



MINUTES

Joint Committee of the CT Energy Efficiency Board and the Connecticut Green Bank Board of Directors

Wednesday, June 16, 2021
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Due to COVID-19, all participants joined via the conference call.

In Attendance

Voting Members: Eric Brown, John Harrity, Michael Li, Lonnie Reed, John Viglione, Brenda Watson

Non-Voting Members: Bryan Garcia, Bert Hunter

Members Absent:, Stephen Bruno, Donna Wells

Others: Lindsay Alfano, Sherri Burrelli, Eliza Cash, Kate Donatelli, Mackey Dykes, Richard Faesy, Brian Farnen, Kyle Huston from The Energy Group, Philip Jordan and Sarah Lehmann from BW Research, Joel Kopylec, Rebecca Meyer, Ghani Ramdani, Glenn Reed, Lawrence Rush, Cheryl Samuels, Ariel Schneider, John Wright, Nicholas Zuba, Litzy ____ (no last name given)

Unnamed Callers:

1. Call to Order

Eric Brown called the meeting to order at 1:34 pm.

2. Public Comments

No public comments.

3. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from the March 17, 2021 meeting.

Resolution #1

Motion to approve the meeting minutes for March 17, 2021.

Upon a motion made by John Harrity and seconded by Lonnie Reed, the Joint Committee voted to approve Resolution 1. None opposed, but Brenda Watson, John Viglione, and John Watson abstains. Motion approved.

4. Clean Energy Jobs Report – Update

- Bryan Garcia introduced Philip Jordan and Sarah Lehmann from BW Research. Philip Jordan gave an overview to the previous report and Sarah Lehmann summarized the 2021 Clean Energy Report findings which includes optimism by employers with a projected 8% growth in 2021 despite a 6% decline in 2020. Connecticut’s clean energy also industry fared better than the national level in 2020.
 - Eric Brown asked if the definition of clean energy was the same for all sectors being compared, and Sarah Lehmann responded they did not, though Philip Jordan clarified that the subsectors that varied would be very small in the total, resulting in less than 1% variance.
- Sarah Lehmann summarized the COVID-19 recovery from the second half of 2020 until Q1 2021, which has been steadily rebounding. The final report is due June 25, 2021. Bryan Garcia noted the positive effects that the report is having, and that BW Research was granted money from the federal government to continue their efforts.

5. Update on the 2021 Legislative Session

- John Harrity summarized bill SB 999 for Just Transition and Community Investment and explained that projects over 2 megawatts would come under existing prevailing wages statutes, that the developer would need to enter into a Community Benefits agreement which would include a workforce development component, and then noted the overall goal is to address environmental equity, to present green energy jobs as beneficial as they are, and to reduce the negative perceptions about them.
 - Philip Jordan asked if the bill requiring prevailing wages is connected to the federal David-Bacon Acts on prevailing wages, and secondly does the bill include supply chain companies. John Harrity answered that SB 999 does not include manufacturing. As for the prevailing wages, John Harrity said that Connecticut has its own formula but does not believe they are too different from the federal ones.
- Brian Farnen summarized each of the other bills in the current legislative session, which includes PA 21-48 on Energy Efficiency Retrofit Grant Program for Affordable Housing, PA 21-53 on Energy Storage, SB 856 on the Energy Conservation Management Board, and HB 6441 on Environmental Infrastructure. He mentioned other bills being presented that are less directly related but still relevant. Bryan Garcia expanded on several bills and commented that there is more being presented this session in relation to green energy matters than is usual in previous years, which is exciting for progress for green energy.

6. C&LM Plan and Green Bank Comprehensive Plan

a. FY 2022 Connecticut Green Bank Comprehensive Plan

- Bryan Garcia reviewed the progress of the Green Bank’s Comprehensive Plan as well as the timeline for the rest of the calendar year. He went over the key points of the Plan, including the FY 2022 targets, program alignment with new legislation, inclusion of new impact reporting methodologies for equity, and addition of a glossary of acronyms. He noted the direction of the Green Bank’s Marketing plan will also be changing from a product-focused approach to a brand-focused approach.

- Richard Faesy asked if the energy storage batteries being financed are connected to the grid and enrolled with the utility companies' demand-response programs. Bryan Garcia answered that the details are to be determined, but PURA has been running a docket for the Behind the Meter programs for residential and non-residential. The program is currently planned to offer an upfront incentive through the Green Bank and then a production-based incentive would be issued through the utility companies. He suggests checking with the EDCs for more information, however.
- Eric Brown appalled the change in marketing strategy and looks forward to seeing the growth that comes from it.

b. CY 2022 Conservation and Loan Management Plan

- Glenn Reed summarized the C&LM Plan progress and timeline as well as the focus areas for the 2022-2024 Plan which includes energy affordability, decarbonization, and equity. He reviewed the 2019-2021 Plan Priorities and the current and upcoming schedule for the 2022-2024 Plan.
- Glenn Reed explained some of the themes of the 2022-2024 Plan, including the C&I lighting changes. He continued to highlight the draft versions of the Electric Revenues tables and Natural Gas Revenues.

7. Other Business

- Eric Brown noted that this is his last meeting with the Joint Committee and that he feels both organizations can benefit from collaborating, and that he feels the growth over the years has been beneficial for all. Bryan Garcia thanked Eric Brown for his work and for pushing the cooperation between the EEB and the Green Bank.

8. Adjourn

Eric Brown adjourned the Joint Committee Meeting at 2:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Brown, Chairperson