



## Meeting Logistics & Information

|                     |                                 |                                                                                                                |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date</b>         | Wednesday, March 19, 2025       | <b>Attendees</b>                                                                                               |
| <b>Time</b>         | 9:00am- 11:00am                 | Sean Barfield, Mike Browne, Nicole Burger (for the first 15 min), Keegan Ebbets, Jonathan Harrison, Mike Rossi |
|                     |                                 | <b>Non-Attendees</b>                                                                                           |
| <b>Meeting Type</b> | NEHERS Alliance – Board Meeting | Cindy Zeis, Joel Martell, Kaitlyn Mitchell                                                                     |
| <b>Facilitator</b>  | Betsy Ames/ Cindy Zeis          |                                                                                                                |

| Meeting Motions        |                                     |                                             |                                    |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i><b>Motion #</b></i> | <i><b>Description</b></i>           | <i><b>Movement</b></i>                      | <i><b>Favor/Oppose/Abstain</b></i> |
| <b>1</b>               | Motion to approve February minutes  | Motion – Jonathan<br>Second – Michael Rossi | 5/0/1                              |
| <b>2</b>               | Motion to approve AP of \$43,117.30 | Motion – Jonathan<br>Second – Michael Rossi | 4/0/2                              |
| <b>3</b>               | Motion to adjourn                   | Motion –Michael<br>Rossi<br>Second – Keegan | 5/0/0                              |

### Roll call:

- Executive Director: Betsy Ames
- 2025 Board: Sean Barfield, Mike Browne, Nicole Burger, Keegan Ebbets, Jonathan Harrison, Joel Martell, Kaitlyn Mitchell, Michael Rossi, and Cindy Zeis
- New Board Members: Sean Barfield
- Present (quorum = 5):Sean Barfield, Mike Browne, Nicole Burger, Keegan Ebbets, (for the first 15 min) Jonathan Harrison, Michael Rossi
- Late:
- Absent:

### ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- Welcome - Sean Barfield – New Ecology
- Vote on minutes from February (Kaitlyn)



- ❖ Jonathan motion to approve minutes, Michael Rossi second, all in favor – 1 abstain (Sean).
- Vote on AP for February (Jonathan)
- ❖ Jonathan motion to approve AP in the amount of \$43,117.30, Michael Rossi second, all in favor – 2 abstain (Michael R and Sean)

#### TRAINING COMMITTEE (-).

- Spring 2025: Online: March 3 - 14, 2025 & Field: March 24 - 28, 2025
  - Cancelled, had 9, needed 12 to break even
    - In the future, please see if there is a way to run a class anyway, reach to board members and providers to ask to split the difference, smaller lift.
- Summer 2025: May 12-23, 2025 & Field: June 2-6, 2025
  - Have 8 registered, need 12 to break even
- RFP for Manual Utility Cost Inputs
  - Mike B- remind us why we started doing this.
    - This is a requirement of RESNET in the software that has become more strict over time, need accurate costs, used to be put value you thought was right, didn't affect HERS index, but it's a minimum rated feature, required with in RESNET Standard 301, precise about value, source of EIA, previous year annual average cost for the state. Before they were so precise, used specific prices, for that particular category or class, for that particular vendor/provider, but we were helping people by giving people precise utility costs. There's a value to getting more precise amounts, that's where this got started. We thought it would be a good idea, instead of each provider doing it themselves, reduce research each one has to do. That's where it came from. We could, at a minimum, we would do statewide average for previous year. Maybe we did more than we had to, but it became a burden for the company doing it. What's most important is that we meet the most recently available state-wide average, still can't get 2024 average from EIA. Timing is awkward. At a minimum, we may want someone, contracted or not, someone look up the minimum rates, look at the manual page, it's the top chart. We need the summary chart, we all need to do it anyway. It is now the average of each state, but you need a weighted average, our charts currently don't give that, you can calculate it from the EIA. We don't need the detailed chart below the summary chart. But the EIA only has 2023 right now. We need someone to calculate the summary chart from the EIA numbers once they update to 2024.
    - What about Tim?
    - Better to have a QAD- could PSD do it, they will have to check it anyway. Michael will check with his team.
  - Eia.gov- lists state costs per month.
- RFP for Modeler CEU Trainings for Existing Raters
  - Existing raters need this, deadline is coming.
  - Could ask for a fee from each bidder for each curriculum.
    - It's a benefit to them, they get an approved curriculum.
  - Scott will give cursory review, but we have to pay for final review.



#### MENTORSHIP PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (Nicole)

- Grants:
  - Planning and Capacity Grant- Complete - requested \$149,998.31
- Employer Engagement – Lunch and Learns
  - Internships and MOUs
- Modeler Proctoring date for Esra, Megan and Ethan = April 5th
- Onboarding Serene- one of the two new Success Coaches. Going well.
- Transition Coaching for job-seeking/recently placed students is going well.
- Regina is working on getting the Teachable platform set up for April and Tim is working on the slide decks.
- We had about 40 new applications since the fall interviews, 25 were interviewed and 13 were selected for this cohort. We may do a few more interviews.
  - OSHA is March 17-28<sup>th</sup>
  - Orientation is on April 1<sup>st</sup> 5-7PM. Board members welcome.
    - **Microsoft Teams** [Need help?](#)
    - [Join the meeting now](#)
    - Meeting ID: 223 182 265 797
    - Passcode: Lk7a74JC
- Outreach:
  - March 21-22: Tim and Nicole are going to NESEA- employer engagement
  - April 1: Youth Connections Expo- Abdul and Serene attending- ~500 students
  - April 3: Rising Stars Town Hall (Teams)
- Question about NEHERS becoming a small HERS Rating Company. (Tabled)
  - Tim contacting builders to see if interested

#### STANDARDS (Cindy)

- Our April meeting is on the 9<sup>th</sup> which would allow us time to discuss and submit comments. Addendum 85 is pretty brief and straightforward.
  - [Draft PDS-01, MINHERS Addendum 85, Temporarily Converted Garages \(Opens March 12, 2025\)](#) – Closes 4/11

#### QAD (Jonathan)

- Met February 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Met briefly, take aways from RESNET conference.**

#### WEBINARS (Keegan)

- 2025
  - ~~January 15th: Retrotec~~ (Paid Sponsor Webinar)
    - ~~Registered 47/ Attended 19~~
    - Average satisfaction level: 4.83/5:00
  - ~~February: skip~~
  - ~~March: skip~~
  - ~~April: skip~~
  - **May – Joel – Embodied Carbon?**

- **June - Kaitlyn**
- **July – Committee Updates (chairs) -**
- **August: (skip)**
- **September - Cindy – QA/Standards**
- **October**
- **November**
- **December**
- **Pending**
  - **Delta Electronics (Americas) Ltd.** (Paid Sponsor Webinar)
  - Eversource
  - **Topic: Indoor AirPlus Version 2-** Gayathri Vijayakumar and Nicholas Hurst- there is some question as to whether we can get RESNET credits approved for that. There won't be a lot of Q&A for the training itself, so they might want to do a webinar after the webinar comes out.
  - **Tim-** about mentorship program.
  - **Milestones Standards and Codes?** Quarterly webinar, what's coming changes. Know about key things coming up. Value in that. Committee update.
  - **2027 IECC process-** have to figure out who... Michael.
  - **Keep an eye out at RESNET.**

#### MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS (Cindy)

- Next up: Half-off membership renewals in July
- New categories for RFI and Modeler for year-end renewals? (Tabled)

#### ENERGY CODES (Michael R.)

- Not too much new, MA put out new code, no concurrency period. Code takes effect as date is made public. Next meeting is April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Embodied carbon is in that update, not as a full calculation, but as insulation or concrete, to claim an increase in the HERS index by 3 points. Insulation needs to be net negative GWP, weighted average of all insulation types of thermal envelope. Concrete, taking a North American benchmark, 90% the benchmark, you get the credit.
- Dept of resources will put out additional resources on how to calculate EC mid-May and June.

#### EMBODIED CARBON (Joel)

- We are now analyzing the 100-homes.
- We are beginning to process payments to raters.
- On February 28<sup>th</sup> the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) issued their order on the 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency and Decarbonization plan. Unfortunately, the DPU rejected including embodied carbon as an incentive measure.
  - DPU cut budget of 13% by about \$1½ billion. EC is still not fully understood, or how it's portrayed. This is important, need to figure out what use cases will be, if delayed by 3 years, what's incentive to do the calculation without incentives.
  - What other primary use case? Keep momentum. There is a use case in aggregating carbon credits, to be sold. SREC, alt energy credits. Another path, could be done at state or regional level. Need an aggregator. SREC or AEC, on NEHERS might want to become an aggregator.



- Talk with MassCEC- they were aggregator? Or other companies were? Where's the market for this? Could fit into alt energy credits. Talk with MassCEC, not sure any other regions. NEEP.
- Needs to be a market, aggregator can sell credits. Expanding definition of what included in AEC. Who is in charge of that - ask MassCEC.
- Wait until 2028, for next step. Start working on it 18 months prior, put it in our calendar, lobby ahead of it.

❖ Motion to Adjourn, Michael R, Keegan second, all in favor- unanimously passed.