



Meeting of the Board of Utility Commissioners

Thursday, January 25, 2024@ 4:00PM

In Attendance-Barbara MacMullan, John Warfel, Ken Lacoste, Tom Risom, Mary Jane Balser, David Lewis, Carlos Salinas, Steve Corbett, Cindy Davis, Tony Pappas, Tom Durden, Evan Carey

Board Chair Barbara MacMullan called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm

1. Public Input-Carlos shared that he felt Jeffery's article in the paper was good and could be used to help the public understand how REC's work.
2. Correspondence
 - a. Chris Warfel December 11, 2023-Mary Jane commented that she is not sure why Chris is signaling her out in such a vitriolic manner. She stated that what he is saying is untrue and unfair, she also didn't understand why he writes these letters then doesn't come to the meeting. She further stated that she is very disappointed.
 - b. Chris Warfel December 22, 2023
President Jeffery Wright stated from a company standpoint, the letter stems from an interaction with a company contractor several years ago and he has spoken with him about the incident. David Lewis commented that he felt Jeffery stating that it was a company contractor was important and appropriate.
3. Commissioner's Report
 - a. ETIPP Grant Update-Barbara reminded us of the meeting back in November, the subcommittee is meeting bi-weekly. Another community outreach meeting will be held February 15, at the town hall and on Zoom. The committee will present the path on how they feel we should move forward with the grant and how to incorporate more renewables into our Island generation. They told us we could apply for a grant with the National Community Solar Partnership program, and that they will undertake that analysis for us. They will also help us come up with strategies to deal with a long-term and short-term cable outage.

Steve Corbett, BIUD member, asked whose goal it is to get to 80% renewables, and offered that he wants cheap power with generation backup. He noted that there is no reference to, and sustainability or climate change in the mission statement, nor should they be. Jeff offered that sustainable energy is not always more expensive. We want to deliver cost-effective power to our members.
John Warfel added that the 80% renewables goal was suggested because anything over that amount would be cost prohibitive.
 - b. Orsted/New Shoreham Town Council Update-Barbara deferred due to cancelled town council meetings.
4. Review and approve the 2024 BIUD Board Calendar-Tom Risom made a motion to

approve the calendar, the motion was seconded by John Warfel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Jeff asked we add the power supply committee meet quarterly. The capital budget committee will try to meet several times prior to the summer season.

5. Review 2023 Strategic Plan, Update for 2024-President Jeffery Wright offered we have a plan that the board and employees agree to. Jeff will put together a plan to be discussed at the next board meeting. We are meeting our financial and safety goals. David asked about the succession plans. Jeff said he will make sure this is addressed in the new plan.
6. Approve Board Meeting Minutes
 - a. September 22, 2023
 - b. November 2, 2023
 - c. November 13, 2023
 - d. November 16, 2023

Mary Jane Balser made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 11/2, 11/13 and 11/16, subject to the corrections made on the 11/2 minutes by Barbara MacMullan. The motion was seconded by Ken Lacoste, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Report on monthly Treasurer's Reports-Treasurer Tom Risom offered that we are finally up to date with reviewing the Treasurer's Reports
 - b. Review Preliminary 2023 Y/E Financials
Included in meeting materials.
 - c. Budget/Rate Case Update

Ken Lacoste made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as presented, the motion was seconded by John Warfel. The motion passed unanimously.

8. President's Report
 - a. President Jeffery Wright gave a summary of BIUD accomplishments over the past year.
 - BIUD completed its first member satisfaction survey
 - BIUD submitted a 100% renewable power supply procurement plan
 - BIUD hosted the Northeast Association of Electric Cooperatives conference.
 - BIUD was recognized in the NRECA publication RENews.
 - Took delivery of Terex EV bucket truck
 - BIUD held its largest annual meeting yet with more than 70 attendees.
 - BIUD held its third election for utility commissioners.
 - BIUD sub-committee made improvements to the employee benefit plans.
 - BIUD followed through on its commitment to provide safety

training to its employees, marking the 6th consecutive year with no reportable injuries.

- BIUD negotiated a service contract with SERTEX.
- BIUD installed Block Island's first Level 3 EV Charger at the power company.
- BIUD continued working on its voltage conversion and pole replacement projects.
- BIUD was awarded a DOE technical assistance grant called Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP)
- BIUD went through its fourth consecutive summer peak period without any major equipment related outages
- BIUD made its strategic plan a living document.
 - Jeff noted that in 2024 BIUD plans to accomplish the following:
 - We plan to continue making system improvements to increase the system's resiliency.
 - BIUD will complete the ETIPP work in hopes of mapping a roadmap of what it will take to promote increased levels of local renewables.
 - BIUD will continue to work on its safety culture.
 - BIUD will develop a Renewable Energy Credit procurement plan and prepare its 2025 power supply plan.
 - BIUD will prepare and file a rate case.
 - BIUD will continue to demonstrate leadership in the cooperative network.
 - BIUD has reapplied for the \$5M DOE grant to replace poles. In 2024 we'll hope for better results than in the first round.

Barbara MacMullan made a motion to adjourn the motion was seconded by Mary Jane Balsler. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:11pm.

