Ohio Energy Project Board Meeting

Date: June 7, 2018 Time: 1:30 p.m.

**Location: The Wine Bistro,**

**8321 N. High St., Columbus, Ohio**

**Board Members Present:**

Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation – President

T.J. Faze, Vertiv – Treasurer

Barry Schumann, AEP – Secretary

Jackie Bird, consultant – Governance Chair

Andrew Finton, North Central Electric Cooperative – trustee

Holly Karg, American Municipal Power – trustee

Jill Kocher, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio – board partner

Chris Monacelli, Westerville Electric Division -- trustee

Devin Parram, Bricker & Eckler – trustee

Janet Rehberg, Buckeye Power – trustee

Bill Yost, retired hydrologist – trustee

**Board Members Not Present:**

Scott Potter, Ohio State University – Vice President

Jeanne Gogolski of EducationProjects.org – trustee

Susan Moser, Ohio Development Services Agency – board partner

Kelli Gaza Nowinsky, Columbia Gas of Ohio – trustee

Stjepan Vlahovich, Ground Level Solutions – trustee

**OEP Staff Present:**

Debby Yerkes, Executive Director

Shauni Nix, education coordinator

Sue Tenney, education coordinator

Jessica Sarber, education coordinator

Monique Heath, education coordinator

Liza Richard, financial assistant

Susan Wasmund, education coordinator

**Call to Order and Welcome:**

President Dale Arnold called the regular meeting of the board to order and asked all present to introduce themselves. This included two new faces: board member Holly Karg, American Municipal Power director of media relations and communications, replacing former AMP employee Karen Ritchey; and OEP educational coordinator Monique Heath, who will be succeeding Shauni Nix when she assumes the executive director role in July 2018. Heath comes to OEP from the Visionary Leaders Institute, an organization focused on positive change in urban education where she served as contract administrator/technology consultant. The board welcomed both Karg and Heath.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:**

Arnold noted the proposed agenda, financials, and April 2018 board minutes had been distributed electronically prior to the meeting, and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Jackie Bird asked to add an agenda item on Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organization certification. Arnold called for a motion. Jackie Bird moved to accept additions and close the agenda as revised; Bill Yost seconded. Arnold called the vote. Motion carried.

**Youth Energy Celebration:**

Sue Tenney thanked all board members and staff who assisted at the Youth Energy Celebration at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in May for helping make it a successful event. Tenney asked for feedback. Board members shared they loved the new venue, the shortened awards program, the sponsor appreciation comments from teachers among other positives. Suggested improvements included ensuring speakers use the microphone correctly to be heard and to ask for applause to be held until all honorees or others are introduced.

**Financial Update:**

T.J. Faze reviewed the organization’s financials, noting that overall the current year and 2018-19 and projections are in good order. Faze said the 2019 budget looks very strong at just over $2 million compared to $1.9 million this year. He noted a $400,000 agreement with DP&L is pending. Arnold called for a motion. Bill Yost moved to accept and submit the financials for audit; Janet Rehberg seconded. Arnold called the vote. Motion carried.

**Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations:**

Jackie Bird said two years ago OEP began the process to apply for OANO’s Standards for Excellence Accreditation, both to instill good business practices within the organization and to attain certification that could be pointed out to current and potential funders. Bird noted board and staff put a lot of time and effort along with an investment of $1,500 into researching, planning and implementing best practices in order to apply for accreditation. Bird said OEP has been advised that its application for accreditation has been accepted but despite repeated contacts with OANO, thus far OEP has not received formal notice, permission to display the accreditation on the OEP website or inclusion of OEP in the listing of accredited nonprofits on OANO’s website. She suggested that board president Dale Arnold reach out to the OANO board president and/or OEP board member Devin Parram send a letter to OANO seeking formal notice of accreditation or a refund of the accreditation fee. Arnold and Parram agreed to work together on a strategy to connect with OANO in an effort to resolve the issue.

**Executive Director Transition:**

Shauni Nix said she and Debby Yerkes continue to meet on a regular basis to facilitate knowledge transfer as she prepares to step into the executive director role July 1, 2018. Yerkes is putting together an executive director’s handbook to capture a variety of information about the role, responsibilities, and timing of activities. Nix said Lisa Richard and board treasurer T.J. Faze have been very helpful in developing her understanding of the organization’s financials. Nix also said her plan to take a course on financials has been delayed until late fall due to the organization’s very busy summer and early fall calendar.

Nix and Yerkes will meet June 21 with Greg Bretz, Grundfos vice president of sales-commercial building services to discuss potential support for OEP. The Danish company is the world’s largest manufacturer of water pumps and has a commitment to clean water and energy efficiency.

Nix said Devin Parram will be meeting the week of June 11 with IGS Energy, and Nix and Yerkes will be meeting the same week with Honda of America Manufacturing and potential support.

Jackie Bird asked if there were opportunities for staff to participate in professional development. Nix responded she will be talking in July with staff about their respective interests in training and will work to create a plan to enable staff to participate in development on a rotating basis.

Debby Yerkes shared that DP&L had just hosted an AEGIS Energy Bike building program for middle school girls, and that the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) is hosting an AEGIS program the week of June 11. She said OEP will continue to look for ways to gain NOPEC support beyond the AEGIS program.

Nix shared that board member Stjepan Vlahovich has had some health issues but is doing better now.

Board members agreed to sign and send Vlahovich a meeting agenda along with a group photo wishing him a speedy recovery.

Janet Rehberg presented Debby Yerkes and Shauni Nix with gifts of wine and chocolate in recognition of Debby’s retirement and Shauni’s succession to the executive director position. The board gave a round of recognition for both.

**Retreat Planning:**

Dale Arnold turned the focused to planning for a board retreat in October to focus on the future. Chris Monacelli offered to secure the Westerville Parks & Recreation’s Everal Barn for the retreat, which is tentatively planned for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Oct. 4. Shauni Nix said the retreat will build on a plan presented by Kelli Nowinsky at the April 2018 board meeting as a result a half-day branding and planning session held in December 2017. Nix said the board will look at the OEP mission and vision, and at the strategic plan developed in 2011 and revised in 2016. Nix said OEP needs to solidify its message for teacher marketing.

Nix also said the organization is planning to target teachers participating in the COSI Science Festival in May 1-4, 2019. The first-ever festival will feature activities throughout the central Ohio community and at COSI, and is expected to involve thousands of classroom educators.

Dale Arnold asked for volunteers to help staff plan for the retreat. Chris Monacelli, Holly Karg and Jackie Bird agreed to assist.

**Adjournment:**

With meeting agenda business concluded, Arnold called for a motion to adjourn. Jackie Bird moved to adjourn the meeting; Bill Yost seconded. Arnold called the vote. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. Arnold encouraged everyone to remain for an informal celebratory reception in honor of Debby Yerkes’ retirement. He noted her final day in the office is June 29, 2018.

*-Recorded by B. Schumann, secretary*

**Upcoming OEP events:**

Fifth-grade Professional Development – June 12, 2018, Springfield

Third- and Fourth-grade Professional Development – June 13, 2018, Tipp City

Columbus Energy Sources Tour -- June 19-21, 2018, Columbus and other locations

Fifth-grade Professional Development – June 19, 2018, Columbus

Seventh- and Ninth-grade Professional Development – June 20, 2018, Brilliant

Seventh- and Ninth-grade Professional Development – June 26, 2018, Orrville

Third- and Fourth-grade Professional Development – June 27, 2018, Wadsworth

Third-grade Professional Development – July 10, 2018, Bowling Green

Fourth- and Fifth-grade Professional Development – July 11, 2018, Bowling Green

Energy Efficiency Professional Development/Open House – July 12, 2018, Dayton

Third- and Fourth-grade Professional Development – July 16, 2018, Columbus

Marysville Energy Sources Blitz – July 17-18, 2018, Marysville and other locations

Fifth-grade Professional Development – July 17, 2018, Marysville

Energy Efficiency Professional Development/Open House – July 19, 2018, Canton

Energy Efficiency Professional Development/Open House – July 20, 2018, Mt. Gilead

Third-grade Professional Development – July 24, 2018, Cincinnati

Energy Efficiency Professional Development/Open House – July 25, 2018, Columbus

Seventh- and Ninth-grade Professional Development – July 25, 2018, Moscow, Ohio

Energy Efficiency Professional Development/Open House – July 26, 2018, Nelsonville

Third-grade Professional Development – July 31, 2018, Youngstown

Energy Efficiency Professional Development/Open House – Aug. 1, 2018, Columbus

Fourth- and Fifth-grade Professional Development – Aug. 1, 2018, Youngstown

**Board Meeting – Aug. 2, 2018, Worthington**

Energy Efficiency Professional Development/Open House – Aug. 2, 2018, Dayton

Energy Efficiency Professional Development/Open House – Aug. 7. 2018, Toledo

Energy Efficiency Professional Development/Open House – Aug. 8, 2018, Columbus

Fourth- and Fifth-grade Professional Development – Aug. 8, 2018, Cincinnati

Energy Efficiency OEC Workshop – Aug. 9, 2018, Mt. Gilead

Energy Efficiency OEC Workshop – Aug. 10, 2018, Mt. Gilead

Energy Efficiency Professional Development – Sept. 19, 2018, Dayton

Energy Efficiency Professional Development – Sept. 25, 2018, Canton

**Board Annual Meeting and Retreat – Oct. 4, 2018, Westerville**

Energy Efficiency Professional Development – Oct. 9, 2018, Columbus

Energy Efficiency Professional Development – Nov. 8, 2018, Columbus

**Board Meeting – Dec. 6, 2018, Worthington**

Board members are encouraged to attend any OEP event. See [www.ohioenergy.org/events](http://www.ohioenergy.org/) for information on more upcoming events or contact OEP staff for specific event information.