



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

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 14, 2015

3:30 - 5:30 PM

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

- Members Present:** Abigail Anthony, Joe Cirillo, Marion Gold, Jennifer Hutchinson, Dan Justynski, Michael McAteer, Joe Newsome, Chris Powell, Paul Ryan
- Members Absent:** none
- Consultants Present:** Mike Guerard, Scudder Parker
- OER Staff Present:** Chris Kearns, Rachel Sholly
- Others Present:** Matthew Banoub, Marisa Desautel, Rachel Henschel, Craig Johnson, Sam Milton, Jeremy Newberger, Brigid Ryan, Karen Verrengia, Chon Wong

1. Call to Order

Chairman Paul Ryan called the meeting to order at 3:38 PM.

2. Approval of April Meeting Minutes

Joe Newsome expressed concerns that Rhode Island vendors are paid significantly less than compared to those in Massachusetts. Jeremy Newberger said he would look into it and respond next month. **Joe Cirillo made a motion to approve the minutes. Dan Justynski seconded and all approved.**

3. Executive Committee Report

The June agenda should include a vote on providing legal counsel to consultant team.

4. Policy & Planning Issues

Legislative Update

Chris Kearns reported that the finance hearings have occurred on the Sub A to Budget Article 24, which includes the Infrastructure Bank, extension of the Least Cost Procurement law and a \$2M general revenue request for the Infrastructure Bank. Mid-late June, positive feedback, hearings went well. Legislation to add non-profit representatives to the EERMC has passed the Senate Environment Committee, and will go to the Senate floor before going to the House. This would add two more voting members (representing the small and large non-profit sectors) to be appointed in 2016, bringing the total membership to 15. Abigail Anthony pointed out that a new non-profit representative would be adding another person like Chris Powell since Brown University is technically a non-profit. Lastly, Mr. Kearns has not heard anything about the stand-alone Senate bill looking at National Grid's shareholder incentive, to which the Council had drafted an opposition letter. Mr. Kearns felt that it would not be necessary to submit the letter at this point.

5. Executive Director Report

Commissioner Marion Gold reported that a lot of hard work is being done on systems integration through the subcommittee. Efforts are also underway to make progress in state facilities with John King, a retired engineer from Brown University who is volunteering for OER, along with George from OER, Jerry from National Grid to jumpstart energy programs in state facilities and compiling energy consumption and expenditure data. George is currently monitoring the performance of the recently installed LED streetlights along I-295 and is about to launch phase 2, which is to upgrade lights in park-and-rides. A plan is in place to upgrade all the DOT-owned highway streetlights in the state in a short period of time.

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

ACEEE State Scorecard Presentation

Mike Guerard, Craig Johnson and Rachel Sholly gave the presentation (*see attached*). Mr. Kearns asked if the proposal to expand PACE financing to include electric vehicle charging stations would count. Ms. Sholly thought this might fall under the consumer incentives for high-efficiency vehicles category. Ms. Anthony felt that the state's advancements in areas that indirectly support the use of electric vehicles, such as time-of-use pricing, demand charges, system reliability planning, should receive some credit. Scudder Parker pointed out that we can also provide suggestions to ACEEE on how to improve the scoring criteria. The RI interconnection standard is the same as MA, which receives points, while RI does not. Ms. Anthony thought it might need to be a PUC-adopted regulation as opposed to an internal utility policy. Chris Powell noted that large campuses with district energy systems would probably have a hard time meeting a building disclosure requirement. Ms. Anthony felt that the state research and development category may not be a fair one for Rhode Island because we are a small state and lean on R&D going on throughout the region and may not need it in-state.

2016 Energy Efficiency Procurement Plan Timeline/Preview

Mr. Newberger and Rachel Henschel gave the report (see attached). National Grid proposes moving the October Council meeting from October 8th to October 1st to accommodate the early submission deadline. Grid also implored the Council to begin thinking about themes or ideas that should be addressed in the Plan. Mr. Powell suggested including something on CHP heat

recovery and storage. Mr. Parker suggested including a piece on new strategies for demand management or load management and how to value those so Grid has an incentive to invest in them. Ms. Anthony asked if Grid could target commercial customers with demand charges to work more toward demand reductions. Mr. Guerard felt that delivered fuels should be considered sooner rather than later.

7. Other Business

Rhode Island Alliance for Healthy Homes Presentation

The presentation was postponed until the June meeting.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Ryan adjourned the meeting at 5:10 PM.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 11th, 2015; 3:30-5:30 PM; Conference Room B