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Vermont Public Power Supply Authority
LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY BOARD COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 2018

Committee Directors present (X indicates present):

X	John Morley III, Orleans	X	Meredith Birkett, Johnson
X	Reginald Beliveau, Swanton		Jonathan Elwell, Enosburg

Other Directors present:

Alternates present:

Others present:

Melissa Bailey, VPPSA	Jonathan Wolff, Primmer (by phone)
Ken Nolan, VPPSA	James Gibbons, BED

(numbers in bold type correspond with agenda item numbers)

- (1) The meeting was called to order at 11:56 at the office of the Authority, located at 5195 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Ctr., Vermont.
- (2) Melissa Bailey asked if there were requests for changes and/or modifications to the current agenda. There were none.
- (3) There was no public presence and therefore no comments were made.
- (4) Motion was made by Director Morley to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2018 committee meeting. Second by Director Birkett. The Motion was approved unanimously.
- (5) VPPSA lobbyist Jon Wolff provided an overview of the activities at the Legislature thus far. The crossover deadline occurred before Town Meeting Day. Bills with taxes or fees need to move this week. The FY '19 Budget is under consideration and there is a flurry of activity around that.

In the House of Representatives, the House Energy and Technology Committee has considered several energy-related bills. H. 676. Initially included provisions on net metering to make

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registration easier, but these were stripped. The bill now only deals with ANR solar fees, and setback requirements.

H. 739 is the bill that creates a 3-year pilot to expand the self-managed energy efficiency programs (SMEEP.) The bill would allow OMYA to participate in SMEEP and create a 3 – year pilot for energy savings account for Commercial & Industrial customers. EEC funds would be allowed to be used for all fuels efficiency and productivity measures under the pilot. This bill will go to the House floor next week.

H. 907, the Transportation bill, includes provisions related to electric vehicle charging and would authorize the sale of electricity by owners of EVSE at per kWh rates. The bill would also require the PUC to complete a study on barriers to EV charging, EV rates, and the appropriate role of utilities in deploying EVSE. Ms. Bailey provided testimony highlighting utility concerns. The bill is expected to get voted out of committee this week. VPPSA has significant concerns about the precedent this bill would set and plans to meet with Department of Public Service staff next week to discuss.

The House Energy and Technology and House Transportation committees have discussed the Volkswagon settlement dollars may direct the use of these funds.

Director Birkett mentioned that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns is conducting listening tours and a theme that has emerged has been that municipalities are concerned that they are not receiving benefits from Efficiency Vermont commensurate with EEC contributions.

Director Morley asked whether there had been conversation on the Essex plan that was introduced early in the session. H. 763 is the GHG reductions bill that would require a decarbonization study. This bill is the vehicle for conversations on a carbon tax, which the Governor has said he would veto.

On the Senate side, the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee has not focused on energy bills this session. There has been some general discussion around net metering and the “decline of solar.” S. 259 would have increased capacity for net metering groups (150 – 5 MW) and set compensation at wholesale prices. The rural economic development bill includes a study on demand charges.

- (6) Mr. Nolan reported on the APPA legislative rally that took place in February. He attended topical workshops, interacted with other joint action agencies, and met with Vermont’s Congressional delegation and staff. Congressman Welch can serve as a conduit for FERC concerns. Sen. Leahy is working on appropriations and pursuing DOE R&D money for

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Vermont. There may be a NEPPA rally in the fall where utilities could talk to legislators; this would allow for more focus on New England issues.

- (7) Ms. Bailey provided the group with an update on VPPSA's Renewable Energy Standard Tier 3 plans to roll out an electric vehicle pilot program this year. Rebate forms have arrived and are being distributed to the members for inclusion in customer bills.

Ms. Bailey and Mr. Nolan will meet with VEIC on Friday. Also a group utility meeting this month. EVT has indicated it won't do heat pump rebates using TEPF funds after June 2018. The VPPSA members and other utilities will need to decide whether to offer heat pump incentives as part of their Tier 3 efforts. VPPSA is also evaluating custom measures under Tier 3, such as converting golf carts from fuel to electric. The VPPSA RES project accounting system will be tested with EV Pilot.

- (8) Ms. Bailey discussed the current Public Utility Commission proceedings in which VPPSA is involved. The Biennial Update to the Net Metering Program is underway. The Department is not recommending a reduction in compensation. VPPSA will file comments this week highlighting the cost shift that is occurring and explaining why reduced compensation is warranted. Programmatic Adjustments to the Standard Offer Program for the 2018 RFP are being considered by the PUC. It is likely that the PUC won't restrict Standard Offer bids within SHEI in spite of utility comments that it makes sense to do so. Mr. Nolan continues to participate in utility discussions to evaluate solutions to the SHEI constraint. A new draft settlement document has been circulated for comment by utilities in Docket 8316, which deals with data sharing with EVT.

- (9) There was no Other Business

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Bailey, Acting Secretary
Legislative & Regulatory Committee