



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 14, 2016

3:30 - 5:30 PM

Conference Room B, 2nd Floor

Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

- Members Present:** Abigail Anthony, Joe Cirillo, Roberta Fagan, Marion Gold, Jennifer Hutchinson, Michael McAteer, Shigeru Osada, Chris Powell, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Karen Verrengia, Diane Williamson
- Members Absent:** H. Robert Bacon, Joe Newsome
- Consultants Present:** Mike Guerard, Scudder Parker
- OER Staff Present:** Ryan Crowley, Danny Musher, Rachel Sholly
- Others Present:** Leah Bamberger, Michael Baer, Brian Buckley, Kat Burnham, Craig Johnson, Chris Kearns, Mark Kravatz, Angela Li, Danny Musher, Jeremy Newberger, Laura Rodormer, Brigid Ryan, Rob Sherwood, Rachel Sholly, Becca Trietch, Chon Meng Wong

1. Call to Order

Chairman Chris Powell called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

2. Approval of October Meeting Minutes

Joe Cirillo made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Karen Verrengia seconded and all approved.

3. Executive Director Report

Rachel Sholly gave the Executive Director report on behalf of Commissioner Marion Gold of the Office of Energy Resources (OER). She noted that there are three term expirations for sitting members of the council. The expiration date is April 1, 2016. Commissioner Marion Gold has confirmed that Abigail Anthony and Betsy Stubblefield Loucks are both interested in continuing to serve. Commissioner Gold will reach out to Joe Newsome to determine his interest. There are also two newly created seats to fill – one for large nonprofit institutional and another for small nonprofit institutional. Anyone with recommendations should reach out to Commissioner Gold. Ms. Sholly closed by noting that she will be giving a presentation on the Rhode Island Public Energy Partnership (RIPEP) at the February meeting and will make the written report available to council members.

4. Executive Committee Report

Chairman Powell briefed the Council on the plan to process data requests. The Executive Committee wishes to create a formal process for members to request energy efficiency data. This new process will be beneficial for new members. A draft form has been shared with Council members. Under the new process, requests can only be made by EERMC members. An effort will be made to respond to requests in a timely manner, but the Council will need to be mindful of the workload of the Consultant Team (C-team). Mike Guerard said feedback on the draft form is welcome. A tracking sheet for pending requests will be included in the meeting packets. Michael McAteer said private individual data will not be provided. Mr. Osada mentioned he is concerned that National Grid's discretion could supersede requests and he wants to know how members will be updated on the status of data request. Mr. Guerard said the tracking sheet is created for that purpose.

5. Policy and Planning Issues

a) Finance Update

Alex Hill from Dunsky made a presentation to the Council that served as an overview of Dunsky's scope of work and an update on assignments already undertaken. Mr. Hill identified three primary tasks that include (see PowerPoint). Chairman Powell asked how commercial PACE (C-PACE) will effect going from 24 to 60 months for large commercial. Mr. Hill said C-PACE is not directly impacting the program and the expansion in months is designed to allow a broader set of measures to be considered along with measures currently available. C-PACE broadens the marketplace. Ms. Anthony asked what are the near term milestones. Mr. Hill said milestones are linked to roll out of programs in RI. A report to the Council could be done in March. Mr. Guerard said the finance subgroup will meet before the Executive Committee meeting and the C-team will inform the group along the way. Ms. asked when does progress made on Dunsky report link up with savings targets. Mr. Guerard said where RIIB is with capital in 2018-2020 is influencing plans, decisions made moving forward.

b) Status Report on 2018-2020 Savings Targets Process

Mike Guerard said the memo for Council members highlights four major activities underway. Systems Integration Rhode Island (SIRI) related activity is currently most noteworthy for the Council. Scudder Parker asked if least cost procurement is going after efficiency, is it also focused on demand response and load control. The group has not included strategies that promote demand response and load control. Under an initial review by SIRI, least cost procurement encourages it in many ways and settings. The group considered new technologies to determine if they fit within the requirements of least cost procurement. Mr. Guerard added that the target process will require the C-team to work with the savings target subgroup. Additional studies might be needed and could influence the decision made on the C-team budget. Chairman Powell asked if capacity payments will be reviewed. Mr. Newberger said National Grid has begun to look at it.

c) PUC Rate Design Docket Proceeding Update

Jennifer Hutchinson confirmed that National Grid has withdrawn its rate design proposal. The Company must file a formal motion and the Commission would still need to open the proceedings to take public comment. A March 1st ruling from the PUC is still needed.

6. General Updates on Energy Efficiency Programs and System Reliability Procurement

a) Presentation on Energy Expo Planning

Lou Cotoia, Darren Jodoin, Freddy Gill and Cheryl Boyd of the Rhode Island Builders Association (RIBA) briefed the Council on the status of planning activities for the 2016 Energy Expo at the Home Show. Ms. Boyd reported that the energy expo has 70 vendors so far with 8 solar companies. Mr. Cotoia said new features of the show include a large solar tree house that is being built offsite by career tech students from across the state. After the show the tree house will live at the Providence Boys & Girls Club. Electrical students across Rhode Island are working with SunWatt Energy to complete the tree house. Cox Communications is doing a 600 square foot home technology showcase that will demonstrate how to manage energy in the home. The students will also be onsite to explain the installation to attendees. A solar showcase will be near the Cox section and will include solar panels and students on hand to educate guests on the display. Energy efficient home features will be included in the section. RIBA is educating the students to educate the public. Mr. Gill oversees the construction programs across the state for students. A total of 250-300 students are expected to participate. Rachel Sholly added that Michael McAteer and Marion Gold should soon schedule a visit to one of the participating schools. Mr. Jodoin reported that 7-8 weeks prior to the show \$100,000 in advertisements will air. Floor decals will direct guests to energy locations and vendors. There will be strong encouragement for guests to sign up for energy audits. A 45-page show program will feature information on energy efficiency and conservation. Governor Raimondo and Mayor Elorza will do a ribbon cutting to kick off the event, likely at the tree house. Promotion of the Energy Expo represents 25% of the Home Show's media marketing efforts.

b) Presentation on Building Labeling Work

Becca Trietch presented a summary of building labeling efforts lead by OER. Ms. Anthony noted that a label makes your energy efficiency more valuable. Mr. McAteer asked what the brokerage community thinks. Ms. Trietch said current OER initiatives are done on a voluntary basis and there is a growing demand. Mr. Parker noted the commercial market is much more difficult. In DOE grant it is limited to small and medium buildings. OER is investing money to develop different categories. Ms. Verrengia asked how OER is getting individuals to buy in and who. The program will mirror National Grids recruitment. RISE would be utilized to see what this element would add. Chairman Powell asked if delivered fuels will considered. Ms. Trietch said the audit would be included.

7. Council Business

a) Vote on Final 2016 Consultant Team Budget and Scope of Work

The consultant team presented an updated 2016 budget and scope of work based on recommendations from the Council and the Executive Committee for Council consideration and vote. Mr. Guerard said the major changes to the budget are the elimination of the COLA and the addition of 110 hours. The other change is the organization chart that has been updated to include Mark Kravatz. The proposed budget amount of \$775K is slightly under \$782K place holder. **Mr. Cirillo made a motion to approve the consultant team budget. Seconded by Ms. Stubblefield Loucks. All approved.**

b) Vote on Final 2016 EERMC Budget

Chairman Powell said the only change is that \$290,000 is available at the Council's discretion for other projects or issues that might arise. **Ms. Verrengia made a motion to approve the 2016 EERMC budget. Mr. Cirillo seconded. All approved.**

8. Public Comment

Brigid Ryan noted that appraisals, relative to benchmarking, are an important component. Brian Buckley noted there is a trend in the region to include demand respond in energy efficiency plans. A super peak avoided cost study from Massachusetts could be a useful resource.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Cirillo made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Ms. Verrengia. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.