

Institute for Sustainable Energy

Board of Advisors

Approved

Advisory Board Meeting: April 5, 2010

Members present:

Arthur Diedrick, Chair

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

Bob Wall, Director, Energy Market Initiatives, Connecticut Clean Energy Fund

Sean West, EH&S Project Manager, United Technologies

Staff: William Leahy, Director, ISE

Michael Pernal, ECSU

Laura Worthington, ISE

The meeting was called to order by Arthur Diedrick at 10.15 am. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2010 meeting by Sean West. Motion seconded by John Mengacci. Accepted.

**New Business**

**Green Collar Jobs – Workplace, Inc - “Pathways from Poverty” grant status.**

This is a workforce development initiative that identifies 800 people from the Bridgeport area and offers them training and placement in career tracks for green jobs, using Green Career Ladders, discussed in previous meeting minutes. There are currently four different career ladders that have been constructed from regional employment surveys. Each quarter the course plans to introduce 100 people. The first groups of people have gone through screening and are now receiving training for improving Math and English skills and are also dealing with childcare and transportation issues. Last week 70 candidates attended the first orientation session in Bridgeport, also in attendance was the U.S. Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis, Bridgeport Mayor, Bill Finch, and Attorney General, Richard Blumenthal. Media present included National Public Radio (NPR). Arthur suggested Bill work as a source for NPR and as Arthur is on their board will discuss this opportunity further. Sean raised CT unemployment question about if there is something in place that places unemployed people into these types of programs. The pathways project is to take place over the next two years and ISE is in charge of curriculum development.

John asked if water pollution control being included into this project as a career, to which Bill responded it is part of the careers under the resource management career ladder. John also discussed the Nitrogen Credit Advisory Board overseen by DEP and their concern about the next generation of employees. Betsy Winfield coordinates this board. ISE should consider nitrogen as a possibility for the resource management career sector.

**CT Energy Sector Partnership grant status.**

Through an organization put together by the governor, Connecticut received \$3.2 million dollars split up into five different pools. A portion was given to ISE to train building inspectors for building code compliance and also energy efficient methods targeting new technologies. The

more knowledgeable inspectors are the more energy efficient buildings can become. Bill highlighted the importance of green building system operation and there is a need for training of existing employees.

### **Green Jobs Coordination and Policy Committee.**

Speaker of the house Chris Donovan to look at what should be done with regard to green jobs. Bill discussed bill 5164 which accepts and ensures that Technical School and Community Colleges have programs available that allow people to progress through careers. Another energy bill discussed the idea of standard credentialing. John raises question of controls on credentialing. Bill states the CT Association of Energy Engineers, offers a nationally accepted building Certified Energy Managers (CEM) certification and Solar Interstate Regional Energy Council offers credentials for Solar Thermal Training. Unions, the trades and the Dept. of Consumer Affairs insists that solar PV installers to have E-1 status. Although all solar installers are not required to have an electrician E-1 status there are some nuances needed with solar thermal. Geothermal energy is still in discussion. Arthur raised question about CDA overseeing energy projects to which John responded with information about CDA Loan Guarantee program – related to renewable energy projects. The group discussed issue of financing and that the CT Energy Efficiency Fund now has loan funds for residential projects. Bob suggests greater opportunities for families to install solar power is needed.

### **CT Energy Workforce Development Consortium.**

The CBIA Workforce Development Consortium was discussed and the need to fill the void of needing licensed water treatment and wastewater treatment operators. The grant applied for by CBIA was not accepted. The DOL grant had thousands of proposals and those not accepted the first time are encouraged to apply for a second round using those projects that were funded as a guideline. Community colleges were highlighted by ARRA for providing short term training for employment requirements of state – however, many colleges in CT are now less technical. The main technical colleges in CT are now Naugatuck, Gateway, Norwalk, Manchester and Three Rivers. Bob asked about Access grant status, Bill stated it was not accepted and was given to ten smaller organizations who offered more hands on training in the workforce. There is currently a Request for Proposal from the CCEF for funding for renewable energy training equipment. The grant is primarily for equipment needed to teach the classes and training for renewable energy, Mike asked if Windham Technical High School was involved, this was not the case.

### **Task Force Assignments –**

#### **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council**

This council was created to support state infrastructure to support electric vehicles. Most purchasing of electric vehicles will be from people with shorter commutes and by companies with fleets. Bob asked about the typical range per charge for electric vehicles, between 50 and 100 miles per charge. John discussed the various types of vehicles and how there are some with rapid charge options. Arthur asked about the cost of charge to which Bill stated a \$1.80 gas equivalent. There are issues between the different types of electric vehicle chargers, 40 amp charges in 35 minutes whilst 60 amp charges in 15 minutes. There are also problems with charging and installation prices, there is also no current road tax on energy for electric vehicles as there is no gas tax collected. ISE is conducting research and will produce a report about impact of EV on the grid by this June. Also ISE and OPM will work together with public outreach for these projects.

### **CT Building Code –**

#### **Compliance Survey and Evaluation – grant**

A grant was given to train building inspectors by OPM, ISE are responsible for creating pre and post surveys to assess current building code compliance. After the building code training is completed, DPS will be expected to demonstrate 90% code compliance with the new code. In 2012 spot inspections and building inspector tests will begin. This is a \$300,000 grant with the ISE receiving \$30,000.

#### **Docket No. 09-10-03 DPUC Review of the CCEF 2010 C&LM Plan**

Each year there is a review of the plan for energy conservation, March 17<sup>th</sup> the plan was released. There were various efficiency funds and two areas where ISE came up; training with schools from last year and tracking energy bills to see if savings had occurred as a result of the training. DPUC would like to expand this training to more building operators, they would like ISE's ideas for how to expand this, including providing more code training using comcheck and rescheck required for inspectors to show compliance of buildings. There has been a suggestion to the utilities for how ISE can help provide hands on training for builders. As a result ISE will be meeting with the utilities.

### **Green School Initiative –**

#### **CT Energy Education/ “Keep CT Cool”**

Keep CT Cool! this year has 31 teams totaling 220 student participants, twice the amount we have had in the past. Bill made a request for judges for the contest which will take place on Monday April 26<sup>th</sup> at the CT Science Center (the same day the center is being awarded LEED gold certification). Let Bill know if you are available to judge or if you know other candidates that will be willing to attend. The contest is aimed at Intermediate and Middle through High School students who will produce a project focusing on energy issues within their schools and how to change them. Prizes include \$3,000 and \$1,000 to be used towards implementing ideas from their project. There will be media opportunities at this venue which would give greater visibility for ISE. Mike will discuss this with ECSU Ed Osborn.

#### **CTHSS Curriculum Revision**

The architectural drafting curriculum committee is in the process of designing materials for students to learn how to incorporate solar thermal and implement new technologies to improve energy efficiency of buildings. Ideally they will construct the building and install the new technologies as part of their training.

#### **Green School Advocate – CCEF, US & CT GBC**

The Connecticut Green Building Council's how to build green schools is planning some seminars which detail how to build high performance schools.

### **Community Outreach –**

#### **B-Green 2010 – Bridgeport Sustainability Project**

The City of Bridgeport has initiated a Youth conservation Corp which includes activities like installing rain barrels and rainwater mitigation, installing CFLs, and signing-up residents for

HES and Clean Energy. The library has been selected for renovation into a community energy center. They are currently trying to pursue grant and leverage money, the EPA are also interested.

### **Hole-in-the-Wall-Gang Camp**

ISE has conducted research and has a project with the camp's Green Committee who want the camp to be recognized as "green". Although there are tips online for ways of making a camp green there is as of yet no designation for what exactly a green camp is. ISE will have a draft of the report to the camp by this Friday (April 9<sup>th</sup>), with the final report to be submitted in May. The executive director of the camp is very enthusiastic about greening the camp.

### **Other –**

March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was cancelled, the next meeting will be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010. John commented on the success with grants this year. Bill stated he had received permission to create two more jobs at ISE.

Motion was made by Arthur Diedrick to adjourn. Motion seconded by John Mengacci. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.25 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Worthington  
Acting Secretary