



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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, April 7, 2016 | 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Conference Room B, 2nd Floor, Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

In Attendance: Abigail Anthony, Jocelyn DeGouvenain, Marisa Desautel, Marion Gold, Mike Guerard, Danny Musher, Jeremy Newberger, Scudder Parker, Chris Powell, Rachel Sholly, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Nick Ucci

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Abigail Anthony called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

2. Approval of March Meeting Minutes

Abigail Anthony made a motion to approve the March minutes. Betsy Stubblefield Loucks seconded and all approved.

3. Executive Director Report

Nick Ucci reported that the report on the Block Island Saves Pre-Pilot program has been circulated. The Pre-Pilot included 15 participants and was very successful and is now open to all businesses and year-round residents on the island on a first-come first-served until the funds run out. Commissioner Marion Gold reported that a group of OER staff visited the Worcester Sustainability Hub this morning. Chairman Chris Powell said that there may be an opportunity in facilities owned by Brown University in downtown Providence.

4. Policy and Planning Issues

a) PUC Review into Changing Distribution System

Marisa Desautel, Council attorney, has filed the EERMC's application for stakeholder committee membership for PUC docket #4600. Mike Guerard will attend the public hearing on Tuesday, April 12th. No public comment or testimony will be allowed. About 13 organizations have filed applications. The agenda for next week's full Council meeting will include a vote on who will represent the EERMC in the proceedings.

b) Savings Targets Update

Mr. Guerard recommended that the Council hold a series of individual or small group meetings to engage stakeholders as an alternative to a single large meeting. The consultant team will create an initial stakeholder list for members to add to as well as a framing document with context and questions to be posed to the stakeholders. Feedback received will be documented and included in a final report on targets will include a section on input received from stakeholders. This process must be completed by mid-June.

c) Demand Response Proposal

Scudder Parker reviewed a proposal from Synapse outlining a scope of services to assist the EERMC with demand response issues. Steve Sciallaba from the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers was

comfortable with the EERMC moving forward with this. Ms. Anthony thought the proposal including the price was good. She suggested including an overview of how demand response (DR) is currently accounted for in long-term regional system planning. Chairman Powell asked if environmental impacts will be included. Mr. Parker said he will speak with Doug Hurley about that. Mr. Ucci felt that the scope leads the Council down the path of requiring significant background education on the topic. He recommended that the initial scope focus more on what is DR, its relevant applications in today's energy system, how those applications are integrated with traditional efficiency programs. Then, for step 2, what can the Council do to leverage those DR applications and be innovative and achieve its mandates. Ms. Anthony said that the consultant team has provided several background memos to the Council that define and describe active load management. She felt that the Council does want to understand the potential for active load management in least cost procurement and this is the next step toward that. Mr. Powell asked if the intent is to look at just active load management or demand response more broadly. Mr. Parker said that the focus is to understand the structure of DR in the regional markets and what is happening in Rhode Island. The consultant team will ask Synapse for the discussed changes including a final price for vote at next week's meeting. Marion suggested putting a summary of the objectives at the front of the memo.

d) EERMC Role in Resource Diversification

The consultant team presented for Committee feedback a draft dashboard outlining Council activities. Mr. Powell asked how renewable energy programs intertwine with EERMC work. The EERMC could set up a meeting with the Distributed Generation Board. The Committee will provide feedback on the dashboard and the consultant team will prepare another iteration based on that feedback for the next Executive Committee meeting. Ms. Stubblefield Loucks reiterated that the purpose of the dashboard is to help contextualize Council discussions and to guide members to think about overall strategy.

5. Review of EERMC Annual Report First Draft

Rachel Sholly and the consultant team presented for Committee feedback the first draft of the 2016 Annual Report including proposed policy recommendations. Mr. Guerard reported that he received some comments on the draft policy recommendations, but there will be more opportunities to provide comments. Shigeru Osada felt that the SIRI recommendation was ready for inclusion, as it is too early in the SIRI process. Ms. Anthony felt that Mr. Osada has a point but that these do not have to be specific recommendations needing action now. Mr. Newberger asked the consultant team to highlight the pieces that go beyond the SIRI visioning document. Mr. Musher suggested pulling language from the SIRI executive summary so as to not introduce new material. Commissioner Gold suggested including a recommendation on establishing a sustainability hub in Rhode Island.

6. SIRI Recommendations on Standards Update

Mr. Musher reported that the three-year update of the energy efficiency and system reliability procurement (SRP) standards is coming up and will be finalized during the early part of 2017. The SIRI working group has been discussing topics that relate to standards and would like to develop recommendations to inform the updates. Mr. Newberger felt that the SIRI working group is very well positioned to look at the system reliability standards, but has not furthered the conversation that much on energy efficiency standards. Mr. Parker suggested that some of the SRP standards recommendations may have implications for the energy efficiency standards. The Committee agreed that it would be useful for the SIRI working group to develop recommendations to inform the three-year update to the standards. This will be separate from the Annual Report policy recommendations.

7. Council Business

a) EERMC First Quarter Budget Report

Mr. Ucci presented a Council budget and expense summary for January and February of 2016. This will be updated for the full Council meeting next week.

b) Review of Open Meeting Rules Memo from Attorney

The Council attorney presented a summary of key open meeting rules for the Council to keep in mind. If a quorum (currently six or more) of members (voting or non-voting) are discussing Council business, it must be posted as a public meeting or it is a violation of the law. Providing examples of "Council business" would also be useful. Ms. Desautel will update the memo for the full Council meeting next week.

c) Discuss Rescheduling of Executive Committee Meetings

The Committee discussed moving its meeting to two weeks before full Council meetings to allow for more time to apply what was discussed at the Committee meeting and prepare for the full meeting. Mr. Guerard added that Massachusetts does the same thing. There was some concern about scheduling conflicts. Proposed dates will be reviewed check calendar, if no quorum keep same date.

d) Draft EERMC April Meeting Agenda

The EERMC attorney contract will be added to the agenda and a copy of the current contract will be provided. The item on resource diversification will be removed and saved for the next Executive Committee meeting. The time for the savings targets discussion will be increased to 15 minutes.

8. Adjournment

Ms. Stubblefield Loucks made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Anthony seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 PM.