



Energy Efficiency Board Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2020, 2:30 – 4:00 PM

Webinar Only

MINUTES¹

In Attendance

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

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

Board Members Not in Attendance: Brenda Watson, Eric Brown, Scott Whittier

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

Others: Donna Wells, Tammy Wilson, Diane Del Rosso, Larry Rush, Jordan Schellens, Jennifer Gray, Chani Ramdani, Adam Tardiff, Blaine Fox, Brandon Mark, Bendon Thomas, Brian Biernat, Craig Olisky, Gina Crist, Guy West, Michael Cresta, Paul Horowitz, Hank Cullinane, Jane Bourdeau, Daniel Martins, Dartanyen Byrd, Samantha Caputo, Shannon King, Sheilia Brown, Steve Cowell, Tim Fabiuen, William Wesson, Nekabari Goka, Paul Scicchitano, Robert Auer, Peter Callan, Nicole Mastriano

Process

Minutes

The Board considered whether to approve the minutes from the 3/11/20, 3/24/20, and 3/30/20 Board meetings. Ms. McLean moved to approve all three sets of minutes, Mr. McDermott 2nd. All present voted to approve the three sets of minutes.

Public Comments

Steve Cowell, E4TheFuture. Mr. Cowell said it would be helpful for the EEB Consultants to provide an update on how Rhode Island and Massachusetts compared to Connecticut in regard to responses to Covid-19.

Committee membership

Ms. McLean said that an additional Board member was needed for the Evaluation Committee, and that the Residential Committee could also benefit from an additional member. Ms. Fargo-Johnson said that an additional Board member was needed for the Consultant Committee.

¹ Meeting materials available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/64qj736tgyfm4d8bl4mrv35h5j9abmru>

Programs and Planning

Introduction to Operational Fuel

It was noted that Brenda Watson would provide an overview of Operational Fuel at the May Board meeting.

Debrief from EEB Public Input Session

Mr. Reed provided an overview of comments received from today's Public Input session. He said that there were many questions from HES/HES-IE vendors about administrative costs they were incurring for work related to responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. He said there some specific recommendations from some vendors for reimbursement for these costs, including: \$150 per new lead and \$50 for each reschedule; and \$1,200 per employee per week. In regard to training, Mr. Reed said some vendors expressed a preference for choosing their own training providers, and some said it would be difficult to recruit participants. Mr. Reed said there were also questions from vendors about how virtual audits would be administered. He also said it was noted that vendors had stock available that could be used for Mail-Out Kits to customers.

Update on Energize CT alternatives

Mr. Riddle said that an RFP would be released in May to select a vendor that would provide options and recommendations for alternatives to the Energize CT Center. The goal is for the EEB to consider those alternatives at a future meeting.

Updates on DEEP and Companies' responses to COVID-19 pandemic

Mr. Bruno provided a summary of 14 items the Companies had addressed thus far in response to Covid-19. Mr. Araujo provided additional detail on the Companies' activities on training. He said that on-line residential and C&I training had been initiated on April 6. He said that they were offering six courses as part of Phase I of the training. Mr. Araujo also said that the Companies were working on developing a plan for virtual audits, but they were not yet ready to launch a program. Mr. Beup noted that many stakeholders had questions about the content and timing of the Companies' efforts, and he asked for some clarification on that. Mr. Araujo said that some vendors had expressed concern about the virtual audits replacing the work of some of the existing vendors. He said that it was unknown what the uptake of the virtual audits would be (could be small). He said he was not sure when they would be able to launch the virtual audits. Ms. McLean said that the vendors needed more certainty about when and how much financial support they would receive, particularly for reimbursement of administrative costs. Ms. Fargo-Johnson said she agreed with Ms. McLean's concerns. Mr. Beup said he was also concerned that Companies were not moving quickly enough to address the vendors' request for support. Mr. Li said that the Companies were waiting for DEEP to see what federal resources would be available to vendors, because DEEP wanted to be judicious about how C&LM funds were spent. Mr. Beup said the Companies did not wait to see the extent to which federal resources were available. Mr. Li said that it would helpful to DEEP if the EEB were to make a recommendation to DEEP on this issue. Mr. Beup asked that Mr. Reed draft a motion for the Board to consider at the next EEB meeting. Mr. Traver said he agreed the Companies

needed to move more quickly on administrative costs, and that the Board should make a recommendation to DEEP on that.

Focus Area: New Technologies/Market Transformation

A presentation was provided by Mr. Reed, Mr. Lawrence, and Mr. Faesy. Following the presentation, several Board members said they appreciated the information and found it very helpful.

Committee Updates

- Residential Committee - Ms. McLean expressed appreciation for Brenda Watson joining the Board and the Residential Committee.
- Consultant Committee - Ms. Fargo-Johnson noted that proposals for the Executive Secretary RFP were due on May 1.

Other

ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year Award to EnergizeCT/Eversource/Avangrid

Ms. Murphy provided a presentation. She thanked the Companies' partners, vendors, DEEP, and others for their contributions to the ENERGY STAR programs.

Closing Public Comments

Ms. Caputo, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership. Ms. Caputo noted that there had been a webinar today on virtual audits, and that the HELIX effort in CT involved an "Energy Estimator" that utilized virtual audits.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.