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Vermont Public Power Supply Authority
LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY BOARD COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2019

Committee Directors present (X indicates present):

	Reginald Beliveau, Swanton	X	Meredith Birkett, Johnson
X	Jonathan Elwell, Enosburg		

Other Directors present:

John Morley III, Orleans	
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Alternates present:

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Others present:

Melissa Bailey, VPPSA	Julia Leopold, VPPSA	Ken Nolan, VPPSA
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(numbers in bold type correspond with agenda item numbers)

- (1) The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm at the office of the Authority, located at 5195 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Ctr., Vermont.
- (2) Director Morley asked if there were requests for changes and/or modifications to the current agenda. There were not.
- (3) There was no public presence and therefore no comments were made.
- (4) Director Birkett moved to approve the minutes from the March committee meeting and Director Elwell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without objection.
- (5) Ms. Bailey provided an update on the legislative session. There continues to be robust discussion around whether utilities will be required to collect a per kWh fee on electric vehicle charging in order to provide revenue to the Transportation Fund. The Committee directors noted the challenges of having utilities collect these potential fees.

The amendments dealing with Section 108 financing proposed by VPPSA passed the Vermont Senate and the House as Senate Bill 95. Because the House added amendments related to net metering to the bill, the House and Senate will have a conference committee to resolve the differences in the two versions.

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There was considerable discussion around a bill (H. 513) currently being considered by the Legislature that would require the Department of Public Service to study the feasibility of electric utilities providing broadband services throughout the state. Director Elwell noted that he is not aware of any state that has universal broadband access. He also pointed out that tasking utilities with this obligation would be a significant deviation from the electric utilities' purview and expertise. The committee encouraged VPPSA to participate actively in the DPS study once it commences.

Ms. Bailey noted that VPPSA and BED have been active at the legislature in order to maintain the exemption from the Standard Offer Program for the three utilities that are currently exempt. VPPSA also worked with utilities to limit a potential expansion of the net metering program, which would have removed the 500 kW cap for customers, to apply only to school districts. The Committee discussed the number of schools and school districts in each service territory that this legislation could affect.

Ms. Bailey also notified the committee that a bill was introduced late in the session that would allow Efficiency Vermont to use uncommitted carryover funds that were collected through the Energy Efficiency Charge for moderate income weatherization services. Director Birkett expressed concern that electric ratepayers are being required to fund thermal efficiency services and wondered whether ratepayers should, through their host utility, receive Tier 3 credit for these funded services. Director Morley wondered why the legislature had not been able to fund these services through a gross receipts tax, and Ms. Bailey responded that the Governor would likely have vetoed any tax increase.

- (6) Ms. Bailey provided the committee with an update on current Public Utility Commission (PUC) proceedings. There is a workshop to discuss Vermont's Disconnect Rule on May 9th. VPPSA has collected feedback from the member systems, many of whom plan to attend the workshop.

The Vermont PUC has opened a proceeding to revise the Net Metering Rule. While most of the changes are intended to clarify processes, timelines, and definitions, there may be a discussion of the compensation rates. In addition, there will be discussion and potential clarification around how the Net Metering Rule (5.100) interacts with the Interconnection Rule (5.500.)

The Public Utility Commission is in the process of developing a structure to implement an Energy Savings Account pilot that would allow customers that pay more than \$5000 annually in EEC to self-manage their energy efficiency programs. Ms. Bailey recommended that the VPPSA members consider which of their customers may be interested in applying in advance of the request for proposals.

The PUC recently issued an order in Docket 7307 dealing with Privacy Protocols for customer data that requires each Vermont utility to have a Privacy Policy. Legal counsel has provided a template privacy protocol for use by the VPPSA members. Director Birkett inquired whether the monthly

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transfer of customer data to Efficiency Vermont would be permissible under the draft Protocol. Staff will follow up with Bill Ellis on this issue.

(7) There was no Other Business

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Bailey, Acting Secretary
Legislative & Regulatory Committee