

EEC Meeting Minutes April 9, 2014 draft

Present: Charlie Case, Ben Brickett, Monique Lillis (via Skype)

Guests: Jack Murphy (Selectman), Dana Lee (Town Manager), Randy Stewart (MSAD 35 Business Manager)

Call to order: 4:30 PM, Adjourned 5:45 PM

A. Approval of March Meeting Minutes was postponed due to lack of a quorum

B. Partnering with MSAD35 Schools – While much has already been done to control energy use at the schools, there is more opportunity. It is noted that school electricity and heating oil use is 8 times Eliot's municipal use and Eliot pays over half of that cost. We discussed this in detail with Randy Stewart, MSAD35 Business Manager. We agreed with Randy to include the schools in the EEC detailed energy inventory to help determine how to effectively reduce energy costs. Data we have so far has shown that the least efficient school building is Great Works followed by Eliot Elementary and Central. Randy said that the new high efficiency propane boiler installed at the Middle School had effectively reduced heating cost and the schools hope to install a similar system at Great Works. Randy explained how the schools consistently get a lower price for heating oil and diesel than the town and will work with Dana Lee to see if the Town of Eliot could get similar pricing through combined contracts.

We also discussed our phase 2 solar proposal that could generate over 75% of the school's electricity usage by 2020 along with 100% of the town's municipal usage.

C. Phase 2 Capped Landfill Solar – Ben will work with Dana Lee to identify qualified bidders for the phase 2 solar project.

D. Update on Proposed CMP Billing Change for Net Metered Installations – Monique reported that she attended one of the public hearings conducted by the Maine Public Utilities Commission on the proposed CMP billing change for Net Metered installations. The issue for the Town of Eliot is a proposed surcharge, or standby rate, that would be charged to customers with on-site power generation who still need access to the grid, regardless of the size of an installation. The PUC is expected to make its ruling during June.

E. Efficiency Maine Grant Opportunity – Charlie, Ben and Dana Lee looked at our options to take advantage of this potential funding source. We examined the feasibility of installing a generator powered by waste water outfall for the Kittery Waste Water Treatment Plant. Bidding options for the grant were 1) a Community Demonstration Project where Towns can bid directly, or 2) a Renewable Research R & D Project where bidders are limited to the University of Maine system, Maine Community Colleges or Maine Maritime. Our waste water generator did not meet the criteria for a Community Demonstration Project; and we did not have a connection with one of the colleges approved to jointly bid an R & D project. We decided to start preparing soon for a possible grant bid next year.

F. Possible Funding Source from SEI Program – The federal government has determined that the Seacoast Energy Initiative (SEI) rotating loan program does not meet the criteria for the

EECBG grant program because SEI is an open ended program and cannot be completed within the specified time limit. Ten SEI loans were made to residents of Eliot. A preliminary plan has recently been worked out between Efficiency Maine (EM) and the Town of S. Berwick (SEI lead town) for EM to buy the outstanding SEI loans from South Berwick. EM will then administer the loans until they are fully paid off. South Berwick will receive the funds, approximately \$375K, to distribute to the six towns in the grant program for municipal energy programs. There is no formal process for distributing the money, but there will be a meeting with the SEI steering committee, Town Managers and representatives from EM to work out details. Ed Henningsen is Eliot's member of the steering committee and reported that the meeting has not yet been scheduled.

G. A planned discussion on prioritized energy savings Initiatives for Municipal Buildings was postponed until our May meeting.