Ohio Energy Project Board Meeting

Date: August 2, 2018 Time: 1:30 p.m.

**Location: Ohio Energy Project offices,**

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

**Board Members Present:**

Dale Arnold, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation – President

Scott Potter, Ohio State University – Vice President

T.J. Faze, Vertiv – Treasurer

Barry Schumann, AEP – Secretary

Jackie Bird, consultant – Governance Chair

Andrew Finton, North Central Electric Cooperative – trustee

Jeanne Gogolski of EducationProjects.org – 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

Stjepan Vlahovich, Ground Level Solutions – trustee

**Board Members Not Present:**

Susan Moser, Ohio Development Services Agency – board partner

Kelli Gaza Nowinsky, Columbia Gas of Ohio – trustee

Bill Yost, retired hydrologist – trustee

**OEP Staff Present:**

Shauni Nix, Executive Director

Sue Tenney, education director

Liza Richard, financial assistant

**Call to Order and Welcome:**

President Dale Arnold called the regular meeting of the board to order and asked all present to introduce themselves.

**Approval of Consent Agenda and Minutes:**

Arnold noted the proposed agenda, financials, and June 2018 board minutes had been distributed electronically prior to the meeting, and asked if there were any corrections or additions. Arnold called for a motion. Scott Potter moved to close the agenda; T.J. Faze seconded. Arnold called the vote. Motion carried.

Arnold called for a motion on the minutes. Scott Potter moved to approve the minutes; Janet Rehberg seconded. Arnold called the vote. Motion carried.

**Code of Regulation/Officers**

Dale Arnold addressed the nomination of officers, including new online processes. The offices of president, vice president, secretary and governance chair are up for election. The office of treasurer is a two-year term and is not up for election this year. To nominate yourself or someone else, look for the online form at ohioenergy.org. Shauni Nix will call all who have been nominated to determine interest. An online voting form will be made available if necessary. A slate of officer candidates will be finalized with a board resolution at the October 4, 2018, annual board meeting.

**Executive Director Updates:**

Shauni Nix has talked with all OEP staff about looking at their existing roles. She announced Sue Tenney has been named Education Director. Fulltime education coordinators are Susan Wasmund, Jessica Sarber and Monique Heath.

Nix noted the energy efficiency program is undergoing some transitions with new utility company contacts for many of the program.

Nix shared she met with Tony Ramos, community outreach manager with Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC), the largest governmental aggregator in the United States. Ramos is very interested in OEP and Nix recommended inviting him to join the OEP board. Board members agreed and suggested inviting Ramos to the October annual meeting to be considered for naming to the board.

Nix shared that she and Scott Potter will be meeting the week of Aug. 6 with Greg Betz of Grundfos, an international manufacturer and supplier of water pumps for a variety of uses. Betz is vice president of sales, Commercial Building Services, and is located in New Bremen, Ohio. Betz is very interested in the work of OEP. Nix and Potter will attempt to learn more about his personal interest and potential business sponsorship.

Devin Parram discussed his recent discussions with a representative of IGS Energy, who shared the company’s strong interest in solar power education. Parram said another meeting is planned in September to determine whether there would be mutual benefit in OEP and IGS working together.

Dale Arnold shared he had a discussion with Marcy Williams, executive director of the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations (OANO), about OEP’s application for Standards for Excellence Certification. Arnold said Williams confirmed OEP was accredited in February 2018 and will be invited to OANO’s October 2018 conference to be formerly recognized. OEP will request the Standards of Excellence logo for posting along with notice of OEP’s certification at the ohioenergy.org website.

**Education Update:**

Sue Tenney said OEP has had a fantastic summer, with very well attended Energy Sources Tour and Energy Blitz, the latter held primarily at Honda of America Manufacturing. She said more than 300 educators participated in grade-level professional development at locations across Ohio.

Shauni Nix noted OEP made connections with the state’s Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT) at AEP Transmission where an Energy Sources Tour stop followed a “signing event” in which four central Ohio high school students committed to an internship program with AEP in conjunction. OWT seeks to grow Ohio’s economy by developing a skilled workforce, promoting effective training programs, and connecting Ohio employers with qualified workers. Nix said OWT is interested in the work OEP is doing with students including energy career exploration. Nix asked Jeanne Gogolski to join her in an upcoming meeting with OWT’s Emily Fabiano to discuss items of mutual interest.

Nix said OEP is working with selected educators to review the energy efficiency education program which is now 10 years old. OEP is looking to reinvigorate the e3 program to ensure that it meets sponsor and educator needs. Suggestions include dividing the program into divisions that cover the same content but in more grade-level appropriate activities such as elementary and secondary. Nix said the review ultimately would be a major undertaking, involving adapting and creating new educational activities and meeting with all five sponsors to get their buy in to revamping the program.

Nix complimented the entire OEP staff for their work and focus during the executive director transition this summer. Nix said the transition has been great, but not without its challenges. Nix said every staff member “has displayed true grit” as the organization adapts to new leadership and identifies opportunities to improve efficiencies and effectiveness, especially in the face of situations that had not been identified or thought of during transition planning. Jackie Bird reiterated her suggestion that Nix and staff members look for professional development opportunities this year.

**Financial Update:**

T.J. Faze reviewed the organization’s yearend financials, noting that 2017-2018 income exceeded $2 million and expenses were about $1.9 million with net income of $112,000. Faze said overall the organization’s finances are in a healthy position. Dale Arnold called for a motion. Jeanne Gogolski moved to accept and submit the financials for audit; Stjepan Vlahovich seconded. Arnold called the vote. Motion carried.

Faze advised the recent change to six board meetings a year has created a good bit of extra work in preparing financial statements for each board meeting instead of quarterly as has been done for many years in concert with the former quarterly board meetings. To alleviate this extra work, Faze suggested that financials be done quarterly and shared as appropriate at regular board meetings. Arnold called for a motion. Scott Potter moved financials be completed and shared quarterly; Jackie Bird seconded. Arnold called the vote. Motion carried.

Faze noted the 2018-2019 budget is a bit less than in the prior year, but with projected income at $1.9 million the budget looks very strong. Arnold called for a motion. Devin Parram moved to approve the budget; Jackie Bird seconded. Motion carried.

**Retreat Planning:**

Shauni Nix said she would like to continue building 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 asked board members for suggested objectives for the retreat and after discussion the following objectives were identified:

* An updated strategic plan to supplant the last plan revised in 2016.
* Updated mission and vision statements to explain why the organization is doing what it is doing.
* A look ahead at the future of energy.
* A succinct elevator speech that board members or staff can readily share with anyone from students to teacher to sponsors.
* Ideas on how to maintain the organization’s leadership position in energy education in Ohio.
* Specific goals, such as overall budget or the number of schools reached.

Chris Monacelli, Holly Karg and Jackie Bird offered to assist Nix and the OEP staff in planning the retreat. Nix will ask Nowinsky to attend or to share her notes on the plan of action resulting from the December 2017 planning session. Monacelli offered to identify a facilitator to assist with development of the strategic plan.

Nix will seek to reserve the Jefferson Country Club in Blacklick as host site for the retreat.

**Website Updates:**

Jackie Bird thanked Sue Tenney for her ongoing efforts as webmaster to keep the ohioenergy.org website current. Bird suggested a review of the ohioenergy.org website to ensure all pages have been updated to reflect changes in OEP leadership, staffing and other information.

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

*-Recorded by B. Schumann, secretary*

**Upcoming OEP events:**

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. 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, Jefferson Country Club, Blacklick (tentative location)**

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

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

**Board Meeting – Dec. 6, 2018, Worthington (tentative location)**

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.