

# Clean Energy Development Board

## Approved Meeting Minutes for 06/29/2023

*Meeting held electronically and in-person at PSD's Offices*

**Attendance:**

<u>Board Members:</u>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Kate Desrochers ( <b>KD</b> )		X
Cara Robechek ( <b>CR</b> ) <i>Vice-Chair</i>	X	
David Farnsworth ( <b>DF</b> )	X	
Ken Jones ( <b>KJ</b> )		X
Sam Swanson ( <b>SS</b> ) <i>Chair</i>	X	
Johanna Miller ( <b>JM</b> )	X	
Paul Zabriskie ( <b>PZ</b> )	X	

**State Employees:**

Andrew Perchlik (**AP**), Clean Energy Development Fund Director, Public Service Department (PSD); Christopher Heine (**CH**) Clean Energy Program Specialist, PSD, Ed Delhagen (ED) Clean Energy Finance Program Manager, PSD

**Other Attendees:** Jim Kurrle, Bournes Energy Inc.

Meeting called to order by **SS** at 3:02

**I. Review Agenda**

The agenda was accepted with no comments or additions.

**II. Discuss & Vote on Draft Minutes of the 06/14/23 Meeting**

No changes or additions to the draft minutes were suggested. **CR** moved to approve the draft minutes, **DF** second the motion and the motion passed on a 5-0-0

**III. Election of CED Board Chair for Fiscal Year 2024**

**SS** said he was willing to be re-appointed to the Board for another term but would like to nominate **CR** to be Chair for the next year. No other nominations were made, and **CR** was elected as Chair unanimously. **CR** said she would like to have a co-chair or vice-chair if there was someone willing to fulfil those roles. Board members agreed to discuss electing a co-chair or vice-chair at their next meeting.

**IV. Biodiesel Incentive Program**

**AP** gave an overview of the biodiesel incentive that the CEDF operates as part of the Small-scale Renewable Energy Program and was funded with ARPA. **AP** explained how the \$1M of ARPA allocated for the biodiesel incentive was used up mostly by the wood stove change-out program and that before the biodiesel program could really get going the ARPA funds ran-out. **AP** said that for this reason the PSD's proposed budget

and plan for FY '24 includes using ~\$72,000 of CEDF money to keep the biodiesel program going through the next heating season.

**Jim Kurrle** described Bourne's Energy's experience with the program and how it really didn't get going (customers signing up) until January ('23) and how that timing lowered participation because customer's fuel tanks were full of conventional oil. The incentive \$1300/customer \$300 for inspection, \$1000 for fuel. He said the income qualifications make the program more difficult to administer and wanted the CEDF to make sure the income qualification process is done efficiently to not become a barrier to customer participation for those that qualify. He also wanted the program to consider an escrow type of account for each participating customer that would make it easier for Bourne's to provide the incentive to customer over more than one fuel delivery.

Board members asked some questions about the program and what the PSD and fuel dealers were hoping to learn from the program. **ED** said that the incentive is still in the early stages and that the PSD was looking forward to upcoming heating season to see how customers react to the opportunity to heat with 99-100% biodiesel when there is an incentive.

There was discussion of how the biodiesel pilot incentive would inform the Clean Heat Standard (Senate Bill #5). Bourne's feels like they are the leader – finding success with this fuel, and their customers are happy that they can use existing equipment and switch to a non-fossil fuel. Bourne's is hoping that other fuel dealers follow their lead in offering this to their customers.

#### **V. Discussion of Proposed FY24 Budget and Plan for the CEDF**

**AP** gave a presentation of the draft budget categories like what he presented at the Board's 6/14/23 meeting with a couple of changes highlighted. One change was that the PSD had not resolved the expiring MOU with Buildings and General Services (BGS) regarding the State Energy Management Program expansion. **AP** said that BGS and the PSD were still discussing this and that the proposed budget and plan has the ~\$120,000 still going to BGS even though it is not clear if that will happen. **AP** suggested that if the funds don't go to BGS the PSD would recommend to the Board to move the funds to the SSREI Program.

He also said that the grant to the Windham Regional Commission would be allowed to expire at the end of the calendar year if they cannot get signed sub-grant agreements in place for the remaining \$260,000. **AP** said that if the grant expires then the PSD would recommend to the Board that the CEDF use the funds to provide SSREI Program incentives for projects that are in Windham County until the funds are spent down.

After a brief discussion on some of the proposed programs **PZ** moved that the FY 2024 Budget be approved as proposed by the PSD. The motion was seconded by **DF** and the motion passed unanimously.

**PZ** then moved that the FY 2024 Plan be approved as proposed by the PSD. **CR** seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**VI. Next meeting**

The Board scheduled their next meeting for September 20<sup>th</sup>. **AP** said he would send out a meeting invitation.

**VII. Board Member Recognition**

**SS** offered gratitude for Kate Desrochers' service on the Board over the last four years. Kate is not seeking to be re-appointed and thus this was her last meeting. The Board members all agreed that her service should be recognized in the minutes.

**- Without objection SS adjourned the meeting at 4:00 --**