

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Minutes for May 21, 2021

Attendees:

Board Members: Madeleine Mineau (Clean Energy NH); Donald Perrin (DAS); D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Becky Ohler (DES); Mark Sanborn (OSI); Kate Peters (Eversource); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Ray Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Tonia Chase (BIA); Karen Cramton (PUC); Tom Palma for Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Jack Ruderman (NH Housing Finance Authority); Scott Maslansky (CDFA); Marc Prindiville (NH State Fire Marshal's Office); Representative Kat McGhee (NH House of Representatives); Representative Michael Vose (NH House of Representatives); Matt Siska (GDS Associates); Theresa Swanick (NH Municipal Association).

Others: Lori Weigel (New Bridge Strategy); Kathryn Hahne (New Bridge Strategy); Azanna Wishart (PUC); Mark Lemanger (Eversource) Joshua Singer (Clean Energy NH); Matt Leahy, Megan Ulin (Revision Energy), Susan Richman, Brianna Fiorillo (Clean Energy NH); Liz Nixon (PUC); Andrew Hatch, Chris Skoglund (DES); Kijana Plenderleith; Steve Eckberg (PUC); Brian Buckley (PUC).

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Madeleine Mineau called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Approval of the April 16, 2021 EESE Board Meeting Minutes.

- Bruce Clendenning moved. Becky Ohler seconded.
- Approval of the amended April 16, 2021 minutes. All in favor.

3. Update and discussion of 10-Year State Energy Strategy (SES) Update – Mark Sanborn, OSI

- OSI has opened a public comment period for submission of written comments. If House Bill 2 becomes law on July 1st, then Mark hopes to extend the comment period. As soon as he obtains approval for an extension, he will share the new date with the EESE Board and interested parties list.

- The energy efficiency section of the strategy needs to be strengthened. For example, the program grant that was received through the Department of Energy for fleet efficiency and the Volkswagen settlement funds being used for fleet improvement should be included in the updated strategy.
- Mark is working on scheduling a session where there can be conversation about the NHSaves programs; what is working, what is not; future considerations; and process. All programmatic, process, and procedural issues relating to energy efficiency are up for discussion, but no topics open under consideration in the PUC EERS docket will be discussed.
- A board member asked if there is a goal for completion of the updated draft. Response, not at this time.
- A board member noted that it would be helpful to learn more specificity about the comment period extension. Many municipalities and organizations have expressed concern about the ability to get comments submitted in advance of the current deadline.
- Mark suggested that the new entity that takes over responsibility for the SES may provide a second comment period.
- A board member asked if all comments would be included in the report. Mark replied that the SES is a policy document driven by the Governor. He cannot promise that every comment will be included in the strategy. OSI is committed to all public comments received being posted and accessible to the public.
- A board member commented: The strategy document is supposed to provide a vision of what we want to achieve. There appears to be a chasm as to *what* we want to achieve. How many prior SES's go under review in terms of the vision? The policy fluctuates in technology and policy every two years. Will the report set a trajectory for energy efficiency that will make it easier to set policy to meet it? Mark answered that this is the third iteration of the 10-year state energy strategy. Most recently, an update was completed in 2018. Mark would like the energy efficiency portion of the report to not just be reformatted, but more robust.
- A board member asked if the Board wanted to submit comments as they have made policy statements in the past. Bruce offered to moderate a discussion at the next EESE Board meeting. Becky Ohler, Chris Skoglund, Representative McGhee and Bruce volunteered to prepare for a discussion of topics and/or proposed recommendations.

4. Legislative Updates - Representatives Vose and McGhee

- The Science, Technology, and Energy (ST&E) Committee will meet on Monday, May 24th at 10:00 a.m. to exec SB113, SB78, and SB91.
- On Monday, May 24th at 1:00 p.m. a presentation will be made by the Governor's Office on the proposed Department of Energy that is contained in HB2.

- Legislature will be in session June 3rd, 4th, 10th, and 24th. Then, there will be a two-month break and the committee will resume in September to work on fourteen retained bills. The deadline for all retained bills is November 18th.
- The filing period for new bills is in mid-September.
- There are pending amendments on SB113 and SB78.
- SB91 (adopting omnibus legislation on renewable energy and utilities) – There are five components to the bill. The fifth component adopts the language that was in the original HB315. If it passes without the removal of that language, it would be a step backward. It would undo what was fixed through ST&E’s collaborative process.

5. Board and Program Updates

- PUC – Karen Cramton
 - There is a docket open for the investigation of energy storage. A technical session will take place on May 27th. ISO-NE will provide an update on FERC Order 2222. It is a remote session (i.e., WebEx).
 - Liberty Gas rate case is ongoing, as well as a Liberty LCRIP docket.
 - The Value of Distributed Energy Resources Study consultant contract was approved by Governor and Executive Council. Dunsky is the consultant that will work with staff and the stakeholders to develop and file the study with the Commission.
 - Under the Renewable Energy Fund (REF), as the close of the fiscal year nears, all Programs are nearly, or fully, expended. Staff is working to have all grant contracts to Governor and Executive Council for a vote, and have rebate payment requests received paid prior to the end of the fiscal year due to the non-lapsing language that is in the REF statute.
 - A topic for discussion is whether the EESE Board would like to continue to meet remote. The Commission currently does not have the technical capability to offer a hybrid solution.
 - Don Kreis stated that the Right to Know law (RSA91.A.3) requires public bodies to hold meetings in a physical location to enable the public to attend. That requirement was suspended due to the Governor’s Emergency Order. The Order will cease to be effective on July 1st.
 - There was a discussion about the June meeting continuing on WebEx.
 - A Board member asked if the alternative net metering docket is still open. It is open.
- Madeleine Mineau – Clean Energy NH
 - The PUC has a new Commissioner, Daniel Goldner. He was invited to this meeting but was unable to attend. She suggested that he be invited to the June meeting.
 - Thursday, May 27th, there is an educational event about pioneering responsible development of large solar in New Hampshire.
- Marc Prindiville – State Fire Marshal’s Office

- In HB2, the Mechanical Division, which Marc is in charge of, will be moving to the Office of Professional Licensure. He will be unable to represent the Fire Marshal's Office on the Board. He suggested a replacement to the Board and will follow up next month.

6. Presentation: Barriers and Solutions to EV Adoption by Rural Drivers

Presenters: Lori Weigel and Kathryn Hahne, New Bridge Strategy.

- New Bridge Strategy conducted an on-line focus group of twenty-three registered voters who live in small towns in New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont. The group members did not currently own a hybrid or electric vehicle (EV), nor were they considering buying or leasing. The research is qualitative in nature.
- Key findings of the research indicated that:
 - Most focus group participants were not very familiar with EVs.
 - They view drivers of EVs as different from themselves.
 - Given the opportunity, the respondents would likely test-drive an EV.
 - Major concerns of EV ownership were getting stuck, having to wait a long time while the vehicle is charging, the ability of an EV to handle winter conditions, and cost factors for maintenance and repairs.
 - Only four participants were concerned about the cost to purchase an EV.
 - Few participants were aware of discounts, rebates, or tax credits for purchasing or leasing plug-in vehicles.
 - Almost all participants think that government should encourage EV transition by installing more charging stations that are free and easily accessible.
 - There was a positive reaction to videos showing the acceleration power of certain EVs.
 - The annual average savings of EV ownership was not favorable when compared with the higher initial purchase cost.
- Question: Do you plan to expand the research to include a larger and/or more representative group? Bruce replied that if there is an interest from state representatives to see broader New Hampshire specific polling, The Nature Conservancy could be interested in moving forward with a larger survey.

The Board recognized that this was Madeleine's last meeting as Chair of the EESE Board. The Board thanked her for her service.

7. Meeting adjourned at 10:52