

Institute for Sustainable Energy
Board of Advisors
Draft

Board Meeting: June 26, 2006

Members Present

Arthur Diedrick, Board Chairman

Peggy Diaz, Dept. of Public Utility Control (representing Donald Downes)

Shirley Bergert, Public Benefits Taskforce Director, CT Legal Services

John Mengacci, Undersecretary, Policy Development & Planning Division, OPM

Bryan Garcia. CT Clean Energy Fund

Staff: William Leahy, Director of Operations, ISE

Adam Brzozowski, ISE, Acting Secretary

Guest: Dr. Michael Pernal, President, Eastern Connecticut State University

The meeting was called to order by Arthur Diedrick at 9:00 a.m.

Arthur Diedrick asked the board to welcome its newest member, Bryan Garcia, representing the CT Clean Energy Fund (CCEF). Bryan replaces Emily Smith from Connecticut Innovations. Bryan took a few minutes to describe the current activities of the CCEF.

Old Business

Arthur Diedrick requested that the Advisory Board members consider the minutes of the April 3, 2006 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion carried.

Legislative Activity:

The group discussed the recent activity of the General Assembly, and specifically the Energy and Technology Committee. It was reported that the Leadership of the Legislature scheduled a series of energy summits with the final summit to be held on August 10th, 2006. The Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader are hosting the meetings and, based on the testimony presented, may decide to call for a special session later this fall. Presently, a Raised Bill 5818 - An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future - is being developed which aggregates proposed bills from the 2006 session. Topics being addressed in the draft include: biofuels, natural gas and oil efficiency, low income energy assistance, long term contracts for distributed generation and renewable energy, Renewable Portfolio Standards, and green building standards. Discussions during a special session may also seek actions that provide restoration of the Efficiency and Clean Energy Funds.

New Business

Progress on 2005 ECMB Goals

High School Energy Education:

A new website, called www.ctenergyeducation.com will be launched in the fall. ISE has also been working through regional cooperative education entities in Hartford and Fairfield County to arrange workshop with teachers to integrate the energy lessons into english, civics, science and math curriculums. Laurel Kohl has created an energy curriculum which will conform to and utilize the current educational frameworks for Connecticut in order to better ensure that energy

issues are integrated into lessons taught by secondary schools teachers. ISE also hopes to work with CCEF on supplemental educational programs with topics addressing renewable energy. Future outreach efforts will also target private schools. Bill Leahy is presenting at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools. ISE also will continue its work on the 2006 Connecticut Envirothon which will focus on a theme of sustainability in the 2006 – 2007 school year.

The ICCE Conference on the environment was cancelled due to an insufficient number of applicants. ECSU will perform both the recruiting function and program development functions next year in order to prevent this from happening again. The ICCE curriculum developed by ISE will be used this summer with the 60-80 high school students participating in the 2006 Connecticut Collegiate Awareness Program this.

Green Campus:

The long term energy study for Southern Connecticut State University has been completed and the studies for both Eastern Connecticut State University and Western Connecticut State University energy study are nearly complete. The Central Connecticut State University study will be conducted by engineering and construction technology students this fall. The 2006 greenhouse gas emissions reduction report card for the CT Climate Change Action Plan will include results from the campus studies conducted by ISE.

Multi Family Demonstration Project:

Research is underway to address the issue of how to create effective energy efficiency and renewable energy programs that engage tenants, building management and owners of multifamily units. ISE has been working with CHFA to improve the building standards when developers are borrowing for new and renovated affordable housing units. Demonstration projects are being conducted by ISE on a 90 unit elderly housing complex and a condominium in southwestern CT. A major issue with the use of energy efficiency funding is that money paid into the fund by low income citizens should on be used funding capital improvements that benefit owners and developers of multifamily complexes. ISE is also developing a website aimed at providing better access the information and public resources concerning energy assistance.

Building Code Training

In September and October, there will be five training sessions for local building inspectors on the energy related changes to the Connecticut Building Codes. In 2004, Connecticut adopted the 2003 International Energy Conservation Code and ASHREA 90.1 2001. The goal of these training sessions is to train over 100 local building inspectors in the code changes.

B. Progress on other 2005 ISE Initiatives

CEAB, 2006 & 2007 Connecticut Energy Plans

ISE will again assist the CEAB in developing the 2007 CT Energy Plan. ISE is meeting with a CEAB Working Group to create a report card for the 2006 CT Energy Plans and a strategy for developing the 2007 plan..

High Performance Schools project with CT GBC & CCEF

The Connecticut General Assembly passed a bill that requires High Performance Building Standards is followed for all future State of Connecticut building projects. However, the

legislature was not able to pass the bill recommending that all municipal projects receiving state funding, including public school, be built to high performance building standards. The Raised Bill 5818, currently being written by the Energy and Technology Committee includes the provisions for all state funded new construction projects over \$5million and renovations over \$2 million. ISE is currently working with Windham and Bridgeport to develop specifications for their magnet schools using High Performance Building Standards.

Benchmarking for OPM:

ISE recently completed benchmarking studies for the DMV, the State Police Barracks and the Agriculture Experiment Stations under a grant from OPM.

DG Activity & Northeast CHP Initiative

In June, ISE hosted a Northeast Combined Heat and Power Initiative monthly meeting at UCONN. The Institute is also currently working with the NE CHP application centers at UMASS and Pace University on two DG projects, one at a hospital in southwestern CT, and a second at a food manufacturer in the Hartford area.

C. 2007 Budget Request and future funding opportunities

Bill Leahy reported that a \$600,000 budget is needed in 2007 to adequately fund the Institute. In 2006, the ECMB has reduced funding to ISE proportionally to the reduction in the fund. One possible source of funding is to increase ISE role with ECMB by assisting in the coordination process of projects that combine funding from both CCEF and CEEF, such as in the Multifamily Demonstration Project, the High Performance Schools Initiative, or the State Buildings Initiative. Another likely source of funding for ISE could be in the development and implementation of energy education programs.

3. Plan for future meeting

Next meeting – Monday, August 7th

A motion was made and seconded to close meeting. The motion carried.

Adam Brzozowski,
ISE, Acting Secretary