

CED Board Meeting: 06/14/23

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 |
|---|------------------|---------------|
| Kate Desrochers (KD) | | X |
| Cara Robeck (CR) <i>Vice-Chair</i> | X | |
| David Farnsworth (DF) | X | |
| Ken Jones (KJ) | X | |
| Sam Swanson (SS) <i>Chair</i> | 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 called to order by **CR** at 1:04

I. Review Agenda

No comments or additions

II. Discuss & vote on draft minutes of the 05/17/23 meeting

No changes or additions to the draft minutes were suggested. **DF** moved to approve the draft minutes, **JM** second the motion and the motion passed on a 4-0-2 vote with **PZ** and **KJ** abstaining.

III. Public Comment Time

There was no public comment.

IV. BGS MOU – Discussion of extension of the SEMP expansion MOU.

AP gave an update on the MOU that CEDF and Buildings and General Services (BGS) have to expand the State Energy Management Program to municipalities that is expiring June 30th. **AP** said that BGS is likely okay with reducing the total MOU amount from \$300,000 to \$150,000 and a one-year extension, but that is not certain.

KJ and other board members wanted to know where the project is and if they have started any efficiency or clean energy projects. **AP** reported that his understanding was that the energy audits have started but no projects beyond that have. **DF** asked how much additional funding BGS they receiving? **AP** said it was over ~\$35M for the full expansion of SEMP including payment incentives for energy projects at the municipalities. **PZ** mentioned that municipalities should also be receiving additional funds directly from the federal government.

Board members were concerned about the CEDF paying BGS funds when the CEDF is running out of funds and BGS has over \$35 million for the SEMP expansion – which they didn't have when the MOU was developed. Board members said they support the overall project and didn't want to trip up the progress BGS has made but wanted to confirm with BGS that they really needed the financial support from the CEDF given they have received support from the state for the expansion. **CR** suggested that perhaps these questions should be asked before the Board has a vote. Other members agreed with holding off on this until the next meeting and asked **AP** to confirm with BGS on their need for CEDF funding and why they can't use the funding they have instead.

V. Discussion of DRAFT FY24 Budget and Plan

AP gave a presentation of the draft budget categories.

- a. **Windham County Fund** - These are funds from 2015 that came from Entergy Vermont Yankee that are required to be spent in and for the benefit of Windham County. The funds are granted to the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) and there is ~\$300K remaining. The WRC has two pending grants for \$260K of the remaining funds. Board members asked if there were other ways to spend this money given the delay in getting them spent. **AP** said the CEDF could use them for projects that are in Windham County that come through the Small-Scale Renewable Energy Incentive Program. **AP** said he will discuss this with the WRC suggesting that if they are not able to get grant agreements signed by the end of the current grant agreement (12/31/23) that the grant agreement would not be renewed, and the funds instead used for residential and small commercial projects in the county instead.
- b. **Small-Scale Renewable Energy Incentive Program (SSREIP)** – **AP** There was a discussion of changes proposed to the SSREIP including lowered incentives due to a lowered amount of funding available. If incentive numbers are the same as in FY23 than there will not be enough money to keep the pellet boiler incentives going for the full 12 months of FY24. **AP** said that the changes would need to be voted on by the board. The proposed changes include using some state CEDF funding to keep the ARPA funded biodiesel pilot program going now that all the ARPA money had been expended. There was a discussion of the biodiesel pilot and concerns about the carbon emission impact of biodiesel. **DF** and others wanted to make sure the CEDF knew what the goals of the pilot were and are going forward, and what the greenhouse gas emission impacts were. Board members wanted to know what was being measured/what data was being collected and what would the CEDF do with that data.

AP said that other than requiring the use of biodiesel from waste bio-oil (ie used cooking oil) there was no component of the pilot program related to GHG emissions. The goal of the pilot was to gauge interest in lower-income households in switching to 100% biodiesel and to find out what issues such switch-overs would cause both the households and the participating fuel

dealers. Also, he said the goal was to gauge the overall market of biodiesel and the viability of expanding the B100 market in Vermont? **AP** said he would report to the Board the details of the pilot project and that at the next meeting the Board could hear and discuss the program and the biodiesel market with the lone fuel dealer that signed-up to participate in the program. **AP** said they

- c. **Vermont Clean Energy Industry Report** – Draft budget includes \$10,000 to issue another report in 2024 – which would be the 10th year/report. **KJ** and others asked about what the \$10k getting us if the federal government was already collecting the data and issuing a 50-state report. **AP** said the funds leverage the federal report and data collection for a Vermont specific report that is in context of the prior reports Vermont published before the federal government started doing the report a couple of years ago and used slightly different methodology. Plus, the VT report contains data from a Vermont only survey of a sub-set of the clean energy economy in Vermont. This year there was a survey of firms in the wood heat sector. Board members agreed that the report has been valuable, especially given the annual cost is under \$10K.

VI. New Board Members

AP said he had spoken with Representative Sheldon about the appointment she has to make to fill Kate Desrochers's seat on the Board as she is not seeking reappointment. It was also mentioned that the Commissioner has an appointment to make if Sam Swanson decides to not seek reappointment.

There was a discussion on what kind of expertise would be good to fill the seat(s) open? Board members suggested things to think about when looking for a new Board member: gender balance, geographic diversity (Board is mostly Chittenden and Washington county), someone from an energy overburdened community? Or that works with low-income Vermonters in the energy space?

- Without objection CR adjourned the meeting at 2:00 --