



Energy Efficiency Board Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 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), Diane Duva, Adrienne Houel, Mike Wertheimer, Amanda Fargo-Johnson (phone)

Utility Board Members: Chris Plecs, Ron Araujo, Donna Wells, Will Redden

Board Members Not in Attendance: Jack Traver, Eric Brown, Neil Beup, Ravi Gorthala, Roddy Diotalevi

Board Consultants: Les Tumidaj, George Lawrence, Jeff Schlegel, Chris Kramer, Craig Diamond

Others: Linda Foreman, Walter McCree, Guy West, Sue Coakley, Pam Penna, Christopher McKinnon, Joseph Roy, Anthony Clark

Process

Minutes

The Board considered whether to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2017 Board meeting. **Ms. Houel moved to approve, Mr. Dornbos 2nd. All present voted in favor. April 12, 2017 minutes approved.**

Public Comments

Guy West from Clean Water Action complimented the EEB on conducting the special Residential Committee meeting on multi-family issues.

Executive Secretary's Report

Mr. Diamond reminded the Board of the June, July, and August EEB meeting schedule.

2017 NEEP Partnership Agreement for Connecticut

Ms. Coakley, of Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, provided a presentation on the CT partnership agreement. Ms. Duva noted that DEEP was a member/signatory to the Partnership.

¹ Meeting materials available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/peoir0yyz77ofsaoh7h1zf6r0gan17iy>

VOTE: Board Resolution on Fair and Equitable Contractor Practices

Ms. Duva said that the Board should consider having a discussion on communication with vendors and contractors. She also asked if there were other concrete steps the Board should take or discuss. Mr. Dornbos said that the draft resolution had been developed through the Residential Committee. He also said it was important to emphasize the principles included in the resolution. He noted that the resolution intentionally did not comment on the facts of the situation. Mr. Dornbos said he would prefer that the Board not convene additional meetings on these issues because it could be a burden on the Board to have additional meetings. He suggested that perhaps DEEP could meet with contractors/vendors. Mr. Plecs expressed concern regarding the last sentence in the first recommendation, which stated that "...the utilities should document and implement clear, transparent, and fair project assignment and lead generation/allocation processes to ensure fair and equitable treatment of qualified contractors and vendors." He noted that many customers have their own procurement policies, particularly large industrial customers. Mr. Dornbos said that the utilities should document those situations (e.g., when customers decide on procurement practices). Ms. O'Connor agreed with Mr. Dornbos's suggestion. She said an important principle of the resolution was transparency. Ms. Duva noted that program guidelines should be available to be reviewed by stakeholders. Mr. Araujo asked about the underlined last paragraph of the resolution, in particular whether there had been, or would be, communication going to the Green Bank. Ms. O'Connor said yes, but the communication had not happened yet. Mr. Clark said that he would follow-up via email on the communication. Ms. Houel emphasized the importance of communication. She said she would like to see announcements of all projects broadcast broadly to all vendors/stakeholders. **Ms. Houel moved to approve the Resolution as proposed. Mr. Wertheimer 2nd. Ms. Duva said that DEEP was willing to host vendor input meetings. Vote: all voted to approve, including Ms. O'Connor's proxy vote for Mr. Traver and Mr. Gorthala. Resolution approved.**

Update on CEEF Financial/Operational Audit

Mr. Plecs said there would be draft audit report available at the end of November 2017, and the final report available in December 2017. He said that within the next few weeks, the Companies would be seeking feedback from the Board on a draft RFP. He said he would send the draft RFP to Mr. Diamond to distribute for Board comments.

Program Updates/Highlights

Update on Energize CT's Financing Programs

Mr. Kramer provided a presentation. Mr. Schlegel noted that CT's SBEA financing program has been very successful and nationally recognized. He also commented that the C-PACE program has been very successful in helping customers move forward with more comprehensive measures. Mr. Tumidaj noted the importance of pairing C&LM incentives with financing. Mr. Dornbos asked about the possibility of identifying metrics for leveraging public/rate-payer funds. Mr. Kramer said that total MMBtu is a key overall metric. Mr. Schlegel noted that one of the most important initial goals of financing was to help allow for deeper savings and more comprehensive projects.

Programs and Planning

Quarterly Financial Report

Ms. Wells provided a presentation. She said that overall, UI was close to meeting its goals. She noted that the numbers for the Energy Opportunities and Energy Conscious Blueprint programs were low for the first quarter, but noted that the numbers for the Energy Opportunities program would increase in the 2nd quarter due to accounting factors. Ms. Wells said that SCG was undercollected in revenue, and therefore the budget for SCG would need to be adjusted. She said the same applied to CNG, but less so. She said that they were behind on savings results for SCG/CNG, but noted that those numbers would likely increase in the 2nd quarter. Mr. Plecs provided a presentation for Eversource. For Eversource electric, he said they were at goal for spending and savings, although behind on HES goals. For gas, he said they were at goal for spending, but somewhat behind on lifetime savings, but he said they would likely catch up on lifetime savings. Regarding the HES program, Mr. Araujo said that Eversource had initiated new marketing activities starting in mid-March. Mr. Plecs noted, regarding the C&I pilots, that they might ask the Board at some point for authorization to implement more than the currently planned 13 pilot projects.

Board Retreat Topics

Mr. Diamond provided an overview of the proposed retreat agenda topics. Regarding the energy strategy in CT agenda topic, Ms. Duva noted that the draft Comprehensive Energy Strategy (CES) would not be publically available by the date of the retreat, but DEEP would brief the EEB Chair and Vice-Chair prior to release of the draft for public comment. Ms. Duva said that DEEP would discuss the CES broadly at the retreat. It was agreed that the Board would discuss the published draft CES at the August Board meeting.

VOTES: EEB Letter of Support for 2017 Plan Update Revisions, and Schedule for 2018 Plan Update Process

Mr. Schlegel suggested that both documents be combined into one vote. He said that the Board Consultants were recommending both documents to the Board. Mr. Dornbos moved to approve both documents. Ms. Houel 2nd. **Vote: all present voted in favor, including Ms. O'Connor's proxy vote for Mr. Gorthala. EEB Letter of Support for 2017 Plan Update Revisions and Schedule for 2018 Plan Update Process approved.**

Other

Mr. Araujo noted that the Residential Committee meeting would be taking place on May 17 rather than May 10. Mr. Dornbos announced that the EnergyVision 2030 Report had been released by Acadia Center.

Closing Public Comments

None

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 pm.