

Belmont Municipal Light Advisory Board
BMLD Conference Room, 40 Prince Street
Wednesday, September 19, 2012
7:15 PM

ATTENDEES:

James Palmer, BMLD General Manager/CEO
Lauri Mancinelli, BMLD Energy Analyst
Jennifer Santoro, BMLD Communication Coordinator
Ashley Brown, Municipal Light Advisory Board (MLAB) Chair
Bob Forrester, Municipal Light Advisory Board Vice Chair
Patty DiOrio, Municipal Light Advisory Board
Tim McCarthy, Municipal Light Advisory Board
Mark McVay, Municipal Light Advisory Board
Ralph Jones, Municipal Light Board Chair
Ed Selgrade, BMLD Legal Counsel
Stan Faryniarz, LaCapra & Associates
Stan Koehler, LaCapra & Associates
Chris Barros, SourceOne Energy Solutions
Roger Colton, Belmont Energy Committee

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Belmont Municipal Light Advisory Board was called to order at 7:20 PM by Municipal Light Advisory Board (MLAB) Chair, Ashley Brown.

DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT & RENEWABLE SUPPLY:

Palmer stated that an Emission Free Distributed Generation Policy was put together in November 2011 which was a net metering and buyback tariff for emission free renewable, specifically wind and solar. Palmer stated that the policy is currently in Phase 1 which is the net metering portion of the tariff. Phase 2 (which is the buyback tariff) will be implemented in April 2013. As to date there are 15 residential net metering customers as well as the Belmont Hill School and the Mass. Audubon Society that are both online. That is over 230kW of installed capacity and over 53kW is residential. Palmer stated that smart meters are not installed at these locations to date. Mancinelli stated that presently there are net flow meters installed at these locations.

Colton stated that the Solar Request For Proposal (RFP) was released in July 2012 for the Belmont Schools and three bids were received by the end of August. The three bids were from Broadway Electric who installed the solar panels at the DPW in Watertown. IRC is a company in Maine which installed the solar panels at the Belmont Hill School. The last firm is called Sol

Solutions which is a nonprofit firm that specializes in installing solar panels on public schools. Two higher bids include roof work to allow for more capacity. Colton stated that he has learned through this process that the installations of the panels has little to do with solar energy but everything to do with the condition of the sites. The school buildings are not in the best of condition. The Belmont High School has the biggest roof but the one with the need of most repairs. The High School field house is not an option because the building supports are not close enough to hold the solar panels. Colton stated that he predicts that there will be solar panels in place by the end of the school year.

In regards to BMLD's Demand Response, Mancinelli stated in the summer of 2012, two reverse 911 calls were sent out during high demand days. The main criteria for implementing reverse 911 calls are when BMLD's load reaches a firm capacity of 28 MW. Customers responded well to the reverse 911 calls and load growth for the day was reduced.

SMART METER and TIME VARIABLE PRICING PROJECT:

Palmer introduced Koehler and Faryniarz from LaCapra & Associates to talk about the time of use rates that they have been working on. As of September 19, 2012, 2145 meters are installed. 2116 of those meters are residential, 25 meters are commercial and 4 meters are municipal. There is a separate wireless network that communicates to these meters. Barros from SourceOne Energy Solutions stated that since the meters have been installed there has been significant progress in developing the web portal.

TIME of USE RATES:

LaCapra & Associates recommends a voluntary option, for at least one year, where customers can participate in the pilot program. However, Faryniarz stated that some people will be motivated beyond economics; given self selection and other biases. Faryniarz stated that the differential between on and off peak is relatively small. Anchoring the program with good data is important and public outreach is expected to begin in April when the communication network is installed.

RENEWABLE SUPPLY:

Currently there are 139 customer's enrolled in the Green Choice Program. BMLD has long term contracts for approximately 80% of its supply and approximately 20% is purchased on the spot market. 12% is contracted with hydroelectric power (NYPA and Miller Hydro) and 3% is contracted with Spruce Mountain.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH:

This year the BMLD has attended Belmont Town Day, Meet Belmont and the Belmont Farmer's Market to distribute information and CFL's. Media channels such as Belmont Public Access was used to distribute summer high demand advisories and alerts. Energy Committee members also helped to distribute advisories through social media outlets.

POLICY DECISIONS:

The BMLD staff will work with the Belmont Municipal Light Advisory Board to create a comprehensive demand side management and renewable energy supply policy that will establish goals for: Load growth rate reduction, Peak load reduction and Renewable Energy Supply. The policy will serve as a directive for development of comprehensive Demand Side Management and renewable energy supply plan and individual programs and initiatives.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Palmer stated that the substation project is moving along smoothly and all contracts and negotiations will be finalized by the end of the year. The Reorganization project is still in process and the new IT position and Customer Service position should be filled within the month.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Belmont Municipal Light Advisory Board meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM by Belmont Light Advisory Chair, Ashley Brown.