



Energy Efficiency Board Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 1:00 – 3:30 PM
10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT (Hearing Room 1)

MINUTES¹

In Attendance

Voting Board Members: Amanda Fargo-Johnson (Vice-Chair, acting Chair for meeting), Eric Brown, Diane Duva, Neil Beup, Joe Rosenthal (OCC designee), Mike Wertheimer, Bruce McDermott, Jack Traver, Adrienne Houel (phone)

Utility Board Members: Ron Araujo, Chris Plecs, Jane Lano

Board Members Not in Attendance: Bill Dornbos, Roddy Diotalevi, Justin Connell

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

Others: Will Riddle, Pat McDonnell, Mary Sotos, Julia Dumaine, Donna Wells, Guy West, Claire Coleman, John Humphries, Anthony Clark (phone), Paul Horowitz (phone), Vinay Ananthachar (phone), Samantha Caputo (phone), Kyle Ellsworth (phone)

Process

Minutes

The Board considered whether to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2018 Board meeting. Mr. Traver moved to approve, Mr. McDermott 2nd. All present voted to approve, except Mr. Brown who abstained. **October 10, 2018 EEB minutes approved.**

Public Comments

Claire Coleman, CT Fund for the Environment and Governor's Council on Climate Change. Ms. Coleman said she supported using the C&LM Plan for promoting renewables and greenhouse gas reduction. John Humphries, CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs. Mr. Humphries said that he agreed with Ms. Coleman's comments. He said that as a homeowner, he had installed solar panels on his roof, and had also installed ductless heat pumps on the 3rd floor for the purpose of air conditioning. He said that as a result of these measures, total electricity usage in his house declined about 12%, and about 15% to 20% of the reduction was attributable to the heat pumps. He noted that he was displacing natural gas for heating. He said this example from his home demonstrated that heat pumps can improve energy efficiency and displace fossil fuels.

¹ Meeting materials available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/lh7ux7ua7qebapk31t8j8rxsyqjgqbn9>

VOTE: EEB rules – clarification regarding DEEP abstaining from voting on C&LM Plans and budgets

The Board discussed the following proposed motion:

Modify the Board Rules on Voting, Section 9.iii, by inserting after the first sentence: "DEEP does not count as a Board member eligible to vote for Board votes on C&LM Plan, Plan Update, and budget approvals because DEEP abstains from voting on C&LM Plans, Plan Updates, and budgets."

Mr. Wertheimer requested that this agenda item be discussed after the discussion on the 2019-2021 C&LM Plan, to assure that the issue receives the attention it needs from the Board. He said he was also concerned that there could be a perception that this vote was being taken for the purpose of removing a barrier to the Plan being passed. Mr. Wertheimer moved to switch the order of the two agenda items. Mr. Beup 2nd. Mr. Traver and Mr. McDermott expressed concern about the perception issue. There was additional Board discussion about the pros and cons of Mr. Wertheimer's motion. Vote: in favor were Mr. Wertheimer, Mr. Rosenthal, Mr. Beup, Ms. Sotos (DEEP), and Mr. McDermott; not in favor were Ms. Houel, Ms. Fargo-Johnson, Mr. Brown, Mr. Traver, and Mr. Dornbos (via proxy provided by Ms. Fargo-Johnson). The result of the vote on Mr. Wertheimer's motion was 5 in favor and 5 not in favor; therefore, the motion to switch the agenda items did not pass. Ms. Houel moved to approve the proposed motion (listed above). Mr. McDermott 2nd. Mr. Wertheimer said he was opposed to the motion. He said it was inconsistent with statute, which made it clear that DEEP was a voting member of the Board. He said he was not in favor of the Board defining when abstentions count as non-votes vs. actual abstentions. He said the proposed change would make the Board's voting process look incredible and unreliable. Mr. Beup said that he agreed with Mr. Wertheimer's comments. He said the issue was with the statutory role of DEEP on the Board, not the voting rules. He said it would not be a bad thing to have to reach 7 yes votes to approve Plans and budgets. Mr. Brown said he agreed with Mr. Wertheimer's and Mr. Beup's comments. Mr. Wertheimer noted that the original purpose of the term "eligible" in the Board's voting rules was meant to exclude the utilities from voting. Mr. Schlegel said that one possible change could be for the voting rules to specify the number of yes votes required to pass Plans and budgets. He said that such an approach would not circumvent the statute. Ms. Sotos said that while DEEP under the current Administration has opted to abstain, it's possible that future Administrations could decide not to abstain, so she said that she did not want the voting rules to express an opinion about that. Vote on proposed motion: in favor were Ms. Fargo-Johnson and Mr. Dornbos (via a proxy provided by Ms. Fargo-Johnson). All others voted not in favor. **The motion to change the Board's voting rules did not pass.**

December 12 EEB meeting

Ms. Fargo-Johnson confirmed that Board would be holding a meeting in December.

Schedule for Consultant Work Plans and RFPs for 2019

Ms. Fargo-Johnson said that the Consultant Committee was recommending that the Technical Consultant and Evaluation Administrator RFPs be released about the same time, which would be in March 2019.

Programs and Planning

VOTE: EEB review and approval of 2019-2021 C&LM Plan

Mr. Schlegel explained the changes that had been made to the draft Plan since the Board's last vote on the Plan. Mr. McDermott moved to approve the Plan, Mr. Beup 2nd. Mr. Beup said the Plan had been significantly improved, but he said the fundamental questions raised by Mr. Brown and the OCC needed to be addressed, in particular the role of non-energy benefits in the C&LM Plan. He also said the Board needed to address the policy underpinnings of the Board, which have changed over time since Board was created. Vote: all voted to approve the Plan (including Mr. Dornbos via a proxy provided Ms. Fargo-Johnson), except for Mr. Rosenthal who voted no, and Mr. Wertheimer and Ms. Sotos who abstained. **The 2019-2021 C&LM Plan was approved with 7 yes votes, 2 abstentions, and 1 no vote.** It was agreed that the Board's voting Rules still needed to be addressed. Ms. Fargo-Johnson said she would like to put the issue on the agenda for the December meeting. Mr. Schlegel encouraged Board members to review all the voting rules, so clarifications could be made.

Update on DEEP process to address cost-effectiveness testing in CT

Ms. Duva provided a presentation, including an overview of the public meeting on November 15, and the overall objectives and process. She said the primary goal of the Nov. 15 meeting was to summarize DEEP's analysis of the relevant statutes. Mr. Brown recommended that DEEP focus on statute when looking at how or if to update the state's cost-effectiveness framework, and that the Board should provide input into the process earlier rather than later in the process. Ms. Sotos encouraged the Board to provide feedback on the high level environmental and energy goals that are articulated in statute. Mr. Beup said that he would like the C&I Committee to have input into DEEP's process. Mr. Wertheimer said the Board should be more proactive in identifying its priorities with Evaluation. Mr. Wertheimer suggested that some discussion on cost-effectiveness should be included at the January and February Board meetings. Mr. Wertheimer said electricity savings should be the primary benefit in the cost-effectiveness testing. Ms. Duva suggested that DEEP could present again at the December meeting, and provide an overview of comments received at the November 15 meeting.

SBEA re-capitalization update

Mr. Plecs said that Eversource and Amalgamated Bank were working on the agreement. He said that Eversource would be able to provide a comprehensive review at the December Board meeting. Mr. Schlegel said that this agenda item would be one of the main reasons for having a December meeting.

3. Other. Ms. Sotos announced that Tracy Babbidge had become director of DEEP's Air Bureau.

4. Closing Public Comments. None.

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 pm.