

CED Board Meeting: 12/12/23

Minutes

In Attendance (*Meeting held at electronically via video and in-person at PSD's Offices in Giga Conf. Room*)

<u>Board Members:</u>	Attending	Absent
<u>Cara Robechek (CR) Chair</u>	x	
<u>David Farnsworth (DF)</u>	x	
<u>Ken Jones (KJ)</u>	x	
<u>Sam Swanson (SS)</u>	x	
<u>Johanna Miller (JM)</u>	x	
<u>Paul Zabriskie (PZ)</u>	x	

State Employees:

Andrew Perchlik (AP), Clean Energy Development Fund Director, Public Service Department (PSD). Margo Ghia, Windham Regional Commission.

Other Attendees:

CR chaired the meeting and called it to order at 1:04.

I. Review Agenda

The agenda was accepted with no comments or additions.

II. Discuss & Vote on Draft Minutes of the 09/20/23 Meeting

CR mentioned she had found a few typographical errors that she sent to AP's attention. AP said he made those corrections and the vote to approve should be on the corrected version. SS moved to accept the 9/29/23 minutes as presented and with the typographical errors corrected. KJ seconded the motion and the vote to approve was unanimous.

III. Windham Regional Commission's Wood Heat Initiative Program Evaluation.

AP reported that a representative of West Hill Energy, the consulting firm that conducted the evaluation on the Windham Wood Heat Initiative, was scheduled to join the meeting to give a presentation of the evaluation, but she did not attend the meeting. Instead, AP asked Ms. Ghia to give a brief description of the project, the evaluation that they hired West Hill Energy to conduct and the remaining funds that they had agreed to be spent on incentives for low-income residents in Windham County that wish to install pellet heating systems.

M. Ghia spoke of the history of the Wood Heat Initiative and the successes the Windham Regional Commission (WRC) has had in promoting/installing advanced wood heating in the county. She also spoke of the difficulties in the last year getting their last two grantees to move forward with their projects and thus how the WRC was supportive of not extending the grant and instead having the remaining funds to be

used for low-income Windham County residents that install advanced wood heating in their homes.

IV. Program Updates

AP gave a brief update of CEDF programs. He gave an update on the SSREI Program reporting that pellet incentives have returned to the pre-pandemic normal of about 15 installations per quarter. He said that with each of the last four quarters the number of installations has decreased from the high of 36 in the third quarter of 2022. With the Windham Regional Commission Grant updated already covered in the meeting the program update focused on the MOU the CEDF/PSD has with VT Building and General Services for expansion of their State Energy Management Program to Municipalities. The MOU expired in July of 2023 and negotiations continue with BGS to update it. BGS did provide the information that the Board had requested of them at their September Board meeting. **AP** reported that no reimbursement requests are being paid/processed now that the MOU has expired. **AP** said he and the PSD leadership will continue to work with BGS on a resolution, and if no resolution is found the ~\$120K that remains from amount that the CEDF was going to provide to BGS will need to be re-allocated by the CED Board.

- V. **Next Meetings:** The Board members discussed the schedule of their meetings for 2024 and decided that their next two meetings would be held on: March 18, 2024, from 1-3:00 PM, and May 22, 2024, 1-3:00 PM. The Board also scheduled a tentative meeting for June 12, also from 1-3:00 PM.

- Without objection CR adjourned the meeting at 1:56