



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

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 11, 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, Joe Newsome, Chris Powell, Paul Ryan
- Members Absent:** Dan Justynski, Michael McAteer
- Consultants Present:** Mike Guerard
- OER Staff Present:** Ryan Crowley, Chris Kearns, Danny Musher, Becca Trietch, Nicholas Ucci
- Others Present:** Matthew Banoub, H. Robert Bacon, Brian D. Buckley, Roberta Fagan, Doug Gablinske, Angela Li, Sam Milton, Jeremy Newberger, Shigeru Osada, Fred Paine, Ellen Richer, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Karen Verrengia, Alysse Vindeed, Chon Wong

1. Call to Order

Chairman Paul Ryan called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM.

2. Approval of April Meeting Minutes

Joe Cirillo made a motion to approve the minutes. Chris Powell seconded and all approved.

3. Executive Director Report

Commissioner Marion Gold noted that new Council members, who are expecting to be approved by the Senate by the next meeting, were in attendance. She introduced all current council members and OER staff. New members Robert Bacon, Roberta Fagan, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Karen Verrengia and Shigeru Osada each introduced themselves. Nick Ucci briefly outlined the regional challenges Rhode Island faces as part of an integrated system that runs from Maine to Connecticut for the new members that were in attendance. He noted that there are significant supply constraints in New England, which have resulted in high energy prices. He stated that New England consumers are paying multiples of what other regions in the country are paying for gas and electricity. Commissioner Gold closed by sharing that

the State Planning Council has approved the State Energy Plan for public hearing and a date is forthcoming.

4. Executive Committee Report

Chairman Ryan suggested sharing Executive Committee updates as part of the relevant agenda items.

5. Policy & Planning Issues

Vote to move meeting from October 8, 2015 to October 1, 2015

Jeremy Newberger briefed the Council on the reasoning for the suggested change. This year, National Grid must file its Annual Energy Efficiency Program Plan by October 15. Changing the meeting date will allow the Council to acknowledge and address any issues it may have before approving it. Chris Powell noted that the Executive Committee meeting will also need to be changed. **Joe Cirillo made a motion to move the EERMC meeting from October 8, 2015 to October 1, 2015. Abigail Anthony seconded and all approved.**

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

Combined heat and power presentation

Mr. Newberger gave a presentation on behalf of National Grid regarding combined heating and power (CHP) for the 2016 Energy Efficiency Program Plan. Mr. Newberger provided background on CHP and outlined how the company is promoting CHP. Mr. Powell asked if National Grid also looks at the local impacts on the gas pipeline issues. Mr. Newberger said the cost effectiveness test does not consider those impacts. Danny Musher asked if the alternative credits available in Massachusetts make it a more active location for CHP. Mr. Newberger said that it was possible and National Grid was looking into this. He added that more information would be made available just before the release of the 2016 Plan or in the 2016 Plan itself. He also confirmed that National Grid has not yet committed to an incentive with Narragansett Bay Commission for its project.

2015 Plan implementation and 2016 Plan development issues

Angela Li of National Grid presented on Rhode Island weatherization contractor pricing. She compared the pricing of insulation contractors and noted that there are many measures that make it difficult to calculate. Joe Newsome requested that there be a comparison of 20 items that are most often bought by customers and compare the rate to Massachusetts. Ms. Li stated that she could not share the individual items because they are under a proprietary contract but she could share a group for comparison. She also reported there is a balance between interested companies that want to work in the program and jobs that are available to them. Matthew Banoub said the difference in price can be as much as 60%. Mr. Powell asked if independent insulation contractors have a set price that is 60% less than in Massachusetts. National Grid representatives in attendance confirmed. Mr. Guerard stated that Massachusetts and Rhode Island are exploring how to better set prices for the contractors in both states.

7. Other Business

Rhode Island Alliance for Healthy Homes presentation

Ms. Stubblefield Loucks presented on behalf of the Rhode Island Alliance for Healthy Homes, with the purpose of updating the Council on the recommendations it made during a past presentation. Commissioner Gold shared that there has been substantial work done by the Alliance to bring stakeholders together to talk about mutual issues and address them. Mr. Powell asked if RIAHH gets energy efficiency funds. Ms. Stubblefield Loucks said there is no direct funding provided and the Alliance serves as more of a link. The Attorney General's Office also provides funding for other gaps. Mr. Guerard stated that the Alliance makes it easier to reach more homes of customers who otherwise would not have participated in energy efficiency. Ms. Stubblefield Loucks stated that there is a cost-effectiveness component to improving homes all at once and not just implementing efficiency measures. Commissioner Gold said the Department of Human Services and National Grid have been great partners on this initiative.

Vote on consultant team budget supplement

Mr. Powell felt that some of the proposed tasks could be done by OER. Mr. Guerard said that the tasks identified in the memo are substantial and that the consultant team and OER have been working together to complete tasks in an efficient manner. He added that the consultant team would not necessarily spend all of the supplemental funds. Ms. Anthony asked why it was important to vote on the approval of funds now. Mr. Guerard said that the consultant team did not want to presume that there would be money available later in the year. He added that the goal is to avoid getting to the consultant team's burn rate and disrupting the work of the Council at the end of the year. **Joe Newsome made a motion to approve an additional \$40,000 in funding for the consultant team. Ms. Anthony seconded the motion and all approved.**

Vote to allow EERMC legal counsel to advise consultant team

Chairman Ryan noted that for the purposes of attorney-client privilege, Marisa Desautel needs the council to authorize her to give legal opinions to the consultant team. **Abigail Anthony made a motion that the council wave its attorney client privilege to allow Marisa Desautel to speak with the consultant team on the council's behalf. Chris Powell seconded and all approved.**

Vote on EERMC FAQ

Ms. Anthony noted that the Council thought it would be helpful for new members and Council staff to have a frequently asked questions sheet. Joe Newsome asked if a vote would be necessary to amend the document, should any additional questions be posed. Mr. Newberger suggested adding Commissioner Gold's contact information to the fact sheet. **Joe Cirillo made a motion to make the proposed EERMC FAQ an official EERMC document. Chris Powell seconded and all approved.**

8. Public Comment

Mr. Osada noted that he wanted to review past meeting minutes of the Council.

9. Adjournment

Joe Newsome made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joe Cirillo seconded the motion and all approved. Chairman Ryan adjourned the meeting at 5:20 PM.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 9th, 2015; 3:30-5:30 PM; Conference Room B