

CED Board Meeting: 03/08/23

APPROVED Minutes

Location: Remote via MS Teams and at the Public Service Department office.

In Attendance:

Board Members	Attending	Absent
Kate Desrochers (KD)	X	
David Farnsworth (DF)	X	
Ken Jones (KJ)		X
Sam Swanson - Chair (SS)	X	
Johanna Miller (JM)	X	
Paul Zabriskie (PZ)	X	
Cara Robeck (CR)	X	

State Employees:

Andrew Perchlik (**AP**), Clean Energy Development Fund Director, Public Service Department (PSD);

Other Attendees: There were no other attendees present.

Meeting started at 1:00 PM with CR Presiding

I. Review Agenda – Board members reviewed the draft agenda and agreed to it as presented.

II. Discuss & vote on draft minutes of the 12/14/22 meeting

The Board reviewed the draft minutes of their 12/14/22 meeting as presented by the PSD. **DF** moved to adopt minutes as presented, **JM** seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment Period – There were no members of the public present.

IV. Sunset Commission Recommendation Re: CED Board Sunset.

AP gave a report to the Board on the Sunset Commission’s Recommendation to sunset the CED Board in June of 2025 when it is expected all the funds under the Board’s authority will be expended. **AP** reported that the House Government Operations Committee has included the Sunset Commissions recommendation regarding the CED

Board in House Bill # 125, (an act relating to boards and commissions) and **AP** said that the Committee plans on passing the bill out of Committee the week of March 13, 2023.

A. Update on TDI's New England Clean Power Link Transmission Project

AP reported that the New England Clean Power Link (NECPL) has recently been in the news, which has not had any movement in the last 10 years, as having a new increase in likelihood of being built. **AP** reported that the project is a fully submerged & buried 1000MW HVDC bi-directional transmission line that will connect Eastern Canada and New England to support facilitation of the region's transition to renewable energy.

The project is back as a possibility as it has applied for the US Department of Energy's Transmission Facilitation Program. This program seeks to fund eligible electric power transmission lines to facilitate the construction of infrastructure and technologies that improve and enhance the capacity, efficiency, resiliency, and reliability of the electric power transmission system while also improving and enhancing access to low cost and low carbon energy resources. NECPL meets or exceeds all the qualifying criteria required in the to be an eligible electric power transmission line. The NECPL filed a response to DOE's RFP on February 1st.

The NECPL is relevant to the CEDF because the Project will contribute \$109 million to the Clean Energy Development Fund, paid at a rate of \$5 million annually during the first 20 years of the life of the project, with the remainder paid out during the subsequent 20 years.

The Board discussed this development as it related to H.125 and the sunseting of the Board in 2025. The Board asked if the potential of the NECPL funds to the CEDF had been discussed when the sunseting of the Board was suggested. **AP** said he wasn't aware of any such discussions.

Board members thought legislators should at least be informed of this possibility as they discuss the sunseting of the Board. **SS** said he will contact the Chair of Sen. Natural Resource & Energy about the sunset and the potential for the CEDF to receive funding from the NECPL Project. Other board members said they could mention it to legislators as well.

JM moved that **SS**, on behalf of the full Board, contact Senators Bray and Hardy and Representatives Sheldon and McCarthy to ask for a pause on the sunset of the CED board while there is the possibility of the NECPL adding \$5m/yr to the CEDF. **PZ** second. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Board also asked **AP** to see he could find out more information about the timing of the DOE award that would allow the NECPL to go forward. **AP** said he would ask the congressional delegation on the timing of DOE program. **AP** said he would also seek details of the agreement between the NECPL and the state regarding the funding to the CEDF.

VI. Updates on CEDF, ARRA, & ARPA Programs, Grants, & Loans

AP gave an update on the CEDF’s programs and incentives to date for fiscal year 2023. He reported that all programs and incentives are running along as expected with the only program needing the Board’s attention is the SSREIP’s ARPA funded Low-income Wood Stove Change-out program. AP reported that the program had been very successful. About \$275K had been reserved for the wood stove change-outs (which also can include safety repairs to existing chimneys and hearths). However, after just over three months the program has already issued \$116,117 in incentives and has reservations of \$259,691. AP presented the following table to the Board showing the SSREIP budget and expenditures to date for FY23:

Incentives	FY23 Budget	Open Reservations through end of Feb 2023	Total Incentives Paid in FY23	Available Funds
Advanced Wood Heating (AWH) Systems – Non-residential: \$3K incentive, coal change-outs, and pellet bins (CEDF)*	\$216,657	\$0	\$6,000	\$190,657
Pellet Fired Evaporators (CEDF)		\$0	\$20,000	
Advanced Wood Heating Systems – Residential (ARRA)	\$530,239	\$24,000	\$272,000	\$133,662
Coal Change-Out Adder-Residential (ARRA)		\$10,975	\$77,000	
Pellet Storage - Residential (ARRA)		\$9,000	\$3,602	
AWHS Adder (ARPA)	\$875,000	\$24,000	\$98,000	\$377,192
WSCO** + Repairs (ARPA)		\$259,691	\$116,117	
Heating with Biodiesel Pilot (ARPA)		\$0	\$0	

AP said there was \$875,000 (maybe more depending on administration costs) total in ARPA funds budgeted for the low-income incentives in the SSREIP. AP asked the board for approval to end the wood stove change-out program to reserve funds for the Low-income pellet boiler adder and for the biodiesel pilot incentive which he reported had just started. The Board members were supportive of the CEDF making this change to end the stove change-out program to preserve funds for the other two ARPA funded incentives for low income.

VII. Next meeting(s) and activities of the CED Board – The Board members decided their next meeting will be held on May 24, 2023, at 1:00 to 3:00.

Without objection **SS** adjourned the meeting at 2:13pm
