Ohio Energy Project Board Meeting

Date: April 2, 2020 Time: 1:30 p.m.

**Location: Meeting via Skype**

**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

Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation -- trustee

Jeanne Gogolski, EducationProjects.org – trustee

Holly Karg, American Municipal Power – trustee

Jill Kocher, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio – board partner

Chris Monacelli, Westerville Electric Division – trustee

Janet Rehberg, Buckeye Power – trustee

Stjepan Vlahovich, Ground Level Solutions – trustee

Bill Yost, retired USGS hydrologist – trustee

**Board Members Not Present:**

Andrew Finton, North Central Electric Cooperative – trustee

Susan Moser-Spiert, energy efficiency consultant – trustee

Ryan Stredney, Columbia Gas of Ohio -- trustee

**OEP Staff Present:**

Shauni Nix, Executive Director

Sue Tenney, education director

Monique Heath, education coordinator

Minh Hess, 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 thanked all in attendance for participating via Skype in order to follow the Ohio governor’s stay at home mandate.

**Consent Agenda:**

Scott Potter noted the consent agenda and minutes of the December board meeting were distributed electronically prior to the meeting, and asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes. Hearing none, Potter asked board members to email him with their approval or corrections. Jackie Bird moved to approve the December board meeting minutes; Chris Monacelli seconded. By April 10, a majority of trustees voted to approve the minutes; none voted against or provided edits. Motion carried.

**Finance Report:**

T.J. Faze gave an overview of the organization’s financials, advising the OEP cash position continues to be very strong with about $600,000 in cash available to keep operations running. Shauni Nix noted that energy efficiency program funding has been confirmed from all funding partners through June 30. Faze said additional options for keeping operations running include $36,000 budgeted for discretionary spending, and funding for such programs as the Youth Energy Celebration which funders have indicated may be used as necessary by OEP. Scott Potter noted Shauni Nix and he reviewed federal CARES Act paycheck protection legislation and believe the mechanism is not appropriate for OEP because of payroll funding commitments from energy efficiency program partners. Potter said they will monitor the situation to see if the legislation may become relevant as the coronavirus epidemic continues.

**Education Update:**

Sue Tenney said funding for the Youth Energy Celebration has been redirected with sponsor approval to provide last year’s YEC teacher participants with energy efficiency education lessons online, a gift, energy education online video, and the opportunity to request activities for students and other resources.

Scott Potter asked staff to prepare an email describing what OEP is doing for Ohio teachers during the coronavirus pandemic when classes are not in session in person, including a link or links to online resources. The email would be for consideration to share with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, the governor, legislators and other stakeholders.

Holly Karg advised she is working with OEP staff to prepare energy education materials that can be shared at an American Municipal Power membership meeting in mid-April.

Monique Heath said OEP continues to communicate with participating energy efficiency education teachers to encourage students and their families to complete online surveys and for teachers to submit program data. Minh Hess said staff are doing energy education videos and preparing stipends for teachers. Shauni Nix said OEP anticipates providing an energy efficiency program stipends to every participating teacher, or about 666 stipends in total. Nix said about 40 percent of EE program student surveys have been completed. Teachers will be required to provide some program data to qualify for stipends.

**Development Update:**

Shauni Nix said OEP met with IGS representatives and IGS has suggested submitting a funding request with the understanding OEP would use the grant to prepare for future programs.

Nix said her efforts currently are focused on completing the OEP annual report and that a couple pages of the report are being designed as a springboard to a fundraising effort. Once the report is completed, staff efforts will pivot to grant writing in an effort to increase operating and program funding. Devin Parram suggested checking all potential funding sources to see if deadlines have been extended due to the pandemic. Jackie Bird suggested draft grant requests be shared with interested board members for review prior to submission.

Nix said grants will be submitted by June 1 for the Ohio Environmental Education Fund and for the Harry C. Moores Foundation.

Devin Parram will reconnect with Miamisburg-based Solar Power and Light to look for an opportunity to share OEP’s story and seek funding.

Scott Potter reminded board members to consider making pledges to support the organization in an effort to show 100 percent board funding support for OEP. Shauni Nix suggested board members consider making a pledge during The Columbus Foundation’s Big Give match initiative on June 9. Nix will send relevant information in advance of the Big Give.

Other good news regarding operating support was shared with board members but because of confidentiality concerns an announcement will be shared publicly at a later date.

**Adjournment:**

Scott Potter called for a motion. Devin Parram moved to adjourn; Barry Schumann seconded. Potter called the vote. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

*-Recorded by B. Schumann, secretary*

**Upcoming OEP events:**

Upcoming events through the end of the school year have been cancelled.

Summer programming may be postponed or cancelled pending developments with the coronavirus pandemic.

Please see [www.ohioenergy.org/events](http://www.ohioenergy.org/events) for latest updates.

**OEP Board meeting** **– June 4, AEP Ohio, Gahanna**

**OEP Board meeting – Aug. 6, Bricker & Eckler, LCC**

**OEP Board meeting – Oct. 1, location TBA**

**OEP Board meeting – Dec. 3, location TBA**

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.