

CT Energy Workforce Development Consortium (CTEWDC) Meeting Notes

September 12, 2017 at 1:00 PM

Attendees:

Merilee Baker Roussat (Gateway Community College), Leticia Colon (Energy Efficiencies Solutions), Crystal Decarlo (Eversource), Nancy Dittes (CT DEEP), Kyle Ellsworth (Efficiency for All), Eric Gribin (Tunxis Community College), Kate Lennon (Entech), Alice Martin (UI/AVANGRID), Laura Miller (Institute for Sustainable Energy), Stephanie Rogers (Eversource), Joe Ryzewski (UI/AVANGRID), Mark Stankiewicz (CT DOL), Carol Takacs (Iroquois), Therese Wallace (CBIA)

Welcome/Introductions

Joe Ryzewski welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that Laurie Shuckerow has volunteered to serve with him as co-chairs of the Consortium going forward.

Committee Reports

Executive

Joe Ryzewski distributed copies of the finalized version of the Consortium bylaws for review. Stephanie Rogers made a motion to approve the bylaws as submitted with a second by Alice Martin. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously. (See attached)

Education

Eric Gribin is in the process of scheduling a conference call for the committee to discuss education initiatives for the Consortium. Currently, serving on the committee along with Eric are Nancy Dittes, Leticia Colon, Diane Duva, Kate Lennon and Merilee Baker Roussat. Eric reported that Tunxis is now offering six energy-related courses and they have more students in the program than ever.

Business Community

Stephanie Rogers reported on behalf of Diana McCarthy-Bercury who was unable to attend the meeting. Diana would like to have a business community committee meeting following the next Consortium meeting (December 13th) to discuss committee initiatives including scheduling a meet and greet with businesses. Alice Martin volunteered to co-chair the business community committee.

Policy Committee

Leticia Colon reported on the energy-related bills that she followed during the 2017 Connecticut General Assembly legislative session (See attached report) and on the data she shared with legislators showing the \$1.4 billion generated by her industry.

Workforce Funding Initiative

Kyle Ellsworth reported that the committee will be meeting on Friday September 15th at DEEP. They are continuing to work with the Department of Labor on solidifying an apprenticeship program. Much of the legwork has been done but due to the wide range of energy employers, there are differing criteria as to the program requirements that are needed. Leticia will convene a meeting with Laurie, Stephanie and Kate to try to identify a single approach. Once a single set of criteria is agreed upon, Leticia requested the Consortium act as endorser of the plan for presenting to the DOL by writing a letter and adding letters from companies that will employ the apprentices. These are two key factors for the DOL – agreeing on a single set of criteria and presenting evidence of a *significant* number of employees (new or current) that will be using the apprenticeships.

Communication

Joe asked members to keep us informed of news items for dissemination to the members.

Updates on events and meetings

Laurie Shuckerow attended the Regional CEWD meeting and will report on it at the next meeting. Joe reminded everyone about the CEWD Summit and National Forum in Alexandria on November 8-10, 2017. He encouraged all to visit cwed.org for further details.

EnergizeCT is hosting a LEGO Robotics Family Activity Night on September 15th and a Family Science Day on October 21st, both at the Center in North Haven.

CT Roundtable on Climate and Jobs & the Acadia Center, in collaboration with CT's building trades unions have organized a dialogue called "Offshore Wind: Jobs & Clean Energy for CT?" for September 20th at the IBEW Local 90 Union Hall in Wallingford.

CPES Conference and Exposition: "The Future of Energy: What's the Deal?" will be held on October 17 at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Cromwell.

"Energy 3.0 New Trends and Opportunities" will be featured at CBIA's Connecticut Sustainability Conference on November 17th at Pratt & Whitney Hangar/Museum in East Hartford.

Further updates and roundtable discussion

Joe Ryzewski reported on the talent pipeline efforts at UI/Avangrid.

Nancy Dittes reported on DEEP's initiatives including the Energy Workforce Development Survey produced with CBIA (Therese distributed copies) and developing apprenticeships to help fill the workforce shortages in certain parts of the industry.

Carol Takacs of Iroquois was given Mary Ann Miller's role upon her recent retirement from the company. Carol is looking forward to working with everyone and learning more about the activities of the Consortium.

Energy trade training schools and community college programs continue to look for new training opportunities. The schools can design any new program to suit requirements but usually need to have at least 10 students enroll just to break even. Gateway and Entech are currently partnering on CDL, BPI and HVAC programs.

Gateway has developed new Pathways programs in utility management and water management.

Joe asked Therese to check on whether the Consortium can use the CBIA newsletter as a vehicle for letting people know about upcoming meetings.

Mark noted a couple of other items about apprenticeships – an apprentice doesn't have to be a new hire; the requirements for building an apprentice-able position are 144 hours classroom and 2,000 hours on the job training.

Laura Miller reported on the activities of the Institute for Sustainable Energy including participation in the upcoming *Campus Sustainability Week* across the colleges and universities in the state, October 9 through 15, 2017.

Stephanie and Alice reported on the progress of *Green STEP* which is in its third year. Juniors who have been participating since freshman year will work on planning for zero energy homes.

Summary of Action Items

- Workforce Funding Initiative committee to define their objectives and timeline and present an action plan at the Consortium's next meeting.
- Identify annual energy-related conferences and meetings and work to have a Consortium presence there (i.e. table, speaker).

Next meeting date: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 1 pm – 3 pm

2017 Legislative Session Update Report
submitted by Leticia Colon

Bills which PASSED

HB 7208 - ACT concerning CPACE

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM

SUMMARY: This act makes several changes in the Connecticut Green Bank's Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (C-PACE), which finances energy efficient or renewable energy improvements on certain commercial properties in participating municipalities. The property owner repays the cost of the improvements through an assessment on the property, backed by a lien. The act:

1. expands the purposes for which C-PACE financing may be provided;
2. allows participating third-party capital providers to provide leases and power purchase agreements;
3. designates the program's liens "benefit assessment liens";
4. specifies that foreclosures on the liens are limited to late assessment payments and that liens for payments that will become due in the future survive the foreclosure;
5. specifies that when a property with a benefit assessment lien is subject to a property tax foreclosure or levy and sale, the lien for any late payments will be extinguished but the lien for payments due in the future will remain with the property; and
6. makes various minor, technical, and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2017

C-PACE FINANCING PURPOSES

The law allows the C-PACE program to finance "energy improvements," which include, among other things, the renovation or retrofitting of qualifying property to reduce energy consumption. The act expands this to include any improvement, renovation, or retrofitting to reduce energy consumption or improve energy efficiency.

THIRD-PARTY CAPITAL PROVIDERS

Prior law allowed third-party capital providers participating in C-PACE to provide loans to property owners for energy improvements. The act broadens this authorization to allow the providers to also provide other forms of financing, leases, and power purchase agreements (PPAs). (In general, PPAs are contracts in which a third-party developer owns, operates, and maintains a renewable energy system and a host customer agrees to place the system on its property and purchase its output for a predetermined period.)

BENEFIT ASSESSMENT LIENS AND FORECLOSURES

The act terms the liens created under C-PACE "benefit assessment liens" and requires the liens (presumably the assessments the liens secure) to be paid in installments. Prior law referred to installment payments only when financing agreements provided for benefit assessments.

By law, if assessments are paid in installments and an installment is late, the lien may be foreclosed to the extent of any unpaid installments plus related penalties, interest, and fees. If the lien is foreclosed, the lien survives the foreclosure judgment to the extent of any unpaid installments secured by the lien that were not subject to the judgment. The act specifies that these “unpaid installments” are those that are due and owing (i. e. late payments) and that the (1) lien is extinguished only with regard to installments that were due and owing on the judgment date and (2) unpaid installments that survive are those due after the judgment date.

Property Tax Foreclosures

By law, C-PACE benefit assessment liens take precedence over all other liens or encumbrances, except municipal property tax liens. The act specifies that when a property subject to a municipal property tax lien is foreclosed or enforced by levy and sale, the benefit assessment lien for any payments due and owing on the date of the judgment or levy and sale is extinguished. However, the lien for payments due after the judgment or levy and sale survives.

Failed Energy Bills

- HB 6329 - Ban fracking waste - no action in senate
- HB 7097 - Electric vehicles - No action in house
- SB 630 - Clean/ Renewable energy and climate change- No action from ET committee
- HB 7247 - Carbon tax - no action in Enviro committee
- SB 973 - Act concerning residential sustainable energy program - RPACE Passed ET - had push back on lack of energy assessment- No action in Finance committee
- HB 6547 - Act concerning CT plan for land resources and infrastructure inventory - NO Action in Approps. But listed as Pending
- SB 778 - Millstone - passed senate - held in house- study required by Malloy - was added to _An act concerning expenses for consultants borne by telecommunications providers. - ****THIS BILL WAS AMENDED TO INCLUDE MILLSTONE NUCLEAR SUBSIDIES**** -
- **SB412- Act to oppose solar on farmland** - No action on this bill
- HB7107 RGGI
- HB7012 Info bill