

**NORTHEAST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES
MAY 14, 2019
Doubletree by Hilton Manchester Downtown
Manchester, NH**

Present (in person and via the phone)

Mr. Jeff Cady, chair; Mr. Justin Connell; Mr. James Bakas; Mr. Reginald Beliveau; Mr. Bill Bottiggi; Mr. Mike Cloutier; Mr. John Driscoll; Mr. Jonathan Elwell; Mr. Jonathan Fitch; Mr. Scott Hallowell; Mr. Sean Hamilton; Mr. Paul Heanue; Mr. Rick Hendershot; Mr. Mike Kirkwood; Mr. Jim Lavelle; Mr. Craig Myotte; Ms. Patty Richards; Mr. David Schofield; Mr. Todd Shea; Mr. Panos Tokadjian; and Mr. John Tzimirangas.

Absent: All present.

Staff

Ms. Bonnie Biocchi; Ms. Jacqueline Campbell; Ms. Elizabeth Dailey; Ms. Wendy Esche; Ms. Sarah Klingler; and Mr. Scott Edwards.

Call to Order

Mr. Jeff Cady called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes of the March 14, 2019 meeting and voted to approve them as presented.

Financial Reports

Ms. Elizabeth Dailey distributed copies of the S&G Independent Auditors' Report for December 31, 2018 & 2017 and the 2019 Income Statement - Three Months Ending 3/31/19 financial reports and investment reports. Ms. Dailey discussed the financial standing of the association and reviewed the investment information. The Board then voted to accept the financial reports.

****It was noted for next year to send audit review electronically only.***

Executive Directors Report

Ms. Bonnie Biocchi presented a written Executive Director's Report to the Board, highlighting upcoming programs including the E&O Conference May 13&14 with anticipated attendance over 200. The Customer Service Conference June 19th, all were encouraged to send their service staff. We are creating a DYK (did you know?) campaign, please submit quotes that can be used. This report was strictly for informational purposes and no Board action was required.

Training and Education Updates

Ms. Biocchi communicated that the PUMP Program has been a great success and has exceeded our revenue goals. Justin Connell is participating in revitalized PUMP program and can attest to the tremendous value to the participants. There was feedback from General Managers that it would be good to have a new GM primer when they take on this new role. It was suggested that we create a mentoring / buddy system for new GM's. This report was strictly for informational purposes and no Board action was required.

Committee Reports

Committee representatives presented a brief update on the current projects and status of their committees to the Board. These reports were strictly for informational purposes and no Board action was required. ****It was noted that committee members making calls to potential attendees to participate helped in the success of the E&O and this should be the standard operating procedure moving forward for all events.***

APPA Legislative Rally

Mr. Paul Heanue shared that the trip to DC went well and that Massachusetts had a large contingent. The Board engaged in conversation regarding the importance of being present at all the events and that involvement with APPA is important to keep informed of the latest trends and issues. It was noted that a smaller group would be participating in a second trip to DC in October.

Legislative Tool Kit

Meguire Whitney is developing a tool kit for engaging our delegation during the summer recess. This will be released in early June.

New Business

Ms. Biocchi introduced a possible bulk purchasing model be created beyond what we currently have in place for pole purchases. The idea was met with lukewarm reception as it seemed challenging to determine how to make it work with so many systems with unique requirements and procurement procedures.

Mr. Connell communicated that roundtables need more professionalism to bring them to a higher level. There was a discussion as to how to engage a broader cohort of the membership in specific industry subsets: IT, HR, Customer Service etc. NEPPA should also establish a Young Professionals group. Ms. Biocchi will develop new roundtables over the course of the rest of the year.

Ms. Bonnie Biocchi discussed the topic of the talent pipeline and intergenerational workplaces and the formation of the Talent Pipeline working group. There was discussion about what are the values and benefits of public power and how we can do a better job of attracting and retaining a new generation of workers.

Mr. Edwards shared Mutual Aid updates, and that he has been traversing the region meeting to gather information about how members view mutual aid. He has notified Everbridge that we will discontinue using them for our notification system during outages. He further disclosed that

NEPPA was not awarded the DEED grant requested for the development of new software. The discussion then turned to revision of the Mutual Aid agreement which has not been revised since 1990. He is making this a priority and he suggested we set up one flat rate for storm outages. It was decided that this would be a good topic of discussion for the GM roundtable at the Annual Conference so that as many people as possible could weigh in on the new agreement. It was further suggested that every year the contract should be sent to all GM's so that we know they are reading the contract and we should request a return receipt. This was generally accepted as a good protocol to adopt.

Executive Session

On an individual voice vote, with all Board members voting in the affirmative, the Committee went into Executive Session.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cloutier
Secretary