



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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 14, 2016**

**3:30 PM - 5:30 PM**

Conference Room B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

**Members Present:** Abigail Anthony, Joe Cirillo, Roberta Fagan, Jennifer Hutchinson, Michael McAteer, Joe Newsome, Shigeru Osada, Chris Powell, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Karen Verrengia, Diane Williamson

**Members Absent:** Bob Bacon, Marion Gold

**Consultants Present:** Marisa Desautel, Mike Guerard, Scudder Parker

**OER Staff Present:** Chris Kearns, Nick Ucci

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 PM.

**2. Approval of March Meeting Minutes:**

Joe Cirillo moved. Joe Newsome seconded. All approved.

**3. Executive Director Report**

Nick Ucci provided a summary of OER's Block Island Saves energy efficiency program and pre-pilot results. The program is being implemented by leveraging State RGGI funds. A report on pre-pilot activities was provided to all Council members.

**4. Executive Committee Report**

Chairman Powell noted that the Council budget had been updated through February and a copy of the budget was provided to all members. He explained that the resource diversification issue had been discussed at the Executive Committee, which directed the Consultant Team to conduct additional work on the scope of this effort before bringing it back to the Council at a future meeting. Chairman Powell also noted that the Council's legal services contract was on the agenda for consideration.

**5. Council Business**

*a) Review of Open Meeting Rules Memo from Attorney*

Marisa Desautel, EERMC's legal counsel, summarized the application of Rhode Island's open meetings laws and walked through a summary memorandum she drafted, which was provided to all members.

*b) Vote on Action Regarding Legal Counsel Contract*

Chairman Powell explained that the contract for legal services expired on April 1, and that the existing contract provided for two, twelve-month extensions. No Council members expressed concern with the current level of services. **Mr. Cirillo moved to extend the current legal services contract terms for a twelve-month period, and authorize payment for any legal services rendered between April 1 and the date of written extension execution. Karen Verrengia seconded. There was no opposition and the motion passed.** Abigail Anthony suggested that, at a future meeting of the Executive Committee, they consider the level of services needed to ensure that the Council is receiving the full value of the contract. Mr. Ucci stated that OER would draft a letter, to be signed by the Chair, authorizing the twelve-month contract extension.

**6. Policy and Planning Issues**

*a) Vote on EERMC Representative for PUC Docket #4600*

Ms. Anthony provided a brief summary of the genesis of Docket #4600, and offered for consideration that Scudder Parker (consultant) could serve as the Council's representative in that process. **Mr. Newsome made a motion to authorize Mr. Parker to serve as the Council's representative; Mr. Cirillo seconded. The motion passed with no opposition.**

*b) Savings Targets Update*

Mike Guerard explained that the consultant team will work with members of key stakeholder groups to engage them on the development of efficiency savings targets. A memorandum outlining this process was provided to Council members. Detailed meeting notes would be taken, summarized, and provided to the Council as an input into target development. The C-Team will provide additional data and preliminary recommendation during the May Council meeting.

*c) Vote on Demand Response Proposal*

Mr. Parker provided a written proposal from Synapse outlining a scope of work to assist the Council with demand response issues. He explained that the state's least cost procurement law is inclusive of demand response, and the next step in the Council's consideration is to understand the potential role of these resources within Rhode Island's energy system. The Executive Committee recommended support. Mr. Osada asked for inclusion of the frequency of emergency calls for demand response, and response and enrollment levels. Chairman Powell suggested consideration of both load response and generator response. The Council had a brief discussion on the bidding process for demand response. **Ms. Anthony made a motion to approve the scope of work and utilize up to \$20,000 of the Council's client fund to support this work. Ms. Stubblefield Loucks seconded. The motion passed with no opposition.**

*d) Follow-up on Avoided Cost Study Discussion*

Jeremy Newberger stated that Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont had considered a limited update to the region's avoided cost study. However, he explained that the timeline for the multi-state clean energy RFP did not align with study development timelines, and that the results of that multi-state effort could have a profound effect on study results. The Council agreed to recommend that study

development be delayed to account for this variable, with the understanding that the data will be available to support development of the next three-year efficiency plan.

#### **7. Review of EERMC Annual Report First Draft**

Mr. Ucci summarized the report timeline, which was provided to all Council members. The Council was encouraged to submit their comments and/or redlines to Rachel Sholly within one week to be incorporated into a second draft.

#### **8. SIRI Working Group**

Ms. Anthony summarized the process behind least cost procurement standards, and noted that the EERMC would be reviewing standards documents. She explained that the Systems Integration RI (SIRI) working group has been exploring the changing electric system and can offer a unique level of expertise on system reliability procurement guidelines. She recommend that the SIRI group move forward with proposing recommendations on these standards for the Council's consideration.

#### **9. Public Comment**

Kat Burnham of People's Power and Light offered appreciation for the stakeholder outreach being conducted around the development of savings targets. Laura Rodormer of National Grid stated that the Home Show provided a successful launch of Solarize.

#### **10. Adjourn**

Mr. Cirillo motioned to adjourn; Ms. Verrengia seconded. The motion was approved.