



## Energy Efficiency Board Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 1:00 – 3:30 PM

Energize CT Center, 122 Universal Drive North, North Haven, CT

### MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

#### Attendees

Voting Board Members: Taren O'Connor (Chair), Bill Dornbos (Vice-Chair), Ravi Gorthala, Neil Beup, Adrienne Houel, Diane Duva

Utility Board Members: Ron Araujo, Chris Plecs, Pat McDonnell

Board Members Not in Attendance: Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Jack Traver, Eric Brown, Michael Wertheimer, Will Redden

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

Others: Walter McCree, Pam Penna Verrillo, Donna Wells, Amy Mclean-Salls, Ron Walters, Ted Norris, Guy West (phone)

#### Process

##### Minutes

The Board considered whether to approve the minutes from February 22, 2017 Board meeting. Revisions were requested and incorporated into the minutes at the meeting. Ms. Houel moved to approve, Mr. Dornbos 2<sup>nd</sup>. All present voted in favor. **2/22/17 minutes approved.**

##### Public Comments

None.

##### Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Diamond reminded the Board that the Board retreat was scheduled for June 14.

##### Update on financial and operational audit of CEEF programs

Ms. Duva said that DEEP and OCC were going to decide which agency will take the lead on the audits. One of those organizations would assist the utilities with their process in conducting the audit. Ms. Duva suggested that a good approach might be for the utilities to procure an independent auditor. Ms. Duva noted that in the past, the DPUC selected the auditor (with CEEF funding the audit cost). Ms. O'Connor said that an update would be provided to the Board at the next Board meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Meeting materials are available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/h5x9118r15dt1mbrlznh4q9nsj4x812d>

## **Program Updates/Highlights**

### **C&I Customer Case Study: Regional Water Authority's Participation in CEEF Programs**

Mr. Walters and Mr. Norris from the Regional Water Authority (RWA) provided a presentation on how Energize CT has worked with the RWA, and on how the RWA has benefitted from CEEF programs. Mr. Araujo asked if the RWA would be interested in partnering with the utilities on low-flow showerheads and water fixtures. Mr. Norris said yes. Mr. Beup asked Mr. Walters and Mr. Norris if they would be willing to come back to the EEB and report on their business improvements due to assistance from the CEEF. They said yes. Ms. Mclean-Salls said that the CEEF's work with the RWA is a very good example of the direction she would like to see the Business Sustainability Challenge program go in. Mr. Norris said that without Energize CT he was not sure how many of their sustainability goals they would be able to accomplish. The Board expressed appreciation for their presentation.

## **Programs and Planning**

### **Monthly Financial Report**

Mr. Plecs said that preliminary year-to-date results are that Eversource is on track regarding its 2017 goals. He noted that we were having another mild winter, which could impact program demand. No report was provided by UIL. Both Mr. Plecs and Mr. McDonnell said that they would report final January and February results (and preliminary March results) at the April Board meeting.

### **EEB letter of support for 2017 Plan Update**

Mr. Schlegel said that the letter of support was not yet ready for Board review, and that the letter would be sent to the Board for an electronic vote.

### **Planning schedule for 2018 Plan Update**

Mr. Schlegel said that the Companies and Board Consultants were recommending that the Plan Update planning process revert to the previous approach of completing all the Plan elements at the time of the fall filing, with the exception of budget reconciliation the following February. He said that the Board Consultants would propose a 2018 Plan Update schedule with Companies, and then present the proposed schedule for the Board's consideration at the April EEB meeting.

### **Eversource's 34 MW energy efficiency portfolio from DEEP's Small-Scale Clean Energy RFP**

Mr. Plecs provided a presentation. He said that the contract with DEEP had not yet been signed. He said once it was signed, PURA would review it. Ms. Houel asked about how many additional customers would be impacted by the projects. Mr. Plecs said he did not know because that information was in the bid materials. Mr. McDonnell said that the 34 MWs of reductions would be approximately 20-25% of the current CEEF total over the 4-year period of the projects. He said the focus of the projects would be on summer peak reductions. He noted that information on the projects was in the PURA docket. Mr. Plecs

said that PURA would have 90 days after receiving the scope of work to decide on the projects.

#### 2016 Annual EEB report to CT General Assembly

Ms. O'Connor said that she might reach out to the Energy & Technology Committee to potentially discuss the 2016 report, either to the full Committee or to individual Committee members. Ms. Houel commented that the report's information about jobs is important for communicating the value of energy efficiency. The Board then discussed how to create/obtain quality data on green jobs in Connecticut. The Board then discussed the full economic impact of CEEF programs. It was noted that the energy system benefits go beyond the 2.3 investment ratio.

#### **Other**

Mr. Gorthala briefed the Board on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) 2017 Race to Zero Student Design Competition. He said that University of New Haven (UNH) students had participated in 2016-2017, and noted that UI was an advisor/partner in the effort. He said that some UNH students were finalists in the competition scheduled for April 2017.

Mr. Gorthala alerted the Board that UNH would like to submit a bid for a U.S. DOE Industrial Assessment Center (IAC). He said that he was seeking a funding match from the CEEF for \$680,000 over a four-year period. It was agreed that the Board would vote electronically on Mr. Gorthala's request, and that Mr. Gorthala would recuse himself from the vote. Mr. McDonnell suggested that funding for the match could come from the CEEF's R&D (electric and gas) budget. It was agreed that the Companies could send to Mr. Diamond an email with budget information and support of the project, and that this information could be included in the Board vote. A follow-up electronic vote was conducted on March 13. The letter noted that although the Board supports the project, the cost share request was not yet approved, and that further Board discussion on the cost share was needed. In addition, just prior to the March 8 Board meeting, the University of Connecticut contacted Mr. Diamond and informed him that UConn would be submitting a proposal to DOE to develop an IAC (the same RFP that UNH would be responding to), and that it was interested in the CEEF potentially providing ISO 50001 (energy management system) training services as part of its proposal. UConn did not request a cost share. The UConn request was not discussed at the March 8 Board meeting because UConn did not request any immediate action on the part of the EEB and because no Board members were aware that the request had been made. However, given UNH's request at the Board meeting and once she was aware of UConn's request, Ms. O'Connor requested that the Board vote on a letter of support for the UConn proposal as well. That letter also noted that the Board supported the project but that UConn's request for energy management system training was pending further Board discussion.

Mr. Plecs provided an update on Eversource's C&I demand pilot projects. He said that they had identified 86 potential customers; 59 had been asked to sign NDAs; 37 had signed NDAs; 12 were going through the audit. He said that one agreement was in place so far.

Mr. Plecs said that the goal was to have all the projects in place by June. He said that he would provide brief updates on the C&I pilots at every Board meeting.

Ms. Duva asked the Board what it would like to do regarding Board member re-appointments (there are three Board members requiring Board re-appointment). Ms. O'Connor suggested that those three Board members be re-appointed for five years.

Ms. Duva asked if the Board would be interested in adding a potential "courtesy" Board member representing HES vendors, or perhaps other options to assure HES vendors have good input into EEB processes. Mr. Schlegel asked if that there might be other ways to obtain input from vendors. Mr. Schlegel said that another issue that needs to be considered is the relationship between EEB and CT Green Bank processes.

## **5. Closing Public Comments**

None.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.**