



**EEB Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 10, 2023 | 1:00PM – 3:30PM**

[Meeting Materials](#) | [Meeting Recording](#)

## Minutes

### 1. Process

#### A. Roll call of Board members

Board Members: Neil Beup, John Viglione, Kathy Fay, Ron Araujo, Stephen Bruno, Larry Rush, Anthony Kosior, Jack Traver, Kathy Fay, Melissa Kops, John Wright, Ben McMillan (DEEP), Amanda Fargo-Johnson, Hammad Chaudhry, Donald Mauritz

Board Consultants: Kyle Huston, Stacy Sherwood, Leigh Michael, Richard Faesy, George Lawrence, Lisa Skumatz, Phil Mosenthal

#### B. Approval of [April minutes](#)

Mr. John Wright motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Jack Traver seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-0 with Ms. Fargo-Johnson abstaining.

#### C. Consultant Committee Recommendation for Executive Secretary Position and Board Vote

Ms. Fargo-Johnson discussed [the memo sent to Board leadership](#) outlining the recommendation of hiring Sedor Engineering as the next Executive Secretary. Mr. Traver moved to accept the recommendation and Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed 10-0.

#### D. Announcement of Chair and Vice Chair Voting in June

Ms. Sherwood stated that the June vote would be held off until August.

#### E. June 28 EEB Annual Planning Meeting

Mr. Huston provided an update on the annual planning meeting which will be held June 28 at a net zero elementary school in the Manchester School District. We are still confirming whether in person attendance will be open to the public.

#### F. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

### 2. Programs and Planning

#### A. Focus Area- Financing – Technical Consultants

Ms. Sherwood presented information on [financing energy efficiency programs](#). Provided a broad overview of the characteristics and types of typical energy efficiency financing.

Mr. Bruno, Ms. Madeline Priest, and Mr. Mackey Dykes discussed what current financing programs are in place right now, what their characteristics are, and what volume they've seen with the programs. Ms. Fay clarified that all the information on these loans is up to date on the EnergizeCT website. Mr. Beup mentioned he would like to see the savings

information for these programs. The companies confirmed that information is tracked and can be provided.

Ms. Sherwood showed what other states are doing to finance energy efficiency improvements. She shared that the common findings show residential participation is largely driven by a response to an immediate need. The availability of financing is low for those who may need it most, and customers lack knowledge of what is available.

Ms. Kops mentioned the lack of reporting on available loans. She questioned if customers are aware of these programs. Ms. Priest answered that customers are aware and the implementation contractors go over all these programs with customers as they do the work.

Mr. Beup gave his thoughts on financing. He raised the concern that often the people who need this money the most are given the most complicated programs with many hoops to jump through, higher interest rates, and longer loan terms. In the C&I sector, he questions who the market is for these programs and if they really need the money. Ms. Vicki Hackett agreed and added there should be an extra focus on incentives for lower income customers when financing may not be the best option for them currently.

Mr. Faesy asked if there should be a deeper evaluation study to measure how customers can be better served by these programs. Mr. Beup believes there should be a study and added these programs can hurt customers with the way they're set up now because they're encouraged to take on debt that they may not be able to handle. Ms. Fay agreed that a study is important but cautioned that customer experience will continue to suffer if the study takes too long, and nothing is implemented until the results of the study are found. Ms. Kops added that these evaluations are necessary as a way to alleviate concerns of contractors misrepresenting savings numbers and saddling customers with extra debt.

B. Q1 2023 Program Result – Companies

i. Discuss Potential PMI Metric

The companies presented their [Q1 2023 program results](#). They broke out what their spending levels are on energy efficiency projects and how that relates to their goals for the year. Avangrid's residential savings shown in this presentation are an estimate estimated. The committee discussed moving toward showing MMBtu as it would be a better representation of true savings instead of what is currently reported.

Ms. Sherwood questioned why Avangrid's numbers are an estimate currently. Mr. Rush answered they have changed the tracking system they use, which has been happening over the last year. They expect to have all the numbers trued up by the end of Q2.

Mr. Beup raised the concern that it's difficult for the Board to correctly evaluate their current programs without accurate reporting, and that the Board should have been made aware of this issue as soon as the issue was discovered. He went on to ask the Board if a PMI with a penalty may be appropriate to ensure companies are reporting accurate data in a timely manner.

Mr. Chaudhry explained that they're replacing a system that was almost 20 years old. Nothing is broken but it's taking time to work out all the issues. He added they told the Board the switch was happening and haven't tried to hide anything. Mr. Beup questioned

if Avangrid expected this timeline. Mr. Chaudhry answered any system switch will run into unexpected issues, especially for one as old as the previous system, but they are on their expected timeline. Mr. Rush added that reporting for 2022 was done with the legacy system so estimated numbers started in Q1 2023. Mr. Bruno added that companies go through two separate audits each year to ensure their data is accurate.

Mr. Beup recommended consultants work with Board leadership on a PMI proposal to be put in front of the Board at the next meeting. The Board will discuss and make any necessary changes at that time. A vote would happen after that process is completed. Ms. Fay shared a concern that there isn't consistency in how data is reported to the Board. She would like to see more standardization in reporting processes.

Ms. Sherwood added that the consultants appreciate the effort to switch to a new tracking system. The time it takes is worthwhile, but the lack of communication and transparency is a problem. The consultants were unaware Q1 results would be estimated until two weeks before this meeting. She stressed that an open communication line between the companies, consultants, and Board leadership is important.

Mr. Beup discussed how the Board understands what happens when there are major system upgrades, but operational hiccups don't come without consequences especially when the data is as critical as this is. The Board will establish what ongoing consequences may be necessary to ensure accuracy and transparency in reported data moving forward.

C. Discussion: Legislative Charge of the EEB – Technical Consultants

Ms. Sherwood gave an overview on the [legislative charge of the EEB](#). She highlighted public acts and their language, outlining the duties of the Board. Mr. Beup added that this language is important to understand as it helps guide where the Board's focus should be.

Ms. Kops questioned if the weatherization goal is on track to be achieved by 2030. She commented on the lack of a definition and reporting so it is hard to understand where those results stand right now and what can be done moving forward. Mr. McMillan confirmed that there is a proposal with DEEP to create the definition though there is no timeframe for that to be complete. The Board discussed that even though that definition isn't finalized, we have a broad definition to work from right now and work is still being done during the wait for a formalized definition.

Ms. Sherwood laid out considerations from DEEP and asked the Board what level of involvement DEEP should have in Board plans. Mr. Beup responded that input from DEEP is important and should be part of plan development instead of the Board doing it on their own and hoping DEEP agrees after the fact. Ms. Fargo-Johnson agreed that DEEP input is important, however the Board needs to be considerate of using ratepayer dollars effectively and ensure the overall process isn't detrimental.

Ms. Sherwood discussed C&LM parity. Parity was a metric developed by the EEB and is not a legislative requirement. She asked the Board how parity should be handled moving forward. Ms. Fargo-Johnson stated parity is important to ensure dollars are going to appropriate places. Mr. Beup added that it's important to have political support for

these programs, so all customers get appropriate benefits that match or exceed what they contribute. The recommendation from the technical consultants is to continue including parity in the plan document.

D. DEEP Updates – DEEP

i. Draft Determination for 2023 Plan Update

Ms. Becca Trietch gave an [overview of DEEP's work](#) in preparation for federal funding. DEEP has been working with multiple entities to ensure all parties are aligned and able to use upcoming funding as efficiently and effectively as possible.

ii. Greenstorm meeting update

Greenstorm discussions have been happening which include DEEP, the EEB, Green Bank, and EDC's. Research shows that at lower household sizes the federal standard of 80% AMI is not greater than the state 60% AMI. Ms. Fargo-Johnson asked if Greenstorm is working with the municipal utilities included Wallingford and other CMEC utility members. Ms. Trietch answered that it doesn't, but they will include that moving forward.

iii. WAP/HES-IE Coordination Efforts

DEEP has been meeting weekly with program administrators to ensure coordination between these programs.

iv. Residential Energy Preparation Services (REPS) Reporting

Ms. Trietch outlined the barriers customers are facing and how they are being addressed through the Weatherization Barrier Remediation Program.

v. Federal Funding Effort

Ms. Trietch presented a table of specific federal funding opportunities and their expected timeline.

vi. Legislative Updates

Ms. Vicki Hackett discussed legislative updates. She gave an update on where each bill is in the legislative process and noted that very little has changed since last month's update.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Adjourn

Mr. Traver moved to adjourn, and Ms. Fargo-Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed 14-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 3:41 PM.