



**COMMUNITY
POWER COALITION
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

MEMBER OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE – MINUTES

Meeting Type: **Member Outreach and Engagement Committee**
 Meeting Location: **14 Dixon Ave, Suite 201, Concord, NH 03301**
 Meeting Date: **Tuesday, January 9, 2024**
 Meeting Time: **Noticed for 10:00 AM**

CPCNH Member Outreach & Engagement Committee		
Member	Name	Present/Absent
Rye	Lisa Sweet, Director (Committee Chair)	Present
Rye	Howard Kalet, Member Rep	Present (virtually)
Durham	Steve Holmgren, Director	Present
Newmarket	Joseph Lamattina, Director	Present
New London	Jamie Hess, Director	Absent
Enfield	Jo-Ellen Courtney, Member Rep	Present
Pembroke	Jackie Wengenroth, Member Rep	Absent
Hudson	Craig Putnam, Member Rep	Present (virtually)
Peterborough	Bruce Tucker, Director	Present (virtually)
Westmoreland	Mark Terry, Member Rep	Present (virtually)

Also Attending:

- CPCNH Staff: Henry Herndon; Bobbi-Jo Michael; Brian Callnan
- CPCNH Members & Board: Jeffrey Quackenbush
- CENH: Sam Evans Brown; Sarah Brock
- RBG: Madelyn Bradley
- Bfresh: Tom DeRosa

MINUTES

1. Welcome & Housekeeping

Rollcall, quorum confirmation (1/3 of 10 → 4), consensus on agenda

Member Rep Courtney moved approval of 12/12/23 draft minutes. Seconded by Member Rep Putnam. Hearing no objection, Committee Chair Sweet declared the minutes approved by unanimous consent.

2. Member Services Update

Member Service Update



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Mr. Herndon provided a Member Services Update. CPCNH operates 14 Community Power Aggregations (CPAs) with the one county CPA serving three municipalities. CPCNH concluded a rate setting process approving in late December the lowest rates relative to investor-owned utilities for the third consecutive rate period and has received good publicity in the Union Leader, Concord Monitor, NHPR, Keene Sentinel, and other publications. Mr. Herndon prepared a strawman projects and programs survey, and noted that projects and programs remains an understaffed area of the organization.

Nine CPAs are launching service in March and three additional towns will join into the already operating Cheshire County CPA. On January 5th, Member Services hosted a Public Engagement Campaign Kick-Off Workshop attended by no fewer than 32 individuals from most of the newly launching CPAs. The event was successful in sharing CPCNH resources for public engagement (printed materials including banners, posters, yard signs, handouts; messaging resources; print ad placements; etc.), and in facilitating development of strategies and action plans for public engagement across four regions: Monadnock, Merrimack County, Hudson, and the Seacoast. Member Services is finalizing enrollment mailers, webpages, and public information session slide presentations. Wave 2 is ready to launch.

Roughly two dozen CPAs are in the planning phase and headed toward town meeting adoption of Community Power. Member Services has staffed many dozens of public hearings, and is nearly finished with technical review of Electric Aggregation Plans so towns may submit them to the Public Utilities Commission next week to keep open the option / timeline for launching as soon as June 2024. Additional Member Services tasks include aggregate load data analysis and summary; Electric Aggregation Committee registration; etc.

Merrimack County recently became the second County to join CPCNH. Several towns within Merrimack County are interested in launching Community Power service using the streamlined County model. CPCNH continues to discuss membership with other counties, cities, and towns in New Hampshire. Bfresh is in the process of finalizing draft testimonial videos for review and completion in the near future.

The Committee tasked Mr. Herndon with notify all Ambassadors and Wave 2 towns of the schedule of public information sessions and also inviting Ambassadors to participate should they be so inclined.

Mr. Herndon added the Draft September Member Report to the Ambassador's Toolbox <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1RUZ9u3D-G0RUriBG57MTtjXrMGqCFXf> → #4 Operate folder: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jM3SsI6fXA4DkMHRJlpUja-qBT2cdI1/view?usp=share_link

The Committee discussed that customers in Cheshire County towns that had launched Community Power with a broker-model and are now paying above-market rates of 11 ¢/kwh over the 8.3 ¢/kwh Eversource rate and 8.1 ¢/kwh Cheshire Community Power rate could opt-in to Cheshire Community Power to save money. The Committee tasked Mr. Herndon with asking the Contact Center to track inquiries from Keene, Swanzey, and Marlborough, which are operating under a broker-model with rates higher than utilities and CPCNH. Director



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Bruce Tucker noted that the inherent risk of the broker model of ending up with higher rates than utilities has manifested in a very real way in New Hampshire at present.

Member Rep. Jeffrey Quackenbush noted that Stratford and Stark seriously looking at joining Androscoggin Valley Energy Collaborative (AVEC), the regional organization being established in the North Country.

Director Lamattina asked inquired about the availability of monthly reports. CEO Callnan responded that ISO New England reporting can take two or more months which can slow the reporting process. Member Rep. Howard Kalet inquired as to what data will be available by when so that it could be included in Rye’s annual report, for which information would need to be submitted by January 19.

Updated Rate Card: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FsM7g8F-BFp-rcjAIkv3txBkRiprBbCA/view>

Critical Mention Report 12/1/23 – 1/4/24: <https://app.criticalmention.com/app/#/report/d24d0cbd-37a1-43e0-80b7-a2fa9ac1ff7a>

3. NEM Update – see Attachment B: Draft Net Energy Metering Policy Brief

Member Rep. Mark Terry suggested that Regulatory and Legislative Affairs staff prepare a template of comments or remarks that CPCNH Members and public officials could use to weigh in on policy issues. The Committee discussed working with Regulatory and Legislative Affairs staff to organize and activate the subscribers list, make use of action alerts and newsletters, and suggested that Regulatory and Legislative Affairs staff contribute talking points and a slide to the launching Wave 2 public information session presentation decks.

4. Planning for 2024 – see Attachment C: MOE 2024 Planning

Member Survey (draft to be provided)

The Committee discussed the strawman survey. Question 11 could clarify that programs includes services, rates, and other offerings. Using prioritization responses could improve certain questions in the survey. As most people do not fully understand the interconnection issue/cost, that question could be modified. The Committee sought clarity on the relationship between Discretionary Reserves and the projects/programs survey. It was clarified that projects and programs may be developed and offered using alternative financing mechanisms other than expenditure of reserves. The Committee suggested using the survey to ask about existing or planned projects, in addition to projects/programs that communities desired CPCNH to implement and offer, and including an open-ended question.

The Committee discussed the interplay between legislative and regulatory reform and CPCNH’s ability to offer services like net metering, time-of-use rates, and other innovative programs.



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The Committee discussed including in the survey discussion in the introduction to set expectations about timelines to getting projects developed.

The Committee discussed publishing the survey in January or February, analyzing results in March, and presenting at the Annual Meeting.

Engagement Activities (Webinars, Member Meetings, Orientations)

The February meeting will start with a discussion of prioritizing engagement activities, including for example: Annual Meeting; Orientations; Energy Week; Local Energy Solutions Conference; Communications for Members; Newsletter; Quarterly updates; etc., and choosing a manageable number of items to prioritize and direct staff to implement.

The Committee discussed actively cultivating further development of County CPAs.

Member Representative Mark Terry noted that it would be incredibly valuable to have a handbook, manual, or orientation tool to hand to new members and orient them, let them know what their job is, what is expected of them, and everything else they need to know about being a Member of CPCNH.

The Committee discussed booking a new Member Orientation, and not limiting attendance to only new members.

5. Adjourn, next meeting February 13, location TBD

Director Lamattina moved to adjourn. Seconded by Director Holmgren. Hearing no objection, Committee Chair Sweet declared the meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:52am.