

Institute for Sustainable Energy
Board of Advisors

Board Meeting: August 7, 2006

Members present:

Arthur Diedrick, Board Chairman
Dana Kubachka for Donald Downes, Dept. of Public Utility Control
John Mengacci, Undersecretary, Policy Development & Planning Division, OPM
Bryan Garcia, Director, Energy Market Initiatives, Connecticut Clean Energy Fund

Staff: William Leahy, Director of Operations, ISE
Laurel Kohl, ISE, Acting Secretary

Guests: Michael Pernal, Vice President, Eastern Connecticut State University

The meeting was called to order by Arthur Diedrick at 10:08 a.m.

Arthur Diedrick requested that Advisory Board members consider the minutes of the June 26, 2006 meeting. A motion was made by Bryan Garcia to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Dana Kubachka. The motion carried.

Progress on Initiatives

CSU Green Campus Initiative

The energy report for Southern Connecticut State University is complete, and the energy reports for Eastern and Western are in their final stages of development and review. Central's report will be completed by the end of the year. ISE will utilize CCSU's construction management and engineering students to complete the campus energy use and building assessments needed for the study. ISE will conduct a workshop for the Central students prior to the start of the study.

Bill Leahy indicated that in 2007, ISE would like to expand the Green Campus Initiative to include the state's Community Colleges

Greening of Eastern

Eastern's application to the 2006 Connecticut Quality Improvement Award won a Gold Award. The CT Quality Improvement Award is a prerequisite for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's highest Presidential honor for quality and organizational performance excellence. Eastern won the Gold Award for the "Greening of Eastern" initiative and will receive the award at an October ceremony at Water's Edge. Eastern's award is one of 20 awarded in the state this year and the only award going to a university. The application for the award centered on the many facets of Eastern's green campus initiative, including the Sustainable Energy Studies academic program, the new LEED designed facilities, the biofuel study, and the outreach activities of ISE.

Bill Leahy will be presenting a paper on "Using Sustainability to Connect Academia with Government" and a poster presentation on the "Greening of Eastern" at the 1st annual conference of the Association for Advancement for Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). The conference will be held at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona in October. AASHE is

the only membership-based association of colleges and universities working to advance sustainability in higher education in the US and Canada.

Multi-Family Demonstration Project

Historically, the utilities have had difficulty servicing the multi-family sector with the CEEF programs. This is primarily because of the difficulty of motivating building owners or tenants to make significant energy efficiency improvements. Earlier this year, ISE assisted CHFA in rewriting their affordable housing loan program to adopted high performance and Energy Star standards. This represents a significant step toward making housing projects affordable and stressing the importance of efficiency measures. ISE is also working on 3 demonstration projects: including an all electric eighty-four unit elderly housing project in Wilton. The project includes identification of efficiency improvements, presenting funding opportunities and providing project coordination. As a result of workshops held by ISE in Fairfield and New Britain, HUD and a number of housing authorities are already tapping into the CEEF programs. One of the recommendations of the assessment process is that “case managers” are needed to guide multifamily building projects through the efficiency assessment and financing processes. This will require training individuals who are skilled in assessing how the project fits with a portfolio of available incentive, financing and tax credit options.

High Performance Schools

An “Advance Copy” of a report on the efficiency of the existing public schools in Connecticut is now available. The data analysis prepared by ISE demonstrates that CT schools are very inefficient, with schools ranking in the lowest quartile. The most probable explanation is because 90% of our schools are greater than 25 years old. Also, a group of 67% existing schools were built between 1950 and 1978; a time when energy prices were low and many schools were being built. The data indicates there is a likelihood of a \$40 Million dollars potential annual savings for communities if these schools were improved and brought up to the 50% mark.

Lise Dondy of the CCEF and DPUC Commissioners Jack Betkoski and Ann George have called a meeting to discuss improving school efficiency and developing an interface between the CEEF and CCEF programs. Bill Leahy and Steve Weisman of the Peregrine Energy Group will present the results of a number of school efficiency studies. There is a need to address more than just the kilowatt hour savings with the existing schools. Evaluations should include evaluating oil and gas savings opportunities and building envelop improvements as well as financing alternatives.

Bill Leahy will be making a presentation to the CT Association of Boards of Education conference, and to the CT Association of Independent Schools. The Hartford Courant is planning to do an article on the results found in the Energy Efficiency report on Connecticut Schools.

Code Training

Dates have been set for the fall training, with sessions scheduled for Willimantic, New Haven, Fairfield, Newtown, and Berlin. The first session at Eastern will be taped in order to produce a DVD for attendees.

High School Energy Education

The www.CTEnergyEducation.com website will go live this week. ISE has a 2-day workshop scheduled with teachers to be held in Hartford in August. All of the lessons will be reviewed by

this skilled group of educators. Additional workshop presentations and activities are planned for the fall to get the program into classrooms statewide.

Legislative Activities

The fourth State Energy Summit is scheduled for August 10. It will be sponsored by the Speaker of the House. The Energy and Technology Committee is refining the language in LCO 5818 which is now up to 108 pages and covers a number of important energy issues. Bill Leahy is scheduled to testify at the Summit on high performance school design, energy efficiency in schools, Gas and Oil Conservation programs, and Low Income Energy Efficiency.

Arthur suggested developing and bringing a reference sheet of the ISE's accomplishments. It was suggested that Bill meet with the secretary of OPM to discuss ISE, and provide him with a copy of the HP schools report. The Governor will be releasing her vision on energy state policy this week. It will include short- intermediate- and long-term goals. Many recommendations are also currently covered under the CT Climate Action Plan or the state energy plan.

Bill met with House Speaker Jim Amann's office concerning applications for Connecticut using biofuel. John Mengacci mentioned a California study that was release, showing emissions of NOx from biofuels more than 10% higher than traditional fuels. Bill has suggested that ECSU work with UCONN and Yale on a biofuels marketing analysis. Bryan Garcia mentioned that biofuels might be a part of the Renewable Fuels Portfolio Standards for "Other Fuels" use.

State Facilities Initiatives

Benchmarking of thirty-eight state facilities has been completed under grant funding provided by OPM. The ECMB finds value in the benchmarking studies, along with a state report card for assessing buildings for CL&M project funding to improve state buildings. DPW and the Department of Corrections can now utilize the existing small business program, with 50% funding from CEEF and 50% from DPW's conservation account to complete efficiency improvement projects. Renovations projects will be identified and pre-qualified with the benchmarking scores. CSU buildings can be included under this process. John Mengacci sees a significant increase in the state utilization of benchmarking. Improved digital database access will be needed to facilitate more benchmarking.

Annual Report

The 2005 Annual Report draft was distributed.

ISE Budget

The proposed 2007 budget will be reviewed by ECMB tomorrow. ISE is asking for \$500,000 for 2007 programs. ISE is expecting to utilize \$130,000 from the 2006 budget to complete multifamily and Energy Education projects. ECMB is proposing a budget of approximately \$300,000 for 2007. The issue remains that we are funded and budgeting from year to year. This uncertainty makes it difficult to hire staff without assured funding.

The next meeting of the ISE Board will be on Tuesday, October 10, 2006 at 10 AM.

A motion was made by John Mengacci, seconded by Dana Kubachka to adjourn at 11:12 am. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurel Kohl
Acting Secretary