

# State Energy Advisory Board Teleconference Minutes

April 15, 2009, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. ET

## **Attendees:**

### **DFO:**

- Gary Burch, STEAB Designated Federal Officer, Director of EE Projects Division, Golden Field Office, Denver, CO

<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
<b>MEMBERS</b>	Present	Not Present
Chris Benson, Director, Arkansas Energy Office, Department of Economic Development (Board Chair)		✓
Jim Arwood Director, State Energy Office, State of Arizona		✓
Henry 'Ted' Berglund, CEO and President, Dyplast Products		✓
Susan S. Brown, Deputy Administrator, Wisconsin Division of Energy	✓	
John H. Davies, Director, Division of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Kentucky Office of Energy Policy	✓	
Roger Duncan, General Manager, Austin Energy – City of Austin	✓	
Ryan Gooch, Energy Policy Director, Tennessee Economic and Community Development	✓	
Paul Gutierrez, Vice Provost for Outreach Services, Associate Dean and Director, Cooperative Extension Service, College of Agriculture and Home Economics, New Mexico State University	✓	
Duane Hauck, Director, Extension Services, North Dakota State University	✓	
Robert Hoppie, Administrator, Energy Division, Idaho Department of Water Resources		✓
Elliott Jacobson, Director, Action Energy, Inc. (Board Secretary)	✓	
Cecelia Johnson Powell, Community Development Manager, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority		✓
Peter Johnston, Project Manager, Clean Energy Technologies, Burns & McDonnell	✓	
James Nolan, Weatherization Director, Department of Public, Health and Human Services		✓
Jim Ploger, Energy Manager, Kansas Energy Office	✓	
Larry Shirley, State Energy Office Director, North Carolina Department of Administration		✓
Janet Streff, Manager, State Energy Office, Minnesota Department of Commerce		✓
Patricia Sobrero, Associate Vice Chancellor, Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development, North Carolina State University (Vice Chair)		✓
David Terry, Executive Director, ASERTTI		✓
Steve Vincent, Avista Utilities	✓	
Daniel Zaweski, Director, Energy Efficiency & Distributed Generation, Long Island Power Authority		✓
<b>CONTRACTOR SUPPORT</b>		
Milana Campbell, Analyst I, SENTECH, Inc.	✓	
<b>PUBLIC</b>		
Thomas C. Adams	✓	
Phillip Chalker	✓	
Derrick Sands, Platts	✓	

### **Agenda Items:**

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| 1. Update on the Recovery Act Implementation                                 | Gary Burch   |
| 2. Status of the new STEAB Subcommittee                                      | Gary Burch   |
| 3. Action Items from the March Meeting                                       | Chris Benson |
| 4. Prospective Agenda Topics for the next STEAB Meeting (June 23 – 25 in DC) | Chris Benson |
| 5. Public Comments   | Chris Benson |
| 6. Other Board Business  | Chris Benson |

1. Update on the Recovery Act Implementation
  - All states are trying to respond to the requirements and activities of the Recovery Act.
  - Gary has had calls with DOE headquarters to discuss some aspects of the Recovery Act.
  - Headquarters is immersed in developing a Master Plan to transfer funds to grant recipients.
  - Department of Energy's (DOE) General Counsel is concerned with a few of the governors' letters.
  - No further questions on the Recovery Act.
2. Status of the new STEAB Subcommittee
  - During the March 2009 meeting, it was proposed by Gil Sperling (Program Manager of the Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program) that STEAB might oversee a new subcommittee. The Board took action on what it would offer in the formation and creation of a new subcommittee, if in fact the subcommittee is set up under STEAB.
  - Gil will need to get General Counsel's concurrence that that activity that is required in the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECGB) area could be met through a subcommittee under STEAB. There has been no follow-up action on this issue.
3. Action Items from the March Meeting
  - The March meeting minutes will be finalized by next week.
  - The Board should review the action items list and add adjustments, modifications, and updates. All changes will be reviewed by Gary and released in the final minutes.
  - Ryan Gooch highlighted an error in the Governor's assurance letter compliance. Gary concurred and asked Ryan to email adjustments.
  - No more Board comments regarding the action item list were made.
4. Prospective Agenda Topics for the next STEAB Meeting (June 23 – 25 in DC)
  - The official June meeting agenda is not assembled at this time.
  - Most likely the agenda will be primarily driven by what is known about the Recovery Act, which continues to evolve every day.
  - It is anticipated the focus for the June meeting will be issues that need a collective interface from STEAB, i.e., the formation of a subcommittee.
  - Anything such as questions, issues or thoughts for the June agenda should be sent to Gary; and it will be displayed in the draft version.
  - Elliott Jacobson stated the weatherization application is on an accelerated deadline and has 60 days until expiration.
  - Elliott stated he is positive states will not know about Department of Energy (DOE, headquarters) reaction and those in headquarters are talking about deliberations.
  - Gary stated he has secured a commitment from Gil to be one of the first speakers at the June meeting, and there will be a dialogue on Recovery Act issues.
  - The comprehensive May 12th State Energy Program (SEP) deadline has been met by all of the State Energy Offices (SEO's), except for one, that have submitted their governor's assurance letter's and applications from about a month ago. The states have received no response, and there have been no grants awarded.
  - DOE is required to respond within 60 days from the SEP deadline, per the stipulation from the National Association of State Energy Offices (NASEO).

- Gary reiterated that the General Counsel has an issue with some of the governors' letters.
5. Public Comments
- No public members identified themselves when prompted.
6. Other Board Business
- Elliott Jacobson stated the Davis-Bacon issue is not resolved and suggested to place it on the June meeting agenda as a possible discussion topic. Ryan Gooch concurred that that would be a good issue to place on the June agenda.
  - The first iteration of the draft June agenda will be sent to STEAB members by mid-May.
  - Board members will email Gary their thoughts and ideas on June meeting agenda topics.
  - OWIP's Master Plan to EERE Senior management on how it will administer the three separate formula grant pieces (SEP, Weatherization, and EECBG) has not been officially signed off on.
  - The Master Plan is being reviewed by the senior levels of EERE.
  - The Senior EERE staff is requiring a higher level of detail in the Master Plan and that does not speak to the state plans yet.
  - The field cannot respond to inquiries from the states when specificity from DOE is evolving.
  - June's meeting will be used to discuss the prospective new subcommittee.
  - Possible June meeting ideas are to: Invite the Assistant Secretary of EERE, and continue to dialogue with Richard Moorner (adjunct to EE1 staff) as he is a good contact with the Board in moving forward towards growth.
  - Regarding expansion of personnel at headquarters and in the field, there are hiring lists that are continually updated: an approved hiring list, and a "wish list" with both federal and contractor FTEs. The Golden Field Office has defined and defended a need for 60-plus people to join the office within the next 90 days to help administer the Recovery Act program.
  - The jobs postings are not all listed publically yet, as some were just posted last week.
  - The Human Resources (HR) office responsibilities have grown at Golden, CO, as it now oversees HR additions both within Golden, CO, and at headquarters.

*The State Energy Advisory Board April teleconference call was concluded at 1:29 p.m. ET.  
Minutes scribed by Milana Campbell (SENTECH, Inc.).*