CED Board Meeting: 03/02/22

Draft Minutes

*Location:* In-person at the Public Serivce Department and remotely via internet video.

**In Attendance:**

Board Members: **Attending Absent**

Kate Desrochers **(KD)** X

Jared Duval **(JD)** Co-*Chair* X

David Farnsworth (**DF**) X

Ken Jones (**KJ**) X

Sam Swanson (**SS**) Co-*Chair*  X

Johanna Miller (**JM**) X

Paul Zabriskie (**PZ**) 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

Meeting started at 1:02 with **(SS)** Presiding

1. Introductions:

New PSD Staff member, Christopher Heine, introduced to the Board

1. Public Comment - No Public in attendance

III. Past Meeting Minutes

**KJ** moved to accept minutes with a couple typos pointed out by **KD** and others. **DF** seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**Fund Manager Updates:**

1. CEDF and CEDF-ARRA grants and programs
   1. **(AP)** sent out budget prior to meeting. Anticipated spending more than has been – may be due to timing.
   2. Windham County Fund has two prospective projects
      1. Bellows Falls program
      2. $250k to town of Brattleboro
      3. Extended grant by 2yrs to accommodate those projects
   3. SSREIP – incentivized over 350 boilers – slower than expected
      1. 1 pellet boiler/week?
      2. Bournes have done 80% of the pellet storage bins – pace has slowed
      3. **SS** wondering about the climate/carbon impacts – visuals would be helpful
      4. Budget questions –
         1. **(JD)**Windham County funds -Wonder if there any problem holding the balance? Is there a better use? *Required to be spent in for the benefit of Windham County*
         2. **(JD)**Should ANR solar permitting funds be reoriented? *REV was planning on creating a program* (SS) reach out to REV to remind them.
         3. **(JD)** Balances remaining could there be a way to drive demand? Advertising? *Have done before with some success, could do again.*
         4. **(SS)** Funds are limited in program design – would richer incentives help? – *Has been opened to other options in time Projects in the queue need more money, votes.*
         5. **(KJ)** SEMP projects updates? *On hold, Moving forward****,***
         6. **(DF)** Asked for recommendation from **(AP) -** RFP for projects that aren’t going ahead WC funds rather than wait on these projects? *If those projects can’t go forward in X timeframe, perhaps. Grant agreement in place.* What kind of deadline? *EOFY 2022?*
         7. **(JD)** Wants to see funds used without setting a false sense of urgency If that doesn’t happen, would possible for funding to SSREIP projects in Windham County? Pilot? *Have suggested, but they come up with good projects.*
   4. Pellet Mills –
      1. Kingdom Pellet – Fairlee (Orange Cunty)
      2. Lyme Green (NNE VT)
      3. KJ – report about Ryegate perhaps creates contingency – Ryegate may close, pellet mills may be contingency? - $5m/yr would be made available(?)
   5. Neighborworks – Stove change-out program has money remaining
   6. Industry Survey
   7. (JD) Suggested that if/when the Clean Heat Standard (CHS) passes, perhaps the economic value should be passed on to the PSD from VEIC and credited to CEDF?
2. CED Board ARPA Funded Programs – Submitted to AOA and Guidehouse (GH) – income eligibility figured out; gave programs a greenlight;
   1. $2.5M high poverty school grant program
      1. **(JD)** Should B-100 be included in offerings for this program?
      2. **(JD)** suggested propane systems may want to be considered a priority
   2. $1M Whole-home clean energy program – should be coordinated with OEO, EVT, CAP agencies
   3. $1M to the SSREI Program
   4. $250K for clean energy financing
      1. **(JD)** hopeful there’s a pathway for expansion with the merging of NEFCU and VSECU for loan programs. **(AP)** Agreed and suggested this program could prove concept.
   5. $250K for clean energy incentives to small hospitality/tourism/travel businesses.
3. PSD’s $10 million Affordable Community RE (ACRE) Program
   1. **(PZ)** Suggested
      1. Piggybacking on on-bill financing – following the meter rather than the person.
      2. DUs know who are struggling to pay their bills
   2. **(KJ)** Pointed out the equity issue – those who know get it and those who don’t, won’t – Should this be opt-out v. opt-in?
   3. **(SS)** How do you market the system? Can’t really say it’s “renewable” or “solar**.”**

**Public Comment/Question Period – No public in attendance**

**Next meetings of the CED Board**

# Next meeting proposed for May 18th 1-3p, pending the end of the legislative session

1. Meeting date – May 18th 1-3pm pending the end of the legislative session
2. (JD) Proposed agenda items –
   1. Conversation with the PSD about updating statute
   2. Program updates ARPA/CEDF funds
   3. Legislative session debrief
   4. Budgets
   5. Strategic plans for the CEDF –
      1. What role does the CEDF/B play? In context to the CAP? CEP?
      2. Placeholder leg for funding
      3. CHS - Survey fuel providers complimentary to CEDF plans?
   6. Finalize in June?

3:00 - Adjourned

**--End--**