



Setting the Standards for Home Energy Efficiency

## RESNET Board of Directors Meeting Minutes May 10, 2023

Board Members Present	Board Members Absent	Staff Present
Lindsey Elton Philip Fairey Emelie Glitch David Goldstein John Hensley Leo Jansen Mark Johnson Cy Kilbourn Abe Kruger Robert Pegues Jonathan Risch Brian Shanks Clayton Traylor	Sandy Adomatis Jacob Atalla David Beam Matt Gingrich Chris McTaggart Curt Rich	Steve Baden Emma Bennett Christine Do Scott Doyle Laurel Elam Billy Giblin Clara Hedrick Cardice Howard Ryan Meres  <b>Guest Present:</b> Matthew Cooper

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mark Johnson, RESNET Board President at 3:01 p.m. Eastern Time.

### Roll Call

Philip Fairey, RESNET Board Secretary called roll and a quorum was present.

### Approve Agenda

The draft agenda was included in the Board packet. John Hensley moved to approve the draft agenda. Philip Fairey seconded the motion. Motion passed by voice vote.

### RESNET Anti-Trust Policy

Mark Johnson reviewed the anti-trust policy for the board in Curt Rich’s place and stated that the policy was included in the briefing packet distributed to Board members before the Board meeting.

### Approval of Draft March 13, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes

Philip Fairey made a motion to approve the draft March 13, 2023, meeting minutes that was included in the meeting packet. John Hensley seconded the motion. Motion passed by voice vote.

## **Update on Review of RESNET Board Election Voting Working Group**

Abe Kruger gave an overview of the project, and the results of the members' survey which was distributed previously to BOD members. 93% of members responded that they were made aware of the election with enough time to vote. The recommendation from this survey's data was that voting rights should be extended to the entire RESNET membership.

In recent years, the number of eligible voters has increased drastically.

Leo Jansen presented the task force's recommendation to RESNET that clear guidelines regarding candidate selection, voting timelines, and more details about the election process are made available on the website. As of now, only Active Raters are eligible for voting and receiving ballots. Per current standards, inactive and probationary status Raters do not receive ballots. Suspended/Disciplinary status Raters are not eligible to vote. The task force recommends extending eligibility and distributing ballots to inactive and probationary status Raters.

Lindsey Elton reported the task force's recommendation for forming a committee for membership connection and retention. This committee would be responsible for creating strategies to engage and improve current membership and outreach to new audiences. Lindsey also stated that the RESNET Board should give thought to describing what RESNET is. Is RESNET a standard development organization, trade association or other?

RESNET Executive Director Steve Baden extended his gratitude to this task force for their hard work and is interested in facilitating collaboration between the Executive Committee and this task group.

## **RESNET Executive Director ESG Advisory Group**

Steve Baden informed the Board why this group's initiatives are a priority to RESNET and why he formed the advisory group and introduced Matthew Cooper, the Chair of the ESG Advisory Group.

Matthew presented the members of the advisory group:

- Jacob Atalla – KB Home
- Erin Bordelon – D.R. Horton (tentative)
- Thomas Cochran – Arcxis
- Ian Hughes – Meritage Homes
- Eric Johnson – US Ecologic
- Nathan Kahre – Energy Logic
- Chris Urbanus – Burgess

This group's main purpose is to advise RESNET leadership on opportunities related to ESG and Build to Rent (BTR). Outreach to industry conferences and sharing ESG reporting data solutions with builders and the finance/investment industry can bring this new audience into RESNET's network.

Build to Rent (BTR), is an important secondary issue. These builders are interested in cost-effective and energy efficient projects. There exists much overlap in ESG and BTR, leading to increased opportunity for RESNET's involvement.

The advisory group will monitor the activity in both these areas and report back to RESNET leadership routinely and intermittently as recommendations arise.

## **RESNET Structural Finance Initiative**

Laurel Elam of RESNET Staff presented an overview of RESNET's structured finance initiative.

She began with an introduction of the Structured Finance Association (SFA). SFA's members include a wide variety of giants in the financial market. Freddie Mac introduced SFA to RESNET.

Laurel reported that she and Steve Baden presented a SFA webinar to its membership. The webinar was well received and led directly to collaborations with the financial giant Goldman Sachs.

This association is investing in ESG strategies and reporting programs. RESNET has begun participating in SFA webinars to outreach RESNET's tools and generating interest in RESNET's partnership. Discussions with new partners within this association are beginning.

## **RESNET 2024 Policy Advocacy Conference**

Steve Baden stated that though virtual events were originally being planned for 2023 and 2024, that the network was more interested in in-person events.

The RESNET Conference is expected to return to the typical February 2025 time frame. There will not be a 2024 RESNET conference due to planning time constraints. As an alternative, Steve Baden has proposed RESNET hosts a Policy Advocacy Conference in Spring 2024. This event's topics will be focused on pertinent policy, code, and tax developments and facilitating meetings with representatives in DC. RESNET Professional Development credits will be available at this event.

## **Texas Homebuilder & Appraisal HERS Rating & Energy Code Training**

RESNET Deputy Director Cardice Howard presented an overview of RESNET's collaboration with the Texas Association of Builders on educating Texas builders, code officials and appraisers on the RESNET HERS® Index and the new Texas legislation that made a HERS Index Score compliance option to the state's energy code.

Cardice reported that Valerie Briggs of RESNET Staff is the lead on this campaign. Valerie was not able to make the presentation as she was in Texas completing a workshop.

This campaign has been reaching all HBAs across Texas to inform their members on HERS Ratings and other topics with the assistance of guest speakers including Texas HERS Rating Companies and Providers. The overall reception to these trainings has been very positive. At each event, interested attendees can sign up for a mailing list, allowing RESNET to continue to connect with these individuals.

The workshops end on June 14th, 2023. There are more appearances planned at future events in Texas for further outreach.

Cardice extended her gratitude to Valerie and the RESNET Board for facilitating this campaign. Board member Robert Pegues stated that he had participated in some of the Texas builder sessions and echoed Cardice's statement that Valerie represented RESNET in an outstanding fashion.

Ms. Howard reported that in conjunction with the builder training incoming Appraisal Institute Board President and RESNET Board member Sandra Adomatis provided appraiser training in Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. The training focused on the HERS Index, the new Texas energy code and the Appraisal Institute/RESNET Appraiser Portal.

Members of the RESNET Board further discussed how the Texas legislation related to the IECC. Steve Baden responded that the legislation included a backstop of the 2018 IECC mandatory measures.

### **RESNET Board 2023 & 2024 In-Person Meetings**

Cardice Howard announced that the Fall 2023 RESNET Board Meeting is scheduled to take place August 28-30, 2023 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The notice of the meeting and hotel reservation information will be sent to Board members soon.

The Spring 2024 meeting will take place in Denver, Colorado in April. The Fall 2024 meeting will take place in Boston, Massachusetts. RESNET staff will be sensitive to the religious holidays during these time frames. RFPs will be released to hotels in these cities and the final dates will be determined by hotel availability.

### **RESNET Recognition of Women Leaders in the HERS Industry**

Steve Baden reported that RESNET should recognize the women who helped pioneer the HERS industry through their leadership. RESNET staff believes recognition is due to women leaders in the HERS Industry. This could include a dedicated page on the RESNET web site, a plaque, an email announcement to the network, and recognition at the 2023 RESNET Conference.

### **Request for Appropriation for RESNET ESG & Structured Finance Initiative**

Steve Baden provided an overview of this request which was provided to the Board in the briefing packet that was distributed prior to this meeting. Steve believes that the finance entities previously discussed will take notice of RESNET because of this initiative.

Philip Fairey made a motion to invest \$50,000 as a designated capital appropriation for increased RESNET outreach to the ESG, BTR, and structured finance investment world. Robert Pegues seconded.

The board discussed the need for this item to be separate from the annual budget. The Board further discussed how the amount requested was determined and where the funds would be used.

The motion passed by voice vote. Brian Shanks abstained.

### **RESNET HERS® Index Scores in California**

Steve informed the Board on the background and work previously accomplished regarding this item.

After years of negotiation RESNET entered into an agreement with the California Energy Commission (CEC) for a pilot program to allow California builders to market their homes with RESNET HERS Index Scores. The agreement specified that only CEC accredited Whole House HERS Providers could participate in the program and that the pilot would test a CBEC-Res research version to produce the HERS Index Scores.

The RESNET Board appropriated \$75,000 in which RESNET contracted with the CBEC-Res developers to create the RESNET California HERS Index module. The California module was based on the 2019 version of the California Title 24. Shortly after the beta version was tested, the State of

California moved to the 2022 version of the state's energy code. This meant that the development would have to start all over again and this was determined to be not in the best interest of RESNET.

After much discussion with the California Energy Commission (CEC), it was determined the best path forward is to use RESNET accredited software. CalCERTS will now use a RESNET accredited software to enter homes into the registry, but is restricted only to California. As a result, RESNET is now present in all 50 states.

The Board discussed the relationship between this development and the 45L Tax Credit. Steve Baden reported that EPA and DOE had their own rules for California that is based on Title 24. This meant that RESNET HERS software could not be used for 45L compliance in the state.

After some software issues are resolved, this will take effect immediately. An infographic or other documents clearly outlining HERS® Index in California will be developed.

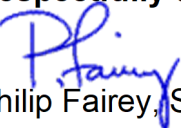
### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Adjournment**

Philip Fairey moved the meeting be adjourned. Mark Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p.m. Eastern Time

**Respectfully Submitted,**

  
Philip Fairey, Secretary