



Energy Efficiency Board Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 1:00 – 3:30 PM
10 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT (Hearing Room 2)

MINUTES¹

In Attendance

Voting Board Members: Neil Beup (EEB Chair), Amanda Fargo-Johnson (EEB Vice-Chair, phone), Michael Li, Jack Traver, John Wright, Amy McLean, Bruce McDermott (phone)

Utility Board Members: Will Riddle, Liz Murphy, Ron Araujo, Andy Brydges

Board Members Not in Attendance: Scott Whittier, Eric Brown, Taren O'Connor, Adrienne Houel

Board Consultants: Glenn Reed, George Lawrence, Richard Faesy, Craig Diamond

Others: Donna Wells, Julia Dumaine, Jane Lano, Guy West, Leticia Colon, Nekabari Goka

Process

Minutes

The Board considered whether to approve the minutes from the November 13, 2019 Board meeting. Mr. Traver moved to approve, Ms. McLean 2nd. All present voted to approve.

November 13, 2019 minutes approved.

Public Comments

None.

Update on EEB 20-year anniversary marketing campaign

Liz Murphy provided a presentation. There was no Board discussion.

2020 EEB and Committee Meeting Schedule

- EEB focus areas - Mr. Reed provided a revised schedule for Board discussion of EEB focus area topics: Administrative and Labor costs in December; Performance Management Incentives in January, Customer Engagement Platform and Marketing in February; New Technologies and Market Transformation in March; Education/Training in April; Residential sector overview in May; and C&I sector overview in June. The Board was in agreement with this proposed schedule.
- Public input and planning meetings - Mr. Beup said he liked the retreats because they provided an opportunity to learn and drill down on topics. There was some discussion about the best way to structure the public input and planning meetings.

¹ Meeting materials available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/04gou2exspbm8fsht5eyj1jxehy93ixz>

Following discussion, it was agreed to do 1 ½ hours of public input in April and May (followed by 1 ½ hour Board meetings); to do a full-day Planning Meeting on June 24; and then have a regular meeting in July. It was agreed that a location would be identified for the June 24 Planning meeting.

2. Programs and Planning

EEB Focus Area - Labor and Administrative Costs

Mr. Reed provided a presentation. Mr. Beup said he would like to know how the numbers had changed over time, and how the numbers related to savings fluctuations over time. He said he wanted to get to the point where the Board could decide what the right cost numbers were, and where the Board could review the numbers every year to assure they were in line with expectations. Mr. Lawrence noted that the 2017-2019 budget raid probably impacted labor and administrative costs. Ms. Fargo-Johnson said that perhaps comparisons could also be made with states other than MA and RI. Mr. Reed said that other states could be looked at, but he noted that MA and RI were the best comparisons due to programmatic and geographic similarity of the programs. Mr. Beup said there were probably other sources of comparison in the marketplace, perhaps even outside of the realm of energy efficiency programs. Ms. McLean noted that comparing energy efficiency program labor and administrative costs with such costs from other industries might not be a valid comparison.

HES Co-Pay: Discussion and potential vote

Mr. Faesy provided a summary of the morning's Residential Committee discussion on the HES co-pay. He said that HES demand had gone up significantly in October and November of this year due to the co-pay reduction. He said that the recommendation from the Residential Committee was to move to a permanent \$75 copay for all customers and all fuel types. He said the cost-effectiveness impact of the change would be minimal. Several HES vendors at the Residential Committee meeting said they supported the \$75 copay. Ms. Fargo-Johnson asked about the timing of the reduction. Mr. Araujo said the Companies wanted to immediately make permanent the current level \$75, and leave it at that level. **A motion was proposed to maintain the HES co-pay at \$75. Mr. Wright moved to approve, Mr. McDermott 2nd. A clarification was made that the \$75 co-pay applied to all customers and all fuels. All present voted to approve the motion.**

2020 Plan Update

- HES/HES-IE Realization Rates - Mr. Reed said that the Evaluation Administrators and Companies had met to discuss this issue. He said that progress had been made, but there were still some issues to be resolved. He noted that resolution of this issue was a Board condition of approval of the Plan Update.
- CEP and Marketing Budgets - Mr. Reed noted that this was also a Board condition of approval of the Plan Update. He said this would be presented at the February Board meeting as part of the focus area presentation on CEP/marketing.
- DEEP 12/12 public meeting - Mr. Li said that public meeting on December 12 was intended primarily to receive public input on some specific issues/questions. Mr. Beup asked DEEP to provide a summary of the public meeting at the January EEB meeting.

EEB comments submitted for PURA docket

Board members agreed that Board should have the option to weigh in on this docket if needed. This includes the Energy Affordability element of the docket, as well as other elements of the docket.

Eversource Behavior program

Mr. Araujo said that Eversource would be ending this program in the three New England States in which Eversource operates. He said that customers were not happy with the program, and that it was starting to harm the credibility of other programs. He said that Eversource was now exploring other ways to use the Behavior program budget to engage customers. Mr. Araujo clarified that Eversource was not looking to replace the Behavior program with another program that claims savings for behavioral changes. Ms. Fargo-Johnson asked about the budget of the Behavior program. Mr. Araujo said the budget had been \$1.7 M in 2019 for Eversource electric, and \$410,000 in 2019 for Eversource gas. Mr. Li asked how this money would be allocated in the 2020 budget. Mr. Araujo said the budget would be re-allocated for the March 1 “true-up” filing.

Committee Updates

C&I Committee - Mr. Lawrence said the Committee did a 2020 planning exercise at its December 10 meeting. He said the Committee wanted to prepare for the C&I focus area at the June Board meeting.

Other

Mr. Beup noted that Adrienne Houel had notified the Board that she would be resigning from the Board (for health reasons) after today’s meeting. Mr. Beup acknowledged Ms. Houel’s contribution and dedication to the EEB. He noted there was now an opening on the Board (Residential seat).

Closing Public Comments

None.

The meeting adjourned at 2:54 pm.