clouthier seconded.
- Approval of the November 20, 2020 minutes. All in favor. Theresa Swanick abstained.

3. Presentation and discussion: Solar Savings in New England Presentation on Report Findings

- Guest Presenter: Nathan Phelps, Vote Solar
- Emissions benefits of solar:
 - \$87 million in public health benefits in New England. \$1 million in public health benefits in NH.
 - 4.6 million metric tons of CO2 pollution prevented.

- Additional benefits of solar include local economic benefits, transmission and distribution capacity benefits, reliability benefits, participant savings, local tax support, capacity price impacts, and retail margin.
- Questions from the EESE Board & attendees:
 - Don Kreis: Where do those estimates of avoided carbon emissions come from? Nathan stated the estimates come from the EPA. Nathan, the pollutant valuation number should be based on how you estimate the cost of carbon. Don feels the \$200/MT is an acceptable middle ground. Nathan feels that number per MT should be higher.
 - Liz Nixon: How did you determine behind the meter generation and exports? Nathan, anything that participates in ISO-NE market removed from study. ISO-NE provided production numbers for behind the meter solar.
 - Becky: How do you estimate what the demand for electricity would have been without behind the meter solar? Nathan, ISO-NE provided actual production from behind the meter solar, then Synapse went back in time and found what the demand actually was and then compared it to what the demand would have been without the behind the meter solar.
 - Nathan stated this information could be integrated into a Value of DER study.

5. Discuss 2021 EESE Board leadership positions

- Elections for leadership positions are at the January meeting. The Board should determine candidates for positions.
- Becky encourages people to volunteer. PUC provides a lot of support and members of the Board help as well.
- Becky asked: Can a non-voting member be chair? It has happened before, but Madeleine isn't sure if it's allowed by governance document. Karen explained the governance document states the Chair shall be elected annually by the Board from among its members. The Vice Chair shall be elected from members and non-voting participants. The applicable statute uses the same language when for Board appointees (i.e., Members and Non-voting participants).
- Bruce stated he is willing to be Vice Chair.
- Jack asked if Madeleine could serve another term and if she would. Becky stated she would be eligible. Jack would like to nominate Madeleine. Becky would second if Madeleine agrees.
- Karen read from the Board's Governance document – "To foster leadership development and the direct involvement of all members, it is the Board's objective that those elected to serve as Chair and Vice Chair should be expected to serve in those offices for a single term."
- Jack stated there is precedent to allow multiple terms. Madeleine agrees to be a candidate for Chair if no one else steps up.

6. Updating Governance Document

- Madeleine stated Don circulated language to enshrine EERS Committee into EESE Board governance document. However, settlement in EERS Triennial Plan docket, if approved, changes the planning process. Should the Board adopt the new language considering this?
- Don recommends the Board holds on to this for another month or so to wait for the PUC proceeding to finalize. Madeleine agrees. The Board agreed.

7. Legislative Updates

- No legislative members in attendance to provide an update.
- The Board is monitoring LSRs related to the SBC, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.
- Members expressed concern over how the House will hold committee hearings and how public participation will occur.
 - OCA will not participate in in-person State House activities until it is absolutely safe to do so. TNC, CENH, and NH DES concurred.

8. Board and Program Updates

- EERS Committee
 - No update, but active in the EERS docket hearings.
- Public Utilities Commission
 - Renewable Energy Fund fiscal year 2021 (FY21) budget released. Program allocations recommended by Staff and approved by the Commission. Approximately \$2.5 million available for new projects in FY21. Budget was delayed this year and the PUC has a backlog of approvals and payments. Staff is working to catch up.
 - Watch for RFPs for C&I grant program and LMI community solar grant program.
 - The Commission issued numerous orders this month – PUC home page lists orders by date issued.
 - Clean Energy Fund stakeholder process is on-going to develop a census proposal on how to use the funds. A consensus proposal will be filed with the Commission soon.
 - On Monday, December 21st, there is an EERS hearing. On January 8th, there is a hearing scheduled to take public comment on how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected renewable energy. Monday, January the 25st, there is a public hearing in the energy storage investigatory docket.

- Board member updates
 - Madeleine/CENH: Renewable Energy Fund has money remaining in the fund that is unusable for programs because the PUC is not authorized to spend it. Is there a plan to make a budget request or take any action to release those funds? Karen cannot comment on Commissioner plans. To appropriate funds for use by REF programs, the PUC would need to first make a request to the Fiscal Committee, and with their approval, submit the request to the Governor and Executive Council for approval. Jack asked how much money is in the fund and not currently allocated to programs? Karen estimates approximately \$2 million. CENH has asked for a legislative bill to undo the 2017 legislative change that has caused this complication.
 - DES: Working with DAS to develop a new way of going out for vehicle bids. Created a new vehicle contract pricing spreadsheet. The bidding system will now include all vehicles (electric, hybrid, conventional) in one list. The cost shown as up-front cost and total cost of ownership based on a 10-year life now included as well. Municipalities and non-profits may also take advantage of the state's pricing.
 - OSI: No update.
- EM&V work group
 - Christa: TRM for 2021 has been sent to be published online. In the process of creating a strategic evaluation plan. Given the 3-year nature and more extensive evaluation considerations, considering creating 3-year plan for strategic evaluation.
- Other:
 - Board members should bring ideas for meeting and presentation topics for 2021 to the January meeting.
 - Plans to thank Former Rep. Backus, Former Sen. Fuller Clark, and Ben Frost.
 - Remind General Court leadership to make legislative appointments to the EESE Board.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 AM.