



Setting the Standards for
Home Energy Efficiency

Minutes of RESNET Board Meeting Sunday, February 23, 2014

**Piedmont Room
Sheraton Atlanta Hotel
Atlanta, Georgia**

Members Present-

Ben Adams
Jacob Atalla
David Beam
Dave Bell
Steve Byers
Dennis Creech
Brett Dillon
Philip Fairey
David Goldstein
Andy Gordon
Roy Honican
Mark Jansen
Lee O'Neal
Frank O'Brien-Bernini
Jim Petersen
Dennis Stroer
Kelly Stephens
Nancy St. Hilaire
Daran Wastchak
Barb Yankie

Staff Present-

Steve Baden
Laurel Elam
Kathy Spigarelli

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by RESNET Board President Mark Jansen at 9 AM.

Roll call

The roll was called and a quorum was present.

Approve Agenda

Brett Dillon made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Dennis Stroer seconded the motion. The board approved the agenda by a voice vote.

Approval of Minutes of October 21 and 22, 2013 Fall Board Meeting

Brett Dillon moved to approve the October 21 and 22, 2013 RESNET Board Fall Meeting minutes. Philip Fairey seconded the motion.

Steve Baden requested that the board teleconference of February 5, 2014 be included as friendly amendment. Philip and Brett agreed with the friendly amendment. Dennis Creech abstained. The motion passed.

2013 RESNET Financial Compilation

RESNET Board Treasurer presented the RESNET 2014 Financial Compilation that was prepared by RESNET Comptroller Faye Berriman. Roy Honican made a motion to formally accept the financial compilation. Barb Yankie seconded the motion. Motion passes by voice vote

Election of 2014 Board Officers

The nominations committee consisted of Mark Jansen, Philip Fairey David Goldstein and Nancy St Hilaire and they nominated the slate of officers below:

Jim Petersen, President
Andy Gordon, Vice President
Lee O'Neal, Treasurer
Brett Dillon, Secretary

Philip Fairey made motion to accept by acclamation the slate of officers. No objections were made.

Jim Petersen assumed the duty of chairing the meeting.

Statement of Incoming Board President

Jim Petersen highlighted the successes of 2013 and described the challenges and opportunities in the year ahead.

Effort to Harmonize Home Energy Ratings Between RESNET and State of California

Jacob Atalla addressed the board on the effort to harmonize HERS ratings between RESNET and California. He stated that there was a meeting with RESNET, California

Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Building Association (CBIA) on January 8, 2014 in Sacramento, California.

The CBIA called the meeting to advocate a one rating label be used in California and be based on the national one.

There was a general agreement to explore how rating scales are different and determine options to bring together

- Analysis by CEC to define the differences (e.g. reference home / modeling assumptions / energy credits)
- Arrive to conclusions on common scale or crosswalk protocol

CEC & RESNET initiated steps to compare RESNET and CA HERS scales

- RESNET provided national home energy rating standards, including HERS reference house
- CEC developed approach to compare RESNET scale using REM/Rate and CA HERS scale using CBECC (2013 software engine)

Next steps:

- Run typical house in all CA climate zones comparing HERS scales
- Determine key differences between RESNET and CA HERS scale
 - Prioritize modeling differences – greatest to least impact
 - CEC determine their flexibility of key modeling assumptions
- Determine possible crosswalk between RESNET and CA HERS scale
- Send results to RESNET for next discussion

Steve Baden asked David Goldstein and Philip Fairey to assist Jacob Atalla with technical issues on the discussions.

Effort to Harmonize Home Energy Ratings Between RESNET and the Pacific Northwest

Dan Wildenhaus and Andy Gordon presented the effort to harmonize HERS Ratings between RESNET and the Pacific Northwest. They began by asking for a special working group to work with stakeholders from the region on how the Northwest ENERGY STAR program can be harmonized with RESNET. determine how best we can create a legal HERS score with NW REMRate.

Steve Baden asked Andy Gordon and Brett Dillon to serve as RESNET's representatives on the discussions. Andy Gordon asked if any other members are interested in participating to let him know.

Briefing on 2015 IECC Campaign

RESNET is working with Eric Makela to develop educational materials to help educate the code officials and others.

First step in creating mainstream acceptance of ERI/HERS based approach. Focus now needs to shift from code development to adoption and implementation. Goal of the adoption and implementation guide is to assist in that process.

Task one involves seeking out and reviewing compiling comments and concerns about adoption of RE-188. Input has been sought from stakeholders including code officials advocacy groups the regional energy efficiency orgs, and US DOE. The provided input will act as the base for the materials to be developed in the accordance with task three.

Fact sheets

- 1- comparison of HERS and Energy Codes
- 2- Benefits of the ERI Score options
- 3- answers to arguments against a HERS index and RESNET
- 4- Economic and energy saving analysis by using an ERI
- 5- implementation guidelines

A powerpoint presentation will also be developed to help people educate code officials and others.

Steve Baden announced that was approached by IECC to begin working together on the issues and the goal is have tasks wrapped up by the end of May 2014

Report on Update of the RESNET Building Registry

Philip Fairey presented the table of authorization that was developed by RESNET Quality Assurance Committee and defines access to providers, raters, program sponsors and private interests. The access of non-governmental program and private interest have been defined at this time.

Entity	Rater Profile Read-Only Access		Rater Profile Full Access
	Partial Access	Full Access	
RESNET Administrator			X
Providers		X ⁽²⁾	X ⁽⁴⁾

Raters		X ⁽³⁾	
EEP			
Public	X ⁽¹⁾		

Footnotes

1. Partial read-only access to public
 - Rater Name
 - Rater Status (active/inactive)
 - Rating Company Name & Location
 - QA provider contact info
2. Full read-only access to Rater's provider
3. Full read-only access to Rater
4. Full read/write access to Rater's provider for only the information the provider has entered into Rater's profile. If Rater leaves Provider, Provider access ceases.

Entity	Rated Home Read-Only Access		Rated Home Full Access
	Partial Access	Full Access	
RESNET Administrator			X
Providers			X ⁽⁸⁾
Raters		X ⁽⁶⁾	
EEP		X ⁽⁷⁾	
Public	X ⁽⁵⁾		

Footnotes

5. Partial read-only access to public
 - Home Address
 - Rating Company Name
 - Rating Date
 - HERS Index Score
6. Full read-only access to Rater
7. Full read-only access to EEP for qualifying homes only

8. Full Provider read/write access to rating information uploaded by Rater for Provider. No access to Ratings conducted for another Provider.

Environmental Protection Agency Update

Jon Passe can the Environmental Protection Agency update. He began by reviewing the continuing EPA themes for their work with RESNET- stability, coordination, transparency, responsiveness, support, appreciation.

In 2013 the number of home certified as ENERGY STAR is 90,459 down 10,000 compared to 2012.

Quality Assurance of individual ENERGY STAR checklist items is now formally part of the QAD requirements. EPA and RESNET worked together to define process; identify critical items to check, effective January 1, 2014. The EPA and RESNET cooperatively developed online training for QADs on new requirements.

EPA and RESNET are coordinating closely on complaints which are increasing and complaints about ENERGY STAR homes and HERS index are now inter-twined.

EPA and RESNET will continue to provide guidance/police the use of the HERS Index which will help to avoid misinterpretation of ENERGY STAR Homes.

EPA and RENET are also collaborating to enhance engagement in the multifamily homes sector.

ENERGY STAR V3.1- limited in application and only in states that adopted 2012 IECC. The reference home efficiency was increased to maintain 15% improvement from code, no new mandatory items, solicited comments from stakeholders; final v3.1 requirements posting the last week of February. EPA may consider making v3.1 the national program requirement if/when a large majority of states adopt the 2012 IECC.

ESVI program- refreshed ENERGY STAR based program to promote/recognize proper installation of HVAC equipment in existing homes. Currently in final stages of program development process.

The priority in 2014 is HVAC. The EPA and RESNET will work together to bring raters up to speed with their HVAC responsibilities and continue to clarify our program requirements so everyone is on the same page, use feedback loops from QAD, providers, and raters.

Steve Baden and Mr. Passe announced a joint scholarship program which will encourage small, minority and women-owned businesses to get involved in residential energy efficiency industry,

U.S. Department of Energy Update

David Lee gave the US Department of Energy update.

Residential Buildings Integration Program integral part of Buildings Technology Office Ecosystem

Prior to 2008, primary RBI focus was applied research through Building America

Since 2009, deployment programs have built upon Building America

- DOE Challenge Home
- Home Energy Score
- Better Buildings Neighborhood Grant Program
- Better Buildings Residential Program
- Home Performance with ENERGY STAR

Challenge Home Statistics-

The market is responding:

- 8,000 commitments to DOE Challenge Home Certification
- 12 production builders committed to constructing 100% DOE Challenge Homes
- Over 300 Challenge Home Partners
- Over 20 manufacturers and utilities to sponsor critical training programs

The Better Buildings Neighborhood Program (BBNP) experience and accomplishments have informed the Better Buildings Residential strategy

- 41 recipients received \$508M in Summer/Fall 2010
- >100,000 homes and 104.4M sq. ft commercial buildings upgraded through Sept. 2013
- >30 programs projected to continue into 2014 without grant funds
- Comprehensive independent process, impact, market evaluations underway (due FY15)

Home Energy Score is a simplified low-cost energy audit tool that allows a trained energy assessor to compare the relative energy efficiency of a home on a scale of 1 to 10 and provide the homeowner with a user friendly report. Mr; Lee stated that the Home Energy Score was not a rating software program and was not appropriate for new homes.

Promotion of Workforce Guidelines (WAP) to industry stakeholders for acceptance of guidelines and technician certifications; consider requiring for DOE partner programs in future

FHA PowerSaver (HUD) offers affordable loans but needs partnerships with existing, high volume residential energy efficiency and renewable energy programs to increase uptake

Since 2002, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR has focused on turning building science-based recommendations into solutions for improved, energy-efficient homes. Home Performance with ENERGY STAR is a public-private voluntary partnership program

- DOE sets the specifications and provides technical and marketing support to third-party sponsors to implement the program.
- Third-party sponsors recruit trained contractors and provide quality control for their work.

Washington Update

Carl Chidlow gave the update from Washington and legislation outlook for 2014. Despite obvious and persistent disagreement, there has been some indication that both parties are willing to work together on areas of common interest. This provides a favorable context as RESNET looks to work with Senator Wyden's staff, in addition to Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD), Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) who are currently working on draft energy efficiency legislation.

RESNET's Washington team will also continue to build relationship with the membership of the House Energy Efficiency Caucus, which continues to increase its membership.

45 L New Homes Tax Credit

RESNET has been working with the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Leading Builders of America to develop new language for the energy efficient homes federal tax credit. Under proposed new language, the credit could increase to \$3,000 from \$2,000 and would not have to be reauthorized for 10 years. There are also proposals being considered that tie the credit to the HERS index. The new proposal would make 45L more whole-house-performance-based. This will have a greater appeal to legislative staff as well as consumers and builders.

Rural Energy Savings Program-

Congress and the USDA have moved to create a federal loan program to support energy efficiency programs operated by the more than 900 rural electric cooperatives and other rural utilities. There are differences between the two versions of the program, but both allow the Rural Utilities Service, a USDA agency, to loan funds to rural electricians at no interest; the rural electricians can then re-loan those funds to homeowners at low interest. Homeowners can then use the loan to make energy efficiency improvements to their homes, and repay the loan over 10 years through on-bill financing. Both versions of the program require energy efficiency audits.

SAVE Act-

The SAVE Act is a housing finance bill that promotes energy efficiency. It was introduced in June 2013 and referred to the Senate Banking Committee, and will now be reintroduced as part of a larger energy efficiency effort as early as this week. The SAVE Act directs the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to issue guidelines for federal mortgage agencies (FHA, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and others) to include energy costs in the underwriting process. The bill does not add anything to the current deficit or rely on taxes or fees.

The SAVE Act is now a part of a larger legislative package called Shaheen-Portman, which addresses national model building codes and other energy efficiency initiatives. Shaheen-Portman was first debated by the full Senate last fall, but was sidelined due to unrelated political concerns. It will be re-introduced as early as Monday, February 24th.

25 E Existing Homes Tax Credit -

25E is a performance-based tax credit, introduced in the last Congress. It will need to be re-introduced. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), a member of the Finance Committee, has been working on legislation with Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Brian Schatz (D-HI). The discussion draft was released last week (February 20th). 25E provides a homeowner with a \$2000 credit for a 20% reduction in energy usage. For every additional 5% reduction, the homeowner may claim an additional \$500. The credit is capped at \$5000. Throughout 25E's development, RESNET has worked with Efficiency First, NRDC, and the Alliance to Save Energy to reach a consensus on this legislation.

RESNET Training and Education Committee 2014 Priorities

Kathy Spigarelli and Andy Gordon reported on the Training and Education Committee's priorities for 2014. They are:

1. Development of RFI Testing Tool
2. National Rater Test Update completed
3. National Rater Practical Test completed

The Training and Education Committee recommends to the Board of Directors that Certified RESNET HERS Raters, Rating Field Inspectors, and Quality Assurance Designees who are currently certified as BPI Building Analysts do not have to have additional RESNET CAZ field training under this standard. All, must, however, pass the RESNET CAZ simulation test and written test. Mark Jansen made a motion to approve the above recommendations. Steve Byers seconded the motion, and. The motion passed with Lee O'Neal voting no.

The Training and Education committee recommend to the board of directors that they authorize the development of rating field inspector tool as an assessment tool.

Original Text- Recommend to the board of directors to authorize to develop rating field inspector tool as an assessment tool. Steve Byers made motion to approve the above recommendation. Brett Dillon seconded the motion. Daran Wastchak made friendly amendment to change language as above. Motion passes unanimously.

The Training and Education Committee recommended the following for approval by the Board of Directors-

- 1- RFI's are not allowed to complete unsupervised field testing and inspections until they have completed the requisite five probationary rating field inspections per 204.1.5.2
- 2- After successfully completing the exam the probationary rating field inspections, RFI "shall be permitted to conduct all rating tasks contained under Appendix A: On-site inspections procedures for minimum rated features without having a certified rater on site."
- 3- Within 30 calendar days of starting unsupervised field testing and inspections, RFIs must pass the national rating field inspector or rater exam with a score of at least 80%. RFIs who do not pass the exam within the 30 day timeframe shall not be eligible to perform testing and inspections without having a certified rater on site.

Daran Wastchack made a to adopt the committee recommendations and Nancy St. Hilaire seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Steve Byers made a friendly amendment to strike #3 and remove language about timeframe and add complete test to #2

Daran Wastchak and Nancy St. Hilaire accepted the friendly amendment. The motion passed by voice vote.

RESNET Standards Development Committee 2013 Priorities and Delegation of Non-ANSI Standard Management

Brett Dillon gave the RESNET SDC and delegation of Non-ANSI Standard Management report. Mr. Dillon reported that BSR-380 will be out for public comment in the next couple of weeks.

Calculations Subcommittee is working on innovative design requests, have a ballot out for IECC 2009 Performance Path Calculation Tool and want to have continuous maintenance proposal to include drain water heat recovery and hot water distribution efficiency.

Equipment Subcommittee is working on HVAC and ventilation approaches for climate zones and ASNT thermography certification.

Enclosures Subcommittee will move appendix A to the main body of the RESNET Standards.

Ben Adam's working group handed off multifamily guidelines to SDC. The working group has developed Interim guidelines; the committees will work on issues and will move forward to developing ANSI standards. A similar working group on manufactured housing is being formed.

Mr. Dillon reported that uniformity and consistency in Standards development process is needed. He proposes that the staff amendments and proposed amendment will be sent to SDC and the Quality Assurance and Training and Education committee amendments also goes to SDC.

Philip Fairey made a motion that the board of directors approves the movement of authority of approval of standard actions of the non ANSI standards from the board of directors to the SDC. Mark Jansen seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

RESNET Standards Management Board Report

Philip Fairey gave the Standards Management Board report. Members approved by RESNET Board of Directors for 3-year staggered terms

Current Members (terms)

Philip Fairey, Chair (2/12 – 2/15)

Brett Dillon (2/13 – 2/16)

David Goldstein (2/13 – 2/16)

Wes Davis (2/14 – 2/17)

Jim Petersen (2/14 – 2/17)

SMB is final independent authority for ANSI/RESNET standards actions.

SMB Staff:

Standards Manager, Rick Dixon

Recorder, Laurel Elam

Responsible for oversight and approval of standards actions of one RESNET Standard Development Committee (SDC 300)

Two ANSI/RESNET Standards in progress

Standard 301-2013 (awaiting ANSI approval)

Standard 380-20xx (ready for public comment)

RESNET Standard 301-2013 approved by SMB for publication as RESNET Standard on December 20, 2013 and ANSI Form BSR-9 submitted to ANSI.

RESNET is awaiting ANSI approval as American National Standard. Once approved: it will be ANSI/RESNET Standard 301-2014

Follow-on actions:

Chapter 3 of Mortgage Industry National Home energy Rating Systems Standards needs to be modified to point to ANSI/RESNET Standard

BSR/RESNET Standard 380-201x

- Air leakage testing standard for building envelopes, air distribution systems and ventilation systems
- Committee Draft (CD-02) balloted by SDC for public comment (closed Feb 21, 2014 with unanimous approval)
- To be announced in ANSI *Standards Action*, on RESNET web site and to RESNET network seeking public comment
- Will require 45-day public comment period.

RESNET Quality Assurance Committee 2013 Priorities

Ben Adams reported on the Quality Assurance Committee priorities for 2014.

- Draft standard amendment on re-instating revoked raters, QADs and Providers
- Draft standard amendment on requiring scheduling of QA reviews of raters by QADs (RESNET staff recommends quarterly)
- Draft standard amendment to institute fines for violation of RESNET standards and procedures besides placing on probation
- Definition of QA requirements during the rating process
- Definition of acceptable digital photo documentation for QA purposes
- Options for presentation of RESNET standards to include amendments & guidelines between 3-year update cycles
- More effective use of the Rater Registry in the RESNET QA process
- QA committee will have direct input into the QI process

Laurel Elam delivered the QA report on behalf of Staff. She reported that all 107 QA Providers' report and checklist submissions were reviewed. There were 57 QA Providers with findings. Each QA Provider received a follow-up letter regarding their report and checklist submission.

25% of all QA Providers received an online QA review. It is approximately a 2 hour webinar and is an effective way to see processes and record keeping. All QA Providers accredited in 2013 will receive a review in 2014. The goals of the online QA review are to ensure compliance with Standards, serve as an opportunity for mentoring and answer questions for QA Provider.

In 2014 100% of QA providers will have their report and checklist reviewed and 25% of providers will have an online QA review.

Other Business

Steve Byers made a motion to direct staff to include the RFIs in the rater database and Andy Gordon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Jansen made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM