



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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 6, 2015

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

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

Attendance: Ryan Crowley, Marisa Desautel, Marion Gold, Mike Guerard, Chris Kearns, Leslie Malone, Jeremy Newberger, Chris Powell, Rachel Sholly

1. Call to Order

Chairman Chris Powell called the meeting to order at 2:05pm

2. Approval of Executive Committee July Meeting Minutes

Chair Powell noted that approval of meeting minutes for July would have to be delayed until the next Executive Committee meeting because there were not enough voting members present to vote. He also added that the Executive Committee needs to find an alternate member to fill in at Executive Committee meetings when voting members are unable to attend. This item will be discussed at the full Council meeting.

3. Review of Draft EERMC August Meeting Agenda

The agenda will include approval of July Meeting Minutes, Executive Director Report with RI Infrastructure Bank Update and PUC Rate Design Proceeding Update, Executive Committee Report with a vote to appoint alternate executive committee member and EERMC budget report, policy & planning Issues covering RFP for Next Phase of Finance Study and 2016 Energy Efficiency Program Plan Update and general updates on energy efficiency programs and system reliability procurement.

Chair Powell noted that new council members have asked to receive the meeting minutes and agenda sooner in order to prepare for the Council meetings. He suggested sending out the proposed agenda the week before.

4. Executive Director Report

The Executive Director report was skipped due to time constraints.

5. 2016 Energy Efficiency Program Plan Update

Mike Guerard stated that the consultant team has been meeting with National Grid's strategy groups to review some of the ideas. He expects the first draft of the plan to be released on Monday, August 24, with the screening tool being made available for review a couple days later. The technical reference manual (TRM) has been delayed as National Grid had not filled the staff position for it until recently. The TRM gives the values that will go into the screening tool. Council members will be expected to submit edits by Friday, September 4. The consultant team will be reaching out to the council members to assist with comprehension of the plan.

Jeremy Newberger noted that the Executive Committee meeting next month is September 3 and that the first draft should be presented to the full council the following week. He requested that the September 10 meeting allot time for discussion about the plan. Rachel Sholly added that new members should be provided the 2015 plan for review and use to compare against the proposed 2016 plan. Chair Powell requested that the first draft be sent to the Executive Council first before being sent to the entire council.

Mike Guerard noted that the Council meeting for October was be moved to October 1. Chair Powell suggested rescheduling the Executive Committee meeting to September 24.

6. PUC Rate Design Proceeding

Leslie Malone from Acadia Center noted that National Grid is suggesting a four tiered customer charge which translates into an increase in the fixed charge in the residential class and the small commercial class. There are changes to the larger commercial class as well. Lower usage levels increase minimally. Residential class is seeing the biggest impact because more of the demand component was already being collected through the customer charge at the CNI level. Smaller CNI users who use anywhere from 0-100 kW/h see an increase of 5%.

Chair Powell asked what is the variable is. Ms. Malone said it was the distribution components. More needs to be known about how it affects large CNI users. Ms. Malone added that increasing the fixed charge and reducing the variable has had an impact in efficiency, reducing the value and incentive to put in more efficient programs. Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) has studied this. Chris Kearns noted the access fee added for standalone for distributed generation is for projects that we built 15 years ago. Ms. Malone defined "standalone" as having no off-setting load.

Chair Powell added that the access charge issue appears to be the biggest game changing impact to the renewable energy market in Rhode Island. Scudder Parker suggested that stakeholders should be supporting a structure that allows customers to respond to the price signal and in this instance you get locked into a price.

Marisa Desautel plans to file an intervention before August 31. The motion can be withdrawn afterwards and a protest can be filed thereafter. The Council has already voted to intervene.

7. EERMC Budget Report

Ms. Sholly reviewed the spread sheet with the Executive Committee and noted under Q2, the red 99K is not counting recent figures. This document is something that will be presented to the council next week. Income needs to be explained to the new members as well as the Prentiss Trust Fund. The spreadsheet

will be updated before the Council meeting. Ms. Sholly noted that more than \$15,000 might need to be budgeted for legal expenses if EERMC plans to intervene in PUC rate design proceeding. Chair Powell suggested the pay for intervention might be highlighted separately. Chris Kearns informed the Executive Committee that an estimated number of hours could be based off the idea of seven meetings and two hours per meeting.

8. RFP for Next Phase of Finance Study

Chair Powell reported that National Grid provided comments on the RFP. Mike Guerard asked for clarification and Chair Powell confirmed that the RFP be put before the full council for review. Chair Powell added that the Executive Committee will seek approval from the Council to allow the Executive Committee to approve the final RFP. The Council vote would be to release an RFP allowing for expenditures of up to \$70,000 and allow the Executive Committee to approve.

9. Other Business

-Conflict of Interest Question

The Alliance of Healthy Homes is looking for a sponsorship from the EERMC in the amount of \$5,000-\$10,000. Ms. Desautel stated that she will seek an advisory opinion from the Ethic Commission. Chair Powell said someone else aside from Betsy can make the request and she would simply have to recuse herself from voting on the matter. Commissioner Gold noted that Tec-RI is interested in exploring a sponsorship as well and a similar conflict may present itself due to Mr. Osada's affiliation.

-EERMC RFP Process

This item was discussed as part of agenda item 8.

-Legal Counsel Attendance at Energy Law Conference

Chair Powell said it would be a good conference and he would support allowing Marisa to attend so long as she brings useful information back to the council for consideration. Commissioner Gold added that Abigail Anthony was initially opposed as it could appear to be professional development. Chair Powell suggested that it be on a future agenda for council members to consider. Commissioner Gold asked if this is the appropriate conference for legal counsel to attend for informational purposes. Marisa Desautel noted that she sent the information to Abigail for consideration, who suggested that she speak with the counsel. Ms. Desautel also added that if she is bring back information, the Council would be responsible for billable hours. Chair Powell said it will be addressed at next Executive Committee meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13pm.

Full EERMC Meeting: Thursday, August 13, 3:30-5:30 PM; Conf. Room B

Next Exec. Comm. Meeting: Thursday, September 3, 2:00-3:30 PM; Conf. Room B