

BLOCK ISLAND UTILITY DISTRICT



A pair of eagles briefly took up residence in the power company osprey platform. The pair spent most of their days feeding, mating, and prepping the nest for what appeared to be our first nesting pair of eagles. Then, as quickly as they arrived, they left. Their absence will now open the door for the certain returning pair of ospreys that successfully raised one chick last year. The ospreys normally return to Block Island during the last week of March so the returning pair should arrive any day now. BIUD crews recently installed another six platforms bringing the total on island to twelve. The pair of eagles have recently been spotted elsewhere on the island so we are hopeful that one of the new platforms will soon be home to a pair of nesting eagles.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

APRIL 2, 2024

4:00 PM



Meeting of the Board of Utility Commissioners

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024 @ 4:00 PM

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE LEGION (WEST SIDE ROAD)

1. Public Input
2. Commissioner's Report
3. Approve Board Meeting Minutes from the February 22, 2024 Regular Meeting
4. ETIPP Update
5. Review 2024 Strategic Plan
6. Treasurer's Report
7. President's Report
8. Appoint Two Utility District Commissioners to the Town of New Shoreham Broadband Committee
9. Report on NRECA TechAdvantage Conference and Annual Meeting held in San Antonio, Texas by attendees; Barbara MacMullan, Ken Lacoste, Tom Risom, Dick Martin, Tom Brown and Jeffery Wright.

Individuals requesting services for the deaf and hard of hearing must call (401) 466-5851 forty-eight hours before the meeting date.

Posted: March 25, 2024 @ 3:00 PM

Secretary of State Website, BIBB, Town Hall, BIUD Website
www.blockislandpowercompany.com

**AGENDA ITEM 1
PUBLIC INPUT**

**AGENDA ITEM 2
COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

(THIS PAGE INCLUDED FOR NOTES)

AGENDA ITEM 3
APPROVE PAST BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 22, 2024

Block Island Utility District
Meeting of the Board of Utility Commissioners
Thursday, February 22, 2024 @ 4:00 PM

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

Board Chair, Barbara MacMullan called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

1. Public Input: Member Carlos Salinas asked about the ETIPP grant and how the BIUD members could be assured they would have the ability to offer input and stay informed of the study. Barbara MacMullan responded by promising a monthly update which would include public feedback and questions.

2. Commissioner's Report: Board Chair, Barbara MacMullan had no report this month.

3. Approve Meeting Minutes from the January 25, 2024, and the February 2, 2024 Meetings: A motion was made by Mary Jane Balser to approve the minutes from January 25, 2024 and February 2, 2024. The motion was seconded by John Warfel. The motion passed unanimously.

4. ETIPP Update: Barbara MacMullan, John Warfel and Jeffery Wright explained the current state of the ETIPP scoping process and detailed the direction the ETIPP team was heading with the scope, which was to explore on-island renewable generation potential and how to manage that generation. The scope will include a solar citing study as well as a study of trash to energy technologies and feasibility.

5. Strategic Plan: President Jeffery Wright presented the 2024 strategic plan and solicited input on the goals and strategies. Jeff suggested that he work with the employees to further develop the plan. He also suggested that succession planning be a priority for 2024. Mary Jane Balser complimented the group on keeping the plan alive and in front of everyone each month. No action was taken to approve the plan.

6. Treasurer's Update: Treasurer Tom Risom reported that he had reviewed the January billing summary, check run report, payroll summary and credit card statements and all was in accordance with the BIUD financial policies. President Jeffery Wright added that the 2023 financial audit was on track for approval in the April meeting.

7. President's Update: President, Jeffery Wright presented a brief verbal report detailing operational issues and an update on the NRECA GRIP Grant status.

8. Discuss Budgets and Potential Debt Filing to Term-Out the Line of Credit: Jeffery Wright recommend to the Board that he begin working on a debt filing that would include terming out

the line of credit (which had been used for capital investments) and to include \$250K to be used for a RI-OER Non-Wires Alternative grant match. He explained that when the filing was complete, he would ask for approval of the CFC loan and that he would present the debt filing for comments. He suggested that these would be ready by the end of April. No action was taken but there was consensus amongst the board to proceed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barabara MacMullan and seconded by Ken Lacoste. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:12pm.

AGENDA ITEM 4
ETIPP GRRANT UPDATE

ETIPP Technical Assistance Project Scope

Community: Block Island Utility District

Project Title: Road Map to 2040

Points of Contact

Below are the individuals who can be contacted to obtain information about any aspect of the project. If the people below do not have an answer, they can ask the people who do.

Community Representative: Barbara MacMullan, Chair, Block Island Utility District

Regional Partner: Kate Klibansky, Community Development Officer, Island Institute

Technical Lead: Peter Cappers, Staff Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

Community Background

Block Island is a small island off the coast of Rhode Island. Although it is the site of the first off-shore wind facility (30 MW) in the country which went on line in late 2016, none of the energy produced can be consumed by the residents of Block Island due to a power purchase agreement between the developer Ørsted and National Grid (now Rhode Island Energy). In addition, the level of locally sourced renewable energy resources is quite limited presently – representing roughly 13% of annual load in 2023. In addition, although the undersea cable that accompanied the off-shore wind facility provided the Island with access to the broader ISO-NE power system, it resulted in the migration of Block Island Utility District’s fleet of diesel generators to strictly provide emergency backup service in the event of a cable outage to save ratepayers money. Lastly, the Block Island community substantially lacks the time, money, expertise, and personnel to address the joint challenges these recent developments have created. Namely, substantial barriers on Block Island exist to gain energy independence, sustainability, and resiliency.

ETIPP Project Summary

This ETIPP project seeks to provide Block Island with sufficient knowledge and understanding to make better informed long-term decisions about the community’s energy future through education, planning, and pilot program support. Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL) will work with Island Institute and the Block Island Utility District (BIUD) to complete this ETIPP project.

The project has three tasks to achieve this outcome. First, to alleviate confusion and misunderstanding of the energy grid especially as it exists on Block Island, as well as to lay a strong foundation for understanding the outcomes of subsequent tasks, the project team will develop and deliver a two (2) hour community educational in-person workshop that seeks to help community members better understand the electric grid, how it provides reliability and

resilience, and the opportunities and challenges associated with transitioning to high levels of renewable energy on an island electric grid. Second, to provide the community with sufficient information to identify pathways to increasing the level of locally sourced renewable energy resources and increase resiliency to potential outages of the undersea cable, the project team will develop an energy roadmap to 2040. Lastly, given long-standing interest in the pursuit of a community solar project that would directly support low-and-moderate income residents of the island, the project team will work with the National Community Solar Partnership to support the eventual creation of a pilot community solar program.

Goals & Anticipated Impacts

- Educate and inform community members about the electric grid, how it provides reliability and resilience, and the opportunities and challenges associated with transitioning to high levels of renewable energy on an island electric grid
- Provide viable renewable resource pathways that reflect community preferences
- Support implementation of a community solar pilot program

Stakeholders

Name	Org	Title	Email	Role
Jenny Wiegele	NREL	Project Manager	Jenny.Wiegele@nrel.gov	ETIPP Regional Lead
Jamie Cook	Island Institute	Senior Community Development Officer	jcook@islandinstitute.org	Regional Partner
Kate Klibansky	Island Institute	Community Development Officer	kklibansky@islandinstitute.org	Regional Partner
Peter Cappers	LBNL	Staff Scientist	pacappers@lbl.gov	Lab technical team lead
John Patrick Daniel	LBNL	Policy Researcher II	jpdaniel@lbl.gov	Lab technical team
Jeff Wright	BIUD	President	jwright@blockislandutilitydistrict.com	Community Co-Lead
Barbara MacMullan	BIUD	Chair	bmacmullan@blockislandutilitydistrict.com	Community Co-Lead
John Warfel	BIUD	Secretary	jwarfel@blockislandutilitydistrict.com	Community Co-Lead

Activities

Activity 1: Community Education Seminar

Description

Hold an in-person two-hour educational seminar to help community members better understand the energy grid as well as the implications of transitioning to high levels of renewable energy on their local Block Island electric grid. The seminar will cover the following topics: 1) primer on electricity and the electric grid; 2) Block Island and the electric grid; and 3) Implications for Block Island's 2040 Energy Roadmap.

Risks

- Disagreement on agenda
- Scheduling seminar

Task 1: Community education seminar – Develop and finalize the agenda for and timing of the community seminar. Develop and finalize the presentation for the seminar. Deliver and disseminate the seminar presentation.

Activity 2: 2040 Energy Roadmap

Description

Develop an energy roadmap to 2040 that gains consensus on the desired future energy goals for Block Island through Lab-provided analysis and facilitated discussions.

Risks

- Community or ETIPP project leadership consensus on desired future energy goals
- Data or modeling limitations to develop the necessary elements for the Roadmap

Task 1: Load forecast - Develop and finalize an annual Block Island system load forecast through 2040 that adjusts for anticipated adoption of pool pumps, water heaters, electric vehicles, and HVAC electrification.

Task 2.1: Community-scale wind assessment - Develop and finalize a community-scale wind resource assessment based on assumptions regarding land availability and use on Block Island, as well as installed nameplate capacity per square meter.

Task 2.2: Community-scale solar assessment - Develop and finalize a community-scale ground-mount (tracking) solar resource assessment based on current assumptions regarding land availability and use on Block Island, as well as installed nameplate capacity per square meter.

Task 2.3: Distributed-scale solar assessment - Develop and finalize a distributed-scale roof-mount (fixed tilt) solar resource assessment based on simple assumptions

regarding average rooftop size (square meter), number of available rooftops, as well as installed nameplate capacity per square meter.

Task 2.4: Biofuel assessment - Develop and finalize a biofuel resource assessment at the New Shoreham wastewater treatment facility.

Task 3: Scenario identification - Present to the Block Island community the results of the load forecast and renewable resource assessments. Discuss their implications for energy goals in 2040. Work with the community in a workshop environment to identify objectives and tradeoffs that will inform four (4) different sets of energy goals and the resulting pathways to achieve those energy goals.

Task 4: Techno-economic analysis – Analyze the likely adoption rates of the various load and renewable resources, as well as the integration requirements associated with each of the four (4) scenarios. Analyze the economic costs that would be incurred across each of the four (4) scenarios.

Task 5: Roadmap presentation – Document all inputs, methods, and assumptions that produced the results for the four (4) scenarios. Develop and deliver a presentation to the Block Island community on the outcomes of the techno-economic analysis, the tradeoffs it suggests for Block Island decisionmakers, and issues not directly addressed in the analysis but could affect future decision making.

Activity 3: Community Solar Pilot Program

Description

Support BIUD’s request for technical assistance to the National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP) program.

Risks

- BIUD and/or its community members decide against submitting a request for TA to NCSP

Task 1: Support NCSP proposal – Work with BIUD and NCSP to identify a viable technical assistance project proposal that is in line with the results of the 2040 Roadmap. Provide the results of the community-scale solar resource assessment to NCSP.

Activity 4: Project Summary Factsheet

Description

Develop a one-page factsheet summarizing the key outcomes of the project.

Risks

- None

Task 1: Support factsheet development – Provide the necessary information to the Island Institute so they can develop a one-page fact sheet summarizing the outcomes of the project.

Activities Summary

Activity	Activity Manager	End Product	Timeline	Risks
Community education seminar	Technical Lead	Presentation	Q1 of 2024	Scheduling
Load forecast	Technical Lead	Presentation	Q3 of 2024	Data availability
Renewable energy resource assessment	Technical Lead	Presentation	Q3 of 2024	Data and other input availability
Identify scenarios	Technical Lead	Presentation	Q4 of 2024	Lack of community consensus
Techno-economic analysis	Technical Lead	Presentation	Q1 of 2025	Data and other input availability
Roadmap presentation – Public Meeting	Technical Lead & Regional Partner	Community Meeting	Q2 of 2025	None
Communicate Outcomes – Final Materials	Brooke Van Zandt			None
NCSP Support	Technical Lead	Community-scale solar resource assessment	Q2 of 2025	Lack of community support for submitting a TA request

Project Schedule

Task	Title	2024												2025						
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
1.1	Community education seminar	█																		
2.1	Load forecast			█	█	█	█	█	█	█										
2.2	Renewable resource assessment			█	█	█	█	█	█	█										
2.3	Identify scenarios												█	█						
2.4	Techno-economic analysis														█	█				
2.5	Roadmap presentation																			
3.1	Community solar pilot program																			
4.1	Project factsheet																			

AGENDA ITEM 5
STRATEGIC PLAN

Block Island Power Company Strategic Plan 2024

Mission Statement

To serve Block Island with safe, reasonably priced and reliable energy.

Safety

Empower and support a workplace culture that promotes the safety of our employees and members.

Financial Balance

Embrace policies that ensure financial stability, reasonable rates and innovative rate making

Member Engagement

Promote understanding of the cooperative model and transparency

Sustainable Workforce

Invest in workforce stability

Capital Planning

Embrace a sustainable and robust planning process for capital projects that focus on priority, funding, and impacts.

Power Supply

Continuously evaluate future power supply opportunities and develop renewable goals.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to serve Block Island in a way that enhances our members' lives.

GOALS/TARGETS

Employee Lost Time Incident Rate Goal 0

Public Incident Rate Goal 0

Comply with Quarterly Safety Training and Monthly Truck/Equipment Inspections

Modified Debt Service > 1.50%

Develop Long Range Financing Plan

Set Timeline for Next Rate Case (COS)

Redesign Website

Implement Social Media Platforms

Develop Succession Plans

Capital Planning Sub-Committee to develop a long-term Employee Housing Plan

Hold Quarterly Capital Planning Sub-Committee Meetings

Develop 5-10 Year Capital Plan.

Hold Quarterly Power Supply Sub-Committee Meetings

Develop REC Procurement Plan – Procure Additional Long Term Renewable Resources

MEASURE

ON TRACK
0

ON TRACK
0

ON TRACK

4.45%

ON TRACK

ON TRACK

ON TRACK

ON TRACK

ON TRACK

ON TRACK

ON TRACK

ON TRACK

ON TRACK

ON TRACK

STRATEGIES

Conduct Daily Safety Meetings/Field Visits

Host external training (fire/rescue/excavators)

Publish public safety messages (paper/bill stuffers/social media)

Continue to grow Equity:Debt Ratio

Produce Timely Quarterly Financials for Review

Develop Equipment Rotation Schedule

Engage with Touchtone Energy to redesign and deploy the website with social media ties.

Enhance cross-training efforts, recruit future BOD candidates, and develop recruitment strategy for linemen and President.

Capital Planning Sub-Committee to meet quarterly to discuss future capital improvements which will focus on employee housing.

Review existing projects, facilities, housing and engineering plans.

Investigate external funding opportunities to support project plans.

Continuously evaluate power supply opportunities and tailor BIUD power supply to long-term goals.

Power Supply Sub-Committee to meet quarterly to develop plans.

AGENDA ITEM 6
TREASURER'S REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 7
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PRESIDENTS REPORT
MARCH 26, 2024

GRIP Grant Status Update

BIUD is a joint applicant with 60+ other coops that NRECA is representing. BIUD's projects cope includes changing all poles on the island grater than 20 years old. The project budget is \$4.3M and would fund the replacement of 1,200 poles. NRECA has been encouraged to submit a full application. Recent conversations with NRECA lead me to think positively. We will know the outcome by mid-summer.

RI-OER Non-Wires Alternative Grant

During a recent update call with OER, we were encouraged to submit the non-wires alternative grant application. The funds are earmarked for BIUD and our voltage conversion project qualifies. The grant amount is \$250K which requires a \$250K match which CFC will fund it.

Debt Filing

We are working on updating our long-range financial model for CFC and will have a debt filing ready to file by the end of April. We have given the DPUC a heads up that the filing is coming.

Construction Projects

In addition to the capital work changing poles and expanding the voltage conversion, we have been asked to build more line extensions and new services than ever before. The amount of work totals nearly \$500K in total and includes the following projects: Herrington Project on Corn Neck (\$35K and \$117K), Kwind's 1,500' Underground Line Extension at the end of West Beach Road (\$63K), Atlantic Inn Three Phase New Service (\$50K), Eldh on Coast Guard Road New Service (\$35K), Beach Avenue Inn and Residential Housing (DeBiase) New Service (\$50K), and the Medical Center upgrade (\$131K).

We have not had any further communications with Champlin's Marina on the proposed line extension we discussed last spring with them.

Insurance

Federated Insurance Exchange is working on our estimate for full coverage which will take effect on August 1, 2024, if we chose to switch insurance companies. They are a cooperative that is a close partner with CFC. The process to get to this point has taken a full year but, in the end, I believe will save us significant money and provide us with technical support, especially in the safety area. Like CFC, Federated is much more than a insurance company. They insure and support nearly 90% of the electric cooperative market.

Personal Update

I will provide a short personal update during the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 8
APPOINT TWO COMMISSIONERS TO THE
TNS BROADBAND COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM 9
NRECA TECH ADVANTAGE CONFERENCE
AND
ANNUAL MEETING REPORT