

**Efficiency Maine Trust
Board Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2023**

The March meeting of the Board was conducted in person at the Trust's office at 168 Capitol Street in Augusta, Maine. The option to participate by phone and online video conferencing was also available.

Trustees

- Dan Brennan
- Dan Burgess
- Kenneth Colburn, Secretary
- Heather Furth
- Mark Isaacson
- Suzanne MacDonald, Chair
- Glenn Poole, Treasurer
- Chris Rauscher
- Joan Welsh, Vice Chair

Efficiency Maine Trust (EMT) Staff:

- Emily Cushman
- Peter Eglinton
- Hope Kohtala
- Greg Leclair
- Lily McVetty
- Sheldon Perkins
- Kate Rankin
- Lauren Scott
- Michael Stoddard

Other Attendees:

- Ross Anthony, Governor's Energy Office (GEO)
- Cliff Babkirk, Window Dressers
- Phillip Borges, Emerson Swan
- Steve Bright, WeaveGrid
- Richard Burbank, Evergreen Home Performance
- Marc Currie
- Bruce Ledgerwood
- Claire Swingle, GEO
- Martin Takessian
- Robert Teffeteller

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. MacDonald called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. APPROVE Agenda and Minutes

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Colburn) and seconded (Mr. Poole), the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda and the February 22, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

4. Executive Director's Report

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

- LD 187 is a bill requested by EMT to repeal the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Resource Fund in 35-A MRS §10121. Staff answered questions at two recent work sessions about options for the disposition of future revenues paid through the Alternative Compliance Payments (ACPs) from the Renewable Portfolio Standard. Mr. Burgess is proposing this funding go to GEO, while Representative Kessler is recommending it go to the electric utilities' Low Income Assistance Program.
- Staff testified on LD 519, a Resolve that calls on EMT to run a pilot project for Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) applications of electric school buses in Wells-Ogunquit. Staff expressed concerns about unknown and unlimited costs, recommended that the bill be amended to give the EMT discretion to design the pilot and to abandon pursuit or implementation of a pilot if the costs forecasts are prohibitive. Costs of such a project to interconnect to the grid have wide variability and will be unknown until additional analysis is performed.
- EMT testified on LD 815, a bill that would require EMT to create a new residential energy efficiency program to target residents of manufactured housing and low- and moderate-income Mainers. Mr. Stoddard pointed out that EMT already has an income-eligible program with an approximate budget of \$40 million over three years (excluding Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds).
- Activity in Retail Initiatives has dropped with the discontinuation of LED instant discounts at the end of 2022. Mr. Eglinton reported heat pump water heater uptake for emergency replacements also has been lower than forecasted. He shared that this could be a good opportunity to launch a pilot to inspire homeowners to replace tankless coils.
- The Whole Home Heat Pump Solutions Pilot saw an increase in interest. EMT is working with eight manufactured home parks and has reached out to 37 parks.
- Ms. Cushman and Ms. Stephenson were promoted to Assistant Deputy Directors. A new Program Assistant was hired, and there is a job posting out for a Staff Accountant. Ms. MacDonald and Mr. Rauscher requested an organization chart with both EMT staff and contractors.

5. **Planned Business**

a) **UPDATE on Monthly Financial Reports**

Mr. Leclair reported that the most recent Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auction came in \$2.4 million above EMT's quarterly estimate from the beginning of the year. He also reported that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) notified EMT about approximately \$77,000 in new ACP revenue from electricity suppliers who failed to secure their required quota of Thermal Renewable Energy Credits. Mr. Eglinton added that C&I Prescriptive Initiatives is close to fully investing its budget, and Low-Income Initiatives has been doing well after a large budget increase from the previous year.

b) **APPROVE FY2023 Budget Adjustment**

Mr. Eglinton explained Staff's proposal to adjust the FY2023 budget to incorporate new RGGI revenues from the most recent auction funds. Staff recommended allocating \$1.5 million to the Home Energy Savings Program (HESP) for weatherization and biomass boilers. Even though HESP will most likely not use all \$1.5 million in the current fiscal year, it would be prudent to have a buffer to carry forward into next fiscal

year or in case activity increases in the short term. Staff also recommended allocating \$150,000 to Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification (EM&V) to study variable refrigerant flow (VRF) meters and conduct customer surveys, and \$500,000 to Retail Initiatives and Distributor Initiatives for a targeted campaign to retrofit heat pump water heaters as replacements for existing non-electric water heaters. Additionally, Staff proposed earmarking the remaining RGGI funds for HESP weatherization. The Triennial Plan as originally approved assumed HESP would operate at \$7 million per year. However, in the last couple of years, HESP has been investing in the range of \$10 - \$12 million per year. HESP has been fortunate to have additional funding from the recent RGGI auctions. Earmarking these new RGGI revenues to the HESP budget will support the weatherization industry's momentum into the next fiscal year.

Mr. Eglinton also provided an overview of the two other minor budget adjustments, including the addition of new ACPs to the Thermal Energy Investment Program and the addition of revenues to the EMT Admin Fund.

Mr. Colburn commended Mr. Eglinton for his leadership and handling unpredictable RGGI funds. Ms. MacDonald asked if it makes sense for Staff to keep going to the Board after each auction.

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Colburn) and seconded (Mr. Isaacson) the Board voted unanimously to adjust the FY2023 source of funding (revenue) and expenditure budgets as described in the March 22, 2023 memorandum, resulting in a total FY2023 source of funding (revenue) and expenditure budgets of \$168,956,690 and \$165,662,531, as shown in the tables in the memorandum, respectively.

c) APPROVE FY2023 Supplemental Memberships

Mr. Eglinton noted that real estate professionals play an important role in getting the word out to consumers about EMT rebates for both residential and commercial properties. Mr. Eglinton requested Board authorization to approve EMT's memberships in the Maine Real Estate & Development Association (MEREDA) and the Maine Town, City and County Management Association (MTCMA).

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made (Ms. Welsh) and seconded (Mr. Brennan) the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Executive Director to submit EMT's group memberships as described in Mr. Eglinton's March 22, 2023 memorandum in the amount not to exceed \$3,300.

Mr. Burgess abstained.

d) PRESENTATION on Communications and Outreach Activities

Mr. Eglinton reminded the Board that at a previous meeting, it was suggested that EMT's \$500,000 Public Information and Outreach (PIO) budget seemed small. Mr. Eglinton clarified that the PIO budget by itself does not capture the full suite of

EMT's communications activities; each program also has its own marketing and outreach budget. Ms. Rankin and Mr. Perkins provided an overview of EMT's major marketing activities and results.

6. New Business

None.

7. Next Meeting Agenda and Scheduling

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for April 26 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

8. Adjourn

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Rauscher) and seconded (Mr. Isaacson), the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Board Meeting at 12:05 p.m.