

CED Board Meeting: 12/14/22

Approved Minutes

Location: Public Service Department's Offices in the Giga Conf. Room and remote

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); Christopher Heine (**CH**) Clean Energy Program Specialist, PSD; Ed Delhagen (**ED**) Clean Energy Finance & Program Manager, PSD

Other Attendees: Brian Sewel (**BS**) Vermont Department of Buildings & General Services (BGS)

Meeting started at 1:00 PM SS Presiding

- I. New Board Member Introductions** – New board member **CR** introduced herself to the board and board members introduce themselves to **CR**.

- II. Agenda** – Board members reviewed the draft agenda and agreed to it as presented.

- III. Selection of Vice Chair for the Board** – **SS** said it would be advisable to have a vice/co-chair and has invited **CR** to take on that role. No other board members expressed an interest and several endorsed **CR** taking on this role. **KJ** moved to elect **CR** as the Board's Vice Chair, **PZ** seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Minutes – The Board reviewed the draft minutes for their 9/14/22 meeting as presented by the PSD. **KD** moved to adopt minutes as presented, **DF** seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

VI. Update from the Dept. of Building and General Services (BGS) – Brian Sewell from BGS provided the Board an update on their CEDF grant/MOU issued in 2021 in support of BGS’s expansion of the State Energy Management Program to municipalities. Brian reported that:

- Due to delays related to the COVID pandemic and staffing changes only about \$40,000 of the \$300,000 grant has been expended.
- With the MOU expiring in June of 2023 and the project about a year behind the original schedule BGS is requesting that that the MOU be extended for one year to June of 2024
- That BGS be given more time to issue the required report on the projects impact on installing advanced wood heating in municipal buildings.

A. Board members asked Brian questions about the program, types of projects that will be done at the municipal buildings and BGS’s outreach efforts. Brian responded to questions and there was a general discussion of the overall program goals and funding and how the CEDF funds figure into the overall program budget. Brian confirmed that school buildings are not part of the program.

1. **KJ** said that if schools are not part of this program the State should be finding a way to support the school buildings in the same way. AP reported on the legislatures and Agency of Educations efforts to do this, with the next step of doing an assessment of all school buildings being completed in 2023.

2. **SS** said that an issue for the CEC Board and BGS to consider is the lack of CEDF funds. He pointed out this grant to BGS could be the last of CEDF funding and was this the best use of the funds now that the BGS program as received millions of dollars from the legislature for the program while the CEDF has not received any funding. Brian responded that the CEDF funds are being used now for staffing so they can ramp up to make the best use of the ARPA funds appropriated for the program. Given how long it takes to get new hires approved through the State the CEDF funds have been instrumental in getting the program up and running quickly. He said if the CEDF funds ended they would not be able to replace them quickly with the ARPA funds. **SS** said he respects BGS’s point of view but wants BGS understanding that CEDF has limited funding, and this is a significant portion of those funds.

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

A. **AP** provided quick updates on the year-to-date budget actuals, programs, grants, and loans active for both CEDF and ARRA funds.

1. There were questions about the Advanced Wood Heating for Public Service Institutions program. **AP** reported that program/grant solicitation had not been released or completed yet. **SS** wanted to know when the PSD would be able to do that as it should be out so that the non-profits could take advantage of it during this time of high fuel prices. **AP** said they were hoping to complete the design of the program this month, making sure the program would work seamlessly with the incentives offered by Efficiency Vermont for advanced wood heating and that the solicitation would be issued in the first quarter of 2023.

B. ARPA Program updates. **AP** and **CH** provided updates on the three operational ARPA programs (The SSREIP incentives, the HVAC grants to businesses in the hospitality sector, and HVAC grants to high-poverty schools)

1. **CH** explained that there were only two proposals submitted in response to the HVAC for businesses in Hospitality sector requests for proposals. These two grants will use only up to ~\$30,000 of the \$250,000 the Board allocated to the program. **CH** & **AP** explained that the PSD is requesting the Board approve that after issue grants from the RFP the remaining funds (approximately \$220,000) would be moved to the HVAC grant for high-poverty schools' program (AKA the SHARE program – School Heating Assistance w/ Renewables and Efficiency) as there is a need there.

2. **KJ** made a motion to approve PSD's request that after the two existing hospitality grants are issued the PSD shall move any unallocated funds from the HVAC Hospitality program to the SHARE program. **JM** seconds Carried unanimously

VIII. **Future of the CEDF & CED Board** – **SS** reported to the Board the PSD's presentation and discussion with the Legislature's Sunset Advisory Commission. The Sunset Advisory Commission reviewed the legislative creation of the CED Board and asked the PSD about the Board and if it should be sunset or continue, and if to continue should there be any changes made.

SS summarized the Sunset Advisory Commission's hearing on the issue and their recommendation to sunset the CED Board on June 30, 2025. **SS** said the PSD provided a positive review of the Board but a took an agnostic position on whether the Board should be sunset or not. **AP** provided an overview of the Sunset Commission's process for submitting their recommendation to the full legislature in January at which time the Committees of jurisdiction will take up the recommendations, or not.

KJ said he thinks that this topic deserves more discussion given the state's energy goals and GHG reduction mandates and the CEDF's successful programs advancing clean energy.

AP reported that the EPA has funding for “green banks” to create financing products in support of GHG emission activities and that there has been some discussions and suggestions that the CEDF could play a role in such GHG reduction financing and that may change the discussion of the role of the CEDF and CED Board going forward.

IX. Next meeting(s) and activities of the CED Board – The Board members decided their next meeting will be on March 8, 2023 at 1:00 to 3:00.

X. Without objection **SS** adjourned the meeting at 2:32pm
