



Energy Efficiency Board Monthly Meeting

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

MINUTES¹

In Attendance

Voting Board Members: Neil Beup (EEB Chair), Amanda Fargo-Johnson (EEB Vice-Chair), Mary Sotos, John Wright, Amy McLean Salls, Jack Traver, Adrienne Houel, Bruce McDermott (phone), Eric Brown (phone)

Utility Board Members: Will Riddle, Jane Lano, Andy Brydges, Ron Araujo

Board Members Not in Attendance: Scott Whittier, Taren O'Connor

Board Consultants: Glenn Reed, George Lawrence, Craig Diamond

Others: Steve Bruno, Guy West, Matt Macunas, Erin Tempster (phone)

Process

Minutes

The Board considered whether to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2019 Board meeting. Ms. Houel moved to approve, Ms. Fargo-Johnson 2nd. All Board members present voted to approve the minutes, except Mr. Wright who abstained. **Minutes approved.**

Public Comments

None.

Vote: EEB Rules/Roadmap changes

Ms. Fargo-Johnson summarized the proposed changes made to the EEB Rules/Roadmap, including a change of the name of the document to EEB Operating Procedures. There was no discussion. Mr. Traver moved to approve, Ms. Houel 2nd. All present voted to approve the changes. **EEB Rules/Roadmap changes approved.**

EEB roles and process

Mr. Beup introduced the topic of discussion. He said that too much Board meeting time was spent on details. He said the existence of DEEP (since 2011) had changed the role of the Board. He said he would like to see a larger role for DEEP. He said that the Board Consultants should spend more time supporting DEEP's needs. Mr. Beup said that the Board needed to work through how the EEB should change its role and operations. He said that DEEP should be more involved in EEB activities, and be more involved in developing the Board meeting agendas. Ms. McLean Salls asked for an example of how the Board's roles might change. Mr.

¹ Meeting materials available in Box.com: <https://app.box.com/s/u0kn24qi4f7baxypfionf5oeiam8lq2i>

Beup provided the example that DEEP could manage monthly budget tables, with help from the Board Consultants. He said that he was not interested in the month-to-month flow of spending and savings. He said he'd like to see high level topics tracked on a regular basis. Mr. Beup provided another example: the EEB could evaluate the Clean Water Fund's proposal by asking if the proposal was consistent with high level principles. Ms. Fargo-Johnson said that she agreed with the need to track high level issues so that the Board could make better decisions. Ms. Houel said she would like to see a summary of the EEB's statutory responsibilities. She also said that the EEB must maintain its in-depth role in annual planning. She also noted that, regarding the example of the Clean Water Fund proposal, there needs to be a process for channeling and evaluating that proposal. Ms. Fargo-Johnson asked what the Board's procedure was for responding to unsolicited proposals. Ms. McLean Salls noted that the Residential Committee was doing a "deep dive" on low-moderate income issues, and that this would help the Board with decisions related to low-moderate income issues. Mr. Araujo said that unsolicited proposals should go to the Program Administrators and the Board Consultants so that they could evaluate whether the Board needs to discuss or take action on such proposals. Mr. Beup said the Board would need to go through a deliberative process to develop its high level principles, and he noted that such a process worked well when the Board reduced the C&LM budget in response to the legislative diversion.

Mr. Beup recommended that the Board develop principles, "buckets," and metrics for each of the buckets. He defined buckets as important topics that the Board would want to understand well and track (e.g., low-moderate income issues, education, marketing, etc.). Ms. McLean Salls said that the Board should re-visit the Board's legislative mandate as a basic starting point. She said she wanted to assure that the EEB did not yield too much authority for those responsibilities for which the Board should have authority. Mr. Traver noted the example of the Board's SBEA financing vote; he said the Board probably went into too much detail on that issue. Mr. Traver also said that the Board spent too much time considering Fireye's proposal for its boiler control technology. Mr. Brown said he agreed with Mr. Beup's recommendations for changes to Board roles and processes. Mr. Brown noted that the best Board meetings were those in which ample time was available to discuss important issues. He said he preferred in-depth discussions over lengthy presentations. He also said that the Committees should provide updates to the Board more frequently, including updates from the EEB-Green Bank Board Joint Committee. Mr. Beup said more issues could be shifted to the Committees. He said that the Board should be more selective regarding which topics were included on meeting agendas. Ms. Fargo-Johnson said she would like to have quarterly updates from the Committees. Ms. Sotos said that DEEP would welcome a re-consideration of how the Board works with DEEP, and the Board's processes. She acknowledged there had been some disadvantages to DEEP waiting until the end of deliberations to approve 3-year Plans or Plan Updates. She said she supports the idea of DEEP bringing its perspective into discussions sooner rather than later. She said she would like to know more specifically what DEEP's role would be, since that would help her better allocate staff resources. She also said that she supports improving the EEB's processes and meetings. She said she needs to assure that DEEP had enough resources to potentially play a larger role with the EEB.

Mr. Beup said the Board should start making process changes next month. He also suggested that the Board could identify issues it should cover over the course of the year. Mr. Reed suggested that the Board review the EEB's enabling legislation at the next meeting. Mr. Beup

agreed the Board should do that. Ms. Lano said she supported the idea of quarterly updates from the Committees. She also said she liked the idea of identifying principles. She said that the Board should carefully consider which metrics would be consistent with the C&LM Dashboard, and to assure that new metrics are added to the Dashboard. Ms. Lano noted that the Companies had invested quite a lot in the Dashboard, and would like to see the Board make better use of it. She also said she supported the suggestion to have more discussion time at meetings. Mr. Traver said he would be interested in recommendations for metrics from the Companies, DEEP, and the Board Consultants. Mr. Beup agreed with Mr. Traver's suggestion. Mr. Lawrence noted that key program performance indicators had recently been developed in Massachusetts. Ms. Houel said she would be interested in understanding how on-going issues related to the 3-year Plans. Ms. Fargo-Johnson said she would like the Board to have its own version of a dashboard to support the EEB in decision-making. Mr. Araujo noted that only key issues important to the Board should be tracked regularly for the EEB. Mr. Reed suggested that additional metrics could be developed, and then the Board could decide on the frequency of data generation. Ms. Houel noted that there were some problems that had not yet been solved - for example, funding for health and safety barriers, and reaching oil-heated homes. Mr. Beup suggested that the Board, at its next meeting, should discuss the EEB's legislative mandates, along with principles. And if there was time at the next meeting, the Board could also discuss potential "buckets" and also discuss a schedule for further efforts for Board changes.

Programs and Planning

Vote: Schedule for 2020 Update Planning Process

Mr. Reed provided an overview of the 2020 Plan Update planning process and schedule. He asked the Board to approve it. Mr. Traver moved to approve, Ms. McLean Salls 2nd. **All present voted to approve the 2020 Plan Update planning process and schedule.**

Update on Energize CT Center Closing

Ms. Lano and Mr. Riddle provided a presentation. Mr. Riddle provided specific spending numbers for several of the C&LM education programs. He noted that there was no energy education at Stepping Stones (only the EnergizeCT logo). Ms. Lano noted that an investment of \$3 million was made in moving the Center to its North Have location several years ago. Ms. Lano said that UI had some concerns about closing the Center in April 2020: 1) closing the Center too soon would create a gap in experiential learning, and 2) closing the Center would impact distressed communities, since about 65% of visitors come from distressed communities. Ms. Lano proposed a 3rd option for the Board: continue Center operations through April 2021, while UI would transition to a potential mobile education option. Under the proposal, UI would cover all Center operational costs until closure costs. Mr. Riddle presented some examples of mobile science exhibits/centers. Ms. Sotos asked how long it would take to implement the mobile option. Mr. Riddle said it would likely launch around 2021 or 2022. Ms. Fargo-Johnson asked why the mobile option would take until 2021 or 2022 to implement, and she said she was not sure why the Center could not be closed in April 2020 while UI explored/implemented other options. Ms. Lano said she wanted to build in a cushion on the time (thus 2021 or 2022), since a mobile option was a new concept that had not yet been fully thought through. She said she would like renewables to be part of the mobile options. Mr. Brown said he had experience working with mobile labs. He noted that there

was a high cost of set-up and operation, and that there was limited ability to evaluate effectiveness. He said the state had backed away from supporting the mobile labs. Ms. Lano clarified that the budget of the Center would be at its pre-diversion level until the proposed 2021 closing. Mr. Beup said he was concerned about the possible limitations of measuring the effectiveness of the mobile option, and he also noted that nobody was certain that there would end up being a mobile option. Ms. Lano said she was concerned about a potential gap in programming if the Center were to close in April 2020. Ms. Fargo-Johnson said she still did not see the value of keeping Center open past April 2020. Ms. Sotos said DEEP was concerned about the optics of closing the Center if there were no alternatives identified yet. She said she was also concerned about how long the gap might be without an identified alternative. Ms. Houel said that she had seen a mobile education option work well in CT, and she very much liked the idea of pursuing a mobile option, but she was concerned about not knowing what the cost would be. She said that she still supported closing the Center in April 2020. Mr. Brown said the Companies should consider alternatives in addition to the mobile option. Mr. Riddle said that UI would explore other options, in addition to the mobile option. Mr. Beup said that the Board's upcoming discussion on education would help inform UI's exploration of options. Ms. Sotos said that DEEP would support EEB's prior vote which recommended closing the Center in 2020. Mr. Brown said he was more concerned about the quality of the alternatives and less concerned about the time of the education programming gap.

Update on Heat Pump Pilot

Mr. Araujo provided an update. He said the Companies had reviewed a role-out plan with the HES vendors, and that there would be a training session on July 30. He said the pilot would likely launch this August.

Report on DEEP Condition on Winter Demand and Reliability

Ms. Sotos said that DEEP had identified this condition because winter reliability was important issue, since CT is vulnerable to natural gas shortages in the winter. She said it was important for DEEP to consider demand side solutions, not just supply-side solutions. Mr. Bruno provided a summary of the Companies' filing to DEEP.

Additional agenda item

Ms. Sotos informed the Board that \$300,000 in grant funds was available from the U.S. Department of Energy that could be used for clean energy financing in CT for residential or commercial projects. She said that DEEP needed to decide how to use the funds by the end of September. The Board agreed to defer to the Companies on the best way to use the funds.

3. Closing Public Comments

None.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.