



Energy Efficiency Board Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 1:00 – 3:30 PM

10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT (Hearing Room 1)

MINUTES¹

In Attendance

Voting Board Members: Amanda Fargo-Johnson (acting EEB Chair), Eric Brown, Katie Dykes, John Wright, Taren O'Connor, Neil Beup, Bruce McDermott, Amy McLean Salls, Jack Traver, Adrienne Houel (phone)

Utility Board Members: Ron Araujo, Andy Brydges, Will Riddle, Jane Lano

Board Members Not in Attendance: Scott Whittier

Board Consultants: Glenn Reed, George Lawrence, Craig Diamond, Jeff Schlegel (phone)

Others: Donna Wells, Julia Dumaine, Mike Casella, Guy West, Leticia Colon, Walt Szymanski, Paul Horowitz (phone), Erin Bennet (phone), Larry Rush (phone)

Process

Minutes

The Board considered whether to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2019 Board meeting. Mr. McDermott moved to approve, Ms. Houel 2nd. Vote: All Board members voted to approve the minutes, except Ms. O'Connor, Mr. Brown, and Ms. Dykes, all of whom abstained. **April 10, 2019 minutes approved.**

Public Comments

None

Update on Environmental EEB Seat, and Leadership Transition

It was noted that DEEP had appointed Amy McLean Salls, from Acadia Center, to the Board's environmental seat. Ms. Fargo-Johnson welcomed Ms. McLean Salls to the Board. Ms. Fargo-Johnson said that a nominee to fill the vacant EEB Chair position had not yet been identified, but that would likely occur prior to the Board's June meeting.

DEEP Designee Transition

Ms. Fargo-Johnson expressed appreciation for Diane Duva's service to the EEB. Ms. Dykes said that DEEP was undergoing a staffing re-organization, and that she appreciated Ms. Duva taking on another role at DEEP. She said that Mary Sotos would be the most frequent attendee at EEB meetings. She said that Ms. Wells would represent DEEP at C&I

¹ Meeting materials available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/be1c6ntx1mteph44zhu46dkq1b9aeamx>

Committee meetings, and that Ms. Dumaine and Linda Foreman would represent DEEP at Residential Committee meetings.

EEB Committee Membership

Ms. Fargo-Johnson noted that the EEB Committees were in need of further Board membership. She asked Board members to consider participating on additional Committees.

EEB Technical Consultant and Evaluation RFPs

Mr. Diamond provided an overview and update of the process, and noted that proposals were due on June 7. Ms. Dykes noted that Rhode Island and Massachusetts often do joint evaluation studies, which adds efficiency to the process. She asked if Connecticut could potentially use other states' studies, or engage in more joint studies with other states. Mr. Araujo said that CT does participate on certain evaluation studies that are not program specific. Mr. Reed said that Massachusetts and Rhode Island have an agreement regarding evaluation. Ms. O'Connor and Mr. Araujo said that they would look into the RI-MA agreement, and its potential applicability to CT.

Programs and Planning

CT Legislative Update

Ms. McLean Salls provided a brief update on the status of some important energy bills being considered by the CT Legislature. Ms. Dykes asked about the status of the lawsuit to restore previously diverted C&LM funds. Ms. Dykes announced that Governor Lamont had signed executive order #1 on state-level sustainability activities.

Highlights from Public Input Session

Mr. Reed provided a summary of the morning's public input session on the 2020 Update to the 2019-2021 C&LM Plan. He noted that most of the comments were focused on supporting the Clean Water Fund's proposal for community-based outreach to hard-to-reach households. Mr. Beup requested that there be a presentation to the EEB on low-income programs and initiatives in CT. Mr. Araujo noted the Eversource provided a presentation last year on low-moderate income customers in the HES and HES-IE programs. Ms. Dykes suggested that the utilities provide data on hardship programs (uncollectables). She also asked how energy efficiency is delivered to those customers. Ms. O'Connor and Ms. Fargo-Johnson said they would like the topic of low-moderate income programs to be covered at the full Board, not just at the Residential Committee.

Wallingford Electric District: Programs Overview/Update

Mr. Szymanski provided a presentation. Ms. Dykes said she was interested in WED's water demand response program.

Customer Engagement Platforms: Update and Process

Mr. Araujo provided a brief update. He said that Eversource was planning to present on its CEP at the July meeting.

Discussion and VOTE: Energize CT Center

Mr. Riddle discussed UI's revised proposal. He said that \$118,350 would be the early termination fee if the lease were to terminate on April 30, 2020. If the Center were kept operating, funding for the Center would be 50% from UI, 25% from Eversource, and 25% from other sources yet to be identified. Mr. Riddle noted that there was no commitment of funding from the Green Bank. Ms. O'Connor said that the OCC was in favor of closing the Center because of the need to be cautious with how ratepayer funds are spent. Mr. Brown said he thinks the Center should be shut down. Ms. Houel said she would like some of the Center's exhibits to be re-directed to other museums, but she still agreed that the Center should be closed. Mr. Riddle said that the termination fee probably would be split between the Companies. Mr. Traver said he was somewhat in favor of keeping the Center open. Mr. Araujo said that Eversource supports closing the Center. Ms. Lano said UI was in favor of keeping the Center open. She noted that the Center was a good workforce development resource and meeting center, and reminded the Board that there would be some additional costs incurred if the Center were to be closed. She said that they could change the budget of the Center in 2020-2021 if the Board wanted to keep it open. She noted that the 50% UI cost-share would come from four other UI programs. Ms. O'Connor moved to support Option 1 in Mr. Riddle's presentation, which was to close down the Center. Ms. Houel 2nd. Vote: all Board members voted in favor of Option 1, except for Mr. Traver who voted not in favor, and DEEP which abstained. **Motion approved to recommend closure of the Energize CT Center.**

2020 Plan Update Schedule and Process

Mr. Reed provided a presentation. There was no Board discussion.

Update on C&LM Cost-Effectiveness

Ms. Wells said that DEEP was continuing to look at this internally. She said that currently there were no public meetings scheduled.

DEEP Conditions of Approval on Benefit-Cost Testing and PMIs: Process to Address

Mr. Schlegel noted that DEEP had requested the formation of working groups to address its Benefit-Cost Testing and PMI Conditions of Approval. He asked any Board members that want to participate to let Mr. Reed or Mr. Schlegel know. Ms. Wells clarified that both issues pertain to 2020 and 2021.

Coordination on State-Wide Approach to Battery Storage: Discussion

Mr. Schlegel said that the Green Bank's Energy Efficiency Partners proposal was brought up at the April Joint Committee meeting. He said that he suggested at the Joint Committee that storage should be discussed among DEEP, OCC, the Green Bank, the Companies and the EEB to decide how the state should proceed with storage. Ms. O'Connor said that she attended the Joint Committee as an EEB representative, and she was glad this was raised as an issue. She said that we need to discuss the potential costs and options of storage. Ms. Wells noted that a PURA hearing on the topic had been put on hold for up to a year, and that DEEP was looking for stakeholder input on storage. It was agreed that storage would be discussed at July Joint Committee meeting.

Other

Ms. Fargo-Johnson noted the plans for the June 12 tour and EEB meeting.

Closing Public Comments

Leticia Colon. She said that there were many public comments in the morning about community outreach. She noted that there was only electronic/internet communication of programs, so there was an interest in enhancing door-to-door and direct community outreach. She said that at a prior Residential Committee meeting, there had been discussion of PURA dockets, and Green Bank and Energize CT duplication (e.g., Posi-Gen and HES-IE), and she feels those programs need to be better coordinated so communities are less confused about program offerings. She also said that there had been an on-going effort to undermine Residential programs, and to use funds for large C&I and government buildings. She said that those funds should be used for low-income residential customers, not for large C&I and government customers. She said that she would like to see a HES vendor seat on the EEB, and greater diversity on the EEB.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.