

**Efficiency Maine Trust  
Board Meeting Minutes**

February 22, 2012

**Trust Board Members**

<b>Adam Lee</b>	<b>Dale McCormick</b>
<b>Naomi Mermin</b>	<b>Al Hodsdon</b>
<b>James Atwell</b>	<b>Glenn Poole</b>
<b>Ken Fletcher</b>	

**Efficiency Maine Trust Staff:**

- Michael Stoddard
- John Quartararo
- Karen Bickerman
- Rick Meinking
- Andy Meyer
- Elizabeth Crabtree
- Dana Fischer

**Partial List of Other Attendees:**

- John Reuthe
- John Joseph
- Matt Holden
- Doug Fox
- Amanda Jameson
- Dylan Voorhees
- John Milburn
- Andy Burt
- Beth Nagusky

**1.0 Approve Draft Agenda and Minutes**

Jim Atwell called the meeting to order at 9:35A.M.

**ACTION:** Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Rohman) and seconded (Mr. Hodsdon) the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for this meeting.

**ACTION:** Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Fletcher) and seconded (Mr. Hodsdon) the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the January 25th 2010 meetings.

**2.0 Public Comment**

Tom Tietenberg points out that MaineHousing's Carbon Quantification Project is in the final stages of getting approval.

Dale McCormick suggests that MaineHousing will be submitting 7,000 tons of carbon to Chevrolet which will then provide a payment for this carbon. Mr. Tietenberg points out

that this is the first in the nation program of its kind. Matt Holden addressed the Board in support of MaineHousing and suggested that targeting multifamily weatherization will lower fuel costs for all Maine citizens.

### **3.0 Executive Director Report**

Michael Stoddard, Efficiency Maine's Executive Director, discussed Efficiency Maine's briefing of the EUT Committee to report on FY11 results and help answer their questions. Items discussed included where the Trust is headed regarding incentives for LEDs and pointed out that the Trust staff is keeping a close eye on the technology to stay on top of cost effectiveness potential of the technology.

Jim Atwell asked if analysis of LEDs for street lights is considered on a case by case basis, to which Mr Stoddard answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Stoddard makes mention of the NYT story of the Hartford's in Dixfield that helped raise awareness about the need for and benefits of home weatherization as being a key part of the solution.

Mr. Stoddard discussed the energy audit of the State House and plans to present the findings of the audit report to the Legislative Council on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Stoddard addressed the Trust's new, low-income multifamily program to describe the process of contacting building owners to solicit interest in order for our vendor to begin completing projects in the field.

Mr. Stoddard directs the Board to page 5 of the Executive Director Report, with regards to the appliance rebate program to point out that the Trust is introducing power strips and looking to introduce more plug load items to incentivize more on the residential side as CFL's get phased out as a product that we can rely on in terms of low cost efficiency upgrade products.

Mr. Fletcher pointed to the heating oil chart to suggest that 2001 heating oil average bill would be around \$750 whereas now it's closer to \$2,750 per year and points out how much of a burden this is to Maine citizens.

### **4.0 Working Reports**

#### **1. Strategic Planning Committee**

Ms. Crabtree updated the Board on the Triennial Plan work and discussed recent Board updates on low income programs, strategic planning, et cetera. Ms. Crabtree hoped to have a draft completed to share with public late May/early June with a final draft by early September. Mr. Atwell asked about the Bangor Hydro electric proposal. Ms. Crabtree pointed out that the Trust is in discussions with them about a potential pilot and opportunities to apply for our Electric Heating Innovation Grant RFP and also pointed out that another meeting is to occur with them next week. Mr. Stoddard mentioned that Board members may be asked to review applications for the Innovation Grant RFP.

**a. Presentation by Dale McCormick for Next Year’s Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)**

Dale McCormick pointed out the anomalies in terms of funding thanks to Recovery Act (ARRA) funds. 2,846 houses and multi-family units completed in 2011 saving 554,000 gallons of oil and \$1.4 million, which had an impact by allowing Maine to stretch our LIHEAP dollars further. Ms. McCormick also addressed ARRA investment’s impact on fuel use among low-income Mainers and how it will have a long-term benefit for many years.

The budget of the WAP is projected to change in down direction with \$200,000 less year over year. MaineHousing anticipates completing 205 projects which represents a significant drop from the recent ARRA-funded years.

Mr. Rohman asked how many are eligible for this program. Ms. McCormick suggested that they will serve 65,000 for LIHEAP whereas the universe of eligible homeowners is somewhere around 150,000. She reported that the program did about 10,000 units combined and will need to complete on the order of 25,000 homes per year in order to weatherize all the homes in Maine by 2030, the statutory target.

Mr. Hodsdon asked about people that don’t qualify for LIHEAP and asked what percentage of homes outside of that group can actually afford to weatherize. Mr. Stoddard suggests that question is best suited for Efficiency Maine to answer and clarified that we are moving in the direction of getting data on that question to better target programs.

## **5.0 Presentation**

### **1. Town of Unity – Residential Audits with Blower Door Directed Air Sealing**

Dana Fischer introduced the presenters discussing their approaches looking at helping people do energy audits by subsidizing cost of the audits. These pilots help to inform program design decisions of the Trust.

Town of Unity has worked to create a “buzz” of increased interest around residential energy audits and weatherization. They started a program in 2009 called Energize Our Community which included public awareness, education and assistance initiatives. The grant from Efficiency Maine was viewed by the Town as a great opportunity for them to extend the benefits of this community led effort.

Goals of the program included creating an energy use baseline, measuring energy efficiency potential gains, and sharing success stories to motivate action within the community and develop an action plan moving forward.

87 surveys were completed that allowed Unity work with local heating oil companies to get energy usage data. Results demonstrated an average of 90,000/BTUs per square foot or about two times what should be used in an efficient home. Approximately half of these homes use more than 60,000 btu per sq. ft. The Town then worked to stratify the results to target education programs. The Town then offered \$300 to help homeowners pay for an energy audit. Marketed it at key venues to encourage homeowners and after two years they have reimbursed seven audits out of 600 homes in the Town.

Eventually, the an air sealing program was developed to address the program inadequacies in their first pilot program. This has seen strong success by offering to reimburse homeowners up to \$500 (\$100 materials, \$400 labor) for air sealing with no match required. The auditor goes in to look for air quality problems, estimates the building's potential savings, conducts a blower door test, and begins to do air sealing work on the spot to demonstrate how the air sealing impacts air flow and energy savings in real time. They have seen a good number of Unity homeowners who have come back wanting to pay to do additional work beyond the initial projects.

Initial estimates of annual savings resulting from \$500 in work a very positive, and appear to have a payback of about 1 year. Since November 2011, they have completed 39 homes, six businesses, five multi-family buildings and one non-profit. Two homeowners have taken on a PACE Loan and the program has generated a lot of buzz.

## **2. Sustain MidMaine – Promoting Residential Weatherization (Waterville-Winslow Area)**

John Joseph and John Reuthe presented a report on their Grant from the Trust, which has two pieces including HESP/PACE and a Community District Energy Program made up of a municipal coalition of the towns of Waterville and Winslow. The goal is to encourage people to weatherize their homes. The first step was an in-home consultation, reimbursed up to \$300 for an energy audit, and a test out for those who proceed with home weatherization and they report to have completed 265 in-home consultations to date, including 114 audits representing 195 housing units. Average weatherization project cost has been approximately \$8,000.

The program helped incentivize 28 homeowners to apply for a Maine PACE Loan and of those, eleven have been declined and six have been funded and nine have withdrawn.

John Joseph spoke about how their group was formed in 2009 and had a plan when the EECBG Program came out. Mr. Joseph suggested that they are trying to figure out what a community can do to be more energy independent by conducting an energy load study of Waterville and Winslow, worked with CMP to provide energy data for all of the electricity in the town, completing a heating profile of the community and creating a model of energy need incorporating possible sources of energy generation. Expect to be inviting vendors in with their ideas. Trying to change paradigm by defining their own need focused on economic development.

Mr. Fletcher asked how many homes were weatherized. The grantees reported 48 structures weatherized representing 104 housing units.

**6.0 New Business**

No new business.

**7.0 Next Meeting Agenda**

**ACTION:** The Board reviewed the potential agenda for the next meeting and set the date to meet on March 28, 2012 at 9:30 AM.

**8.0 Adjournment**

**ACTION:** Upon a motion duly made the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.