



MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 11, 2016 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM

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

Members in Attendance: Abigail Anthony, Joe Cirillo, Roberta Fagan, Anthony Hubbard, Tom Magliocchetti, Michael McAteer, Shigeru Osada, Chris Powell, Karen Verrengia, Raquel Webster (for Jennifer Hutchinson)

Members Absent: Bob Bacon, Carol Grant, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Diane Williamson

Others Present: Brian Buckley, Kat Burnham, Linda George, Mike Guerard, Courtney Lane, Angela Li, Aubrey McDonough, Brian McCowan, Danny Musher, Jeremy Newberger, Michael Rossacci, Brigid Ryan, Rachel Sholly, Becca Trietch, Puja Vohra, Chon Meng Wong, Muxi Yang

1. Call to Order

Chairman Chris Powell called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM.

Karen Verrengia made a motion to move the EnergyWise agenda item from 6c to 5. Abigail Anthony seconded and all approved.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Joe Cirillo made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes. Ms. Anthony seconded and all approved.

3. Executive Director Report

There was no report.

4. Executive Committee Report

a) Finance Update

Alex Hill from Dunsky attended the Executive Committee meeting and provided an update on their activities coordinated by consultant team. Activities include engaging with the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) to discuss its program development and implementation plans; providing input on evaluations of finance offering from Grid including the HEAT Loan, and commercial and industrial (C&I) on-bill repayment; supporting discussion and analysis with the Collaborative on proposed allocations to support financing in 2017 Energy Efficiency Program Plan; and reviewing potential impact of financing on 2018-2020 savings targets.

b) Savings Targets & Standards Revision

The Executive Committee was updated on the status of the proposal to link standards revision and target setting with a combined filing in December, presumably with a draft to be brought to EERMC meeting in early December. Consultant Team, with Abigail Anthony, will be meeting August 16, with Public Utilities Commission (PUC) commissioners and staff and Division representatives, and OER staff to discuss with them the reasons for this approach and to conduct a preliminary discussion of the underlying reasons for this proposal and the issues that may be at play. A subsequent call of the

“Targets Committee” outlined a preliminary agenda for the meeting and Abigail has shared that with PUC staff, inviting their feedback.

c) Member Retreat Planning

Betsy, Rachel, and the consultant team have been working together to plan the member retreat which is scheduled for the afternoon of Wednesday, September 14th. All members should have received a calendar invitation. The objectives of the retreat are to ensure that all EERMC members have a clear understanding of key efficiency policies, the EERMC's responsibilities, Efficiency programs, Special Topics/Working Groups, EERMC Council members understand their individual role and responsibilities, feel empowered to be actively engaged as an EERMC council member. An agenda will be presented at the September 8th Council meeting.

5. EnergyWise Lead Vendor Update

Angela Li and Mike Rossacci of National Grid gave a brief overview of the EnergyWise program, which delivers energy efficiency services to residents (*see attached*). Shigeru Osada asked how the Home Energy Report selects similar homes to compare usage. Ms. Li explained that it is an assumption based primarily on energy usage and square footage; however, it is possible to change your information online to be more accurate. Anthony Hubbard asked how renters are handled in this program. Mike Guerard added that there is a separate program for the low income population. Ms. Verrengia asked if solar opportunities are integrated into the EnergyWise program. Ms. Li said that the state is working to bring Residential PACE online in 2017, which will be able provide financing for solar. National Grid has also established the SolarWise program and has worked with OER on the Solarize program. Michael McAteer added that the goal is to better integrate efficiency and renewable energy programs.

For a variety of reasons, National Grid plans to keep RISE Engineering as the lead EnergyWise vendor instead of going out to bid. Ms. Anthony suggested that, because this situation provides some leverage for National Grid to negotiate the new contract with RISE, the Council should consider whether there are high priority things that the EERMC should advocate for to offer the highest quality programs. Mr. Guerard noted that the evaluation of the EnergyWise program is almost complete and opens up some new areas that, with a more flexible lead vendor contract build, will be easier adapt. Chairman Powell asked about women and minority owned business goals and tracking. Mike Rossacci said he would check and follow up. Chairman Powell asked Mr. Guerard to follow up on this question as well. Mr. Osada asked if National Grid felt that the number of customers currently being served is a good pace. Mr. Rossacci said that it is a good pace - they have decreased customer wait time and are doing a lot of marketing to maintain a queue. Ms. Anthony asked of Grid will work with RISE on creative ways to deliver savings at low costs in terms of the next iteration of savings targets. Mr. Rossacci said that having a vendor with more experience in this jurisdiction, as opposed to introducing a new vendor that may be more costly, will allow for quicker program evolution. Ms. Verrengia added that she has seen first-hand that RISE is constantly trying new technologies.

6. Policy and Planning Issues

a) Vote on Draft Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Allocation Plan Comments

Mr. Guerard summarized the memo drafted by the consultant team outlining potential comments on the RGGI Plan (*see attached*). Ms. Anthony thought it was important for the Council to provide some sort of feedback to the OER whether good, bad or neutral. Roberta Fagan asked about the lack of funding for the delivered fuels program. Chairman Powell suggested including in the comments that the Council would like to see delivered fuel allocations in the future if there are no other viable alternatives.

Ms. Verrengia made a motion to authorize the consultant team to develop a letter based on last four bullets of the memo page two plus a comment in support of future allocations for delivered fuels and submit to Chair to submit to OER. Ms. Anthony seconded and all approved.

b) Presentation and Vote on Stretch Code Development Process

Brian McCowan of ERS (National Grid consultant), Puja Vohra of National Grid and Becca Trietch of OER presented a scope of work and process proposal for the developing the commercial stretch code (*see attached*). Funds for the code development were approved at the last meeting. Mr. Osada asked how to balance the code so that it is progressive but still attainable enough for people to go after it. Mr. McCowan replied that Grid has decades of experience in finding that balance. Mr. Powell asked if building labeling is being integrated into the code effort. Mr. McCowan said that building labeling is not currently incorporated but it is something that has been discussed. Being able to offer recognition that a building has met a certain standard provides an incentive to utilize stretch codes. Tom Magliocchetti asked if there is a posterchild for stretch codes that Rhode Island can learn from. Mr. McCowan noted that the City of Portland and the State of Massachusetts have been leaders in this area. Mr. Magliocchetti felt that economic impacts should be conveyed, especially to large building developers, as early in the process as possible to foster their engagement. Ms. Trietch said that National Grid has a stakeholder process as well as the stretch code working group. Once the code is drafted, it would be useful to hold a larger stakeholder meeting to get feedback from a broader audience. Mr. Cirillo expressed concern about cities and towns adopting different codes and how the contractors and subcontractors would have to manage different codes. Ms. Trietch explained that Rhode Island does not allow cities and towns to adopt a different code than the state code. The stretch code will be voluntary for individual projects. Mr. McCowan said that one of the goals of this year's base code adoption is to reduce the number of variances so that there is more regional consistency. Mr. Magliocchetti asked which task in the scope of work includes looking at the economic impacts to builders. Mr. McCowan referred to task #5, noting that the optional nature should help to mitigate cost concerns.

Ms. Verrengia made a motion to approve the proposed scope of work for the consultant. Mr. Cirillo seconded and all approved.

7. Energy Efficiency Programs and System Reliability Procurement Issues

a) National Grid Second Quarter Program Results

Courtney Lane, Angela Li and Puja Vohra of National Grid presented the 2017 second quarter results of the energy efficiency programs (*see attached*). Chairman Powell asked if there is a plan to catch up on the C&I sector. Ms. Lane said that C&I lags behind every year and the program is actually on track to meet 100% of goal. Ms. Vohra added that there is always a hockey stick effect for the C&I sector, with most of the savings coming in toward the end of the year. Mr. Guerard recalled that last year the savings goal was exceeded significantly and asked why the projected savings for 2016 are not higher given that precedent. Ms. Lane explained that National Grid does not expect to exceed goals every year, but it tries to get as much savings as possible within the approved budgets.

b) EERMC Meeting Calendar and 2017 Plan Development

Jeremy Newberger of National Grid summarized key dates and key areas of interest and innovation in relation to 2017 Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Plans (*see attached*). Ms. Osada referenced the last Collaborative meeting where RIIB requested system benefit funds and asked why this is not an EERMC matter. Mr. Newberger said that it would be part of the budget that National Grid will present to the Council next month. Chairman Powell asked to see the potential impacts of this

allocation on the program budget. Ms. Verrengia noted that the October Council meeting is the same day as National Grid's Summit. The Executive Committee will discuss changing the meeting date.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Cirillo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Osada seconded and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 PM.