



**COMMUNITY
POWER COALITION
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**REGULATORY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE –
DRAFT MINUTES –**

Meeting Type: **Regular Meeting**
 Meeting Location: **CPCNH Concord Office,
14 Dixon Avenue, Suite 201, Concord, NH 03301**
 Meeting Date: **Friday, October 6, 2023**
 Meeting Time: **10:00 AM**

CPCNH Regulatory & Legislative Affairs Committee			
Member	Name	Office	Present/Absent
Dover	Bill Baber	Committee Chair	Present
Rye	Howard Kalet		Present
Exeter	Julie Gilman		Present
Lebanon	Clifton Below	Board Chair	Present
Plainfield	Evan Oxenham		Present
Warner	Clyde Carson		Absent
Webster	David Hemenway		Present (late)
Berlin	Henry Noel	Secretary	Present

Others Present: Brian Callnan (virtually), Henry Herndon

1. Welcome, Roll Call

Evan Oxenham called the meeting to order at 10AM in Henry Herndon’s office at 14 Dixon Avenue, Concord.

Henry Noel called the Roll (see above).

Committee members who attended remotely stated that it was not reasonably practical to attend this meeting in person.

2. Approve Minutes of September 1 and September 8 Meetings

Evan presented the September 1 and September 8 Minutes as edited by Clifton.

Evan then moved and Clifton seconded a motion to approve both sets of Minutes; Minutes of both meetings approved unanimously and without objection.



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3. Update on issues pending before regulatory bodies

Clifton asked for version 3_SG to be brought up, it's a cleaner and more fully marked up of Samuel's edits.

Clifton noted in the Purpose Section he had made a simple change of the order of the two items.

Bill, in Regulatory and Policy Principles section, asked why there is no reference to Renewable Energy goals? Shouldn't this be in our Policies here?

Clifton found Energy Transition language, Clean, Carbon Neutral, Sustainable Energy language but no Renewable Energy language; we also searched for such language in the Appendix, which were originally the recitals that opened the Charter.

Brian pointed out that our Mission and Values Statement doesn't reflect the need for Renewable Energy.

Dave said it may be better not to call this out in particular language;

Much discussion within the group here but eventually all agreed to not include this new language.

Bill questioned whether "Open Access" in Item 1 title could be too limiting?

Henry H clarified that this opened the Grid to energy developers after the Utilities were deregulated and the language reflects what was achieved.

Dave asked that "resiliency" and "reliability" language be added: the group didn't think it was worth adding more language.

Clifton emphasized the Legislative Platform section had new language from Samuel with edits by our Attorney and he wanted us to look closely at the new language there.

Clifton asked Henry H to flip over to the DWCP version for final edits: Henry H had edited Charter language as we discussed it in the prior version.

In the RLAC Powers & Responsibilities section of this second version:



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Our Attorney highlighted Gifts & Grants Policy by placing it next in line after the Conflict of Interest Policy.

Howard suggested an annual overview of Conflict of Interest Policy; Dave didn't think the Charter was the appropriate place to consider HR policies. Bill thought we could defer this portion of the Charter to for when we have an HR Director on board who can then guide the discussion; other members agreed.

In the Legislative Positions section:

Dave thought we should add “proposed” and “existing” distinction into the Legislative Positions, to be more inclusive.

In the Legislative Platform section some edits and moving phrases around were performed.

In the Appendix we reviewed additions and changes made by Samuel.

Bill asked Brian if he was ok with the suggested changes so far, and he agreed with all the changes proposed and that the RLAC members will have a lot of work to do.

A motion to approve the RLAC Charter as modified today was made by Evan and seconded by Howard: Bill asked the group if there were any objections. Hearing none he declared the motion accepted unanimously (Dave, 10 minutes late to start of meeting, was able to vote in this and all subsequent motions).

4. **Discussion of needs for new legislation for the upcoming NH legislative session**

Clifton said CPCNH needs relief from in-person quorum requirement and brought up HB 308 signed into law this session for discussion. He said that a majority in attendance is not required by law to conduct business and the quorum requirement can be set formally by the group. This Bill requires at least 1/3 of the total members



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present to form a quorum but our ByLaws stipulate only 1/4 of our members form a quorum. This is not a good bill for CPCNH.

Clifton said another problem we have is with the Right To Know law which stipulates we must allow public attendance to all of our meetings and that this creates a problem with the Risk Management Committee. They must do the analysis that sets our Rates for the next billing cycle in public session. We have no right to go into non-public session so we can only hope no competitor listens in during those sessions!

Bill added we also have difficulty in conducting hybrid meetings more because of the small volunteer base in local communities and the lack of technical expertise.

Clifton has prepared some new language for a bill this session which Lebanon Representative Tom Cormen has agreed to sponsor, First it would allow CPCNH to use the Net Metering regulations to supply energy for its customers and, second, it would specify that no energy generator could participate in both the Net Metering market and the ISO NE wholesale market.

Dave asked if CPCNH's activity in this part of the Net Metering tariff would kneecap local Municipal Hosts? Clifton thought No.

Howard spoke of a developer who's putting up a ~1 MW Solar Farm in his community and wants to sell the developed project to investors: how would the new language work in his case?

Clifton answered by referring to the CA model of Community Choice Aggregators who use Ascend Analytics' software with stochastic-probabilistic modeling, where they recommend single-axis trackers with their Solar installations in conjunction with a battery system to capture more value in avoided transmission costs towards the end of the day when those costs are higher. He wants CPCNH to be able to do the same type projects here and access the value stack they revealed there.



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Clifton continued, these benefits of Net Metering are not acknowledged by Eversource as load reductions. As a result Stranded Costs are also rising over time. PUC was expected to have decided by now that Utilities must use Net Metering load reductions to offset Default Service costs. Utilities want to invest more in Transmission than in Distribution because of the higher returns there. There's a lot of value to be captured as load reducers rather than by selling into the ISO NE market.

Summarizing the discussion so far Brian highlighted that this new bill language will curtail cost shifting, will stop the growth of the stranded cost balance, will benefit NH Ratepayers and Net Metering participants who will continue to get the same rate.

Bill said the Utilities have filed their new rate requests; have we prepared any comments or responses in the proceeding?

Clifton said not yet but they're due in by December 3. He wants to have a response to read out for our next meeting in late October.

Bill asked about Clean Energy's concerns around reluctance to make big changes at this time.

Clifton explained how now is the better time to make changes to Net Metering 2.0. He proposed that Net Metering 3.0 address the small cost shifting issue by moving producers off the Default Service Rate to the Base Default Service Rate (which is a little lower) and add language that where there is Integral Metering producers get the actual measured Avoided Transmission credit.

Howard gave an estimate from ISO NE To Go website that indicated the Demand currently at 15,000 MW, where behind-the-meter Renewable Energy supplied about 2000 MW power lowering Peak Demand.

Bill asked, should Municipalities wait to develop projects, especially larger projects, until a later time?

Clifton suggested to wait a bit until new Net Metering tariff (3.0) comes out.

Current solar installations max out at Solar Noon so they're not getting



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maximum KWhr online to serve the load later in the day when spiking costs occur. Batteries can store and release their power later in the day to capture those spiking costs, as well as a Tracker mount can. He wants to see avoided Transmission Costs become more valuable also so the new projects can capture all these benefits and avoid the costs of retrofitting them. Expect these changes to come in soon.

Clifton, proceeding, said the existing rule states Utilities have to offer Bill-Ready Billing in place of the Consolidated Billing they now have. Bill-Ready Billing is enabled by their Electronic Data Interchange systems in CA; it will be at a high cost (~\$8M) to modernize ours here in NH, and Eversource says nobody is asking for this. We're asking Eversource for the Customer Usage Data, both import and export, so we can produce the charges and credits which we then present to the Utility for billing. Clifton recommends that they waive this requirement for Bill-Ready Billing as premature and expensive. But we still need time-of-use data to implement our program fully and it's not available yet; let's wait for the Report.

Evan read the notes to a PUC order where Eversource said they would provide the data by 9/23, but we haven't received it yet. Brian expects the data from Eversource soon.

5. **New business**

Bill observed that Henry H's office is the most convenient location to meet in future, given the growing number of towns joining CPCNH.

And, we need more new members for our Committees.

6. **Adjournment**

Evan Oxenham moved, Clifton Below seconded a motion to adjourn; Bill Baber hearing no objections, declared the motion approved, unanimously.