

**Minutes
Clean Energy Development Board
Public Hearing - October 19, 2018**

In Attendance (*Hearing was held at the DoubleTree Hotel in South Burlington, VT*):

Board Members:	Attending	Absent
Jared Duval (JD) <i>Co-Chair</i>	X	
David Farnsworth (DF)		X
Ken Jones (KJ)	X	
Janice St. Onge (JS)		X
Sam Swanson (SS) <i>Co-Chair</i>	X	
Johanna Miller (JM)	X	
Gaye Symington (GS)		X

State Employees:

Andrew Perchlik (**AP**), Fund Manager, Clean Energy Development Fund, Public Service Department (PSD). Emma Hanson, Wood Energy Coordinator, Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation.

Attending Members of the Public and Interested Organizations:

State Representative Michael Yantachka, Marion Major (Windham Regional Commission), Ansley Bloomer & Olivia Campbell Anderson (Renewable Energy Vermont), David Frank (SunWood Biomass), Lauren Hierl (Vermont League of Conservation Voters), Jeff Forward (Forward Consulting), Sam Buckley (VEDA).

Andrew Perchlik announced the start of the hearing at 2:05, and provided some comments on the purpose of the hearing.

Board members also gave opening remarks about the purpose of the hearing; that they hoped to hear from the public and stakeholders about current status of CED and to generate a discussion about the future of the CEDF.

Public Comments:

1. Dave Frank spoke to the value of the State's new sales tax exemption together with the CEDF incentive and that both are critical for the further advancement of the pellet heating/pellet boilers market in Vermont.
2. Rep. Yantakcha asked if the CEDF could provide incentives for electric cars, home batteries, and charging stations. A discussion on this followed between Yantakcha, **AP**, and Board members. **AP** said he thought the CEDF would need legislative authority to fund incentives for electric cars, or batteries not tied to a renewable energy generation, but that the CEDF could fund charging stations, as the CEDF statute specifically allows that.
 - a. Rep. Yantakcha also asked if a merger between EVT and CEDF was possible.
3. Jeff Forward commented that he likes/thinks it is a good idea that the CEDF and EVT are separate. He also commented that:

- a. electric bikes have high potential for helping to reduce fossil fuel use
 - b. the Renewable Energy Standard's Tier III could be a source for funding. This led to a general discussion of Tier III "money"
 - c. Vermont should join the Western Climate Initiative and that the funds the State receives from the sale of the allowances should be dedicated to the CEDF
 - d. Electrical transmission projects like the TDI Lake Champlain project could be used to provide funding to the CEDF.
 - i. Said the "Green line" would likely be seeking State permits and that, while smaller than the TDI project, should still support the in-state renewable energy market.
4. Marion Major provided comments on the two grant programs the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) is operating with CEDF funds (Windham Wood Heating Initiative and a renewable energy grant program).
- a. Gave metrics of projects (dollars spent, number of systems, etc.)
 - b. Talked about the regional energy plan and the support the WRC provides to towns on their energy plans.
 - c. **SS** has questions about the WRC's work on energy planning and there was a general discussion regarding ACT 174.
5. Sam Buckley spoke of the renewable energy loans they administered with CEDF dollars and the positive impact he has seen of those loan on those businesses, that otherwise wouldn't have received loans with VEDA dollars
6. Olivia Campbell Anderson provided comments on the following:
- a. How CEDF should do a better job promoting its successes and the good work/projects that the CEDF has done/helped fund.
 - b. That the CEDF should alert all current and past CEDF grantees/recipients of funds that the CEDF is running out of funds and that while still here it will be going away
 - c. That it is acceptable to look at the CEDF opportunistically – allocating funds to CEDF from projects seek State permissions like the TDI and Green Line transmission projects and also for one time settlement funds like the VW funds.
 - d. That the CEDF should stretch to promote the CEDF and think collaboratively and reach out to work with others.
 - e. That it was good that CEDF made a thoughtful decision to ramp down solar and ramp-up advanced wood heating.
 - i. And that Advanced wood is just getting started so we need to continue the support for this sector
 - f. Thinks it doesn't make sense and is a huge lost opportunity to close down the CEDF at this time as it is too important. Thus, the Board members should be promoting the CEDF so that the funding will come in.
 - i. **JD** offered that the CEDF is having a CEDF evaluation completed and that will provide objective data on the projects. He compared the CEDF and the Working Lands Enterprise Board (WLEB). The WLEB didn't advocate for funding, they focused on the grants/grantees. Instead, there is

a working lands coalition that was a group of stakeholders that promote and advocate funding for the WLEB. He thought it was important to note that the advocacy for funding was not done by the WLEB and it was similar with the CEDF except there was not a specific CEDF coalition advocating for funding of the CEDF.

- ii. Olivia said she thought the CEDF statute gives a mission to the Board that includes advocating for the CEDF and additional funding.
 1. **SS** did agree that it was the obligation of the CEDF to get the good news about the CEDF out to the public and the legislature.
 2. Olivia suggested that CEDF develop a document that explains what the CEDF would do if the Fund did get allocated additional funding.
7. Dave Frank added that there was a VT Sustainable Heating Initiative was working on getting low income wood heating program funding/operational.

Jared Duval thanked everyone there for attending the hearing and gave some closing remarks. He announced the Board's next quarterly meeting would be held in Montpelier on December 19th,

With no objection the hearing adjourned at 3:11

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