

Ohio Energy Project Board Meeting

Date: June 3, 2021 Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Jefferson Country Club, 7271 Jefferson Meadows Dr., Blacklick, OH

Board Members Present:

Scott Potter, Ohio State University – President
Devin Parram, Bricker & Eckler – Vice President
T.J. Faze, Vertiv – Treasurer
Barry Schumann, AEP – Secretary
Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation – Governance Chair
Jackie Bird, consultant – trustee
Keelie Gustin, Miami Valley Community Action -- trustee
Jill Kocher, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio – board partner (via Zoom)
Stjepan Vlahovich, Ground Level Solutions – trustee (via Zoom)
Tim Street, Ohio’s Electric Cooperatives -- trustee
Bill Yost, retired USGS hydrologist – trustee

Board Members Not Present:

Andrew Finton, North Central Electric Cooperative – trustee
Courtney Freyhaut, Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council - trustee
Jeanne Gogolski, EducationProjects.org – trustee
Holly Karg, American Municipal Power – trustee
Chris Monacelli, Westerville Electric Division – trustee
Ryan Stredney, Columbia Gas of Ohio -- trustee

OEP Staff Present:

Shauni Nix, Executive Director
Sue Tenney, Education Director
Jessica Sarber, manager of strategic partnerships

Guests Present:

Winnie Opoku, Ohio State University engineering education doctoral student
Ashley Dulin-Smith, Dublin Jerome High School educator (via Zoom)

Pre-Meeting:

President Scott Potter noted the number of board members in attendance was two short of a quorum. Anticipating two members would be joining soon, Potter delayed calling the meeting to order and asked for reports.

Financial Report:

T.J. Faze said the financial committee met June 1 and noted both income and expenses through the end of the third quarter as expected were below prior year levels due primarily to loss of contracts for energy efficiency education programming. Faze said cash on hand was about 12 times current liabilities.

Board Governance:

Scott Potter noted the executive committee agreed to change the board meeting schedule to full board meetings quarterly in June, September (annual meeting), December and March with work group and/or

board education meetings to be held between the quarterly meetings. The quarterly meeting schedule will enable the board to review and accept quarterly financial reports.

Shauni Nix noted Susan Moser has left the board and Matt Kline, Ohio State University Moritz College of Law Board Fellow, is stepping down after two years of service. Nix said Eliza VanNess will continue in the role of OSU Moritz College of Law Board Fellow. Nix said a board member electronic survey will be shared soon to update board member interests.

Call to Order and Consent Agenda:

Scott Potter welcomed board members Jackie Bird and Devin Parram and called the meeting to order.

Scott Potter noted the consent agenda, minutes of the April 2021 board meeting and financial reports were distributed electronically prior to the meeting. Potter asked for discussion and hearing none, called for a motion. Bill Yost moved to accept the consent agenda, minutes and financial reports; Jackie Bird seconded. Potter called the vote. Motion carried.

Education Updates:

Jessica Sarber shared an energy efficiency education year-end report showing 613 teachers and 39,984 students engaged with curriculum and energy efficiency kits, ultimately reaching 79,984 Ohioans with energy education. Sarber said the 2019-20 school year results lagged the previous year slightly, but said there has been no decline in interest with many teachers on a wait-list.

Sarber said OEP will do most trainings virtually via Zoom in the future. OEP will continue to use the Canvas online digital curriculum platform which was adopted this past year and over which participating educators generally raved. Scott Potter and Jackie Bird asked how OEP was protecting its intellectual property as it moved to online venues. Sarber said Canvas is password protected so only participating teachers should have access. Bird suggested OEP staff announce at the beginning of all virtual and in-person programs and training that OEP materials are copyrighted.

Sue Tenney shared the Youth Energy Celebration video highlighting OEP education activities through the past year including pivots to accommodate remote and hybrid learning situations necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The video has been posted on the ohioenergy.org website.

Tenney reminded the board that OEP was named as a finalist for the Infy Foundation's national Infy Maker Awards and the winner will be formally announced yet in June. The OEP proposal seeks \$10,000 to provide additional STEM design challenges.

Tenney said upcoming summer events include a one-day tour for teachers at a wind farm at a Whirlpool facility and an electric vehicle virtual field trip June 22 in conjunction with the OSU Center for Automotive Research. The KidWind Design Challenge program will also be available.

Tenney said the popular professional development trainings will be done in person at locations around the state in June and July for teachers of grades 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9.

Guest Introduction:

Shauni Nix introduced Winnie Opoku, a doctoral student in Engineering Education at The Ohio State University who has agreed to assist OEP in a volunteer role. Opoku noted she was at NiSource prior to starting work on her doctorate and has long been involved with education and engineering. Opoku said she

will be reviewing OEP's energy efficiency education curriculum to look for ways to enhance the program and will be reviewing all OEP programs to look for opportunities to enhance career awareness and education. Devin Parram offered to talk with Opoku about potential overlap with American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) programs and interests.

Nix introduced Dublin Jerome High School teacher Ashley Dulin-Smith, who shared the story of how a connection with OEP in 2017 led to her school becoming the first public school in the United States to install Grind2Energy technology that will transform school food waste into renewable energy. Dulin-Smith said two female students initiated trash audits and recycling stations at the school. Their efforts continued over the next few years leading to a second application in fall of 2020 to install Grind2Energy equipment. The school won the grant and the installation is expected to be complete and the program to start this fall. The board congratulated Dulin-Smith and her students, and inquired about holding a future board meeting at the school to learn more about the program.

Development Progress and Board Portfolio:

Shauni Nix referred board members to an updated Fiscal Year 2022 budget projection handout which seeks to indicate item-by-item potential funding for OEP programs, including the source of funding, type of funding, status of request or funding, and a breakdown of how funding will be used. The projection also includes Submitted/Pending proposals with the same type of information breakout.

Nix and Jessica Sarber also announced OEP will begin engaging the board in using the Trello online project management tool to track progress on the strategic plan. Goals and objectives will be tracked at each board meeting and trustees will be asked to post progress between board meetings. Additional information and training will be shared at upcoming meetings starting in September.

Sarber reviewed several pending and successful proposals:

- A proposal seeking \$28,000 for an energy bike program for Columbus City Schools was submitted to the Harry C. Moores Foundation with a decision expected in September.
- A proposal for funding to support the e3 program over two years will be submitted to IGS Energy in June with a decision expected in August.
- Go Sustainable Energy has committed to making a small grant, with the amount to be determined.
- Johnson Controls has committed to a \$2,500 grant.

Sarber and Nix said Energy Optimizers USA and former OEP board member Belinda Kenley have expressed strong interest in exploring OEP's energy efficiency and energy bike programs as possible areas for support. Discussions continue.

Sarber said a Battelle STEM grant proposal submitted in conjunction with Worthington City Schools and the non-profit Care After School organization was not funded. However, Sarber said the interaction around the proposal resulted in Care After School and OEP exploring energy education programming for the students in grades K-6 enrolled in its child care program.

Other Business:

Scott Potter advised he will work with Jill Kocher to set up a meeting with newly appointed Public Utilities Commission of Ohio chairperson Judy French and OEP representatives to discuss utility funding of energy education programs.

Shauni Nix called attention to positive comments from a former OEP student included on the board agenda handout:

“As a female engineer, I love speaking to young women interested in science and technology. I opened a recent panel event by reliving a middle school experience at a regional workshop focused on energy efficiency and sustainability. I told the audience you never know when a seed will be planted that shifts the trajectory of your career.

“I realized in middle school that I wanted to be an engineer, and I am confident this workshop sparked my interest in my current career as a civil engineer within energy delivery for a power company. And yes, I still remember the chants we sang at the workshop 30 years ago! To my surprise, someone in the audience recognized my description of the workshop and connected me with the program, the Ohio Energy Project.

“We need more teaching and learning opportunities like these workshops to engage and inspire our youth in the future of energy generation, delivery, and sustainability. This requires growing our technical expertise in order to adapt to the shifting needs in the energy sector, while we continue to meet customer, community, and environmental expectations. It is never too early to start planting seeds (and songs) for the next generation.”

- Sarah Mazzotta, Planning & Engineering, American Electric Power

Adjournment:

Potter called for a motion. Jackie Bird moved to adjourn; Bill Yost seconded. The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

-Recorded by B. Schumann, secretary

Upcoming OEP events:

Please see www.ohioenergy.org/events for latest updates pending developments with the coronavirus pandemic.

Third Grade Professional Development – Lima, June 16; Columbus, June 17; Toledo, June 23; Columbus, July 7; Cleveland, July 12; Cincinnati, July 14; Portsmouth, July 22; Dayton, July 29

Fourth Grade Professional Development -- Lima, June 16; Columbus, June 17; Toledo, June 23; Columbus, July 7; Cleveland, July 12; Cincinnati, July 14; Portsmouth, July 22; Dayton, July 29

Fifth Grade Professional Development – Toledo, June 22; Columbus, July 8; Dayton, July 28

Seventh & Ninth Grade Professional Development – Orrville, July 27

Electric Vehicles Virtual Field Trip – June 22

OEP Board Annual Retreat – Sept. 2, 2021, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

OEP Board Meeting – Dec. 2, 2021, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

OEP Board Meeting – March 3, 2022, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

OEP Board Meeting – June 2, 2022, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

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