

**Efficiency Maine Trust
Board Meeting Minutes
May 26, 2021**

Because of limitations on travel and gatherings due to the coronavirus, this meeting was not conducted at a physical location and did not involve anyone meeting in person. Instead, the meeting was conducted by phone and video conferencing.

Trustees:

- Dan Brennan
- Dan Burgess
- Kenneth Colburn
- Al Hodsdon
- Mark Isaacson
- Suzanne MacDonald, Chair
- Glenn Poole, Treasurer
- Joan Welsh, Vice Chair

Efficiency Maine Trust (EMT) Staff:

- Ian Burnes
- Emily Cushman
- Peter Eglinton
- Monte Haynes
- Anastasia Hediger
- Greg Leclair
- Laura Martel
- Kate Rankin
- Tim Reed
- Michael Stoddard
- Satchel Toole

Other Attendees:

- Christine Baillargeon, Alodyne
- Dana Fischer, Mitsubishi
- Jon Gordon, Enervee
- Jeff Marks, Acadia Center
- Aaron Smith, Avangrid
- Larry Simpson, Enervee
- Mark Thomson
- Christie Whitcomb, Hometown Heat Pumps
- Barry Woods, Revision Energy

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ms. MacDonald called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. Approve Agenda and Minutes

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Hodsdon) and seconded (Ms. Welsh), the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda and the April 28, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes.

3. RECOGNIZE Public Advocate Barry Hobbins

Mr. Stoddard presented a Board Resolution recognizing the contributions of Barry J. Hobbins for his support of the EMT and of the policies and programs that promote energy efficiency in the State of Maine.

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Hodsdon) and seconded (Ms. Welsh), the Board voted unanimously to certify that the EMT Board of Trustees adopted the Resolution

and ordered that it be presented to Mr. Hobbins and recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

None.

5. **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Stoddard summarized the Executive Director's Report. Following are items highlighted during his presentation:

- EMT continues to receive elevated media attention, particularly regarding EV project work and the heat pump installer training programs..
- EMT has helped to conduct six webinars to introduce the energy provisions of Maine's new building codes. More trainings will be available in the coming weeks.
- Staff awarded a contract through a competitive solicitation for call center services.
- Staff has been involved in work with non-wire alternatives (NWA) proceedings at the PUC relating to two Central Maine Power (CMP) transmission line proposals.
- The Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Prescriptive Program (CIP) continues to see elevated activity through Funding Opportunity Notices (FONs), including the Hospitality Retrofit FON-005-2021 that was launched in April. The program is also about to go through the annual Qualified Partner recertification process.
- The C&I Custom Program approved 5 projects and maintains a steady pipeline.
- After a slow start, the Small Business Initiative (SBI) has finally begun to see high levels of uptake of the new heat pump retrofit measure.
- The Home Energy Savings Program (HESP) traditionally experiences slower activity between February and April and expects to see elevated activity in the coming summer months.
- Distributor Initiatives has completed its planned activities for unregulated fuels measures for the fiscal year.
- Low-Income Initiatives are projected to install 600 heat pump water heater projects by the end of the fiscal year.
 - Ms. MacDonald asked about the significance of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) mailing list mentioned in the Executive Director's Report. Mr. Stoddard explained that the low-income direct mail initiative predominantly uses the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) participant list (roughly 38,000 households). The DHHS mailing list, however, reflects individuals participating in *all* state or federal means-tested programs (roughly 175,000 households). DHHS will send out a mailing on behalf of EMT in the coming month, which is expected to triple the current rate of activity.
- EV Initiatives awarded about \$2 million through a competitive solicitation for charging stations at 7 locations with 2 high-speed (Level 3) chargers each. These projects extend Maine's charging network up to Bangor and Ellsworth.
 - Mr. Colburn noted that the number of battery electric vehicles (BEVs) rebated is gaining ground on the amount of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) rebated. Mr. Stoddard replied that EMT has a limited data set, so it is difficult to determine trends. He also noted that PHEVs can help address the concern about suitability of EVs for rural Maine, and they offer a better price point than BEVs.

- EMT also hired a new Program Assistant, who will begin work in August.
- The next Board meeting will take place in Augusta in person.
- Mr. Colburn asked if Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) systems were available for residential applications. Mr. Stoddard said that right now they are primarily available for commercial applications due to the price point.

6. Planned Business

(a) UPDATE on Monthly Financial Reports

Mr. LeClair reported that revenues are on track aside from one utility that owes its fourth quarter payment. Additionally, \$5 million from the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) Dirigo EV Fund will be counted as carryforward in the budget if it is received before the end of the year.

- Ms. MacDonald asked if the Canadian government approved the outstanding permit for the NECEC project. Mr. Stoddard confirmed that the permit was granted, but that the timing of the payments is still unclear.

(b) APPROVE FY2022 Budget

Mr. Stoddard introduced the Staff request for approval of a FY2022 operating budget for revenues and expenditures in accordance with the third and final year of Triennial Plan IV. He explained that the operational budget reflects a clearer picture of how the year has progressed over the past 10 months. Mr. Eglinton also explained that this budget has incorporated certain Board recommendations, including the Board’s input on next year’s Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) budget priorities.

Mr. Isaacson asked about a budget item labeled “Lead by Example.” Ms. Stoddard explained that it is an initiative to promote the increased installation and use of clean, cost-effective energy measures at State properties to help the State meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets. EMT has been asked by the Attorney General to administer the program using Volkswagen (VW) settlement funds.

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Poole) and seconded (Mr. Colburn) the Board voted unanimously to adopt the FY2022 Budget (attached to Mr. Leclair’s May 26 memo) for Revenues and Expenditures in accordance with the third year of the fourth Triennial Plan as amended and approved by the Board of Trustees on April 28, 2021, amended to include estimated fund balance within the VW and NECEC Settlement Funds, the EMT Admin Fund, and the Revolving Loan Funds operated by EMT.

(a) PRESENTATION on Triennial Plan V Topics

i. Identifying Cost-Effective Opportunity – Methodology & Assumptions

Mr. Stoddard provided an overview of the statutory directives relating to EMT’s cost-effectiveness calculations. Ms. Martel explained EMT’s cost-effectiveness calculation formulas and reviewed their building blocks. She noted that EMT’s approach is

generally consistent with the principles laid out in the National Standard Practice Manual (NSPM), a national joint collaboration with stakeholder input.

- Mr. Colburn mentioned that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has come out with a calculation for health benefits per kWh saved. EMT could potentially use this to quantify health benefits in its calculations.
- Ms. Isaacson asked if savings estimates for the Forward Capacity Market are calculated at the meter vs. the transmission level. Ms. Martel replied that EMT looks at the meter.
- Ms. MacDonald added that the Board should look at ways to include equity metrics in the next Triennial Plan.

ii. **Demand Management Program**

Mr. Burnes introduced the Demand Management Program (DMP) – a new program offering proposed for inclusion in Triennial Plan V. He explained that the DMP seeks to increase the efficiency of energy use in Maine by developing measures and strategies that mitigate the impacts of peak demand. DMP will consist of two initiatives: the Demand Response Initiative, and the Load Shifting Initiative. Mr. Burnes offered to take more time outside of the current meeting to speak to any board members who would like to continue the DMP discussion.

- Mr. Poole mentioned that transmission and subtransmission (T&ST) and energy generator customers are eligible for, and have historically participated in, the ISO New England demand response program.

6. **New Business**

None.

7. **Next Meeting Agenda and Scheduling**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

8. **Adjourn**

ACTION: Upon a motion duly made (Mr. Isaacson) and seconded (Mr. Poole), the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Board Meeting at 12:04 a.m.