

**State Energy Advisory Board
Teleconference Minutes
March 20, 2008 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. EST**

Attendees:

- Chris Benson, Director, Arkansas Energy Office (Chair)
 - Dr. Patricia Sobrero, Associate Vice Chancellor for Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development, North Carolina State University (Vice Chair)
 - Elliott Jacobson, Director, Action Energy, Inc., MA (Secretary)
 - JamesEtta Reed, Director, Center for Community Empowerment, Dept. of Community and Economic Development, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 - John Davies, Director, Division of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Kentucky Office of Energy Policy
 - Duane Hauck, Director, Extension Service, North Dakota State University
 - Jim Ploger, Energy Manager, Kansas Energy Office
 - Steve Vincent, Avista Utilities, OR
 - Janet Streff, Manager, Minnesota State Energy Office
 - Robert Hoppie, Administrator, Energy Division, Department of Water Resources, ID
 - Alexander Mack, Manager, State Energy Program, Florida Energy Office
 - Sue Brown, Deputy Administrator, Wisconsin Division of Energy
 - Paul Gutierrez, Vice Provost for Outreach Services, Associate Dean and Director, Cooperative Extension Service, College of Agriculture and Home Economics, New Mexico State University
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- David Rathbun, TMS, Inc.

Agenda Items:

- **Follow-up discussion on the progress of the proposed Resolution, “States as Agents in the Dissemination of Energy-Education Materials”**
- **Tentative agenda for the Sandia National Laboratory portion of the April meeting**
- **LBNL pilot webinar update and discussion**
- **Travel reminder for the April meeting**
- **Open Forum**

Welcome and Introductions

Chris Benson (STEAB Chair) began the meeting with brief introductions and summarized the topical agenda. He then explained that he will have to leave the call by 2:30 p.m. and that either Pat Sobrero or Elliott Jacobson will continue the call in his stead.

Follow-up discussion on the progress of the proposed Resolution, “States as Agents in the Dissemination of Energy-Education Materials”

Chris Benson explained that he was unable to attend the February 21 conference call, and commented that his involvement with the proposed Resolution – and its ongoing discussions – has been limited. He stated, however, that Alexander Mack and Peter Johnston have been putting in the most time working on this action, and turned the floor over to Alexander Mack to elaborate on the Resolution’s progress.

Alexander Mack explained that he recently participated in a conference call with Gary Burch and Jack Jenkins (Public Affairs Specialist, Golden Field Office) concerning “bulk EERE educational materials” to determine if these materials were targeted towards classroom students; and if so, what age group(s). He stated, however, that he learned that DOE educational materials were more or less targeted towards

educating business and homeowners in energy efficiency. He further added that Peter Johnston was tasked with speaking to someone in Washington about the possibilities/opportunities for using the “Cooperative Extensions Services” as a potential conduit for disseminating energy-education materials, and also how K-12 students can be approached so that they too can receive “energy education” for the purpose of increasing their interest in the energy field – Peter Johnston was not on the call to elaborate.

Chris Benson explained that the last conversation that he was involved in regarding this Resolution centered around whether the focus of “energy education” would be geared toward “workforce training” in the energy industry. Alexander Mack explained that during the early stages of developing the Resolution, he was exploring the concept of “workforce training” and Peter Johnston was focusing on K-12 education – the intent is to reach out to both groups as they are equally important.

Duane Hauck stated that the Resolution that was approved during the last conference call (2/21) directly involved the “Cooperative Extension Services.” He further added that although there may be some overlap in regards to the previous approved Resolution and the one that is currently under development, the possibility exists that this discussion could lead to a separate Resolution.

Chris Benson stated that the group has two separate issues that need clarification: “work force training” and “K-12 education.” Duane Hauck agreed and stated that it would be relatively easy to look into ways to foster more coordination in the dissemination of energy education materials to K-12 students. On the other hand, he added, if the STEAB were to attempt to promote more efforts geared towards workforce training, then it would require a significant amount of involvement because thought will have to go into the development of specific curriculums and credited workshops, etc.

Chris Benson said that it sounds like Peter Johnston is working hard on the Resolution and may be able to assist in the future shaping and development of the Resolution. He added that since he was not on today’s call, that this discussion be postponed until the group is in a better position to discuss the Resolution, perhaps during the April meeting in New Mexico.

Tentative agenda for the Sandia National Laboratory portion of the April meeting

Chris Benson explained that he spoke with David Rathbun a few days ago and that the Board should be receiving a fairly firm schedule for the April meeting very soon. He added that the first day of the meeting will include various presenters from the Sandia National Lab and will conclude with a tour of their facilities. A few of the topics that Sandia plans to speak to include: concentrated solar power, wind energy, smart grid, and geothermal, etc.

The second day of the meeting will take place at the hotel and will include discussions on the Sandia National Laboratory’s upcoming EIR program. In addition, a representative from a local Venture Capital firm (Stephanie Spong, EPIC Ventures) has agreed to attend the meeting and will provide the Board with a “Venture Capital perspective” of energy and technology transfer issues.

The third day will also take place at the hotel and the meeting will adjourn at 12:00 p.m. – please see the following page for details regarding the meeting’s format and location.

LBNL pilot webinar update and discussion

Chris Benson explained that the proposed date for the March webinar was a bit of a “false start” in that the date was set a little too quickly, and that adequate time was not allotted for the presenters to be “cleared” to present information about the technologies being highlighted. He further added that the new date for the webinar will be April 30th, and that most of the details have been worked out:

- The call-in format will be the same as previously noted – the Eastern and Central time zones will convene at 11:00 EST; the Western and Mountain time zones will convene at 2:00 p.m. EST.
- 100 call-in slots will be available for attendees; each session will be about 90 minutes in length.
- NETL will be setting up the webinar logistics and the Golden Office will provide the capabilities.

In closing, Chris Benson explained that a formal announcement will be coming out soon so that the date can be added to people’s calendars.

Travel reminder for the April meeting

Tuesday, April 8	Wednesday, April 9	Thursday, April 10
Morning Session, Hotel Albuquerque; afternoon tour of the Sandia National Laboratory	8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Board Meeting, Hotel Albuquerque	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Board Meeting, Hotel Albuquerque

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Flights:

Please contact Natalie Alexander to book your flight to and from the Albuquerque area. Time is of the essence. Natalie can be reached at 202-554-4623, or at nalexander@tms-hq.com or Natalie.Alexander@ee.doe.gov

You may book your flight on your own and submit the expense(s) with your reimbursement package; however, please be advised that the DOE will **ONLY** reimburse you up to their contract carrier rate(s) – check with Natalie for contract carrier rates.

Open Forum

Pat Sobrero polled the Board for any issues that may need to be addressed.

Elliott Jacobson explained that as a result of the discussions generated during the last conference call, he and Janet Streff were tasked with developing a specific letter or process that summarizes the Board’s position in regards to the recent “killing” of the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). He explained that he has not had an opportunity to discuss this with Janet to date, and apologized for not having the document completed. In closing, he explained that he would be contacting Janet during the coming week to coordinate the effort.

John Davies stated that the “zeroing out” of the WAP is not good, and explained that there has been a significant shift in the DOE’s approach to deployment in that they are not offering alternatives. He further stated that the STEAB should attempt to identify ways in which they can “weigh in” with the current administration and also offer assistance in shaping policies for the next administration – the paper that Elliott Jacobson and Janet Streff will be developing should include State Energy Activities in addition to the WAP. In closing, John Davies stated that the Congress will likely go into a Continuing Resolution with the change of the administration, and that it would be opportune for the STEAB to try and “send a message” to those who are currently there and who will be setting the budget for the next fiscal year.

Next Conference Call

The next STEAB conference call will take place on Thursday, May 15 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. EDT.

Appendix A: Excerpts from Peter Johnston’s e-mail regarding the latest updates in his “educational materials” discussion with Jack Jenkins, Gary Burch and Chris Powers for the proposed “States as Agents in the Dissemination of Energy-Education Materials” Resolution.

1. Gary Burch and Jack Jenkins met with Chris Powers of the DOE Golden Office to discuss DOE educational materials. Chris subsequently talked to Dave Warner at NREL and Chris and Jack scheduled a call to me on March 17th.
2. The bulk of DOE EERE educational materials is primarily aimed at adult consumers, homeowners and businesses interested in Renewable Energy topics. Although individual National Labs may have some materials appropriate for schools and adult education most of the material available is for those listed above.
3. Prior to the closure of the DOE Regional Offices there were good communication links between the DOE and the state Energy Offices and dissemination of renewable energy materials generated by the DOE was very good. Following the closure of the Regional Offices direct communications have lapsed and are now only continued through the personal relationships that were established in the earlier days.
4. EERE now provides information through web based communications. Additionally, the DOE Information Center based in Washington State can provide information on specifically requested topics and have subject matter experts on hand to handle queries.
5. There was a “transition period” after the dissolution of the Regional Offices during which a National Newsletter was established out of the DOE Golden Office. The Newsletter contains information and news about DOE programs. There are currently (approximately) 2,500 people on the newsletter mailing list outside of the DOE.
6. Also, there are multiple DOE web sites from which program information can be accessed and Jennifer Owens is currently working on a master inventory list of available materials (A Herculean task I’m sure).
7. It is possible that the STEAB can help advise the state Energy Offices on the availability of DOE EERE information by providing them the web addresses where this wealth of information resides. That is, assuming that they are not currently using those addresses for sources of information.
8. Chris and Jack will e-mail me the latest copy of the National Newsletter and other appropriate web addresses to check out.

Searchable Databases:

Searchable database of all publications put out by NREL, with PDF links to them.

<http://www.nrel.gov/publications/>

Weekly e-mail list of NREL-produced publications, as well as, the NREL Education Office Web site. Anyone can subscribe to NEON by sending a request to the NREL Publications address

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