

Clean Energy Development Board

Meeting on 10/23/2024

Minutes

In Attendance (*Meeting held at electronically via video and in-person at PSD's Offices in Giga Conf. Room*)

<u>Board Members:</u>	Attending	Absent
<u>Cara Robechek (CR) Chair</u>	X	
<u>David Farnsworth (DF)</u>	X	
<u>Ken Jones (KJ)</u>	X	
<u>Sam Swanson (SS)</u>	X	
<u>Johanna Miller (JM)</u>	X	
<u>Paul Zabriskie (PZ) Co-Chair</u>		X

State Employees:

Andrew Perchlik (**AP**), Clean Energy Development Fund Director, Public Service Department (PSD); Christopher Heine (**CH**) Clean Energy Program Specialist, PSD;

Other Attendees:

None

CR called the meeting to order at 1:03pm

I. Agenda Review

CR went over the draft agenda with the Board. No agenda changes were suggested, and the draft agenda was approved. While not suggested as an addition to the agenda **JM** announced that the Climate Action Council's Workforce Cross-Cutting Group would be holding a workforce development meeting on 10/24/2024 and that it would be beneficial for CED Board members or PSD staff to attend.

II. Discuss & possible vote on draft minutes of the 06/12/24 meeting -

SS recognized the need for follow up on Montpelier District Heat discussion from last meeting. No other discussion. **KJ** moves that the minutes be passed as presented; **CR** seconds; and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Update on Programs and Financials

AP gave a review of the CEDF's projects/programs and financials. He reported that the CEDF loan to Purpose Energy was paid back in its entirety. This resulted in a payment to the CEDF of \$220K. The PSD and CED Board will need to decide how to spend those funds.

The funds dedicated to Windham County continues to be spent slowly, **AP** reported. He said he is working to extend the contract with VEIC to administer the SSREI Program which as this point is only the Windham County adder for low-income households to install pellet boilers and the ARPA funded bio-diesel incentive.

AP reported that biodiesel incentives are few and are low dollar (under \$500) and that the PSD is talking about raising the incentive and allowing customers to receive up the \$1,500 per winter instead of a life-time cap. **CR** asked if there are other providers beyond Bourne's for biodiesel. **AP** said that Bourne's was the only supplier participating in the incentive program but there are others selling smaller quantities of biodiesel. **AP** reported that Bourne's suggested that they were the only fuel dealer likely able to provide biodiesel in larger quantities.

KJ asked if the program was for renewable diesel or biodiesel. **AP** answered that it is only biodiesel from used vegetable oil.

AP reported on the MOU with the Dept. of Buildings and General Services (BGS) to expand their Energy Management Program to municipalities still \$80K remaining to be paid to BGS for staff time. BGS invoiced the PSD for the energy assessment completed for municipalities. Paying for the evaluation was not part of the MOU specifically. If the CEDF doesn't pay the \$80K invoice BGS will need to take funds out of their grants to towns to pay for the assessments.

JM asked if Windham funds go to those who didn't receive a MERP award from BGS? **AP** said it would be possible, and he would investigate with BGS. **JM** also asked what can Board do with Purpose Energy Loan repayment? **AP** said basically anything that meets the statutory language which is focused on increasing renewable energy in Vermont. **JM** said she saw a need for capacity building – e.g. hire someone at the League of Cities and Towns to assist municipalities with implementation of IRA, etc.

AP concluded his update with the Montpelier district heating loan and the need to move that loan from interest only to principal and interest. He said Montpelier interested in paying the loan back if those same funds could then be granted out by the CEDF to new system hookups, improvements, etc. **SS** asked if such a new arrangement could be made contingent on the City updating their rates, which have been said to be a problem with sustainability of the system. **KJ** said he has talked to the City about the rates and that they are aware of the need to restructure but also know that expansion needs to happen to restructure.

Next Meeting Discussion

The Board decided their next meeting would in on December 18th at 1:00 PM to be held at the Public Service Department and remotely via a Teams call.

With out objection CR adjourned the meeting at 2:09 PM