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Vermont Public Power Supply Authority
LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY BOARD COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 10, 2019

Committee Directors present (X indicates present):

X	Reginald Beliveau, Swanton (by phone)	X	Meredith Birkett, Johnson (by phone)
X	Jonathan Elwell, Enosburg		

Other Directors present:

John Morley III, Orleans	Bill Humphrey, Lyndonville
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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 12:06 pm 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 not.
- (3) There was no public presence and therefore no comments were made.
- (4) Director Elwell moved to approve the minutes from the May committee meeting and Director Humphrey seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without objection.
- (5) Ms. Bailey provided an update on current regulatory proceedings at the Public Utility Commission (PUC). VPPSA has been working with other distribution utilities to develop recommended changes to update the state's disconnect rule (Rule 3.300). The VPPSA Directors noted that there are significant challenges under the current rule, and that customers are able to accrue significant balances prior to having their electric service disconnected.

Ms. Bailey also informed the committee that applicants for the Energy Savings Account Pilot program have been selected by the Department of Public Service and Efficiency

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Vermont. Because the program is not fully subscribed, the state may re-open the solicitation.

- (6) There was considerable discussion around a bill (H. 513) passed by the Vermont Legislature this session that requires the Department of Public Service to study the feasibility of electric utilities providing broadband services throughout the state. Director Elwell 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.

The PUC issued a report on June 28th which includes a host of recommendations on the deployment of charging infrastructure and promotion of electric vehicles. That report included recommendations on rate design, incentives, and load management related to electric vehicles. While the report is explicit in stating that these activities are recommendations, rather than requirements, it is clear that the state expects utilities to take a leading role in the deployment of electric vehicles and EV chargers. The report will be considered by legislators in 2020 and may well result in new legislation on this topic.

In addition, this year's Transportation Bill included provisions requiring the PUC to perform a study on how to implement per kWh fees on EV charging. The committee members expressed skepticism about the viability of measuring each kWh used to charge an electric vehicle and questioned whether this is the appropriate method for collecting transportation fund revenue.

Under Act 62, which was recently signed by the Governor, the PUC is required to perform a study related to establishing an "all fuels utility" or expanding existing programs and services offered by the DUs and EVT in order to further the state's climate goals. VPPSA has met with EVT and several other DUs in advance of this proceeding and plans to recommend that the PUC tackle the question of funding first in this proceeding. The PUC owes the legislature preliminary recommendations in January 2020 and a final report in January 2021. Director Humphrey noted that the current EVT budget is significant and he wonders whether customer's in Lyndonville's service territory receive benefits commensurate with their contributions.

- (7) Ms. Bailey and Mr. Nolan noted that VPPSA continues to engage in discussions with Efficiency Vermont staff on improving coordination among the two entities. There has been conceptual agreement that Efficiency Vermont be required to allocate a portion of its budget to delivering utility-specific (or VPPSA specific) services. The committee members expressed strong support for this approach.

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Ms. Leopold updated the committee on VPPSA's enhanced marketing efforts and work with Efficiency Vermont to promote Tier 3 programs. The two entities are exchanging information on customers that participate in several programs and jointly developing customer education pieces.

Ms. Leopold and Mr. Nolan also briefly described VPPSA's consideration of a proposal from Great Blue Research to survey member customers. The effort would have two goals: 1) to gather information on customer preferences around communication, renewable energy, and new services; and 2) to test customer opinions on upcoming legislative and PUC issues in order to help frame VPPSA's position. This effort would require access to customer contact data held by the members, so there was discussion about how this data would be protected and utilized.

(8) There was no Other Business

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

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Bailey, Acting Secretary
Legislative & Regulatory Committee