



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

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RHODE ISLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY COORDINATING BOARD
Established pursuant to RI Public Law 2011 Chapter 222 and Chapter 306

Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2011

Meeting called to order by Chairman Richard A. Licht at 3:05.

Board members present:

Richard A. Licht, Chair
Janet Coit, Director of DEM
Ken Payne, Administrator of OER
Julian Dash, representing Keith Stokes of RIEDC

Others present:

Kelly Mahoney, DOA
Chris Kearns, Governor's Office
Matt Schweich, Treasurer's Office
Marie Ganim, Senate Policy Advisor
Beth Cotter, House Policy Advisor

Review of Powers and Duties

Ken Payne provided an overview of the statutory purposes and organizational structure of the Board. He highlighted the absence of a structure to oversee renewable energy development and this Board provides a mechanism to oversee and strategize about renewable energy development. Ken noted that the major output of this Board will be the Strategic Renewable Energy Implementation Plan and the coordination of State agency activities around this plan.

Chairman Licht pointed out that a great deal of renewable energy policy has already been defined in the General Laws. Ken Payne suggested that this Board should piece all of the General Laws together to coordinate implementation of the various policies.

Draft Strategic Renewable Energy Implementation Plan

An initial draft plan was provided to the Board members for discussion and consideration. Janet Coit encouraged the Board to delay action until the Advisory Council was established and had an

opportunity to review and provide comments on the proposed plan. Chairman Licht recommended that Board members contact Kelly Mahoney or Chris Kearns with nominations to the Advisory Council.

Ken Payne provided an overview of the draft Strategic Renewable Energy Implementation Plan. Ken noted that there have been a number of statutory changes in 2011 so having a Plan at this time seems a bit premature until the Distributed Generation statutes are implemented. The Plan highlights three key statutory obligations: 1) Progress towards meeting the Renewable Energy Standard of 56,000MW consumption; 2) Long-term Contracting Standard and 90 MW obligation (expires in 2013); and, 3) Net Metering authority. RIEDC has established a revolving loan fund to help meet the next 18 month obligation for long-term contracting.

Janet Coit highlighted that State agencies could be setting the example for renewable energy installation and use. Chairman Licht noted that most agencies have made great progress with energy efficiency updates but have not focused on renewable energy potential. Janet highlighted some of the work being done to install renewable energy at State facilities. Janet voiced concerns about the lack of a vision from State government to support renewable energy development.

Beth Cotter suggested that when the Implementation Plan is complete then agencies can be held accountable to this Plan. Marie Ganim noted that coordination among State agency was the key driver for creating the Board. Ken Payne suggested that OER has been an orphan in State government and that there are many models of structure that could be adopted. Ken agreed with Beth and Marie that having a Plan that is then coordinated by the Board would help strengthen the State's interests in all efforts related to energy.

Homework for the Board

- Nominate the Advisory Council
- Collect comments on the Draft Implementation Plan
- Notify the Governor and General Assembly that more time is needed to work on the Implementation Plan (deadline to adopt was November 15, 2011)
- Draft a work plan for the Board regarding what it needs to do and how often it needs to meet

Public Comment

Matt Schweitch, Treasurer's Office, was pleased with the discussion and felt it was a good forum. He noted that Deepwater Wind's proposal and the complications with it might be well served as a discussion topic for the Board at an upcoming meeting.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be scheduled in February 2012.