Ohio Energy Project Board Meeting

Date: December 12, 2019 Time: 1:30 p.m.

**Location: Ohio Energy Project offices,**

**200 E. Wilson Bridge Rd., Worthington, Ohio**

**Board Members Present:**

Scott Potter, Ohio State University – President

Devin Parram, Bricker & Eckler – Vice President

T.J. Faze, Vertiv – Treasurer

Barry Schumann, AEP – Secretary

Jackie Bird, consultant – Governance Chair

Holly Karg, American Municipal Power – trustee

Jill Kocher, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio – board partner

Chris Monacelli, Westerville Electric Division – trustee

Susan Moser-Spiert, energy efficiency consultant – trustee

Janet Rehberg, Buckeye Power – trustee

Tony Ramos, Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council – trustee

Ryan Stredney, Columbia Gas of Ohio -- trustee

Stjepan Vlahovich, Ground Level Solutions – trustee

Bill Yost, retired USGS hydrologist – trustee

**Board Members Not Present:**

Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation -- trustee

Andrew Finton, North Central Electric Cooperative – trustee

Jeanne Gogolski, EducationProjects.org – trustee

**OEP Staff Present:**

Shauni Nix, Executive Director

Sue Tenney, education director

Monique Heath, education coordinator

Liza Richard, finance manager

**Guests Present:**

Matt Kline, 2019-20 OSU Fisher School of Business Board Fellow

**Call to Order:**

President Scott Potter called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

**Potential New Board Member:**

Scott Potter said Keelie Gustin, director of Energy Assistance Programs, Miami Valley Community Action Partnership, would like to join the OEP board. Gustin is an OEP student leadership team alumna currently enrolled in the University of Oklahoma School of Law’s Master of Laws in Energy and Natural Resource Law program. Gustin wrote in a written request for consideration that she is “an energy nerd” who would bring her passion for energy and her understanding of utility assistance programs to the board’ work to benefit all parties. Potter asked board members to review the document and be prepared to decide on inviting Gustin to join the board.

**OEP Audit:**

Scott Potter introduced Brian Garland from auditors Rea & Associates to give a presentation on the draft audit for the years ended June 30, 2019 and 2018.

Garland said the audit process went very smoothly, a positive reflection on the OEP team. He advised the draft audit included a clean opinion with no deficiencies. He led a review of the audit, noting net assets were up about $155,000 from the prior year, representing about four months of reserves available to the organization. He also noted the organizations’ Management and General expenses represent just 9 percent of total expenses at fiscal yearend 2019. Garland also explained the classification of net assets under new accounting standards into “net assets without donor restrictions” and “net assets with donor restrictions, designed to simplify and clarify those assets.

Potter asked that Rea & Associates forward a revised draft to the OEP finance committee for review and approval.

**Committee Work:**

Shauni Nix referenced the board’s work at the September annual retreat around strategic fundraising and the Strategic Doing Project in regard to identifying and securing sources of new funding. Nix said the Energy Leadership Super Summit to be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Feb. 11, 2020, at the Worthington Education Center and the Youth Energy Celebration to be held May 6, 2020, at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium are among numerous OEP events to which potential funders may be invited. Board members agreed the Super Summit would be an ideal event to give potential funders insight into OEP’s “kids teaching kids” approach to energy education. Board members agreed that each member should strive to provide the names of three to five potential funder invitees to the summit. Scott Potter asked board members to break into committees to discuss specific needs to be addressed to facilitate and enhance efforts to create relationships and solicit support from potential funders.

Upon reconvening after committee work, board members shared and discussed ideas and agreed upon these needs:

* A one-page flyer targeted at corporate or foundation sponsors
* An invitation message template that can be used by board members and/or OEP staff
* A list of current OEP funders
* A list of OEP board members showing which potential funders they wish to contact

Board members also discussed the core message – What’s the ask? They generally agreed the ask is to attend the summit or other event as a potential sponsor, and that OEP would follow up with a formal sponsorship request.

OEP staff will work to create the needed materials and share with the board to enable members to identify three to five contacts and send invitations. Staff plans to use a Google shared document to ensure all potential contacts are identified in order to reduce or eliminate duplication of effort.

**Board Assessment Results:**

Scott Potter shared results of the annual individual and group assessments conducted online. Potter noted average scores on both assessments improved year-to-year and attributed the improvement to the board’s efforts over the last couple years to meet Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organization board standards.

**Finance Report:**

T.J. Faze gave an overview of the organization’s financials through September. He noted the financials look good, with profit and loss statements tracking along anticipated seasonal trends.

**Consent Agenda:**

Scott Potter noted the consent agenda and minutes of the September board meeting and annual retreat were distributed electronically prior to the meeting and asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. Hearing none, Potter called for a motion. Tony Ramos moved to approve the consent agenda including the minutes as well as the current financial report; Jackie Bird seconded. Potter called the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**Development Update:**

Shauni Nix said it remains impossible to know what is going to happen to sponsor funding for energy efficiency education going forward as a result of H.B. 6. Staff remains in contact with electric utility funders AEP Ohio and natural gas utilities Columbia Gas and Vectren.

Nix filed written testimony on H.B. 6 on behalf of OEP with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. She thanked board partner Jill Kocher and board vice president Devin Parram for their assistance.

Nix said funding has been received from the American Electric Power Foundation, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and American Municipal Power.

Nix said staff continues to work with IGS and ENGIE to secure funding. She said Honda of American Manufacturing advised that all funding is being reduced.

**Other Business:**

Shauni Nix said she had been approached by an opponent of H.B. 6 who offered to provide introductions between OEP staff and state legislators. Nix asked the board if contacting legislators through this offer or on her own was a worthwhile investment of her time. Board members did not support using a lobbyist for introductions and while believing legislative contact is important did not feel it is a priority at this time.

Bill Yost asked if there was a reason to delay making a decision on inviting Keelie Gustin to join the board. Scott Potter said there was no need to delay. Bill Yost moved to invite Gustin to join the board; Jackie Bird seconded. Potter called the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

Scott Potter called for a motion. Bill Yost moved to adjourn; Janet Rehberg seconded. Potter called the vote. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

*-Recorded by B. Schumann, secretary*

**Upcoming OEP events:**

Informal meeting/Committee meetings – January

Energy Leadership Summit – January TBD, Worthington

Energy Leadership Summit – January TBD, Westerville

Energy Leadership Summit – Feb. 5, Columbus

**OEP Board meeting** **– Feb. 6, Worthington**

Energy Leadership Super Summit – Feb. 11, Worthington (including four OEP veteran teams)

Energy Workshop – Feb. 25, Dayton

Energy Workshop – Feb. 26, Dayton

Fifth-Grade Energy Workshops – February dates, Worthington

Fifth-Grade Energy Workshops – February dates, Westerville

Informal meeting/Committee meetings – March

Energy Workshop – March 3, Columbus

Energy Workshop – March 4, Columbus

Fifth-Grade Energy Workshops – March dates, Worthington

Fifth-Grade Energy Workshops – March dates, Westerville

**OEP Board meeting** **– April 2, Worthington**

School Portfolios due to NEED – April 15, online

Energy Portfolio judging – April 16-20, online

Informal meeting/Committee meetings – May

Youth Energy Celebration – May 6, Columbus Zoo

**OEP Board meeting** **– June 4, Worthington**

Informal meeting/Committee meetings – July

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