



Energy Efficiency Board Special Meeting

Thursday, April 16, 2020, 4:00 – 5:00 PM

Webinar Only

MINUTES¹

In Attendance

Voting Board Members: Neil Beup (EEB Chair), Amanda Fargo-Johnson (EEB Vice-Chair), Mike Li, Amy McLean, Eric Brown, Jack Traver, John Wright

Utility Board Members: Will Riddle, Liz Murphy, Ron Araujo, Steve Bruno

Board Members Not in Attendance: Bruce McDermott, Brenda Watson, John Viglione, Scott Whittier

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

Others: Donna Wells, Diane Del Rosso, Alex Sopolak, Larry Rush, Ricardo Jordan, Tammy Wilson, Sheri Borrelli, Mark Grindell, Jordan Schellens, Jerry Graham, Amanda Stevens, Pete Carlson, Steve Cowell, Leticia Colon, Ida Churchill, William Wesson, Brandon Mark, Vivian Perez, Russell King, Michael Cresta, Michelle Long, Thomas Phillips, Brendan Thomas, Paul Horowitz, Franklin Hernandez, James Correira, John Greeno, Tom Fernandes, Adam Tardif, Joe Roy, Emily Basham, Stephanie Weiner, Madeline Priest, Melinda Onofrio, Tim Fabuien, Blaine Fox, Rebecca Baez, John Mitchell, Satyen Moray, Michael Frownfelter, Hank Cullinane

Purpose of Meeting: discuss needs of C&LM program contractors and other issues related to COVID-19 contingency planning

Public comments

- Steve Cowell, E4TheFuture - he noted that he had submitted written comments to the EEB in preparation for this meeting. In his comments, he noted the multi-state effort to provide training to energy efficiency vendors. He also recommended that the Companies provide a fixed per-month administrative services fee of \$1,375 per laid off/furloughed HES vendor worker for services being provided but for which there was currently no funding. Also, he noted that virtual energy efficiency work should be done selectively for limited specific activities, and should not replace in-home assessments.
- Pete Carson, Energy Store - he said that eleven vendors had collaborated on comments that were submitted to the EEB today.

¹ Meeting materials available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/m9v7wy8yagikib77g1ap93p4ryft4ip8>

Presentations/information from DEEP, Companies, and/or Board Consultants

Companies' Presentation

Mr. Araujo and Ms. Murphy provided a presentation which included the following: 1) update on the Companies' activities to date in response to Covid-19; 2) residential and C&I virtual assessments; 3) residential and C&I online training; and 4) HES/HES-IE vendor administrative fees. Mr. Brown noted that C&I energy usage was lower during the pandemic, and therefore C&I revenue should be lower. He noted that there were costs associated with the Companies responses to Covid-19, and he asked if there was sufficient budget to cover the activities. Mr. Araujo said there was sufficient budget to cover the activities, and all the activities had been determined to be cost-effective. Ms. Fargo-Johnson asked about the demand/uptake for the virtual assessments. Mr. Araujo said that the program had just been submitted to DEEP for approval, and it was too early to know what the update would be. In regard to the administrative fees, Mr. Beup asked if the fees were already being reimbursed as part of normal program operations. Mr. Araujo said the fees were above and beyond normal operating expenses. Ms. Fargo-Johnson asked about the proposed minimum reimbursement of \$500 per week. Mr. Araujo said that most would likely be reimbursed per job (\$70/job) rather than get the minimum payment of \$500.

Proposed Motion for Board Consideration

Mr. Reed presented a proposed motion (motion language in Box folder) developed by the Consultants for Board consideration. It contained the following three elements: 1) remote assessments; 2) training; and 3) administrative fees. In regard to remote assessments and administrative fees, Mr. Brown asked why the proposed motion included EEB deferring to DEEP on costs. Mr. Reed said that the remote assessments were just starting to be implemented, and the Companies were just starting to get feedback on costs and other issues, so there was not enough information yet for the EEB to recommend specific costs. Mr. Beup invited the Board to move the proposed motion forward. Ms. McLean moved to support the motion (comprised of all three recommendations) as drafted by the Consultants. Ms. Fargo-Johnson 2nd. Mr. Wright said that the Board should receive periodic progress reports on the remote assessments, training, and administrative fees. Ms. Colon commented that she was concerned that there was not enough opportunity for vendors to comment on the proposed recommendations. Mr. Beup said that the Board needed to move forward today with considering the recommendations before it. Mr. Brown requested that the "defers to DEEP" language in the motion be changed to a request that the specific costs be brought back to the Board for its consideration. Mr. Traver said it might be preferable for the EEB to express support for the Companies current cost recommendations. Mr. Reed noted that DEEP would need to make the ultimate decision on costs, and that there was not enough time for specific costs to be brought back to the Board for a vote. Mr. Traver recommended that the language in the remote assessments and administrative fees parts of the motion be changed from "defers" to support of the "price structures proposed by the Companies," and he moved that the Board approve the recommendations with the language change. Mr. Brown 2nd. **Vote: all Board members voted to approve the motion as amended, with the exception of DEEP which abstained.**

Public comments

- Ida Churchill - she said that work being done on the exterior of homes should be examined. She thanked the Board for supporting the administrative fees reimbursement.
- Leticia Colon - she noted that vendors' comments had been submitted to DEEP, and would also be distributed to the EEB. She said that she wanted the EEB to have accurate information on the vendors' high overhead costs.
- Pete Carlson - he suggested that the administrative costs numbers should be reviewed to assure they were correct. Mr. Araujo said he would review the administrative cost numbers.

The meeting adjourned at 5:29 pm.