

Block Island Utility District
Meeting of the Board of Utility Commissioners
Thursday, November 2, 2023 @ 4:00 PM

In attendance: Barbara MacMullan, Mary Jane Balser, Tom Risom, Ken Lacoste, John Warfel, Jeff Wright, Tracy Fredericks, Evan Cary, David Lewis, Carlos Salinas.

Board Chair, Barbara MacMullan called the meeting to order at 4:01pm

1. Public Input- President, Jeffery Wright read an email from a member stating they are in support of renewable energy projects to help support the grid, and that they support our 2024 power supply and transmission plan.

2. Commissioner's Report

Election Review: Barbara MacMullan welcomed new commissioner, Ken Lacoste. Barbara reported that the election review went well and congratulations to Ken Lacoste and Mary Jane Balser.

Election of Board of Utility Commissioner Officers: Barbara MacMullan asked for a motion to elect board officer. Ken Lacoste made a motion to re-elect the same board members to the same positions if they are willing. The motion was seconded by Mary Jane and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Strategic Plan Update: Jeffery Wright reported that not much had changed since last meeting. Regarding the 5–10-year capital plan, he asked that the board appoint 2 people today to a sub-committee.

Succession planning needs to be addressed. We currently don't have succession plans for President, and for the BOD. The BOD can appoint a new commissioner as stated in the By-Laws. Jeff explained they had good succession plans for all the employees except for him, and Tracy. The line and maintenance crews have been trained to do each other's jobs. Jeff added that we don't really have an answer to succession for himself and Tracy. Ken suggested to draw a flow chart of Jeff and Tracy's jobs. Jeff pointed out that Dave Bebyn can help with his job.

4. Approve Meeting Minutes from the June 22, 2023, and July 27, 2023 meetings. A motion was made by Tom to approve the minutes from June 22, 2023, and July 27, 2023. The motion was seconded by John. The motion passed unanimously, Ken Lacoste abstained, he was not present at those meetings.

5. Treasurer's Update-Tom reported he didn't have time to review everything and would like to report on October at the next meeting.

6. President's Update

Grant Updates: (ETTIP and NRECA GRIP Grant) Jeff reported that we did not get the \$5.3M grant to fund pole replacements. The grants went mostly toward wildfire mitigation. Jeff reported he will put in for the second round of this grant and look into other grant opportunities.

The ETIPP grant meetings are continuing weekly, we are looking to get a plan that we can use if there is a long-term cable outage. Help us identify options we wouldn't normally consider in the event of a long-term cable outage. The ETIPP team will be here on November 13, 2023, for a public meeting.

7. Review and Approve 2024 Power Supply and Transmission Procurement Plan (100% Renewable Portfolio) and Rates

Jeffery Wright reported that the RI Energy Standard ("RES") sets a goal of 100% renewable by 2032. BIUD's proposed rate reconciliation will meet the State's RES, funded from rate payer revenues. The increase is approximately \$0.01 increase in rates. The Solar Initiative offered to fund the remaining credits to get BI to 100% renewable if we agree to this proposal tonight. The new proposed power supply and transmission rate is \$0.1978. This results in a \$7.79 increase to the average 500-kwH member.

Mary Jane Balser moved to approve the power supply transmission rate proposal and power supply strategy as presented in the Board Meeting with the documents that we all received. The motion was seconded by John. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Review of the Northeast Association of Electric Cooperatives Conference-

Barbara MacMullan expressed that she would like to review a presentation with everyone that was presented at the NEAEC meeting. Barbara expressed that the main point she took home was that the BOD's role is oversight and policy, and Jeff's role is implementation and operations and putting them into effect. Also, Barbara noted that we have the duty of care, loyalty, to inform and obedience to our By Laws and Policies. A discussion ensued.

9. Review the 2024 Budget Process and appoint two Commissioners to a Capital Planning Sub-Committee

Jeffery Wright reported that the next meeting is November 16th in which the operating and capital budgets will be ready for review. In December, we will approve them. There will be an increase in our operations budget. Jeff asked that two commissioners volunteer for a long-term capital budget committee to study a new building, new use of land, more housing are some of the topics the committee will tackle. Jeff suggested to tour the facility and grounds and look at the true state of the buildings. Tom Risom and Ken Lacoste offered to be on the committee. Through unanimous consent, they were appointed.

10. Review and Act Upon BIUD's position on Orsted Off-Shore Wind Projects

Jeffery Wright offered that BIUD has not taken a public position on developing off-shore wind projects. It may be time for us to step up and offer some insights. Jeff and Barbara went to a Town Council recent meeting and expressed support for offshore and renewable energy. He did feel it was important to formally make BIUD's position known to the council and our members.

A motion was made by Tom Risom and seconded by John Warfel to draft a letter to the Town Council to state our formal position. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barabara MacMullan and seconded by Ken Lacoste. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:39pm.

Approved on January 25, 2024