

State Energy Advisory Board

Teleconference Minutes

May 20, 2009, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ET

ATTENDANCE		
DFO		
Gary Burch, STEAB Designated Federal Officer, Director of EE Projects Division, Golden Field Office, Denver, CO		
MEMBERS PRESENT		
Jim Arwood Director, State Energy Office, State of Arizona	✓	
Susan S. Brown, Deputy Administrator, Wisconsin Division of Energy	✓	
John H. Davies, Director, Division of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Kentucky Office of Energy Policy	✓	
Ryan Gooch, Energy Policy Director, Tennessee Economic and Community Development	✓	
Paul Gutierrez, Vice Provost for Outreach Services, Associate Dean and Director, Cooperative Extension Service, College of Agriculture and Home Economics, New Mexico State University	✓	
Duane Hauck, Director, Extension Services, North Dakota State University	✓	
Elliott Jacobson, Director, Action Energy, Inc. (Board Secretary)	✓	
Cecelia Johnson Powell, Community Development Manager, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority	✓	
Jim Ploger, Energy Manager, Kansas Energy Office	✓	
Larry Shirley, State Energy Office Director, North Carolina Department of Administration	✓	
Patricia Sobrero, Associate Vice Chancellor, Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development, North Carolina State University (Vice Chair)	✓	
MEMBERS NOT PRESENT		
Chris Benson, Director, Arkansas Energy Office, Department of Economic Development (Board Chair)		✓
Henry 'Ted' Berglund, CEO and President, Dyplast Products		✓
Roger Duncan, General Manager, Austin Energy – City of Austin		✓
Robert Hoppie, Administrator, Energy Division, Idaho Department of Water Resources		✓
Peter Johnston, Project Manager, Clean Energy Technologies, Burns & McDonnell		✓
James Nolan, Weatherization Director, Department of Public, Health and Human Services		✓
Janet Streff, Manager, State Energy Office, Minnesota Department of Commerce		✓
David Terry, Executive Director, ASERTTI		✓
Steve Vincent, Avista Utilities		✓
Daniel Zaweski, Director, Energy Efficiency & Distributed Generation, Long Island Power Authority		✓
CONTRACTOR SUPPORT		
Milana Campbell, Analyst I, SENTECH, Inc.		

Agenda Items:

1. Update on the Recovery Act Issues: Cathy Iverson (CI) Golden Field Office (GFO)
 - A. SEP, WAP, Block Grants
 - B. Davis-Bacon

2. Agenda Topics for June: Chris Benson/Gary Burch (CB/GB)
 - A. Discussion on whether to invite OMB
 - B. Discussion on whether to invite EE-1, etc.
 - C. Discussion on whether to establish Standing Committee

3. Future Call Dates: GB
 - A. June 17 - needed?
 - B. July 22
 - C. August 26
 - D. September 23
 - E. October 21
 - F. November 18
 - G. December 16

4. STEAB Subcommittee for OWIP GB

5. Travel Arrangements Milana Campbell (MC)

6. Public Comments CB/GB

1. Update on the Recovery Act Issues

A. SEP, WAP, Block Grants

- CI stated the grant awards for both the State Energy Program (SEP) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) were due May 12, 2009. To date, GFO has received all but a handful of applications and is currently in the process of reviewing received applications. Review will be completed on the project side soon. Once the review is complete, applications will move to the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) for awards.
- CI continued to say her staff, as well as the procurement staff of NETL, will make awards as soon as possible since everyone is anxious to disperse awards.
- Although most SEP and WAP grant applications are under review, the GFO is waiting to receive a couple more applications and will keep STEAB updated on the progress of those particular applications.
- Regarding the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, there were originally two due dates for the state applications in May. As of a week ago, a decision was made to postpone the due date to ensure state applications are due at the same time the tribal, city, and county applications are due, which is June 25, 2009. A review process is being set up for those pieces.
- A couple of other things happening with EECBG: Technical Assistance (TA) is being set up which is very similar to the Technical Assistance Program (TAP) for cities and counties, and hopefully the GFO will have something out to everyone on that very soon. Some of the block grant applications are starting to trickle in, although they are not due until June 25, 2009.

B. Davis-Bacon

- GFO has not had an official determination on Davis-Bacon as to whether it affects the SEP, EECBG, or the WAP.
- Headquarters (HQ) has been in constant communication with the Department of Labor (DOL), but unfortunately GFO is still waiting for word.
- QUESTION / ANSWER PERIOD:
 - Jim Ploger (JP) stated one of his counties (in Topeka, KS) due to receive the direct funds has officially turned down the money. Has there been any determination on what the Department of Energy (DOE) will do with any unaccepted money, or what happens to the award money if a state or county decides not to apply?
 - CI stated there has been no determination on what DOE will do with any unaccepted award, or a determination as to how DOE will handle a state or county declining to apply for an award.
- GB stated a significant number of applicants ran into technical difficulty with www.grants.gov and www.fedconnect.net, and GFO understands that neither site is serviceable at this time; therefore, applications are being received via email.
- Elliott Jacobson (EJ) asked if WAP is affected by the issues with the websites as well. GB and CI affirmed that it was.

2. Agenda Topics for June:

- A. Invite OMB?
- B. Invite EE-1, etc.?
- C. Establish Standing Committee?

A. Invite OMB?

- GB asked STEAB if it would welcome an OMB representative in the upcoming meeting as it did in March.
- A majority of STEAB members responded that would be a good idea.

B. Invite EE-1, etc.

- GB stated it is unknown if EE-1(Cathy Zoi) will be confirmed; however, if she is appointed in the position before the June meeting, he can send her an invitation. If not, an invitation would be extended to Richard Moorer who is interested in supporting Resolution 09-04.
- GB continued that with STEAB's concurrence, he would invite Cathy Zoi and/or Richard Moorer.
- STEAB members agreed that proposal was acceptable.

C. Establish Standing Committee

- GB stated STEAB used to have 5 standing committees in areas such as regional offices and laboratories; however, as the regional offices evolved and as STEAB changed its structure in how it went about conducting business, the standing committees were abandoned.
- GB made a point in posing a question for the Board to ponder re-establishing one or more standing committees, whereby more discussion on this topic would occur in the June meeting.
- GB continued that if STEAB wants to reinstate a standing committee, it would be necessary to target certain areas.
- GB clarified this committee would not be the subcommittee mentioned by Gil Sperling (GS) in the March meeting, but more of a standing committee to serve and expedite, in a more efficient manor, certain issues the Board takes on.
- EJ stated the standing committee would be useful to address problems that need direct attention, as he is concerned about weatherization issues that may not get resolved during the ramp up.

3. Future Call Dates:

A. June 17 - Teleconference needed

- The Board agreed it is best to not have a conference call one week before the June meeting unless there is an issue that is absolutely necessary to discuss before then. The remainder of the call dates will remain effective.

B. July 22

C. August 26

D. September 23

E. October 21

F. November 18

G. December 16

4. STEAB Subcommittee for OWIP

- GB reflected that in the March meeting, GS proposed that STEAB consider taking on a particular subcommittee; and the Board took action which was reduced to draft papers. The papers were presented to GS the day after the March meeting (March 20, 2009).
- In GB'S meeting with GS, GS stated he needed to discuss the Boards' actions on the subcommittee with the General Counsel (GC).
- GB has checked with GS a couple of times since March, and GS has indicated he has not had time to propose the subcommittee idea to the GC; however, in April, GB spoke to Mark Bailey (MB) and MB stated he has cleared the subcommittee concept with GC. If that is the case, the Board can move on that idea officially in the June meeting; however, GB has asked for confirmation about GC and he has not received it. He is seeking approval before the June meeting. There is some probability that GC has endorsed the concept of structuring a subcommittee within STEAB to address the Block Grant issue. GB will have more information during the June meeting; and when STEAB is cleared on this concept, it will be a tremendous opportunity.
- Ryan Gooch (RG) asked GB to notify STEAB once he receives more feedback on the subcommittee issue from GS, as it is the end of May and there has been no definitive information dispersed to STEAB about the subcommittee; he would be interested in knowing the status.
- GB stated he will work on that and get a note off to the Board when he gets further clarification.

5. Travel Arrangements

- MC asked the Board to provide input on travel and hotel plans in a timely manner when preparing for meetings.
- RG stated it is an arduous process in receiving approval for STEAB related travel and hotel arrangements, as there are several travel restrictions in place given state budgets, despite DOE reimbursing for meetings. RG continued that it is a rigorous process to get approval to travel out of state and further expressed that that is his reasoning for not following up on travel plans.
- Susan Brown stated her response is based more on her method of traveling to the meeting, instead of whether she will attend or not.

- GB asked if there is a quorum in June. MC confirmed a quorum is in place for the June meeting.
- GB asked MC to send a targeted email to individuals that have not responded about their June meeting attendance.

6. Public Comments

- No member of the public identified him/herself in regards to making a comment.

FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

- EJ stated it would be a good idea to verify the dates for the next meeting after June as soon as possible, so the members can cross-reference their calendars for possible scheduling conflicts.
- GB stated the next meeting date after June has not been identified, and it will probably be late October or early November; but that will be discussed in the June meeting.
- John Davies (JD) asked if the Waxman/Markey Bill would be an appropriate agenda item for the June meeting.
- GB concurred that could be added to the June agenda as a topic.
- JP suggested Jeff Genzer would be an ideal point-of-contact in the June meeting to discuss the Waxman/Markey Bill.
- There was overall Board agreement that there should be a Hill staffer to participate in the June meeting.
- EJ asked if Hill members' schedules would allow their availability during the June meeting; and GB stated he was unsure, but continued he would send the board a draft of the June agenda topics the week of May 25, 2009, and asked members to notify him as other topics are thought of.
- Jim Arwood (JA) stated the Board never received the letter from DOE to the State Energy Offices (SEO's) that GS intended on sponsoring, as discussed in the Western States' meeting in Santa Fe in April. JA also stated that although the letter was meant for the SEP's, it would also be helpful for the EECBG programs as well.
- GB stated he would follow up on that with CI after the call.
- GB stated the call was adjourned and that the Board would reconvene during the June meeting (June 23 - June 25, 2009).

The State Energy Advisory Board May teleconference call was concluded at 1:21 p.m. ET. Minutes scribed by Milana Campbell (SENTECH, Inc.).