

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD

RSA 125-O:5-a

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Minutes for October 15, 2021

Attendees:

Board Members: Ryan Clouthier (Southern NH Services); Maureen Reno for D. Maurice Kreis (OCA); Chris Skoglund for Becky Ohler (DES); Kate Peters (Eversource); Eric Stanley (Liberty Utilities); Ray Burke (NH Legal Assistance); Bruce Clendenning (The Nature Conservancy); Karen Cramton (Dept. of Energy); Cindy Carroll (Unitil); Carol Woods (NHEC); Representative Kat McGhee (NH House of Representatives); Donald Perrin (DAS); Scott Maslansky (CDFA); Doria Brown (City of Nashua).

Others: Azanna Wishart (Dept. of Energy); Mark Lemanager (Eversource); Kelly Buchanan (Clean Energy NH); Representative John Mann (NH House of Representatives); Mike Fitzgerald (DES); Representative Lucius Parshall (NH House of Representatives).

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting was held in person at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.
- Bruce Clendenning called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Approval of the August 20, 2021 and September 17, 2021 EESE Board Meeting Minutes.

- Representative Kat McGhee moved. Ryan Clouthier seconded.
- Approval of the August 20, 2021 and September 17, 2021 minutes. All in favor.

3. Discussion of EE Committee – membership and priority topics.

- Volunteers for the committee: Mary Downes, Mark Lemanager, Eric Stanley, Carol Woods, Don Kreis, Chris Skoglund or a representative from DES, Ray Burke, Bruce Clendenning, Ryan Clouthier, and Doria Brown.
- Karen Cramton will request the Department of Energy assign a representative to the committee.
- The committee will choose two co-chairs at the first meeting.

- The first Committee meeting occur prior to the November EESE Board meeting. Chris Skoglund and Bruce Clendenning will suggest times for the first meeting to the Committee, and coordinate the scheduling of the meeting.
- There was a discussion about establishing committee ground rules for committee discussions. The committee is being established to focus on future energy efficiency initiatives; not rehash old program disagreements, etc.
- There was a discussion about the State Energy Strategy and how, when issued, the report could play a role in determining committee priorities and discussions.
- The draft committee description document was discussed. Should it should be posted to the EESE Board website? How will the Committee work with EE docket work?
- It was suggested that priority topics be considered. A plan should be established for tracking long-term achievable goals.
- Areas of focus suggested were delivery of program availability for low-moderate income customers; expansion of EV; climate impact of greenhouse gases. It was noted that there are energy efficiency measures that do not reduce greenhouse gases. Caution should be taken if setting an emissions reduction target.

4. Presentation by the Utilities – Results and achievements of EERS supported programs from 2018 through 2020.

- The long-term goal is to achieve all cost-effective energy efficiency over time. Incremental electric savings totaled 3.10%; natural gas savings totaled 2.25%.
- There were 503 municipal projects completed and 1,458,182 residential projects were completed.
 - Over two thousand direct and indirect jobs were supported over the three-year period.
 - For every \$1 invested in energy efficiency, \$3.37 in benefits were generated. `
 - There was a discussion about the importance of energy efficiency in regard to the rising prices in natural gas and electricity.
 - A board member asked for some examples of potential municipal projects. Examples include: LED streetlights; switching from a water heater to a heat pump; retrofit a police and/or fire stations.
 - It was suggested that the next report show how, as New Hampshire’s electricity demand increases, the programs make the economy more resilient to environmental shocks such as extreme temperatures.
 - A board member asked if there are programs for municipalities that heat with oil. Yes, any municipality is eligible for energy efficiency programs and fuel switching may be allowed. The municipal program is supported by RGGI proceeds.
 - A board member pointed out that 40% of homes heat with oil and the current discussion is only focused on electricity and gas. There is no mention of benefits of insulation to help use

less oil. It should be a priority that oil savings be included. It was mentioned that weatherization work is done on homes regardless of fuel used to heat homes.

- The primary goal of the EE programs are to save electricity. Natural gas, oil, and weatherization are secondary goals. With income qualified weatherization programs, many heaters and boilers are replaced every year.

5. EESE Board input on legislation

- Traditionally, a small group of board members would meet to discuss legislation relative to the EESE board. The group would present to members at the next EESE Board meeting and then a decision would be made before making any recommendations to the legislature. Should the board create a new way to handle important legislation? One of the challenges is timing conflicts between the once per month board meeting and legislative sessions. Should the board create a legislative committee?
- Karen Cramton motioned that the Board re-engage the legislative committee with the following volunteer members: Chris Skoglund (or DES substitute), Bruce Clendenning, and Ray Burke with the purpose of tracking legislation that is relative to the EESE board and its statutory mandate. Ray Burke seconded. All in favor.
- Don Kreis may also wish to join the legislative committee and will be asked since he is not present today.
- A reminder that the Board annual report is due on December 1st. Should the board give thought requesting a statutory amendment to change the due date to February 1st?

6. Legislative Updates – Representative Kat McGhee

- HB614 (exempting state and political subdivisions from payment of the costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard (RPS)) is with the House Ways and Means committee. Representative Vose presented the bill and the amendment.
- There was a hearing on HB549 (requires the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules for the energy efficiency resource standard. The bill also modifies the requirements and procedures for use of the system benefits charge assessed to electric utility customers).
- Retained bills will be voted on in January 2022.

7. Meeting adjourned at 10:56

- Representative McGhee moved to adjourn. Doria Brown seconded. All in favor.