

NEHERS 2017 Board Retreat Agenda

Energize CT Center: 122 Universal Drive NORTH, North Haven, CT 06473

Friday, May 12th, 2017 9:00am- 3:00pm

- ❖ **Attendance:** Tony Lisanti, Jenn Parsons, Emelie Cuppernell, Laurie DiDonato, Mike Browne, Doug McCleery, Peter Hubbe, Bruce Bennett (Arrived at 10:25). Absent: Mark Newey, Frank Swol
- ❖ Meeting called to order at 9:22 am
- ❖ 9:00am - Welcomes/High-fives
- ❖ 9:22am - Review/Approve previous meeting minutes:
 - Emelie reviewed the minutes with the meeting attendees.
 - Mike Brown made a motion to approve the April 2017 Board Meeting minutes. Emelie Seconded. All in favor. None Opposed. Motion passes.
- ❖ 9:30 – Summary of Accomplishments 2016-2017:
 - Betsy is a highlight to the NEHERS Board. Everyone praised her organization and timeliness.
 - The new website is beautiful and was well put together by all the Board members.
 - The manual is in a good place and is in a good flow for formatting and other updates.
 - The new training curriculum/delivery is going well. Emelie said the new format with in-person and online is a great collaboration between HERS Rating agencies and allow students flexibility as well as a good show for the industry that competitors can work together to deliver trainings.
 - Practical Simulation training has been successful. We have had good attendance in the trainings and the proctors and trainers have been working well together to make the trainings a success.
 - RESNET Dinner was very well attended on behalf of EPA, RESNET, former Board members, REM/Rate staff, Ekotrope staff.
 - The Alliance is well respected in the industry as a whole. RESNET listens to comments when the NEHERS Alliance submits them.
 - Mike Browne returned to the Board, which is a great addition.
 - MassSave will be in support of the NEHERS Alliance again soon.
- ❖ 9:40 - Financial Summary:
 - Mark Newey wasn't present at the meeting.
 - There has been continuous confusion why Authorize.Net doesn't have the same charges as what is present on our bank statement.
 - Serra did send the financial statement this morning and Betsy received it and posted it to the Google Drive.
 - There are 2 refunds that didn't show up and 2 deposits didn't show up on the bank statement, according to Betsy. Betsy doesn't think it is a timing issue either.
 - Emelie stated the taxes have been filed.
 - Schedule of Accounts Payable:
 - There are the usual charges for Betsy's time, Gale's time assembling manuals, Laurie's time, accounting services, website services.
 - Emelie noted that the cost of Gale's services to assemble the manuals seems high. The Board charges \$121 for the paper copy for Non-Members and \$91 for the electronic version. If customers order more than 5, they get a discount but the Board doesn't really receive a discount if printing in bulk. Doug suggested encouraging people to only order the downloadable version of the Manual to reduce printing and shipping costs on the Alliance. Tony suggested creating a version of the Manual that is not in a binder, but is already hole punched to save on assembly costs. Or perhaps a service like Staples could print and ship the manuals for customers. This will become a Manual Committee task to investigate.
 - The Board noticed a discrepancy in the Collective Copies line item. For March 2017, the Board approved \$304.44 worth of charges that occurred that month. In April 2017, new charges in \$283.96 occurred.

But Serra listed both charges in the 1-30 days past due column when in reality on \$304.44 is in the 1-30 column and \$283.96 is current.

- For Serra & Associates, it lists \$1,058.00 in the 1-30 day past due column and \$168 in the Current column. When in reality there should be current column the value owed is \$336. And in the 1-30 days past due it should be \$890, which is the value approved last month by the Board and not paid yet by Mark Newey.
- The Board revised value that needs to be approved for current payment ASAP is \$3,483.14 using the calculated values in the above 2 paragraphs. Jenn made a motion to approve the April 2017 Accounts Payable in the amount of \$3,483.14. Mike seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

○ Financial Statement:

- Total assets are \$15,000 higher than last year at this same time.
- We have some liabilities to pay and also will need to pay some trainers as well.
- The last training had 11 people at the live training, which was a safe number and a great accomplishment of the Board and Betsy. 4 other attendees were online-only.

❖ 11:10 - Resiliency (Betsy):

- Betsy is presenting a big picture look at how the NEHERS Alliance fits into Climate Change as a whole.
- Betsy shared personal information about herself so that the Board (who are meeting her in person for the first time) could get to know her better.
- She reviewed Peak Oil production, which discovery of oil reserves occurred most in 1930 and production peaked in 1970's. Most counties in the world have peaked the discovery and production of the easiest to access oil accessible to the public for consumption.
- Renewables are going to continue to be a part of the energy demand in the world, but they won't be the full solution to assist with the demand of fuel by the world inhabitants.
- Conservation of energy is going to be a main focus to help with the energy demand worldwide.
- Climate change discussion and Paris Agreement signed last year agreed upon a 1.5 Celsius goal of not allowing the global temperature to rise higher than that temperature.
- Resiliency (the ability to recover quickly) is a key to the world surviving the energy crisis that may be looming
- The Northeast HERS Alliance is a great organization to help buildings conserve energy, bring more people into this important workforce, encourage more diverse groups of people to become involved (Spanish classes, women's classes for HERS raters).
- Betsy suggested looking at other ways to engage with the financing industry to help push energy efficiency. And to help the HERS industry in their needs to help push energy efficiency to the public and how NEHERS can assist with that need.

❖ 12:00pm – LUNCH

❖ 12:30 – Membership and Communications:

- The Alliance partnered with GreenBuild which will occur in November 2017
- The Alliance now offers a New Sponsor Member offer. Trutech may sign up under this delineation.
- New Program Member Fee structure:
 - Based on volume or flat rate?
 - \$0.60 per Rating in the state? Or \$0.80/rating?
 - Betsy pulled a report from RESNET that shows the total number of HERS Ratings completed per state in the Northeast and showed it to the Board in a chart format.
 - Emelie developed a chart based on different Per Rating factors using the number of HERS ratings per state.
 - Mike mentioned setting up a flat rate tier structure based on “gold, silver, platinum” levels. The Board would have to define what each of these tiers would be of value to the members.
 - The Board discussed a “suggested” donation membership amount at \$0.80 per Rating that occurred in their state. In the customized letter to the programs, put a comparative measure in there to other

surrounding states. But also list that the second option is Bronze (\$500-\$1,000), Silver (\$1,000-\$2,500), Gold (\$2,500-\$5,000), Platinum (\$5,000+).

- Emelie suggested having the opportunity as a Member to listen into the Webinar that she gave at RESNET related to a survey conducted to programs in the Northeast that evaluated the ways the utilities can create a successful program.
- Doug suggested having “slots” allocated to Program Members associated with the trainings that the NEHERS puts on for the industry.
- Betsy mentioned having Program Member program information hidden to Members only if they aren’t a registered Program Member sponsor and when they register, have the program information available to all visitors to the website to view.
- Emelie made a motion to approve the new Program Member fee structure with a suggested donation based on \$0.80 per rating or the 4 tiers described above. Doug Seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

❖ 1:00pm - Codes Committee

- Peter passed out some notes from the past 2 codes committee meetings.
- Items recently discussed were:
 - NEEP keeps track of all the Northeast states energy codes updates and statuses.
 - Kevin at NEEP joins the NEHERS Code committee meetings.
 - RESNET plans to create a central energy rating “engine” platform. Mike Browne said it is currently on hold though. Apparently RESNET got nervous about the ongoing maintenance costs to keep the database updated.
 - 2018 ICEE concerns have been discussed at the meetings. There was concern that it may be weaker with some trade-off possibilities in the works. Mike mentioned that the code may be lifting some of the ERI standard requirements higher to make it easier to adopt. The possible rationale for going to this method is to get states to adopt something, rather than nothing at all.
 - Looking at Zero Net Energy ready buildings and where are each of the states in the Northeast at in terms of promoting them. Doug mentioned that New Jersey invests a lot of incentives in ZER homes but no one takes advantage of it. Tony said New York doesn’t really invest many incentives and no one invests in building to DOE ZER standards either. Bruce mentioned that New Hampshire has a competitive layer on top of the traditional incentive for efficient new homes and they just launched a Zero Energy Ready challenge modeled after the one in CT.

❖ 1:30pm – Standards Committee:

- There have been limited comment periods submitted to RESNET this year so far.
- When RESNET releases more comment-able periods, the Standards committee does a great job coming together and deciding upon the comments to submit on behalf of the NEHERS Alliance.
- The QA updates once the pilot period is complete will require the Standards Committee to review and provide feedback.
 - Emelie mentioned that she may submit a written comment to the Standards committee about duct leakage testing and when it can be exempt. For example, if you can see the ductwork at rough-in upon inspection by the HERS Rater but later it is covered up with sheetrock, does that qualify. There has been confusion over how to handle this type of situation. She wants to make clear that the duct leakage to outside testing protocol needs to be clearer about when exactly to test rough-in vs. final.
- During the Board meeting today, a new RESNET comment period request was released related to “Accepting Comments on Proposed Standard Amendment on HERS Index Size Adjustment Factors - BSR/RESNET/ICC 301-2014 Addendum E-201x, Draft PDS-03”. They have 1 month to review, with comments due June 11th.
- Doug proposed merging the Manual and the Standards committee and Doug and Mike didn’t think that was a good idea. They explained that even though they share some similar committee members, the topics are very different sometimes.

❖ 1:40pm – Manual Committee:

- Mike Browne thanked Betsy and Tony for helping with this committee when he was getting up to speed.
 - They recently discussed the fee structure and they will continue this discussion in the committee's next meeting.
 - Going forward the committee wants to include EkoTrobe in the meetings to make sure their product is represented appropriately. And also incorporate it into the Manual which EkoTrobe may fund. There currently is a write up in the Manual for REM Rate but EkoTrobe should be added. Energy Gauge is another software program that exists in the HERS Index realm that may need to be included in the future as well.
 - Mike wants to try to bring EkoTrobe in as a Sponsor Member and waive the first year fee if they can provide a benefit to the Board/members at large.
- ❖ 1:55pm – Training Committee:
- There currently a training going one right now. The in-person training starts on Monday, May 15th and Eurihea is the training provider.
 - The Fall Training RFP was just released. Emelie's company received the bid. Mike Browne is also a trainer and may submit a proposal.
 - The Board discussed potentially taking the Training curriculum as their own, rather than requiring the Training Provider to own the product and having all the responsibility to update it with standard changes. Then it would be less of a lift for the smaller training organizations to train if it were a shared curriculum.
 - Practical Simulation Exam:
 - The new interface is released May 15th.
 - The next proctoring session is May 19th but there are only 2 registrants. Should they use the new version that isn't tested out yet or the old version that has quirks. Betsy and Emelie suggested giving it to the signed up registrants to test out May 15th to see if they feel comfortable using the new version. Doug suggested the new version, as long as it does actually get released on Monday the 15th. Emelie said she would get some screen shots of the new version. Emelie will check on Monday on the status of the new testing platform and will call the 2 attendees if they have a possibility of having to use the older version with quirks.
 - HERS Associate Training:
 - The committee ruled against offering this type of training.
 - Potential Code Official Training:
 - Recorded webinar option, perhaps about 1 hour long.
 - Need to get CEU's for their attendance.
 - Can we give this to members to deliver themselves to code officials.
 - A good target would be larger cities that have teams of building officials on staff that could take the training webinar together.
 - Bruce suggested contacting ICC representative Bill Nash.
 - Perhaps we could charge building officials to download and watch the webinar.
 - The Code Committee is responsible for deciding what content should be in the webinar.
 - Next Step:
 - Bruce will contact Bill Nash.
 - Then an NEHERS meeting will be set up between the Codes and Training Committee members.
- ❖ 2:10pm – Professional Development:
- Frank was not present at the Board Meeting
 - Frank is slated to give the May webinar and he has found someone to present for it. Insulation and Air Sealing Systems will be presenting.
 - Mark Newey is scheduled for June
 - Doug for July (PHIUS as the topic)
 - August is being skipped
 - September is Bruce
 - November is Tony
 - December is Meet the Candidate webinar

- NAIMA offered to do a webinar for us. They have sent Betsy the slides and are ready to present anytime. We could bump an existing webinar with their topic as an option. Betsy said they were willing for September to present.
- TruTech may offer another training if needed in the future. Possibly on the OSHA confined spaces overview. This topic may not be relevant to HERS Raters but the Board wasn't sure and may want to hold the training anyways just in case the content is relevant.
- ❖ 2:30 – Elections:
 - Tony Lisanti and Jenn Parsons roles are up for election.
 - Doug and Frank are allowed to re-run.
 - We need to find 4 candidates for these slots.
 - Mike and Peter thought they may have some ideas for candidates who are Rater's, but not Providers or Training Providers.
 - The current By-Laws state the specific "category slots" that must be present on the Board. 2 Program, 1 Training Provider, 5 Rating Provider and 1 Rater slots.
 - The Nomination Committee must be formed of individuals not up for reelection.
 - Need to have candidates in place by September/October. This will be a meeting agenda item next month.
- ❖ 2:48 – Wrap up, the future of the Alliance, next steps:
 - Topics to Keep Thinking about and discussing:
 - QA and the new order?
 - The SBC subcommittee is reviewing all the comments that have been submitted to RESNET. They aren't finished yet but will be in the next year or so.
 - Need to continue to think about how we can help train building officials on code changes and HERS.
 - EkoTrove is an upcoming tool that will need further discussion in the future to integrate more in HERS Rating work.
- ❖ 3:04pm- Meeting Adjourned
 - The Board expressed gratitude towards each other and enjoyed the in-person connection the Board Retreat offers to build community and teamwork.