Ohio Energy Project Board Meeting

Date: June 4, 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

Andrew Finton, North Central Electric Cooperative – 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

Ryan Stredney, Columbia Gas of Ohio -- trustee

Stjepan Vlahovich, Ground Level Solutions – trustee

Bill Yost, retired USGS hydrologist – trustee

**Board Members Not Present:**

Susan Moser-Spiert, energy efficiency consultant – trustee

**OEP Staff Present:**

Shauni Nix, Executive Director

Sue Tenney, education director

Monique Heath, education coordinator

Jessica Sarber, education coordinator

**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.

**Consent Agenda:**

Scott Potter noted the consent agenda and minutes of the April board meeting were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Potter called for a motion. Dale Arnold moved to consider the consent agenda and minutes; Holly Karg seconded. Potter call the vote. Motion carried. No one had any comments on the agenda or the minutes. Potter called for a motion. Dale Arnold moved to approve the agenda and minutes; Bill Yost seconded. Potter called the vote. Motion carried.

**Finance Report:**

T.J. Faze gave an overview of the organization’s financials, advising the organization continues to be in a very good position financially, with $1.9 million in income and about $221,000 in net income year-to-date. Faze noted assets were about 9.5 times liabilities. Faze said during a Finance Committee call earlier in the week, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. account limits came up for discussion because OEP currently has about $900,000 in deposits. Standard FDIC deposit insurance is $250,000 per depositor, per FDIC-insured bank, per ownership category. Shauni Nix will check with the bank about options to ensure that OEP deposits are insured to the fullest extent possible. Faze also noted the organization Form 990 has been filed.

**Education Update:**

Sue Tenney said OEP wrapped up the school year virtually as COVID-19 led to the closure of all schools through the end of the school year. Tenney said OEP provided videos and other virtual resources for which teachers expressed appreciation as they worked to provide virtual education to their students. The school year finale was a virtual Youth Energy Celebration - <https://ohioenergy.org/educators/energy-for-kids/youth-energy-celebration>

Tenney said the Energy Tour and Energy Blitz and other activities in June were cancelled. Elementary grade-level professional development sessions will be conducted in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton and Toledo in July with each session limited to 10 participants.

Tenney also said staff has been talking with Jeanne Gogolski about the upcoming school year, particularly how to address the anticipated elimination of student field trips due to the pandemic. Gogolski and staff have been discussing ways to conduct virtual field trips to enable OEP to conduct student activities such as energy leadership summits and energy workshops.

Monique Heath said the 2019-2020 energy education programs reached 45,208 students, 656 teachers, more than 450 schools and more than 200 school districts.

Jessica Sarber, who has rejoined OEP, said the organization is looking at opportunities to innovate the energy education programs and expects the 2020-2021 school year program to be totally virtual. Adaptations may include recorded videos to go through the energy activities, live Q&A options for teachers throughout the school year, and new ways to utilize social media with teachers and students. Sarber said there will be few changes in the curricula but there will be some new supplemental materials. Jackie Bird applauded the adaptations noting this will be the way forward following the pandemic.

Development Update:

Jessica Sarber said the organization has set a $3,000 fundraising goal for The Columbus Foundation Big Give, when donations made via The Big Give web portal will be eligible for pro-rated matching funds from a $1.5 million-plus bonus pool provided by The Columbus Foundation and corporate and community partners. Kelsey Beach has using social media to encourage OEP stakeholders to donate during The Big Give to leverage their donations. Visit <https://columbusfoundation.org/giving-events/big-give-2020> between 10 a.m. May 10 and 11 a.m. May 11 to donate to OEP.

Shauni Nix advised OEP will receive approximately $5,000 in free consultations as one of four winners of a MilepostConsulting.com challenge. OEP staff have met with Milepost’s Samantha Hart and will be working on how to shift toward virtual delivery of programs and how to ensure the organization’s sustainability. Nix said together they will be working on crafting an overview of all the work OEP does in a way to make a more compelling story for funders and other stakeholders.

Shauni Nix advised that OEP’s work with Facebook still has not been announced publicly and is on hold during the pandemic. Jackie Bird suggested the organization once again take a look at copyrighting OEP intellectual property to discourage others from using OEP resources and programs without seeking permission from or crediting OEP.

Shauni Nix said the City of Dayton has approved funding for OEP to work with Dayton Public Schools to deliver energy education to students in the district.

Shauni Nix said OEP has received grants of $50,000 for energy careers programming and $45,000 for energy education and operations from the American Electric Power Foundation.

Shauni Nix said discussions with IGS and Engie about funding for energy education programs while encouraging are on hold until this summer.

Devin Parram asked about progress on requesting funding from the Harry C. Moores Foundation. Shauni Nix said Jessica Sarber and Matt Kline are working on a proposal to be submitted soon. Sarber added Matt Kline is working with OEP to develop a robust portfolio of potential funders, including community foundations and organizations.

Shauni Nix said AMP is giving OEP an opportunity to branch out to communities outside of Ohio that have municipal utilities associated with AMP. Holly Karg is working with OEP staff to prepare energy education materials that can be shared with American Municipal Power members.

Scott Potter applauded the entire OEP team for their flexibility, creativeness and hard work in adapting to the pandemic and looking ahead to new ways to do the work of the organization. Board members seconded his comments.

**Adjournment:**

Scott Potter called for a motion. Jackie Bird moved to adjourn; Bill Yost seconded. Potter called the vote. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

*-Recorded by B. Schumann, secretary*

**Upcoming OEP events:**

*Please see* [*www.ohioenergy.org/events*](http://www.ohioenergy.org/events) *for latest updates pending developments with the coronavirus pandemic.*

Third-grade Professional Development – July 7, Columbus

Third-grade Professional Development – July 8, Dayton

Fourth- and fifth-grade Professional Development – July 9, Dayton

Third-grade Professional Development – July 13, Cincinnati

Fourth- and fifth-grade Professional Development – July 14, Cincinnati

Third-grade Professional Development – July 22, Cleveland

Fourth- and fifth-grade Professional Development – July 23, Cleveland

Fifth-grade Professional Development – July 27, Columbus

Third-grade Professional Development – July 28, Toledo

Fourth- and Fifth-grade Professional Development – July 29, Toledo

**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.