

CITY OF CONCORD
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF JULY 28, 2021

The Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee met at 7:00 p.m., on July 28, 2021, virtually.

Attendees: City Councilor Rob Werner, Henry Herndon, Chuck Willing, Jerry Eaton, Jessica Forrest, Nick Babladelis

Absent: Jennifer Galbraith, Carl Cooley, Dot Currier

Staff: Sam Durfee

Guest(s): Jeff Evans, Joshua Singer, Eli Bousch Dining

I. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome to Josh Singer, Jeff Evans, and Eli Bousch (Bates College student) as guests.

Nick and Chuck note two corrections for June Minutes: (1) Nick was not listed as absent and should be; (2) guests should be marked as "None" rather than left blank. Jerry motions approve minutes with corrections. Chuck seconds. Unanimously Approved.

II. Municipal Properties Update

- Hall Street Project has been discontinued after two years of discussion with ReVision Energy on developing a solar project at that site.

III. Concord LED Streetlight Project

- RFP Status: The vendor, Real Term Energy, is going through the city to assess the streetlights, which will take a few weeks. The hope is that 2,100 streetlights will be converted to LED this year.

IV. New Hampshire Legislative Session

- HB 315 Bill Signing Ceremony – 8/3/21. The bill signing may be postponed.
- Landfill RFP – 5 MW
 - As soon as the bill is signed, the City will begin work on a 5 Megawatt solar RFP, potentially at the wastewater treatment plant. Discussion of including storage in the RFP as well.
- Small Hydro and Net Metering opportunities – Madeleine Mineau, Essex Hydro
 - Madeleine Mineau, Chief Operating Officer, Essex Hydro: Essex owns the three hydros in Penacook on the Contookcook river, together those dams are around 4 MW. There is a much higher capacity factor for hydro than solar, meaning that you get more energy generated from the hydro than a solar array because hydro can produce 24/7 and solar cannot, even at the same size/capacity. With the passage of HB 315,

these dams will be able participate in Net Metering, so long as the off-takers of the power are public entities in Unitil Territory. Essex thinks Concord could be a great Group Member; the city has renewable energy goals, Essex is local renewable energy. The economics could be more advantageous than solar, but hydros do have more operating costs than solar. Essex has enough generation to supply the entire municipal load of the City. Would be happy to include as much or as little of the city's load as the city is interested.

- Economics: It would not cost the city anything – we would do original net metering, meaning Essex would make a payment monthly to the city, as opposed to the City receiving a credit on utility bills. Essex is offering 15% of the net metering credit (15% of the default service rate) which would go to Concord as a monthly payment (about 1 cent per kilowatt-hour). Net metering Groups are reconciled annually, Concord gets paid based on Essex generation monthly, not based on Concord's usage. Merrimack Valley School District is in the Group, but their load is only a small portion of the generation, and Essex needs to match the entirety of the generation to public load. This would never cost the city anything, the city would only get payments, Essex is available immediately whereas best cast scenario we would have solar in a year, probably several years.
- Chuck: What is the status of licensing?
- Madeleine: We are going through FERC relicensing at all three, I took it over, I manage regulatory work and FERC relicensing. We are in the study phase of relicensing. We are doing lots of studies this summer, water flow, biological, fish passage, etc. Process of relicensing lasts for 5 years, then you get a ~30 year license. Six-month notice termination clause. We have don't yet have a contract for NH but we are happy to negotiate on duration of the term, termination, other factors – we want to make it work for both parties and can negotiate.
- Chuck: Is Community Power an opportunity as well?
- It is equally an opportunity. Guaranteed rates, like Net Metering, are best for Essex hydro. If we could get a contract with a Community Power program to sell power into their portfolio, we would be interested in that as well.
- Jerry: Is Merrimack County Complex in Unitil territory? Can they be in the Group?
- Madeleine: Yes.
- Nick: How are the RECs handled? The City should be clear and communicate about the RECs, are we buying them, can we actually take credit for renewable energy?
- Madeleine: RECS are not typically included in Net Metering agreements. We, Essex, would typically sell our RECs elsewhere, we can sell in Mass or in NH Class IV (\$27/MWh).
- Rob: 7-8 MW range for city operations.

- Madeleine: Accounts can say on competitive supply, with RECs, and, in addition, be a Group Member with Essex Hydro Net Metering and receive the monthly payments
- Chuck: Transparency is key, we need to be really clear on the REC piece
- Madeleine: Risk: tied to our generation, we cannot guarantee payment, droughts happen, equipment breaks sometimes, we have huge incentive to get back online ASAP, but if there are droughts or equipment failure, we would not be making payments. Group Net Metering is reconciled on an annual basis.
- Henry: How long is the contract?
- Madeleine: A year is probably the minimum we would ask for. In Maine, contracts run from three years to 20 years.
- Chuck: Can these Essex Hyrdos sell in Exeter Unitil Territory and as well?
- Madeleine: Yes. We want to sell in the Capitol region, this is our community. If we can't find enough load here, we will look in the Unitil Seacoast Territory. It is first come first serve. We are looking to fill up a Group for Penacook Upper Falls, which is immediately available (12,500,000 annual kilowatt-hours on average). Concord municipal consumption may be 9,000,000 kilowatt-hours. Briar Rolf would be available in about 6 months, which is another 20,000,000 annual kilowatt-hours on average. Essex would need monthly info about billing, either from the City or authorization for Unitil to share data.
- Rob: Next steps might be a recommendation by the EEAC to City Council

Nick moves that the City of Concord consider the Group Net Metering opportunity with Essex Hydro to join a renewable energy net metering group for local hydro power. Chuck seconds. Unanimously approved.

V. Community Power Coalition

- Coalition Meet and Greet between City of Concord, Hanover, Lebanon, and Nashua occurred a few weeks ago. The City is interested in Community Power.
- City Council Process: The Joint Powers Agreement, which governs the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire as a public nonprofit that is controlled by its municipal members, will be referred to Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee (FPAC) at the August Council meeting, which is good. FPAC meetings Monday, August 16 from 4:30 – 6pm. Best-case-scenario, FPAC gives a positive recommendation, then Coalition membership comes a Public Hearing, then a City Council vote. It could take until October or November for Council to consider joining the Coalition by adopting the Joint Powers Agreement.

- Opportunity for public education: Science Café with David Brooks.
- VI. Market Days
- CEEAC booth (materials, staffing). Things to Talk about:
 - Energy Efficiency: The Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan that was supposed to begin at the beginning of 2021, but which has been delayed by the PUC indefinitely, remains frozen. Concord has over 100 people on the wait list for home weatherization / energy efficiency projects through NHSaves.
 - New Net Metering Law
 - Streetlight project. Can we get a few streetlights to show people?
 - Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Protocol. In December, some fact sheets were produced – those could be relevant as handouts.
 - Jessica, Jerry, and Rob will have a work group to plan for Market Days.
 - Climate/Clean Energy Panel at Market Days – 8/19/21
- VII. ICLEI-USA update
- Concord has joined and paid its dues.
 - Sam: ICLEI has a broader focus, looks at food security, community engagement, and ICLEI offers impressive software to do a lot of really cool things. A City Energy Manager could do a lot, and the position could easily pay for itself. Developing real, standing, noticed sub-committee meetings working on specific elements (recruitment from Hospital, State, Landlords, big energy users); Clear Path, a powerful tool which the baseline can be put into and can be used for forecasting, you can map street trees, carbon sequestration, ability to quantify carbon and other benefits of infrastructure projects (e.g., what does a bike lane do for carbon); So the CIP could include positive quantifiable environmental benefits of projects. ICLEI will have a consultant that is available to Concord.
 - GhG inventory interface
 - Policy Scenarios
- VIII. New Business
- Announcements
 - CEEAC work session (September)
 - September 22, EEAC will start its regular meeting early, have food, and have a work session to brainstorm and plan priorities and plan for community engagement strategy.
- IX. Adjournment

Henry moves adjournment. Jessica seconds. Unanimously approved.