



Meeting Logistics & Information

Date	Friday – November 4, 2022	Attendees
Time	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Betsy Ames, Mike Browne, Chris Mazzola, Mike Turns, Ben Cohen, Nick Jones, Cindy Zeis, Jonathan Harrison, Joe Rando (late), Keegan Ebbets (late)
Meeting Type	NEHERS Alliance – Board Meeting	Non-Attendees
Facilitator	Mike Browne	Special Guests
Web Link	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/122221509	

Meeting Motions			
<i>Motion #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Movement</i>	<i>Favor/Oppose/Abstain</i>
1	To approve July minutes	Motion – Chris Second – Jonathan	6/0/0
2	To approve September minutes	Motion – Mike T Second – Cindy	6/0/0
3	To approve Betsy’s increased hours, sick time, and hourly rate for grant writing	Motion – Chris Second – Joe	8/0/0
4	To approve membership dues fee increases	Motion – Mike B Second - Jonathan	8/0/1
5	To adjourn	Motion – Second –	0/0/0

Roll call:

- Betsy Ames, Nick Jones, Mike Browne, Joe Rando, Ben Cohen, Cindy Zeis, Jonathan Harrison, Chris Mazzolla, Mike Turns, Keegan Ebbets
- Present (quorum = 5):
- Late: Nick and Keegan had other meetings right before and were a little late. Joe arrived after secretary report
- Absent:

SECRETARY’S REPORT: (Mike T.) 10:00 – 10:05 AM

- Vote on minutes from July
 - **Chris motion, Jonathan seconded, unanimously approved**
- Vote on minutes from September
 - **Mike T motion, Cindy seconded, unanimously approved**

TREASURER'S REPORT: *(Nick)* 10:05 – 10:15 AM

- Treasurer's Report
 - October AP in the amount of \$21,068.30 was approved by email.
 - November AP will be voted on by email

Q3 2022 vs 2023 account balances are very close, ~\$1000 more. P&L statements. Last year we were reporting a net income of about \$7K, this year we're looking at a net loss of \$31K. Membership dues are stable. Training income was only slightly greater than training expenses. We're just barely generating enough revenue to be able to deliver them. Should we adjust fees, consider sponsors, or look for grants? There are a lot of opportunities in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). We should look for outside source of revenue because it's becoming difficult to make a profit on the trainings. Credit card fees went up by almost \$2K, but this is a small change relative to training revenue and expenses. MT – why less training profit? Betsy – PSD did not raise their prices in 2022. Exam fees have gone up, Betsy wants to dive deeper, although it may be right because it's per student and we had more students. Revenue was \$2,750 last year, this year \$2,400, but that's not huge. Expenses were \$20K and this year \$24K. Chris – what should the goal be? Nick – with 10% to PSD, 20% is typically a good number to strive for. Chris – Are we trying to stay around \$100K in savings? Nick – we've basically just been trying to be a self-sustaining organization. Mike B – what do we have to do to become competitive for that money and what do we have to do to get it? Nick – We don't have a lot of capacity or grant writing experience. Seek a pro bono grant writer or have someone on retainer and find and submit for grants on our behalf. Betsy has some grant writing experience and is doing it for NYSERDA benchmarking, but she doesn't have a lot of time. She enjoys it. Mike B thinks Betsy would be great at this. Pursue through committees. Suggested starting a new committee – Funding Opportunity Committee. Nick – we can wrap costs of finding funding and admin into the grant. Mike T – We can also subcontract with other groups that are going after funding. Nick will investigate IRA opportunities.

We don't have to approve an AP today.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS: *(Betsy and Mike B.)* 10:15 – 10:30 AM

- 2023 RESNET Training Provider Application is Complete
- Betsy's Annual Review

Mike B – seeking motion to accept Betsy pay increase request

Betsy has taken on AP and has done a bang-up job. Saves Nick a lot of time. It's not only having someone to handle payment stuff but having an extra level of QA, so it's invaluable. Joe would express the same level of gratitude as others or even more. Joe could never get everything done without Betsy. Utmost gratitude for professionalism and commitment to the training side. Can't say enough. Cindy agrees – she always gives great feedback and she's very positive.



- ❖ **Chris B motion - Betsy's request to increase pay and sick/vacation time as proposed in her written evaluation, increase hours up to 30 per week, and pay for modeler training including test, or any other training she is interested in. Joe Second. No discussion. Unanimously approved. (Is she eligible for the test?)**

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: *(Chris, Cindy, Jonathan, and Nick)* 10:30 – 10:45 AM

- Rating Provider (2 seats open)
 - Joe Rando of GDS (incumbent)
 - ??? **We need someone to run here. We've never had an open seat without at least one person running. Betsy reviewed a list of Provider members. Chris to contact CET and VEIC. No one knows anyone at Sustainable Comfort. Nick was going to try Steven Winters. to run. Nick said they've grown a lot but haven't increased the staff much. Now they have some new people. Betsy sent him two new names yesterday – maybe they could do it – Nick to reach out. Steve Cloakey is unavailable.**
- Rater (1 seat open)
 - Ben Cohen of ReVireo (incumbent)
 - John Erickson of CLEAResult
- Associate (1 seat open)
 - Keegan Ebbets of ICF (incumbent)
- Training Provider (1 seat open)
 - Mike Turns of PSD (incumbent)

MANUAL COMMITTEE: *(Cindy)* 10:45 – 11:00 AM

- GDS Utility Cost Input Updates – **They said they will do it in January**
- Working on replacing broken links and suggest replacements.
 - <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OGZeVJw2IgxVx53eM09UcI5fHlmIGX5>
 - **They have started to dig into the broken links. Also considering some other changes in the future.**
- Also starting to look at whether to remove Standards sections **Not a lot of movement here.**

TRAINING COMMITTEE: *(Joe)* 11:00 – 11:15 AM

- Winter 2023 Training:
 - January 16- 27, 2023
 - February 6-10, 2023
 - Vermont Training update
 - Chris Mazzola update on mentorship and becoming a trainer.
- Aptitude quiz.
- **Aptitude quiz – Joe is working on the aptitude quiz now. Background: Provide optional aptitude test to assess readiness to take the training. Chris/Joe came up with 12 questions. Shooting for 25 questions. Breaking questions into categories: Math, Physics (units), Construction Components, Communications.**

Only had one question on Communications, want more questions on computers and practical simulation. Struggling to come up with communication questions. E.g., navigating Windows, start menu, web browsers. Change Communications to Computer Lit, adding Skills section. Now have 60 questions, including Betsy's questions. Next meeting will discuss. This is too long and will winnow down. Betsy reviewed examples of questions. Discussed the intent. Short term just to give the trainers an idea what they're walking into. Candidates can self-assess. Maybe provide resources for tutorials. Trying to get something out before the next training. Mike B suggests getting testimonials from raters about their experience in the industry, why they like it, how they got here. Joe will keep Betsy and the board apprised as they develop things over the next month.

- Winter training – One registrant. Holding 4 spots for VEIC. They have funding for developing a HERS industry in VT. Funding expiring by the end of the year, custom training didn't make sense. They are looking for super-comprehensive support of students...ENERGY STAR training, mentorships, etc. Li Ling thinks there will be a more consistent funding source in 2023. They want to give them the tools to start and maintain a business.
- Mentorship – expand NEHERS offerings and revenue stream. Cindy – what about some post-rater training education. Strategies, videos.
- Chris Mazzola becoming a trainer

STANDARDS COMMITTEE: (Cindy) 11:15 AM- 11:30 AM

- ANSI:
 - BSR/RESNET/ICC 301-202 Addendum B-202x – CO2 Index (Public comment starts Aug 12) – nothing notable here, discussed last meeting.
 - <https://www.resnet.us/about/standards/resnet-ansi/draft-pds-02-bsr-resnet-icc-301-2022-addendum-b-co2e-index/>
- MINHERS:
 - Draft PDS-01, MINHERS Addendum 71, [SEER2/HSPF2 Conversions – public comments addressed primary concerns. Public comment period ended.](#) Cindy asked RESNET if there would be a conversion table. There is now a conversion table. Ductless for cooling doesn't need a conversion but does for heating. [Software is working on this but it's not quite there. People are going to have to understand how to deal with this stuff. REM/Rate doesn't have conversion. Ekotrope does.](#)
- Current Topics:
 - Further discussion needed for the insulation grading sub-committee – first meeting 10/20. Chris and Cindy are participating.
 - Make sure whatever they come up with is simple and easy to follow.
 - Consensus is that we want to keep the current grading, keeps consistency, etc...

RESNET is looking to bring insulation grading issue back up. Have a stakeholder group. RESNET gave background and intent. Feedback was mostly that we like things how they are. We're going into it with an open mind.



- Additional ideas for 10-minute standards segment on webinars for 2023. Mike B wants to moderate heat pump modeling update. Chris McTaggart is listed as the speaker as he has taken a hardline with a conservative interpretation. Lots of problems with cc ASHP modeling.

Keeping remote QA requirement to have at least one in-person – same as pre-COVID. Cindy checked with John Hensley, the committee chair – they have met twice but have no timeline on deciding.

QAD COMMITTEE: (Jonathan) 11:30 – 11:45 PM

45L and 179D Tax Credits We submitted comments. Betsy asked Jonathan to send her the final comments to post on the website.

- Upcoming Energy Star Changes 2021 IECC coming up – insulation baseline changes, HVAC grading. Tracking to help maintain consistency.

BREAK: 11:45 AM – Noon

WEBINARS: (Ben) 12:00 PM – 12:15 PM

- 2022
 - ~~January 19th:~~ Standards Update with Sara
 - ~~February 15th:~~ Embodied Carbon NEHERS EC Committee
 - ~~March 9th:~~ Manual BV: A New Approach to Balanced Residential Ventilation Design with Paul H. Raymer of Heyoka Solutions, LLC
 - ~~April 13th:~~ Mike Turns 2021 IECC
 - ~~May 25th:~~ Air to Water Heat Pumps for DHW with Robb Aldrich and Dylan Martello of Steven Winter Associates
 - ~~June 29:~~ RESNET Conference Recap and Looking Ahead to October with John Hensley, Billy Giblin, Emma Bennett, Valerie Briggs and Scott Doyle
 - ~~Joe and Chris volunteered to be the board member on the call~~
 - ~~July 20:~~ Foam Free High Performance Building Enclosures with Oliver Klein
 - ~~Board member on call?~~
 - ~~August 1:~~ A Proposal for a New RESNET Standard on Embodied Carbon with the NEHERS Embodied Carbon Committee
 - ~~September 21st:~~ Encyclopedic Energy Design Why Prioritize Supply Chains and Pizza Toppings Along with Blower Door Results with Andrew Frederick
 - ~~October:~~ RESNET Conference off
 - **November 9th:** EnergySMAC: Speed Energy Certifications & Cut Inspection Time by Hours with Darol F. Harrison of P.E. Building Engineering Company
 - Board, please help publicize, this is a paid webinar.
 - **December:** Programs Webinar? – Use to solicit new programs?

Betsy – Ben and her should get together to start planning next year's schedule. Discussion of the utility of EnergySMAC and related products.

Moving Programs Webinar to January

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS: (Mike B) 12:15 – 12:30 PM

- Board vote on whether to keep membership fees the same or to increase.
 - Raise rates to pay for 1 or 2 new raters to go to RESNET conference?
 - Last increase was voted on in 2019 to take effect in 2020.
 - Bulk of raters come from Provider and Trainer categories, very few independent raters or others.
 - 50% discount does not apply to Sponsor or Program.

Chris thinks we haven't added services, so we shouldn't increase the rate. Mike B disagrees. We do a lot, and the market has grown. Cindy – maybe we should leave individual raters alone.

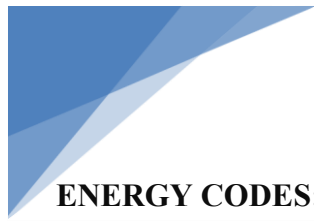
Mike B propose we raise fees a little bit by:

- **Raters: up \$10. (From \$110 to \$120)**
- **Trainers: base fee up \$50 (from \$300 to \$350), no change to per rater fee**
- **Providers: base fee up \$50 (from \$650 to \$700), no change to per rater fee**
- **Associate individuals up \$5. (from \$55 to \$60)**
- **Program \$0.90 per rating. (up from .80 per rating suggested fee)**
- ❖ **Mike B motion to approve increases, Jonathan second. Cindy abstained**

Chris model a RESNET conference scholarship off RESNET. Have an application process.

Category	2019	2020
Rater	\$100	\$110
Dual Rater and RESNET Accredited Trainer	\$220	\$230
Accredited Provider	\$275 + \$60 per rater (capped at 50)	\$300 + \$70 per rater (capped at 50)
Dual Accredited Provider and Training Provider	\$600 + \$60 per rater (capped at 50)	\$650 + \$70 per rater (capped at 50)
Associate Individual	\$50	\$55
Associate Sponsor	\$500	\$500
Program	\$500-\$5000 (\$.80 per rating done in state)	\$500-\$5000 (\$.80 per rating done in state)

- November: Start contacting Providers for lists of raters.



ENERGY CODES: *(Mike T)* 12:30 – 12:45 PM

- International Code Council Draft BPS Resource: Request for External Stakeholder Review
- Just recently, the International Code Council (ICC) released the 2024 [IECC Residential draft for public comment](#). Comments are due December 16, 2022. Read our [latest blog](#) to learn how to participate.

MT – changes to MA stretch code

Nick – Builder pushback on prevailing wage piece for multifamily

EMBODIED CARBON: *(Andy, Chris and Mike)* 12:45 – 1:00 PM

- Update from Austin: RESNET Board voted to form working group on EC
 - Chris Magwood will chair- (RMI) can draft the Standard- talking with Ryan Meres for guidance.
 - Betsy will represent our EC committee for the initial meetings.

Steve Baden presented embodied carbon at board meeting, looking at creating a RESNET standard. A lot of momentum on this. Chris Magwood made a splash at EEBA. RMI is fully funding Chris Magwood to work on creating this RESNET standard. Andy Buccino update – Nate Connors from ICF is now in the group, running it up the flagpole from a program perspective.

- Benchmark Study:
 - Looking at funding from NYSERDA, possibly partner with RESNET Canada has data, but gap in the US. We are proposing to benchmark 50 homes (pulled back from 2500 to collect more robust data). What does rater workflow look like. In Ekotrope after codes and programs tab have an embodied energy tab. Won't change the HERS Index – it's a standalone index. We think we're 2-6 months from getting cash. Volunteers to use existing ratings (Mike B, Chris M). Will put out an RFP for assistance. Using already-collected data from HERS Ratings, anything outside the rating will collect from plans.
- Andy submitted an Embodied Carbon session proposal for the National Home Performance Conference in Seattle in April (presented by the Xavier Walter of the Building Performance Association)
- Possible speaking engagement by Zoom in ME later this fall.

STRATEGIC PLANNING ITEMS: (1:00- 2:00 PM)

Board Development

- Planning for executive committee transition and strategy for additional:
 - QA Provider Members
 - Training or Independent Training Provider Members
 - Program Members

Succession plan – anyone interested in moving up from board into executive committee? Cindy – what is the time commitment? Mike B – Betsy has made being president very easy. Nick – same with treasurer. Mike - It's not that bad. Gives you great insights into the industry. Chris to become next president, Nick is up at end of 2023. Mike T has through 2024.

Organizational Development: Planning for Possible Increase in Demand for HERS Trainings with IRA

Funding for Owning Our Own Curriculum/ Pros and Cons Betsy – we lost the BER as a trainer, so now it's just PSD. What happens if they're not available. Joe – This seems like it would have to be a paid position. Nick agrees. This could be a part of an IRA proposal. Peter Harding has declined. Hard to find people. Keegan's reaction is that the cons outweigh the pros.

- Tie-in with manual and standards committees?
- Include embodied carbon in our current training or develop our own embodied carbon curriculum?

RESNET Board Dinner

- No live conference, do it by zoom?
- Swag?

ADDITIONAL ITEMS/NEW ITEMS: