

Minutes
Clean Energy Development (CED) Special Board Meeting
June 19, 2013

In Attendance:

Board Members:	Attending	Absent
Elizabeth Catlin – Blue Wealth Management		X
Sam Swanson – Pace Energy & Climate Center	X	
Jo Bradley – VT Economic Development Authority		X
Alex Ibey – Commerce & Economic Development	X	
Patty Richards		X
Gaye Symington – High Meadows Fund	X	

State Employees:

Christopher Recchia, Commissioner – Public Service Department (PSD)

Darren Springer, Deputy Commissioner – PSD

Andrew Perchlik (AP), Manager - Clean Energy Development Fund, PSD

Members of the Public:

Matt Levin, Vermonters for a Clean Environment

Jim Hartman, Clean Energy Collective

Will White, Real Goods Solar

Gabrielle Stebbins, Renewable Energy Vermont (*by phone*)

Materials Presented: Draft agenda, draft minutes from the Board’s 4/8/13 meeting, proposed changes to the Small Scale Renewable Energy Incentive (SSREI) program, draft FY 2014 spending plan and new program proposals, CEDF financial report as of 5/31/13.

Minutes

Meeting brought to order at 10:05 AM with Andrew Perchlik presiding.

- I. **Agenda.** The agenda was discussed and was agreed to as presented except to move the public comment period from the end of the meeting to having public comments after each agenda item is discussed.
- II. **Minutes.** The draft minutes from the 4/08/13 meeting were tabled due to the lack of a quorum.
- III. **Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Allocation.** There was a discussion on the proposed overall budget allocation put forth by the PSD. The bulk of the conversation was on the SSREI program and the allocation to that program. There was a common interest in providing the SSREI program with sufficient funds for the program to operate for the entire fiscal year. There was a concern that the proposed budget allocation would spread the CEDF staff too thin, and that it would be better to implement a few programs well, rather than many programs poorly.

There was an interest in a program that would provide support for community owned/developed energy systems with the up-front risk capital needed to get a project through permitting. It was suggested that such support could be done via a credit enhancement program through VEDA.

There was strong support for allocating funds for evaluation work and an interest that this work begin soon and that evaluation criteria be adopted when programs are started.

There was support for the clean heat community challenge proposal and for the CEDF to work on thermal energy, but there was a concern on the scope of the project. It was suggested that this program could be scaled back to a more achievable pilot program level.

There was support for the farm digester/energy program as proposed but Board members wanted to make sure that the program would be well coordinated with other efforts and research being done to advance methane digesters and that the amount allocated was an amount that could be effectively deployed during the fiscal year.

There was discussion on, and support for, the competitive wind power grants

Comments from the public were heard and questions were asked of the public by the Board and PSD.

- IV. **Proposed Changes to the SSREI Program.** There was discussion on the proposed changes, specifically on: the incentive (\$/watt) for PV and what level was needed, if any incentive was needed; whether the PV incentive should be reduced on a set time schedule – for example, quarterly; the proposal to set aside some of the funds for solar thermal; the elimination of the incentive for wind; the elimination of the PV incentive for commercial systems; and the possibility of an incentive for community/group net metered projects.

Comments from the public were heard and questions were asked of the public by the Board and PSD.

Board members asked the PSD to provide more historic and current data on the SSREI program that would provide them a context for considering the proposed changes and budget allocation, particularly related to how long the funding for the SSREI program would last given different incentive levels.

- V. **CEDF Board Members.** There was a discussion on the one vacancy on the Board, the potential for another vacancy soon, and the need for the House and Senate Energy Committee Chairs to appoint or re-appoint members to the Board for those members whose terms expire in July 2013.
- VI. **Financial Reports.** AP went over the financial reports that covered the CEDF funds and finances through May 31, 2013.

With no objection the meeting was adjourned at 12:03pm.