

CED Board Meeting: 07/13/22

Approved Minutes

Location: ***Remote – MS Teams and at PSD’s Offices in the Giga Conf. Room.***

In Attendance

<u>Board Members:</u>	Attending	Absent
Kate Desrochers (KD)	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: Adam Sherman (**AS**) - Senior Consultant, VEIC

Meeting Started at 1:02 pm with **SS** presiding.

- 1. Review Agenda** – The draft agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.
- 2. Announcements** – **DF** said he had an update on the \$14,000 of funds the CEDF had for environmental permit training for solar developers that needs to be coordinated with the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). **SS** suggested **DF** give his update as part of the discussion on the FY23 Budget and Plan.
- 3. Public Comment Time** – No members of the public present
- 4. Minutes of the Board’s 06/15/22 meeting**
Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by **KJ**; **DF** 2nd and the motion passed unanimously.
- 5. Draft Fiscal Year 2023 Budget and Program Plan**
 - a. **DF** gave an update on his conversations with ANR regarding the \$14k for environmental permit training for solar developers. **DF** said that ANR is going to develop an MOU with the CEDF/PSD that would have ANR expend the \$14K on the training that they think would have the highest value. **AP** said that was the plan before and that it would be agreeable to the CEDF.
 - b. **AP** presented the few small changes in the Fiscal Year (FY) Budget and Plan that were made since the Board’s last meeting in June. Review, Discussion, of Budget/Plan

- c. AP said he had discussed with SS the idea of adding an appendix that would list the \$15 million in PSD ARPA funded projects that the CEDF is working on. The plan mentions these projects but only in passing as they funds were not appropriated to the CEDF and thus not part of its budget. SS and others felt it would be a good idea to at least list them in an appendix. AP said he would do that before issuing the final report.
- d. There was a discussion on how the plan describes the CEDF and if it is better to say it is “embedded in” the PSD or “administered by” the PSD. Neither fully capture the unique relationship of the CEDF within the PSD, AP said. AP said the PSD prefers “embedded in”. There was a time when the PSD only administered the CEDF but currently it is fully part of the PSD.
- e. There was a discussion about filling the empty seat on the board. AP said that the Commissioner was open to suggestions and that she would be making an appointment in August or September.
- f. There was a discussion on the part of the plan that talks about the future of the CEDF and possible changes to the CEDF be recommended to the legislature for the next legislative session. AP said he would be speaking individually to current and past Board members and other stakeholders as the PSD works-up a proposal. DF said he thought the Board did good work focusing in on the details with expertise not found anywhere else in State government. SS suggested any changes should be in conversation and coordination with the Vermont Climate Council.
- g. **Repurposing of the Montpelier DH loan.** AP reported that the Dept. of Energy (DOE) is amenable to the concept of the PSD repurposing the \$750,000 of loan funds so that the city can repay the loan by investing in the district heating system and interconnecting more buildings. There was a discussion of the district heating system and the problems they have had and the need for more customers and revenue for the system. AP said this could be a great way to get the city to make needed investments in the system and lower the administration of the loan program by the PSD. AP reported that with the current agreement the PSD will be reporting on and administrating the loan for another 30 years. AP asked if the Board would approve of requesting this change of purpose of the loan funds. PZ said he supports the proposal as put forward by AP. SS moved that the city and DOE should be approached to convert the loan debt to investments in the district heating system so that it can be paid off with the expansion of the system. KD seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- h. AP asked if there was a motion to approve the FY23 Budget and Plan. KJ moved that the Board approve the Budget and Plan as presented at the meeting with the addition of the ARPA funded project appendix added. DF seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. Discussion of Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Advanced Wood Heating

- a. KJ framed the purpose of the discussion saying that the Board should have greater specificity for the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are for advanced wood heating. He said that the Clean Heat Standard (CHS) will likely be debated again in the legislature and the and being able to clearly articulate the GHG emission per Btu produced by advanced wood heating is needed and a the CEDF should play a role in developing information on this.

There was discussion on the topic including comments from Mr. Sherman on what data is available now and what work the Biomass Task Force of the Vermont Climate Council is doing, and clarifications on the information that **AP** had sent to Board members on the topic.

- b. **KJ** suggested that the CED Board draft a letter to the Biomass Task Force regarding GHG emissions from wood and how the CEDF is focused on carbon positive uses of wood energy. **SS** asked that **KJ** draft something for the next meeting for the Board to consider. **AS** suggested **KJ** reach out to Commissioner Schneider. **KJ** agreed he will draft a statement and share with **AP**. **AP** said he will share with Board and Board members can respond to **AP**, but not the whole Board. **AP** and **KJ** will draft a revised document for the Board to consider at their next meeting.

7. Next meeting of the CED Board. The Board members decided their next meeting would be on **September 14, 2022 1-3pm.**

8. Adjournment - Without objection the meeting was adjourned by **SS** at 2:45

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