



Energy Efficiency Board Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 1:00 – 3:30 PM
10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT (Hearing Room 1)

MINUTES¹

In Attendance

Voting Board Members: Taren O'Connor (Chair), Bill Dornbos (Vice-Chair), Adrienne Houel, Mike Wertheimer, Diane Duva, Ravi Gorthala, Amanda Fargo-Johnson (phone)

Utility Board Members: Pat McDonnell, Ron Araujo, Will Redden

Board Members Not in Attendance: Chris Plecs, Eric Brown, Jack Traver, Neil Beup

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

Others: Marissa Westbrook, Paul Gray, Steve Bruno, Elizabeth Murphy, Walter McCree, Pam Penna Verrillo, Linda Foreman, Samantha Caputo (phone), Guy West (phone), Mark Thompson (phone)

Process

Minutes

The Board considered whether to approve the minutes from March 8, 2017 Board meeting. Two changes were requested to the draft minutes, and these changes were incorporated into the minutes at the meeting. Mr. Gorthala moved to approve, Ms. Houel 2nd. All present voted to approve the minutes, with the exception of Ms. Fargo-Johnson and Mr. Wertheimer who abstained because they were not present at the March 8 meeting. **March 8, 2017 minutes approved.**

Public Comments

None.

New SCG/CNG EEB Representative

Mr. McDonnell announced that Roddy Diotalevi from UIL would be the new SCG/CNG representative to the EEB.

Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Diamond provided an update on the Board meeting schedule in May, June, and July. He also asked Board members to send him suggestions for Board retreat topics.

¹ Meeting materials available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/7czfpodi69vj0vgip8zu0q9uq8o0whse>

Update on CEEF Financial/Operational Audits

Ms. Duva noted that after conferring with the OCC, DEEP was clarifying the protocol for the companies to retain independent auditors to conduct the financial and operational audits that were included in the 2016-2018 C&LM Plan. She said the budget included funding for the audits, and that they might begin in 2017, with the expectation that going forward the C&LM Plan would account for conducting operational audits every five years and financial audits every 2 years. Ms. Duva and Ms. O'Connor both noted that they expected the Companies to share a draft RFP with EEB to ensure the EEB can review the scope of the audits, and so that there would be assurance for the EEB and the public that the audits would be completed by an independent third party. Ms. O'Connor also noted that the EEB would be the recipient of the audits, rather than DEEP or the Companies. In addition, she said that the EEB would have the opportunity to review, comment on, and have an influence over the scope of the audit, and that the EEB would have the opportunity to review all records of how the RFP applicants were scored. Ms. O'Connor also noted that the audits were budgeted to have taken place in 2016, but they were not conducted then.

Update on Executive Secretary RFP

Ms. O'Connor said that the Executive Secretary RFP had been distributed (consistent with the three-year RFP schedule for Board Consultants) and that the proposal due date was April 30th. She said the Consultant Committee would be meeting after the responses were received, and that interviews would be scheduled. She said the goal was a July 1st start date.

Program Updates/Highlights

Vermont's Zero Energy Now (ZEN) Program

Mr. Faesy provided a presentation. Mr. Araujo asked if the ZEN program had detailed information on each of the projects. Mr. Faesy said they did have detailed information on the projects they could share. He said that they had trained 18 home performance contractors, and that about five of them had conducted most the jobs. Mr. Schlegel asked how much of the project costs were paid out of pocket by customers, and how much was financed. Mr. Faesy said he did not have that information. He said approximately 50% of the costs were for PV installation, and approximately 50% of costs were for energy efficiency measures; therefore, the 30% PV tax credit was significant for many of the projects.

Programs and Planning

Monthly Financial Report

Both Eversource and UI reported that their overall spending and savings targets were on track.

EEB Letter of Support for 2017 Plan Update Revisions

Mr. Schlegel said that the draft letter of support was not yet ready for a Board vote, so an e-vote would be conducted likely sometime next week. Ms. Duva noted that a DEEP meeting was tentatively scheduled for June 15 to discuss cost-effectiveness issues.

Schedule for 2018 Plan Update Process

Mr. Schlegel said that the proposed schedule would recommend that all elements of the planning process take place in the fall, with the exception of reconciling the updated budget numbers the following February. He said that the draft schedule was not yet ready for a Board vote, so an e-vote would be conducted likely sometime next week.

Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) Partnership Agreement

Mr. Schlegel provided some background on NEEP, on how the CEEF has worked with NEEP in the past, and on how the proposed Partnership Agreement was developed. Then Mr. Schlegel discussed the list of proposed projects in the Agreement. Ms. Duva commented that cost-sharing of these projects with other states was a very cost-effective way to address these issues. She said that NEEP's work has been very effective. Ms. O'Connor said she thinks the proposed arrangement was very good, but encouraged other Board members to review the proposed projects. Mr. Dornbos clarified that some of the project amounts were contingent upon other funding sources materializing. Ms. Fargo-Johnson asked for clarification on the maximum funding amount of \$108,000. It was clarified that the Board would probably be asked to vote on two separate items: 1) Project list at \$108,000; and 2) a regional EM&V Forum (EM&V 2.0 focus) at a cost of \$15,000. It was noted that the annual EM&V forum budget in the 2016-2018 C&LM Plan was \$135,000, so the \$108,000 plus \$15,000 (\$123,000 total) for all NEEP collaborative work was less than the \$135,000 annual cost in the 2016-2018 Plan. Ms. Duva recommended that the Board support the \$15,000 EM&V regional Forum because it was a cost-effective way to address EM&V 2.0. It was decided that the Board Consultants would confer with some Board members following the meeting to decide on a path forward for the EM&V portion of the NEEP Partnership, and that the Board would likely vote on the Partnership Agreement electronically.

Update on Upcoming Meeting on Multi-Family Program Issues

Ms. O'Connor noted that the EEB Residential Committee would be holding a special meeting on April 18 to address several multi-family program issues that had been raised at the March Residential Committee meeting.

Progress Report on Demand Pilot Projects

Mr. McDonnell reviewed a spreadsheet which contained updates on UI's Residential and C&I pilot projects. Mr. Bruno provided a verbal overview of Eversource's C&I pilot projects. He said that four projects were already in place, and they were expecting a total of 13 projects overall. Mr. Araujo provided an update on Eversource's Residential pilot projects.

Update on Industrial Assessment Center Board Support Letters

Mr. Diamond noted that the Board had provided letters of support (which the Board had approved electronically following the March Board meeting) to the University of New Haven (UNH) and to the University of Connecticut (UConn) for their separate proposals

submitted to DOE to establish an Industrial Assessment Center. Mr. Diamond said that the Board might be asked to take further action on supporting additional work if either UNH or UConn were to receive an award from DOE.

Other

Mr. Araujo announced that this year's annual Zero Energy Challenge Awards event would be held on April 20. Mr. McDonnell said that the Companies would be recognized by EPA for the Environmental Merit Award for a House of Worship Initiative in Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport. He said that individuals involved in that initiative were Sherri Borelli, Samantha Borucca, and Amy Thompson. It was agreed that additional award announcements would be made at the Board retreat in June.

Closing Public Comments

None.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.