

Institute for Sustainable Energy
Board Meeting
March 1, 2004

Members present:

Arthur Diedrick, Chairman, Connecticut Clean Energy Fund
Donald Downes, Chairman, Dept. of Public Utility Control
Shirley Bergert, Public Benefits Taskforce Director, CT Legal Services

Guests:

Dana Kubachka, DPUC
Dr. Michael Pernal, ECSU
Joel Rinebold, Institute Executive Director
William Leahy, Institute Associate Executive Director
Laurel Kohl, Institute Acting Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Arthur Diedrick at 9:32 AM.

Arthur Diedrick requested Advisory Board members consider the minutes of the February 2, 2004 meeting. A motion was made by Donald Downes to accept the minutes; it was seconded by Arthur Diedrick. The motion carried.

2004 Budget:

The DPUC, after recommendation by the ECMB, has approved the Institute budget for \$850,000. Discussion took place concerning the upcoming 2005 budget activities of the ECMB. It was stated that the composition of the ECMB membership should remain stable and that the CT State budget situation is not expected to impact the Conservation and Load Management Fund. The Institute will continue to seek additional sources of income including grants through DOE and EPA. (revision: Actual 2004 Budget approved \$839,032)

Dr. Pernal stated that a legislative request was received from Robert Ward to do a cost comparative study of an overhead versus underground installation of the 345 kV transmission line in Phase 2 from Middletown to Norwalk. This is an unfunded request. The Institute staff expressed concern that the study was more of an engineering study including cost comparison than a study of alternative sustainable energy strategies and outside the mission of the Institute. The Board was asked for their input.

Goals and Objectives 2004:

William Leahy stated that he has met with the utilities company representatives and with a sub-committee of the ECMB to create measurable goals and milestones for the Institute's 2004 work plan. The Institute's current emphasis lies in supporting the planning and implementation process steps for the Ct Climate Change Action Plan as well as the assisting utilities in conservation efforts with state facilities, municipalities and universities; groups that are traditionally undersubscribed in conservation programs. The goals developed fit well with the Institute's mission to promote sustainability energy planning and energy solutions. In Goal 5, the monitoring of conservation in conjunction with the installation of renewable energy measures, Arthur Diedrick suggested that the Institute speak with Lise Dondy of CCEF who is

undertaking monitoring of the fuel cell and solar installations. The Institute is already mapping the location renewable energy project on our GIS system.

Donald Downes stated that the CT Academy of Science and Technology (CAST) is being considered as the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board's official research organization. It was suggested that the ISE have alternatives to steer requestors to, such as CAST, if asked to do work that is outside the Institute focus. A discussion followed which examined the future possibilities for the Institute's areas of focus, including implementation of initiatives included in the Connecticut Climate Change Action Plan, the connection with the Sustainable Energy Studies curriculum at ECSU, as well as ISE's being promoting as an informed neutral view on energy sustainability and renewable resources.

New Business:

The 2003 Annual Report was presented to the Board. It will be circulated to energy and environment related agencies in the coming weeks. Arthur Diedrick suggested a cover letter summary be added and that it be presented at the appropriate Legislative committee meetings.

Energy Star Award:

William Leahy will be going to the EPA Annual Energy Star Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. on March 2, 2004 to accept an Energy Star Partner of the Year Award for Excellence in promoting Energy Efficiency and Environmental Education. EPA will be handing out 57 national awards in various categories.

High Performance (HP) Schools:

Bills have been introduced into legislation to promote HP Schools, including a mandate to meet LEED standard in new schools, a 2% adder to bonding to support the incremental cost of efficiency, and a standard stating that a certified building would be at least 20% more efficient than standard code construction. William Leahy stated that he is working with Bryan Garcia of CCEF, the Green Building Council and other interested parties to develop a workshop promoting the benefits of HP schools, including the value of day-lighting for improving student's classroom performance and air quality improvements to reduce absenteeism. The presentation would target local building committees and Boards of Education at their regularly scheduled meetings. Donald Downes suggested it also be extended to reach out to PTA groups.

Green Campus:

There was a regional Climate Change workshop in Boston which drew about 400 students from around New England and eastern Canada. The Institute and ECSU were in attendance and William Leahy presented several workshops. A regional taskforce has been established by the NE Governor's association, which Bill Leahy is a member. The group will be developing the New England University Climate Initiatives. Over 90 campuses in New England have ratified the NEG/ECP's Climate Change Action Plan. ECSU is in the final stages of selecting the new Sustainable Energy Studies Endowed Chair. ISE is developing a model for campus sustainability. On March 10, 2004, ECSU/ISE will convene a "Greening" committee to complete the Campus Sustainability Assessment of ECSU, the first step to developing a comprehensive "Green Campus" Action Plan.

Grants:

CCEF has granted \$20,000 to the UN Children's Conference that will be held in New London in July, in support of workshops focused on fuel cells and windmills/waterwheels. The workshops will be developed by ISE with the support of the CT Clean Energy Fund and NREL.

DOE has provided the Institute with a \$10,000 grant to promote Energy Star products to municipal officials. It has been suggested that the workshop be developed and that it could be videotaped and used on CTN. Tapes could also be provided to community groups.

Education:

A Global Climate Change Education Conference will be hosted by the Institute and the CT Earth Science Teachers' Association at ECSU on May 15, 2004.

Next meeting: Scheduled for Monday March 29, 2004 at 9:30 AM.

A motion was made by Shirley Bergert and seconded by Arthur Diedrick to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurel Kohl
Acting secretary