

Meeting Logistics & Information

Date	Wednesday – March 20, 2019	Attendees
Time	9:00 – 11:00 AM	Frank Swol, Doug McCleery, Chris Mazzola, Joe Rando, Mike Browne, Nick Jones, Rob Salcido, Betsy Ames,
		Non-Attendees
Meeting Type	NEHERS Alliance – Board Meeting	Mike Turns, Kevin Hanlon
Facilitator	Frank Swol	Special Guests
		None
Web Link	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/122221509	

Meeting Motions

Motion #	Description	Motion Movement	Favor/Oppose/Abstain
1	Motion to approve February 2019 Board Meeting minutes, as amended	Moved by Doug McCleery Seconded by Mike Browne	6/0/1
2	Motion to approve current accounts payable for December in the amount of \$19,742.83	Moved by Nick Jones Seconded by Frank Swol	7/0/0
3	Motion to adjourn at 10:56	Moved by Frank Swol Seconded by Rob Salcido	7/0/0

Administrative Items:

- **RESNET Board Dinner Re-Cap**
 - Good feedback on choice of venue, people were happy to be able to mingle.
 - Good turn-out, most people who RSVP'd came.
 - Given noise, didn't have good opportunity to do a year in review.
 - Frank will send an email to attendees.
 - Will want a similar venue in Scottsdale next year.
 - Request for next year- more drink tickets!

- **Board Retreat**
 - Date has been set (October 18th)
 - Location- Energize CT Center in North Haven CT.
 - Book it from 10-4, with a little time before for people to socialize. Panera is next door if people get there early.
 - Discussion on how to best create our agenda between now and the retreat. We will generally collect longer term points, as they come up, and if a few months pass we may need people to submit topics they would like to discuss.

- **EPA Releases Comments and Draft Path Forward on the "VOO"**
 - EPA has released the comments on the comments that were submitted as to VOO. They are going to move forward with it, there is a draft path forward. It's a big issue for the industry, so please read them if you haven't already.
 - This will be discussed in more detail at the next Standards Meeting.
 - The initial list of commenters was from very large organizations, we probably should discuss it in committee, we probably do owe the membership some condensed thoughts on the potential impact. We must make sure the membership is aware that a change is coming.

- **NEHERS Presentation at the 2020 RESNET Conference**
 - They did a few new session types at the conference, town hall style meetings. Got him thinking about different kinds of presentations. What is the board's interest in putting in a proposal for an NEHERS presentation, we have many board members that attend. Interesting topic. Technical issues in Northeast, as well as what is it like to run a regional HERS organization, what the benefits are. Should we do it? Would you be on the panel?
 - Would it be seen as self-promoting?
 - We can ask about that, given that we are a non-profit it might be viewed differently. Can talk with RESNET.
 - Have to consider how to present concepts, using our organization as example, encourage others to do same.

- The presentation itself would be a good retreat item. Proposals due early August. Would need general outline by then. Could be a different kind of session, no other organization like ours.
 - There is a similar one in IL, maybe look for similar organizations to present with. Maybe it didn't take off.
 - Overall people like idea of putting in a proposal. (No formal vote taken.)
- **Website Manual Traffic**
 - Question from last board meeting how many people access the online manual. Because that document viewer is outside the site template, it has not been tracked by analytics like the rest of the site. We can see how many people have been redirected from that page in order to login though. There have been 19 logins to that page in the past year. If someone was previously logged in, they could access the online version of the manual without us having evidence of it though. We manually added some tracking code to the page so we can track actual page visits to it going forward.
 - **NEHERS Students Becoming Active Raters**
 - Question from last board meeting how many students become raters: Since the Spring 2016 training, we have had 78 students. There were three we could identify that did not intend to become raters, leaving 75:
 - 43 (57%) did get certified
 - 13 (17%) are in process (includes winter 2019 class and those re-testing)
 - 7 (9%) did not get certified
 - 12 (16%) did not respond
 - Will be adding a question to our training registration that asks the student why they are taking the class in order to better understand up front who is taking the class to become a Rater, or for what reasons they are taking the class purely for information purposes.

Secretary's Report (Mike T.)

- Review and Approval of minutes from February 2019 meeting.
- ❖ **Motion 1 – Motion to approve minutes was made by Doug McCleery and seconded by Mike Browne. Vote was unanimous. Frank abstained.**

Treasurer's Report (Nick)

- Financial update – not given.
- Accounts Payable – reviewed.
- Compilation Report – not reviewed.
- ❖ **Motion 2 - Motion to approve current accounts payable of \$19,742.83 was made by Nick Jones and seconded by Frank Swol. Vote was unanimous.**

Standards Committee (Kevin Hanlon, Rob Salcido)

- HERE IS A CHART OF ITEMS OPEN FOR COMMENT

<http://www.resnet.us/blog/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/RESNET-Pending-Standard-Amendments-3-28-18-Completed.pdf>

- 3 items open for comment:
 - Addendum 36: Rater and RFI Certification; Removal of HESP- nothing required commenting
 - Addendum 42: Adoption of ANSI/RESNET/ICC 301-2019 and ANSI/RESNET/ICC 380-2019- more administrative, nothing required commenting.
 - Addendum 30: Quality Assurance- we went through this at the last meeting, and Doug highlighted area with one comment we posted. A second area we wanted clarification, so we wrote a comment for that and circulated it to the committee. We have until March 26th, if hears nothing back will submit it as is.
 - Also looked at Mike Browne's proposal for guarded testing, which will be the focus of our next meeting.
 - Question regarding the relationship between standards committee and energy codes committee. Where does standards stop and energy codes start?
 - When we started codes committee, the RESNET standards were not pointed to so explicitly by the codes, more separate than it is now. They've converged. Had codes committee 4 or 5 years. Standards is older. Some overlap between the two.
 - Standards Committee is focused at the RESNET standards itself. There's a lot of work to keep up with the proposed changes. Can't combine the committees, different focus, both important.
 - Codes is more about implementation, especially now that code points to RESNET standards. The standards are developed and then brought into the code, and the codes committee is more boots on the ground. How it's being implemented, what are the problems implementing it. Which states are doing what with the energy code. Standards is more focused on keeping up with the changes.
 - Manual committee often runs things by standards committee before putting it in the manual.
 - Impressive summary on last call with state codes. That was the point of the codes committee, what the state of the codes was in each state, and have a representative from each state on committee. Meant to be a forum to share what was happening and push forward with the code knowing what is happening in each state.
 - May want to write scope of what the focus is of standards committee.
 - NEHERS is a consistent provider of good feedback to RESNET on amendments and changes to standards. Main focus. Any change to standards or interpretations, fully talk it out in committee, and provide feedback. It's been noticed that we provide constructive feedback. And we've seen direct adjustments made to amendments based on our feedback that changed them in a way that was good for our members and providers in the Northeast.
 - As things get more complicated, making sure our membership is aware of important changes as they happen, and some can be quite nuanced. In some cases, we take a lengthy standards update and boil it down to what you need to know.
 - Example: 301- 2019 standard. There are areas with multi-family side that will need explanations. Do we do a training on that? Maybe a webinar. Good webinar topic.
 - Yes, sometimes we also do a conference re-cap, for those who didn't attend, here's the highlights of what you should know that is going on in industry. We try to do that once a year.
 - We were doing a task force call the other day, a few QAs, working with Scott Doyle on two things happening at same time, causing difficulties, update to inspection appendix, where requirements for photo taking are being incorporated. At the same time, we were trying to

update the QA standards in terms of providing the list of stuff for QADS, these are the minimum items to collect for a proper file QA. Trying to put that list together but happening at same time as SEC 300 was working on those changes to the inspection standard, you can see how it's interlinked, because as QAs we were trying not to ask for the stuff that the standard wasn't even asking for collection. We had a coordination call with them last week and they are going to defer to us, their list a little arbitrary. If look at the list they updated, we are going to be putting in something to flesh it out slightly, feeling from QA folks to fix an issue. In the amended changes to inspection requirements, where you take a photo of air conditioner, furnace or water heater, we don't think it's too much to ask for all 3. It's a different perspective. SEC 300 looking for a list of photos to help prove that the rater is at the site, and we were looking at it as what are the minimum things you need to be 100% sure of to do good QA. We will be putting in a proposal to put a few items back on that list. Including something like inspection standard doing just front of home to prove you were there, but we are looking at all 4 elevations, we can determine if house built according to plans. You will see something come out about that for comment. And part of why the list was pared back was because NEHERS had put in comments that the list was burdensome. An example of where our comments had impact. The list originally wanted a photo of almost every minimum rated feature. The proposal itself will come from the task force, and then Standards Committee can comment on it. And when standards committee can't reach consensus, we encourage people to comment individually. There was also the geotagging issue because a lot of us thought it was excessive and burdensome for rural places, where there are issues with connectivity, you might have to wait for phone or iPad to recharge in order to do work, originally written that if you're report wasn't geotagged then it wouldn't count. There were a few things we were proposing, not sure of time frame. The cart kind of went before the horse because of 301-2019 the SEC had to get that out first. They had a deadline on it. Now back-tack and fix this issue.

Training Management (*Joe Rando*)

- Winter 2019 Training:
 - Online (BER): Jan 21- Feb 1
 - Classroom (PSD- Springfield, MA): Feb 11-15
 - Profit Report: \$4319.68
 - Survey Results
 - Pass Rates- five out of the eight who took the exams passed.
 - We looked a pass/fail rate, about 50% not best but not worst. Most beneficial, survey reports. Maybe we should get fresh eyes on training modules. We had provided critiques to the BER, when he can find time, Joe wants to go through the modules, to see if we have any constructive criticism.
 - **Point to add: that the modules take longer than advertised.**
 - Some question as to whether the on-demand modules are as effective as the live training. They did make revisions after we gave them revisions, but it's a lot of content to go back through and check what got revised. We had a comment from one of the PSD trainers how it went after the on demand online training, and they had one student who prepared well with what she had been given, who didn't pass, but would probably have passed if she had a live training. We have to keep looking at whether the on-demand course where you are almost entirely self-directed more effective than the

live training. Pros and cons to each, but that was the experiment that the training committee took to shift away from the live version. More data points needed. BER is doing both online and classroom in fall. Interesting to see what survey results say for next training.

- Spring 2019 Training:
 - Online (BER): April 29- May 10
 - Classroom (BER- Manchester, NH): May 20-24
 - We have 3 registered (paying), 1 transfer student (computer literacy issues, paid last time).
 - We need 7 or 8 to break even.
 - Early bird discount ends April 2nd. Several inquiries. We often get a surge right around the EBD, so we should have a better idea right around April 2nd if we are likely to meet the number. Usually after that we pick up 1 or 2 before final deadline. Additional publicity will go out before then.
- Fall 2019 Training
 - Online (BER): Dates TBD
 - Classroom (PSD): Dates and Location TBD.
 - PSD is meeting on Friday this week to figure out their calendar, we are waiting on the classroom dates from them. We will be looking for CT.
- Competition pricing
 - Question of RI offering a free HERS rater training
 - Question of how they qualify residents, is it just a PO Box
 - Chris raised this issue, it is offered through workforce development in conjunction with the office of energy resources in RI.
 - Joe will follow up with Kevin about reaching to Blake Cole. Hopes to find details how they establish residency.
- BER independent training/ Workforce Training Grant Question (Joe and Frank to follow up with BER)
 - Will BER be pulling 1 or 2 people away from our trainings, putting viability of each training, which they are contracted to run, at risk?
 - We will allow them to use the WFTG this time, if we can come to some agreement about not drawing students away from our trainings- Joe and Frank are following up
- NEHERS helped NESEA obtain RESNET credits for three of their courses for the conference in March and assisted with publicity. Any feedback from this event?
 - 3 courses were approved in advance for RESNET credits
 - Mike said there were a lot of raters there and appreciated being able to get credits.
 - Betsy is waiting to hear back from NESEA with details.
- Energy Star Multi-Family Training.
 - If already certified through v3, then credits will be 3 credits, not the hopeful 18 credits. It's 18 if you had not gone through v3. We aren't sure if going though for 1st time if it's 18 plus 3.
 - Slides are provided by EPA, not a lot to develop. Makes sense for a provider that since given materials, that provider will do it for their own raters.
 - We are looking into if PSD and BER are offering anything.
 - We have until 2020 to sort it out.

Manual (*Mike Browne*)

- DRAFT: RFP for Utility Cost Input List Manual Update

- Committee Meeting Updates?
 - Getting utility rates precisely defined, there is a RESNET standard for what we should use as minimum, if you go above that it's fine, but it's the state average for previous year is the minimum.
 - There is a way for software to handle that internally. We talked with Rob at Ekotrope, it needs to be updated each year, but it hasn't been for a while and they are working on it. When they will update it is up in the air, but that will make it easy.
 - Electric and NG are biggest utilities that need to be modeled, might not be able to update both at same time. There are two teams within EIA that handle it, they don't issue annual averages at the same time. Might not be able to cleanly update utility types at a given time of year.
 - Many in QAD roundtable wanted to make sure people are aware that the EIA numbers look like the average of the delivery charge, but it doesn't really say this anywhere, those averages include the monthly service charge. If you're using EIA's numbers, we could have people using EIA numbers but adding monthly service charge on top of it, and you wouldn't need to do that, we will want to make sure people doing utility analysis understand this.

Professional Development (*Chris*)

- May steer away from FEMA ones, more focus on southern states and disaster relieve and how to rebuild after hurricanes and tornados, may not need in our region. He will send Chris some info, we will see if it's a decent fit, we will consider it later in the year or next year.
- Has been talking to Amy Mcguier (sp?) from MASS DUER, behind the meter storage?
- Ashley Nichols, owns a marketing company, NY, VT, RI, interested in help HERS rater market businesses, tricks of trade, putting presentation together.
- If skip August, we should be able to fill the year pretty well, unless someone has something specific they want to present.
- Energy Codes committee may want to poll members in their area, thing they don't understand, code officials don't understand, depending on the feedback from that poll, that could turn into a webinar topic.
- Program update from each state, did it last in March 2017, have to get busy people to do it, long lead time. Maybe fall. Right now they are working on new compliance filings, so fall is better.
- Chris give Frank contact for Air Cyclor, they joined NEHERS as a paying sponsor member, so that will be a promotional (as opposed to educational) webinar. Normally a promotional webinar is a second webinar of a month. But in this case, we want to add sponsors, and have to balance with getting RESENT credits, what makes most sense for content of the webinar. The promotional webinar will be a greater benefit to our raters by referencing their specific systems. Some of these webinar topics we will have to make a similar call. We have to balance bringing in sponsors with generic webinars that can get CEUs.
- Frank may want to send an email to providers to encourage attendance at the webinars, would like to build off these sponsors, so we can keep them. Will write to head contact for each provider, to stress to their members to attend webinars for those paying the alliance to do this, would like to see good turnout, so we can get some steam on the sponsor members.
- Rob did a presentation at RESNET last year on the HERS index effect of adding variable speed control – that's another option, he could do it if we need another one. Would want more than 1-day notice.

- ~~January *Real World Performance of Air Source Heat Pumps* with Mike Duclos~~
- ~~February 13th *Using European Windows in Energy Efficient Construction* Rob Shearer~~
- March 20th *Duct Testing- Exempt or Not Exempt*- Emelie Cuppernell and Ethan
- April 24th- Carly from Air Cyclor topic TBA
- May 8th *The Hidden Story Behind Energy Modeling*- Mike Duclos
- June- Joe Rando- may be Tim Montague from smart ventilation
- July- Nick Jones
- August (often skip)
- September- Rob Salcido
- October- Mike Browne
- November- Kevin Hanlon
- December- Meet the Candidates/ Something Else

Additional Possibilities:

- Tim Montague Smart Ventilation and Smart Air Distribution
- Program Updates from each state
- Anna Walter- international codes
- National Water Rating System Standard- Ed Osann- Chris has an inquiry out with him.
- FEMA to possibly do one on disaster recovery and rebuilding communities- Chris
- HELIX would like to do an update in the fall of 2019
- New ASHRAE Course: Benchmarking and Assessment of Building Energy Performance
 - [https://www.ashrae.org/File Library/Communities/Student Zone/Educational Resources/Building-EQ-course-flyer.pdf](https://www.ashrae.org/File%20Library/Communities/Student%20Zone/Educational%20Resources/Building-EQ-course-flyer.pdf) from Chris
- SCN Webinar-Sian Martins sian.martins@autocase.com from Chris
- [Autocase](#) models the environmental and social dollar values of designs and, together with financial costs, evaluates their net, Triple Bottom Line (TBL CBA) benefit over the life of a project using a rigorous cost-benefit analysis (CBA) framework, enabling design teams to make the most informed decisions. – From Chris

Energy Code Committee (*Mike Turns*)

- Updates from last committee meeting
- Member polling on energy code issues
- Spent most of time reviewing situation in every state of NEHERS and some extra, down to WV, review where each state is at for energy code, what adoptions are being reviewed and considered, and where NEHERS codes committee may want to provide comments where new code adoption under review. Was there a spreadsheet? Not sure. Mike can give a more comprehensive overview next time.
- There is one out for NJ or WV,
- Betsy follow up with Mike which other one besides NJ that we might have impact if we made comments.

Membership & Communications (*Frank*)

- Provider Renewals complete
- Program Letters

- Frank will follow up, initial response from NH that they were meeting, but nothing since then.
- Current Programs ok? CT yes. Peter Hubbe is following up for JMC for MA.
- Came up on exec call, we had reached out through Mike for PA and OH, may need other contacts.
- Wants some kind of response from everyone. Except for NH, we didn't get any response.
- Sponsor Memberships
 - Any info from RESNET Conference? No.
 - Two publicity partnerships from Mike- NESEA and Abode Energy Management
 - Interconnected things, helps raise visibility, we've been focused internally for a long time and what we do for them, it's great that we are doing outreach, every new organization we can partner with, it's mutually beneficial.
 - Mike- NATE air conditioning contractors certification has a verification test that most people don't do, but the Dillon group in TX was offering it, had someone fly in to do it, and then wanted to take the test, which happens later, and they don't handle it very often. They figured out how to do it, had to become a proctor through NATE, but they could only do it if the guy came back to TX. Trying to see if he could do it locally, wanted to see if we can become a NATE proctor. Could be something individually as training providers or collectively as NEHERS might want to support to encourage air conditioning contractors to get on board with this stuff. NATE said as long as organization is RESNET training provider they can proctor the exam. You have to fill out application and read a lot. Exam takes place in field? Not sure, Mike will find out. Frank thought it came with robust CEU requirements, may be why many people haven't done it.

Other business

- We didn't discuss any of these in-depth last time- may be good topics for the board retreat. Anyone feel strongly for discussion sooner in a more timely matter?
 - Try to determine the 5 or 10 every day obstacles that raters face that slow down their progress towards successful completion of HERS ratings.
 - Technical support forum for Raters
 - Chris Mazzola and Frank were discussing some sort of technical support forum for Raters. Either through RESNET and/or NEHERS. Some years ago, the QA committee used to operate a questions email that technical questions would come in to, and committee members would answer. It was never particularly popular, but it also probably wasn't well advertised either. We'd just like to explore whether there is some need for this, and potentially whether it could be a revenue stream for NEHERS.
 - Propose a discussion for early or mid-2019 about rates and about how to grow more membership. Nick suggested rebranding as an option to expand appeal beyond rating industry. No action was taken at the time. Would potentially make for a good topic at the retreat if the board feels like it can wait until later in the year?
- Please send pictures from RESNET board dinner.

- OK to order Krigger's.

❖ **Motion 3 – Motion to adjourn was made by Frank at 10:56 and Seconded by Rob. Vote was unanimous.**