



MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

3:30 PM - 5:30 PM

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

Members in Attendance: Abigail Anthony, Bob Bacon, Joe Cirillo, Carol Grant, Anthony Hubbard, Jennifer Hutchinson, Tom Magliocchetti, Michael McAteer, Shigeru Osada, Chris Powell, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Karen Verrengia

Members Absent: Roberta Fagan, Diane Williamson

Others Present: Michael Baer, Brian Buckley, Kat Burnham, Sandra Charves, Linda George, Mike Guerard, Seth Handy, Eric Johnson, Dino Larson, Angela Li, Aubrey McDonough, Danny Musher, Weezie Naura, Jeremy Newberger, Brigid Ryan, Michael Sciascial, Rob Sherwood, Rachel Sholly, Becca Trietch, Nick Ucci, Eric Winkler, Chon Meng Wong, Belinda Wong, Muxi Yang

1. Call to Order

Chairman Chris Powell called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

2. Approval of June Meeting Minutes

Chairman Powell made a motion to approve the June minutes. Bob Bacon seconded and all approved.

3. New Member Welcome and Introductions

Council members introduced themselves and gave brief explanations of their backgrounds and roles within the Council.

4. Executive Director Report

Commissioner Carol Grant presented a summary of proposed Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) auction proceeds allocation plan, which included \$2.0 million to support efficiency programs by the utility and \$2.0 million to support public sector projects through the Efficient Building Fund. She also described the proposed timeline for adopting the allocation plan.

5. Executive Committee Report

Chairman Powell explained to the new members that the purpose of the Executive Committee is to oversee administrative matters. He reported that the Committee discussed the status of finance work, targets and standards development, demand response work, and the EERMC budget.

Dunsky has provided input on program evaluations for National Grid's Revolving Loan Fund and Heat Loan. They will continue to work on estimating the potential impact of financing on 2018-2020 savings targets. There are still funds available in the budget to support upcoming 2017 Energy Efficiency Program Plan development as it relates to potential consideration of keeping, expanding or re-orienting

current financing options. Finally, Alex and Jerome from the Dunsky team will be in Providence to provide updates at the end of July.

With guidance from the Executive Committee, the decision to file targets and standards together in December has been directly communicated to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division). Both appreciated the communication and thought it seemed reasonable. A preliminary informational meeting with PUC staff is set for August 16th and a formal statement from the EERMC will be provided by Scudder Parker and Marisa Desautel. Additionally, the Division has authorized EERMC consultants to reach out their Synapse consultants with regard to the issues of potentially revising the cost-effectiveness test as part of the standards revision process.

The Executive Committee felt that the presentation by Doug Hurley at the last EERMC meeting was helpful. About four days of work remain on the contract with Synapse. The consultant team will work with the Executive Committee on final deliverables from Synapse.

The Committee also reviewed the EERMC budget in the context of the request for funds to support stretch code development. There are approximately \$260,000 of unallocated funds remaining in the budget.

6. Vote on Stretch Code Development Funding Request

As a follow-up to the June Council presentation on codes work, the Office of Energy Resources (OER) and National Grid presented a proposal to hire a consultant to support the development of a Rhode Island stretch code.

Becca Trietch explained that OER's purpose in developing a stretch code is in keeping with the Governor's Lead by Example Executive Order which requires state agencies to take the lead in energy efficiency. Ms. Trietch presented an in-depth explanation of how the stretch code will be developed based on the International Green Construction Code (IGCC) and that it will be available to private and public entities. It was proposed that National Grid's existing commercial code consultant, ERS, be hired to help write the code. National Grid has agreed to provide some funding toward this. OER requested the remaining \$50,260 from the EERMC.

Shigeru Osada noted that Rhode Island is already behind in complying with existing code and expressed concern that a stretch code would add costs to building projects. Mr. Powell explained that the stretch codes will be voluntary. Joe Cirillo voiced concerned about the effectiveness of implementation, and raised the question of whether there should be certification to ensure builders are in compliance with the stretch code. Abigail Anthony was not sure that money spent on a study would be cost-effective. Karen Verrengia wanted to make sure the Council would be able to verify what it is getting in return for the funding. The Council decided that, because stretch code development would likely lead to energy savings with no burden to ratepayers, it would be worth supporting. The Council would like the consultant team to review the scope of work and code development process before it is finalized.

Joe Cirillo made a motion to approve OER's request for \$50,260.00 for consultant services on stretch code development. Karen Verrengia seconded and the motion was approved.

7. Presentation on Energy Efficiency Program Evaluation in Rhode Island

Jeremy Newberger from National Grid presented an overview of the methods used in Rhode Island to evaluate the effectiveness of utility administered energy efficiency programs. The presentation included an overview of evaluation, how evaluation is done, the Technical Reference Manual and how it is used, and how energy efficiency is treated in load forecasting. Mr. Osada asked why one of the graphs showed

level loads while a 10% reduction in load has been previously reported. National Grid will provide an explanation on this before the next Council meeting.

8. Presentation from ISO NE on Energy Efficiency and the Grid

Eric Winkler from the Independent Service Operator of New England (ISO NE) built on Mr. Newberger's presentation and explained the impacts of state-by-state efficiency investments on the grid, system planning processes, the impacts of energy-efficiency forecasting on range planning and load forecasting utilizing local data.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.