

Institute for Sustainable Energy
Board of Advisors

Advisory Board Meeting: July 13, 2009

Members present:

Arthur Diedrick, Chair
Shirley Bergert, Public Benefits Taskforce Director, CT Legal Services
Bob Wall, Director, Energy Market Initiatives, Connecticut Clean Energy Fund
Sean West, EH&S Project Manager, United Technologies
Dana Kubachka, for Donald Downes, Dept. Public Utility Control

Staff: William Leahy, Director, ISE
Laurel Kohl, ISE

The meeting was called to order by Arthur Diedrick at 10:10 am. The minutes of the February 2, 2009 meeting were presented. A motion was made by Shirley Bergert to accept the minutes. Motion seconded by Bob Wall. Motion carried. Minutes of unofficial meetings held without quorum on April 6 and June 1 were accepted into the record.

The Work Plan and Budget to be presented to the ECMB for the October 1, 2009 filing were presented to the board by William Leahy. The budget provided by the ECMB for 2010 program activities and recommended in DPUC Docket 07-10-03 is \$500,000. Arthur Diedrick questioned how the new budget was arrived at. Leahy explained that the income amount was recommended for years by the DPUC and was apportioned across new and existing programs as recommended by the ECMB Education committee.

www.CTEnergyInfo.com - Board members stated that although the website has been quite successful, the links in the site could be strengthened, including more information on Connecticut based programs, including those offered by the Clean Energy Fund and CMEC. The section devoted to current financing availabilities and incentives should also be highlighted. It was suggested that a student worker be assigned to investigate these areas and supplement the current web information and links.

Green Collar Jobs - It was noted by Shirley Bergert that ISE has a growing reputation for expertise in leadership in Green Collar Jobs. She suggested that ISE publicize this strength.

Leahy reported that DSS is planning to centralize the job training for weatherization skills for the Community Action Programs in the state focused on the DOE audit. Some \$11 million of the expected \$64 million in ARRA for weatherization will go for education and training. Most of the responsibility for weatherization will be performed in programs managed by the CAP agencies and DECD. Shirley Bergert will be presenting to legislators on how funds are going to meet educational needs.

Green Jobs and Tech High Schools—Meetings are ongoing with the Curriculum Coordinators and faculty from the construction trades departments of the Connecticut Technical High Schools. Materials on energy efficiency and high performance building standards are being integrated into the Fall 2009 program. In addition, a section of the six-day School Energy Management course will be offered to CTHSS this fall for its 17 building managers.

Keep Connecticut Cool—Laurel Kohl reported that ISE held judging for Keep CT Cool! in May at Eastern with 16 teams including over 100 students participating. Teams included students in grades 5-12. Their projects ranged from buying tropical lands for carbon sequestration, reducing energy use in the schools, to replacing cafeteria Styrofoam trays with reusable or recyclable materials. Some of the projects will be featured on the www.CTClimateChange.com Climate Heroes.

Workforce Development – ISE continues to work on shaping the Green “collar Job training program in Connecticut. Bill Leahy presented a national webinar for EPA on approaches to Green Collar Jobs certification. He is also a member of the CT Energy Workforce Development Consortium coordinated by CBIA. He has held meetings with the CT Community Colleges and the Connecticut Tech High School administrations to collaborate on developing certification level training programs.

Leahy is also working with The Workplace, the Regional Workforce Development Board for Fairfield County, and has presented two regional workshops in southwest Connecticut for political, educational and energy business leaders to discuss where to build capacity in these sectors and how to match public and private sector jobs with those in need of jobs. The Workplace is filing for a Department of Labor grant from for job creation in Bridgeport under “Pathways from Poverty”.

BGreen 2020—Bill participated in a meeting with the BGreen 2020 Bridgeport team and EPA in Boston. The municipality is applying for a Model Cities Grant. More than 120 individuals are working on the six subcommittees for this municipal plan. Bill heads the green energy/green buildings team and is also working on the green jobs committee.

2009 Legislative Session—PA 09-192 was passed with Green Building Standards for commercial and multifamily (4+ units) buildings. The legislation adopts the latest IECC standards and the latest ASHRAE standard within 6 months of new versions being accepted and published. This will automatically update the energy section of the Connecticut Building Code to stay current with new standards. Legislation also added a member to the code committee, someone with a minimum of 10 years of energy efficiency experience which should strengthen this area of code development and application.

Promoting programs and Accomplishments - It was noted that a comprehensive report, including initiatives from ISE, ECMB, CCEF and CMEC is needed to inform legislators about current programs. With many new staff and legislators in the General Assembly, some are less informed about the range and content of energy related programs. It was questioned if this should be co-funded under CEEF and CCEF marketing funding, and that a comprehensive presentation should include a description each of the programs.

Arthur Diedrick suggested that ISE send a letter to legislators when ISE programs are serving their communities for information and legislative recognition of the importance of these service to the towns.

How to Build a Green Building—ISE delivered the course syllabus to Capital Community College for a course on building high performance Green buildings. The course will be offered in the fall, in both a 2 day intro seminar and a 3 credit course length.

ARRA Boot-camp—Bill Leahy will be presenting at the New Energy Jobs boot-camp to be hosted by Tremaine Foundation and the Annie Casey Foundation. A meeting will be held in the morning for leaders in development, deployment, training and sustainability of programs. In the afternoon, municipal leaders will be attending.

Leahy also worked with Tremaine Foundation and the Connecticut Council on Philanthropy to present three sessions on funding opportunities through ARRA funding.

Utility Day—Willimantic’s first Eastern was held in May. 175 families in danger of having their utilities cut off made financing arrangements for continued services at the all-day event. Program managers from CL&P Conservation and DSS were also available to provide help to these families through their programs.

Region 1 EPA Award—Bill Leahy was recognized at the Earth Day 2009 event in Boston for ongoing services to EPA, through municipal benchmarking and planning support.

The next board meeting will be held on September 14, 2009

Motion by Shirley Bergert to adjourn. Motion seconded by Bob Wall. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurel Kohl
Acting Secretary