

**Efficiency Maine Trust  
Board Meeting Minutes  
February 26, 2020  
168 Capitol St., Augusta ME**

**Trustees:**

- James Boyle
- Dan Burgess
- Ken Fletcher, Secretary
- Al Hodsdon, Chair
- Glenn Poole, Treasurer
- David Stapp
- Joan Welsh

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

- Ian Burnes
- Emily Cushman
- Peter Eglinton
- Monte Haynes
- Anastasia Hediger
- Greg Leclair
- Michael Stoddard

**Other Attendees:**

- Dylan Voorhees, Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM)

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Hodsdon called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

**2. Approve Agenda and Minutes**

Mr. Hodsdon noted that his last name was misspelled in the last month's minutes.

**ACTION:** Upon a motion duly made (Ms. Welsh) and seconded (Mr. Boyle), the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda and the corrected January 22 Board Meeting Minutes.

**3. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

- Mr. Voorhees commended EMT for its work in support of the Appliance Standards bill (LD 1750) and for its role in advancing building energy codes on the Maine Uniform Building Energy Code (MUBEC) Board. He highlighted that both ventures are vitally important to minimizing costly retrofits in the future, which means long-term savings for Maine energy consumers.

**4. Executive Director's Report**

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

- Mr. Stoddard reported that EMT is taking incremental steps to raise public awareness about its heat pump and electric vehicle (EV) programs. Mr. Stapp asked Staff to keep the Board abreast of public radio or television appearances in advance when possible.

- The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) announced its decision to award funds to EMT to conduct a pilot project regarding the so-called “beneficial electrification” of transportation. These funds will allow EMT to expand the number of public Level 2 EV chargers, covering roughly a third of the project costs for up to 60 new host sites, and to pursue a Dissemination of Information Program about EV charging for consumers.
- Mr. Stoddard reported that the Maine Climate Council Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing Working Group will host a full day meeting on March 10.
- The Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Prescriptive (CIP) Program is now providing a limited-time lighting retrofit offer for public schools. So far, these enhanced incentives are driving considerable interest in the program. If all goes well, EMT will look to replicate this targeted approach for other programs.
- Mr. Stoddard highlighted a recent collaboration with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) that focused on supporting lighting retrofit projects at rural municipalities. Through an RFP process, TNC provided an additional incentive on top of EMT’s regular CIP Program incentives.
- Mr. Stoddard reported that the Retail Initiatives is revising its pace for heat pump water heaters (HPWH) from 10,000 to 8,500 for this fiscal year. Staff expressed its opinion that the program could achieve a 10,000-target next program year if it is able to have 12 full months of activity at the recent level of market activity.
- Similarly, Staff forecasts that the Distributor Initiatives will not hit its target this fiscal year for Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM) pumps because the incentives were slower to penetrate the marketplace than expected. Mr. Stoddard noted that Vermont’s success with an identical program suggests that, with a bit more time for the contractors and suppliers to become accustomed to the program design, Maine should be able to hit the targets that were in the Triennial Plan. He expects to see strong momentum going into the next fiscal year.
- An Executive Committee meeting of the EMT Board was held on February 13, 2020 to decide whether to allocate more funds to sustain the Distributor Initiative’s small residential high-efficiency oil boiler program. The alternative was to suspend program activity, as it was on the verge of expending its full budget well before reaching the end of the fiscal year. The Committee decided, in order to prevent disruption in the marketplace, to transfer \$1.2 million in Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funds from other RGGI-funded programs that were behind pace.
- Mr. Stoddard announced that EMT is interviewing candidates for a senior communications position and expects to finalize a decision by next month.

## **5. Planned Business**

### **(a) UPDATE on Monthly Financial Reports**

Mr. Leclair reported that revenues and expenditures are on track, noting that expenditure outlooks now include commitments to give a more accurate picture of overall program activity. Mr. Eglinton added that EMT is looking for ways to commit funds for programs

that are not on currently pace for the year, as is the case for low-income weatherization. That was the impetus to creating the CIP school lighting program.

**(b) REVIEW Triennial Plan Annual Update and APPROVE Significant Changes**

Mr. Eglinton explained that in preparation for EMT’s Annual Update on Triennial Plan IV to the PUC, due March 1, 2020, Staff identified two potential “significant changes” that would affect electric procurement budgets. (A “significant change” is defined as a budget shift of \$1 million or 10% of a program’s budget, whichever is less.) First, the recent HPWH Evaluation produced new data regarding the portion of HPWH sales at retailers and distributors that is attributable to low-income customers, which in turn impacts the amount of Electric Procurement needed to satisfy the statutory funding requirements due to Low-Income Initiatives. Mr. Mistro provided an overview of the results of the HPWH Evaluation to the Board. Mr. Burnes added that retail customer surveys are ongoing, and that he envisions conducting an annual or semi-annual survey for distributor participants to continually monitor these impact results.

The second significant change is an increase in natural gas budgets to reflect a recent upturn in activity in the Commercial and Industrial programs. This change is only expected to affect fiscal year 2020.

**ACTION:** Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Stapp) and seconded (Ms. Welsh) the Board voted unanimously to approve a significant change to the Triennial Plan IV consistent with Mr. Stoddard’s February 26, 2020 memo and the attached Appendix B – Revised as of February 26, 2020.

**(c) UPDATE on 2020 Legislative Session**

Mr. Stoddard provided an overview of the second regular session of the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature. Of note, a bill to establish appliance standards has gained traction. It would be administered by the Governor’s Energy Office (GEO), leveraging an online database from California. EMT would provide support through its call center. A bill regarding commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) loans would allow EMT or a municipality to establish a C-PACE program to finance energy savings improvements on a qualifying property. Mr. Stoddard clarified that this bill envisions a significant role for EMT in providing third-party technical assistance, but no role in loaning the money. He promised to update the Board if these bills are signed into law.

**(d) UPDATE on Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code**

Mr. Stoddard summarized the current activities of the MUBEC Board. A rulemaking to update the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is underway and the MUBEC Board will be developing an optional stretch code later this year. He reported that EMT is conducting an evaluation on building code compliance in new construction which has not been updated since 2008.

**6. New Business**

None.

7. **Next Meeting Agenda and Scheduling**

The next Board meeting will be held on March 25, 2020.

8. **Adjourn**

**ACTION:** Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Burgess) and seconded (Mr. Poole), the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Board Meeting at 12:07 p.m.