

**Efficiency Maine Trust  
Board Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2021**

**BECAUSE OF LIMITATIONS ON TRAVEL AND GATHERINGS DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS, THIS MEETING WAS NOT CONDUCTED AT A PHYSICAL LOCATION AND DID NOT INVOLVE ANYONE MEETING IN PERSON. INSTEAD, THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BY PHONE AND VIDEO CONFERENCING.**

**Trustees**

- Jim Boyle, Secretary
- Dan Burgess
- Kenneth Colburn
- Dan Drost (proxy for Dan Brennan)
- Heather Furth
- Mark Isaacson
- Suzanne MacDonald, Chair
- Glenn Poole, Treasurer
- Joan Welsh, Vice Chair

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

- Ian Burnes
- Emily Cushman
- Peter Eglinton
- Monte Haynes
- Greg Leclair
- Laura Martel
- Rick Meinking
- Kate Rankin
- Jesse Remillard
- Michael Stoddard
- Satchel Toole

**Other Attendees:**

- Ross Anthony, Governor's Energy Office
- Steve Birkett
- Ari Jackson, Ridgeline Energy
- Walter Keene, Sustainable Mid Coast Maine Coalition
- Virginia McGregor
- Suzanne Sayer
- Rebecca Schultz, Natural Resource Council of Maine (NRCM)
- Jack Shapiro, Natural Resource Council of Maine (NRCM)
- Kellan Simpson

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. MacDonald called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

**2. Approve Agenda and Minutes**

**ACTION:** Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Colburn) and seconded (Ms. Furth), the Board voted unanimously to approve the revised agenda and the October 27, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

**3. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

Ms. Sayer asked if EMT would be eligible for any of the federal infrastructure funds, and if they could be used for electric vehicle (EV) chargers at the Kittery Water District. Mr.

Stoddard explained that the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act both designated a subset of funds for EV charging infrastructure. He encouraged Ms. Sayer to register for the EMT request for proposals (RFP) notification email list.

#### **4. Executive Director's Report**

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

- EMT has increased advertising for EV videos and weatherization.
- Staff is continuing to support training workshops for contractors to get up to date with the new building energy codes.
- Call Center has experienced an increase in inbound call volume over the past few weeks, suggesting that increased marketing efforts are having an effect.
- The Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Custom Program approved 5 projects at the last review team meeting. Three additional projects were also added to the pipeline.
- The Small Business Initiative has seen modest growth in program participation in recent months.
- Low-Income Initiatives have been working with MaineHousing and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to coordinate customer lists for program eligibility. The number of households on the DHHS list has increased 42% from 2018.
- Retail Initiatives and Distributor Initiatives are still seeing considerable heat pump water heater activity. Activity in the distributor channel is four times higher than that through the retail channel, due primarily to the use of instant discounts (vs. mail-in rebates.)
- Mr. Colburn asked how municipalities will demonstrate that they were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to be eligible for EMT ARPA funds. Mr. Stoddard explained that, for the \$15 million allocation for local government, schools, and community organizations, EMT plans to prioritize areas serving economically disadvantaged communities.
- Mr. Burgess noted that EMT's programs are increasingly important in the context of rising heating fuel prices. Ms. MacDonald asked if the Governor's Energy Office could share its summary of resources available to people struggling with energy prices. Ms. Welsh asked about whether rising electricity prices might affect Efficiency Maine's electrification programs. Mr. Stoddard explained that all energy prices are going up across the board; as it stands, heat pumps still remain the cheapest form of heat. He noted that if electricity prices increase more relative to the other fuels, it makes the electrification argument harder.

#### **5. Planned Business**

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

Mr. LeClair reported that revenues are on track. The next Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funds auction is in December.

Ms. MacDonald asked how the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) funds will be affected with the recent state referendum vote to halt the project. Mr. Stoddard replied that while funds for heat pumps and EV charging could be lost, the Staff expects to have

other funding streams available to support these measures.

**b) APPROVE the Stipulation of a Non-Wires Alternatives Solution for Option 1C of the Section 31 Transmission Line**

Mr. Burnes provided an overview of Central Maine Power's (CMP's) proposed rebuild of the Section 31 of transmission line, which serves 7,800 customers in Brunswick, Harpswell, and Topsham. Under the new Non-Wires Alternatives (NWA) Coordinator law, the project required an investigation of feasibility and cost effectiveness of NWA solutions. The proposed NWA elements included a 1.7 MW behind-the-meter battery and 500 KW of behind-the-meter load reductions. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Staff's review of the project found the NWA alternative to be the most cost-effective. Mr. Colburn suggested that the cost-benefit analysis for this project should include non-energy benefits (NEBs).

**ACTION:** Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Colburn) and seconded (Mr. Isaacson) the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Stipulation of A Non-Wires Alternative Solution Option 1C, as Modified in Settlement of CMP's Proposed Rebuild of the Section 31 Transmission Line as presented on November 17 or similar allowing for minor modifications.

**c) REVIEW and APPROVE FY2021 Annual Report**

Mr. Eglinton provided an overview of the FY2021 Annual Report, including FY2021 highlights, lifetime energy cost savings, program investments, and total reduction on Maine peak demand. Mr. Colburn suggested that EMT add in a mention of future load flexibility plans. Mr. Stoddard confirmed that Staff would use the relevant language from Triennial Plan V.

**ACTION:** Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Colburn) and seconded (Ms. Welsh) the Board voted unanimously to approve the FY2021 Annual Report, with any changes discussed and adopted at the November 17, 2021 Board meeting, as well as any non-substantive typographical edits or computational corrections as may be required prior to submission to the PUC and Legislature.

**6. New Business**

None.

**7. Next Meeting Agenda and Scheduling**

The next Board meeting would normally be December 15, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., but may be postponed due to the holidays if there are no major decisions to be made.

**8. Adjourn**

**ACTION:** Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Isaacson) and seconded (Mr. Poole), the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Board Meeting at 12:04 a.m.