

CED Board Meeting: 03/02/22

Draft Minutes

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

In Attendance (Meeting held at electronically via video and in-person)

<u>Board Members:</u>	Attending	Absent
Kate Desrochers (KD)	X	
Jared Duval (JD) <i>Co-Chair</i>	X	
David Farnsworth (DF)	X	
Ken Jones (KJ)	X	
Sam Swanson (SS) <i>Co-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

I. Meeting started 1:02pm with (**SS**) Presiding

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

Public Comment - No Public in attendance

II. Prior meeting minutes

Board members reviewed and discussed the draft minutes from the Board’s 12/09/21 meeting. **SS** asked that the minutes be amended to reflect the comment that TJ Poor (PSD Planning Director) made at the meeting about being amenable to the PSD and CEDB working collaboratively on the Affordable Community Renewable Energy Program for low-income. There were also two typos identified and corrected. **KJ** moved to accept minutes as amended. **DF** seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

III. Fund Manager Updates:

1. CEDF and CEDF-ARRA grants and programs
 - a. **AP** sent out the fiscal year 2022 budget and actuals to date prior to meeting. He reported expenditures are in-line with the budget and that revenues were off from their projections, but he said that could just be that the loan and interest income from the prior quarter had yet to be booked into the CEDF account.
 - b. **AP** gave an update on the Windham County Regional Commission (WRC) grants and the two prospective projects/sub-grantees that would use the remaining grant funds that WRC has available. Both projects are for wood heating, one in Bellows Falls and one to the town of

Brattleboro. He reported that the CEDF extended their grant by 2 years to accommodate these projects.

- c. SSREIP. **AP** reported slower than expected activity in the program for all technologies (pellet boilers, pellet bins, pellet evaporators, coal heating change-outs) but that all are seeing some activity (except pellet evaporators). He reported 38 pellet boiler incentives through the first two quarters of the year. During FY21 there were 52 installations, with 34 in the first two quarters. Thus, activity in the program was picking up slightly from the prior year, he said.
 1. **SS** asked about the climate/carbon impacts of the installations and asked if they could be included in the tables/reports on the program. **AP** said he could do that for the next quarterly report.
- d. The Board had several Budget questions and comments:
 2. **JD** wondered if there was a better use for the Windham County funds **AP** responded that the money is required to be spent in for the benefit of Windham County, and that the WRC has a grant agreement in place, but that he would work with them to get the money expended so that it can have the positive impacts intended.
 3. **JD** asked if the ANR solar permitting funds be reoriented? **AP** reported that REV was planning on creating a program with ANR regarding issues of solid waste and recycling of solar equipment, but he didn't know when (or if) that was happening. He said he would reach out to REV and ANR to find out and remind them about the money getting spent.
 4. **JD** asked if the CEDF could do more to promote the current incentives (like for pellet boilers) and drive demand, such as marketing/advertising? **AP** reported that they have done advertising before with some success, could do again when the new ARPA incentives are in place.
 5. **KJ** asked about the State Energy Management Program grant with CEDF and any updates. **AP** reported that during Covid the program was on hold and that Buildings and General Services also had staff changes that slowed progress but that they now have new staff and are in the process of hiring new staff that would use the CEDF grant funds.
 - a. **AP** gave an update on two potential new pellet mills being proposed to be built in Vermont and the potential for the CEDF to provide grant assistance to support production and bulk sales of pellets. –
 - b. **AP** gave updates on the Clean Energy Industries Survey and the ARRA funded grant with NeighborWorks, that is coming to an end.
 6. **AP** gave and updated on the CED Board's ARPA Funded Programs. The descriptions of the 5 programs have been Submitted to the Agency of Administration for approval. He reported that verbal approval of the overall programs was given but that the CEDF/PSD is still waiting on written approval.
 - a. \$2.5M high poverty school grant program
 - i. There was a discussion on if bio-diesel (B-100) should be included in offerings for this program. **AP** advised against it to reduce program complexity.
 - ii. **JD** suggested propane systems may want to be considered a priority given the high cost of this fuel. There was support for this idea of connecting the energy burden of the school to the grants.
 - b. \$1M Whole-home clean energy program. **AP** discussed how the focus was on how it should be coordinated with the many other entities doing similar weatherization and energy efficiency work for low-income households.
 - c. \$1M to the SSREI Program
 - i. **AP** said he was working on an amendment to include the APRA funding into the program and that VEIC, as the program's contracted administrator was working on the forms and procedures for the new funding and incentives. New incentives will be for bio-diesel and for wood stove change-outs.
 - d. \$250K for clean energy financing

