

**Efficiency Maine Trust  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 17, 2016**

**Trust Board Members:**

- David Barber, Chair
- Kenneth Fletcher, Vice-Chair
- Donald Lewis, Secretary
- Brent Boyles, Treasurer
- Al Hodsdon
- Patrick Woodcock
- Margaret Bean for John Gallagher

**Efficiency Maine Trust (EMT) Staff:**

- Ian Burnes
- Emily Cushman
- Dana Fischer
- Greg Leclair
- James Leyko
- Anne Stephenson
- Michael Stoddard

**Other Attendees:**

- Adam Gifford, CLEARRESULT
- Dylan Voorhees, NRCM
- Jeffrey Packard, Alodyne

**1.0 Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Barber called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

**2.0 Approve Agenda and Minutes**

**ACTION:** Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Hodsdon) and seconded (Mr. Boyles), the Board voted unanimously to approve the draft agenda and approve the January Board Meeting Minutes.

**3.0 Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Mr. Voorhees briefed the Board on NRCM's Triennial Plan testimony submitted to the Public Utilities Commission. Natural gas budgets are the primary focus of the testimony; NRCM found the Triennial Plan's analysis of cost-effective natural gas efficiency opportunities too conservative. Mr. Voorhees continued that NRCM is concerned that, with proposed changes in statute regarding RGGI and natural gas efficiency investments, many large energy users will be ineligible for efficiency programs. He added that efficient use of natural gas an important way that the region can mitigate pipeline constraints.

#### **4.0 Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Stoddard summarized and distributed copies of the Executive Director's Report. Following are items highlighted during his presentation:

- Activity at the Legislature includes LD 1398, "An Act To Reduce Electric Rates for Maine Businesses;" LD 1382 "An Act To Assist Low-income Electricity Consumers;" and, LD 1558, "An Act To Make Efficient Electric Heat Pumps Available to Utility Customers, Including Low-income Customers." Mr. Stoddard reported that the EUT Committee voted unanimously to extend the moratorium on collecting assessments from Large Volume Natural Gas Customers for one year, and to make permanent the exemption for wholesale power generators larger than 3 MW in size.
- The Program team is reporting is increased interest in natural gas measures promoted through the prescriptive and custom for both residential and C&I customers.
- The pipeline for Large Customer Programs is robust. Mr. Woodcock asked for clarification on when projects are added to the pipeline and budget projections. Mr. Hodsdon asked for clarification on the eligibility criteria for the greenhouse gas reduction projects.
- Participation in the Home Energy Savings Program slowed in January consistent with the trend experienced immediately after the winter holidays in prior years. Staff is considering minor program adjustments to promote additional activity both in the springtime and also in preparation for the larger 2017 budget forecast for this program.
- Mr. Lewis asked for an overview of how the Staff reviews innovation RFP concepts and topics. Mr. Barber asked that the conversation be postponed to the conclusion of the Board agenda.

#### **5.0 Committee Report**

##### **(a) Finance Committee**

##### **i. UPDATE on Monthly Financial Reports**

Mr. Boyles provided an overview of revenues and expenditures to date; Mr. Boyles reported that Low Income Initiatives are running behind forecasts.

##### **ii. APPROVE Natural Gas Budget Adjustments**

The Finance Committee recommends a budget adjustment to reflect revenues from natural gas back payments received by the Trust.

**ACTION:** Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Boyles) and seconded (Mr. Lewis), the Board voted unanimously to adjust the FY16 revenue and expenditure budgets by an increase of \$259,226 according to the budget adjustments detailed in a February 17, 2016 memo from Mr. Leclair.

**iii. APPROVE Contract Amendment in for Technical Services Related to Triennial Plan**

Mr. Boyles provided an overview of a contract amendment request. Staff indicated it was seeking Board authorization to use funding from the available Research and Analysis budget line to add \$100,000 to existing agreement with GDS Associates. The amount is covered by existing amounts authorized in the budget for this purpose. The funds would be used for GDS to continue providing technical services related to the Triennial Plan docket pending at the Maine Public Utilities Commission. The services would be deployed on a time-and-materials basis using existing rates that were the result of a prior competitive bid.

Mr. Woodcock asked how Triennial Plan development expenses compared to previous years and requested that those expenses be more clearly described in advance of the fourth Triennial Plan process.

**ACTION:** Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Boyles) and seconded (Mr. Hodsdon), the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to amend the Trust's sole source contract with GDS Associates to add up to \$100,000, on a time-and-materials basis using existing rates that were the result of a prior competitive bid, to the contract to cover technical support activities associated with the Triennial Plan.

**iv. APPROVE Annual Membership in Consortium for Energy Efficiency**

Mr. Boyles directed the Board to a memo from Mr. Eglinton dated February 17, 2016, recommending that Efficiency Maine Trust continue its annual membership in the Consortium for Energy Efficiency.

**ACTION:** Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Boyles) and seconded (Mr. Hodsdon), the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to enroll Efficiency Maine as a 2016 member of the Consortium for Energy Efficiency in the amount of \$18,878.

**(b) Program Committee**

**i. UPDATE on Regional Energy Issues**

Mr. Woodcock provided a briefing on the three-state RFP for Clean Energy. Mr. Woodcock described the transmission and production proposals, including information on wind and solar projects that would and would not require transmission development. It is the largest request for renewable energy generation in the area; many of the developments proposed are significantly larger than existing renewable energy developments in Maine. Mr. Woodcock added that projects will be selected in early summer and will then move to the permitting process. Mr. Hodsdon asked about large-scale biomass facilities.

Mr. Woodcock then briefed the Board on the current state of long-term natural gas capacity proceedings.

**ii. UPDATE on Combined Heat and Power Projects and Opportunities**

Mr. Burnes provided an overview of recent combined heat and power (CHP) projects funded through the Large Customer Program. Right sizing the system for heating or hot water demand results in the most cost-effective projects. The Staff is seeing that small CHP projects present a significant efficiency opportunity, especially for institutional customers that have long operational hours or significant heating load. Mr. Burnes highlighted a Cumberland County Jail installation as well as projects underway at St. Mary's D'Youville Pavilion and Acadia Hospital. The Large Customer Team will continue to focus CHP technical assistance to hospitals, assisted living facilities, and institutions. Mr. Barber asked how much project economics depended on the efficiency of the current heating system. Mr. Burnes replied that the efficiency of the CHP must be considered holistically and account for electrical efficiency. Mr. Voorhees asked if CHP projects are electricity funded. Mr. Burnes answered that CHP systems realize electrical efficiencies and receive funding from electricity conservation funds.

Mr. Burnes added that the Staff is considering a workshop to share CHP success stories as well as other outreach to spur adoption of the technology. Mr. Stoddard added the Board should share potential CHP customers with Staff.

**6.0 New Business**

**7.0 Next Meeting Agenda and Scheduling**

The next Board meeting will be scheduled by email.

**ACTION:** Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Fletcher) and seconded (Mr. Boyles), the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 12:01 p.m.