



MINUTES

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

Connecticut Green Bank
845 Brook Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Wednesday, July 17, 2019
1:30-3:30 p.m.

In Attendance:

Voting Members: Eric Brown (Committee Chair), John Harrity, Mary Sotos

Non-Voting Members: Bryan Garcia, Bert Hunter, Jane Lano, Ron Araujo

Others: Steve Bruno, Kim Stevenson, Madeline Priest, Kerry O'Neill (phone), Brian Farnen (phone), Julia Dumaine (phone), Glenn Reed (phone), Craig Diamond (phone)

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comments. None.
3. Review and Approval of Minutes for April 17, 2019 meeting
Mr. Harrity moved to approve. Mr. Brown 2nd. Mr. Brown, Mr. Harrity, and Ms. Sotos voted to approve the minutes. **April 17, 2019 minutes approved.**
4. C&LM Plan and CGB Comprehensive Plan
Mr. Garcia discussed the Joint Committee meeting schedule for 2020, and what the focus of each meeting should be. He noted that the quarterly meeting schedule could be changed to better accommodate the planning cycles of the C&LM Plan and CGB Comprehensive Plan. He suggested a meeting in June instead of July, and a meeting in September instead of October. It was agreed that the Companies would look at their planning timelines, and that a potential revised meeting schedule would be proposed and decided on at the October Joint Committee meeting. He suggested that an October meeting agenda item could be discussing the 2020 legislative session; in particular, identifying trends and issues, and how the Joint Committee could potentially reflect those issues in its planning. Mr. Araujo said that May/June was a good time for the EEB to get input. Mr. Garcia noted that June was too late for the CGB to receive input, and that May was better for the CGB. Mr. Reed invited the CGB to provide input to the Companies on the 2020 Plan Update, and noted that it was not too late to provide input on the 2020 Plan Update.

5. Energy Jobs Report

Mr. Garcia provided a brief presentation. He suggested three options for the report, noting that there were different costs for each option. Mr. Bruno said he would like to have more details on the three options. Mr. Bruno said he would send to Mr. Garcia any questions that Eversource might have on the report options. Mr. Harrity said that he would like to see Connecticut do a customized report (one of the three options). He noted that had been used successfully in Massachusetts. Regarding cost, Mr. Garcia said that there were some funds in the CGB budget for R&D, and Mr. Araujo said the same for the C&LM budget. Ms. Sotos said she agreed with Mr. Harrity that Connecticut should develop a customized report. Mr. Garcia said he would look further into the options and develop a proposed scope of work for the Joint Committee's consideration.

6. Connecticut Energy Costs - Recent Reports

Mr. Brown said he wanted to highlight the issue of Connecticut's energy costs for the Joint Committee. He noted that a recent report had compared energy costs across different states. He said the report showed that CT had the highest energy costs in the country (electricity, natural gas, oil, and other energy categories). He noted that the high energy costs were not good for attracting or keeping businesses in CT. He said that energy efficiency plays an important role in lowering energy costs, but he noted that high energy costs caused some legislators and others to view the cost of clean energy programs as contributing to the overall high cost of energy. Mr. Harrity asked why the costs in CT were so high. Ms. Sotos said DEEP had looked into this question through the RAM docket (Rate Adjustment Mechanism) on energy costs, and had also done its own analysis on energy costs in CT. Mr. Brown asked Ms. Sotos to present DEEP's findings at the October Joint Committee meeting. Mr. Garcia noted that high energy prices in CT had helped to reduce energy consumption. Ms. Sotos said it was important to understand and communicate why prices were high, so stakeholders could be educated that the high energy costs were not due to the cost of clean energy programs.

7. Other Business

- a. Key Outcomes of 2019 Legislative Session. Ms. Sotos provided an overview. She noted that the legislature had not restored funds from the past C&LM fund raid, but it also had not raided the C&LM fund for the upcoming year. She said that there was a new requirement for DEEP/PURA to conduct a study on the value of distributed resources (not just value of solar, but other distributed resources as well, including energy efficiency). She said the study would be delivered next summer, with public input before then. She said the study would include an analysis of the clean energy job market (skill sets, required training, tracks, etc). Ms. Sotos noted that the product efficiency standards bill had not passed in the legislature.

- b. SBEA/BEA Recapitalization. Mr. Bruno provided an update. He said that for the last period ending in June, about a \$6 million tranche was closed. He said Eversource would continue tracking and reporting on quarterly tranches. He said they wanted to raise the amount of municipal loans, and to increase the term of state loans and increase the loan cap to \$1 million. Regarding the BEA program, he said Eversource was deciding if they could apply SBEA loans to Eversource's Tier 3 customers. He said they were piloting this approach, but that uptake had been slow. Mr. Bruno noted that loans are challenging for Tier 3 customers.
- c. Smart-E Loan Inclusion of Health & Safety. Ms. Priest provided a brief presentation. She said that Inclusive Prosperity Capital was implementing a pilot with 100 customers to try to change health & safety measures from an "other category" in conjunction with energy efficiency, to being able to be financed on its own.
- d. Battery Storage Collaboration. Mr. Bruno provided a brief presentation. He said that a group of stakeholders had met once in May and once in June. He said the discussions would inform the 2020 Plan Update, and they would make it clear in the Plan that there was funding for battery storage. There was some discussion about how battery storage could impact the grid and customers.
- e. EEB and CGB Board Membership. Mr. Garcia said the CGB still needed two governor appointments to the CGB Board. He said that once that occurred, they would be able to appoint an additional Board member to the Joint Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Brown, Chairperson