

# **THE RI ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

**Minutes -August 8, 2007**

## **Call to Order:**

The First meeting of the Energy Efficiency and Resource and Management Council was called to order at 4:00 P.M., by Andrew Dzykewicz, Executive Secretary

**Voting Members Present:** Sam Krasnow, Alfred Degen, Joe Cirillo, S. Paul Ryan

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Ron Gerwatowski, Victor Allenello

**Guests:** Nick Battiste (sitting in for J. Elmer), David Sosland

## **Explanation of Council**

Ken Payne who is the author of the legislation establishing the EERMC explained the intent and purpose of the legislation to the appointed members. He stated the citizens of the State need to know there is an independent committee looking at all available energy technology for the citizens of the State. The council needs to be focused with its message, proactive, and work with the communities to bring the message forward. Ken stated the council should be an economic model on energy issues and efficient use of resources.

## **Executive Director / Executive Secretary**

Andrew Dzykewicz reported on the status of the council. Currently there are seven members with intent of filling a total of 11 seats. He would like to see the members address all avenues of energy usage, and monitor programs effectiveness. He feels public outreach, and communicating with the general public introducing new ideas would have a great impact.

Mr. Dzykewicz expressed concern in developing by-laws for the council, of which would be address in future meetings.

He informed the members the Patrick Condon would be the primary contact person within the Office of Energy Resource to support their needs.

The funds to support the mission of this council will be provided by (2% of approximately \$30,000,000). That is collected from the ratepayer for efficiency and conservation programs. This amount represents approximately \$600,000 on an annual basis. Andy further stated if Rhode Islander's continue their current energy usage that by 2015 our state could potentially have a 4400 mg shortfall.

Mr. Dzykewicz reviewed several programs that The Office of Energy Resources has been working on pertaining to wind and wave studies.

It was suggested a Sub-Committee be established to approve the scope of work the council members need to concentrate on and bring before the next meeting to include a list of consultants.

Sam Krasnow volunteered and it was suggested by Ron Gerwatoski that Tim Stout would also be interested in participating. Also it was suggested that Tim could potentially provide the history of energy efficiency programs provided by National Grid.

### **Wind Study**

It was mentioned the State had promoted RIWINDS program to promote the development of wind energy in the State. The goal of the program is aggressive: to meet 15% of the State's 100MW.

Phase I Siting Study was awarded to Applied Technology and Management (ATM) in 2006 by Rhode Island Economic Development Corp (RIEDC). ATM provided environmental resource and technical feasibility assessment. The scope of the study was to evaluate the entire State of Rhode Island, including offshore waters, to identify the most viable areas for wind energy. The process screened and prioritized potential areas, both on land and offshore, taking into consideration technical, and environmental, financial, and public acceptance issues. It should be noted that the study focused on the areas and type of projects that would most likely meet the significant goals of the RIWINDS programs. The study did not consider potential projects that would use a turbine smaller than 1.5 MW.

### **Attendance Comments**

Sam Krasnow stated there has been a 150% increase in energy cost and over the next 5-6 year period this would be a major drain on the economy. Between the years 2004-2005 the cost of natural gas has doubled. He mentioned the creative ways National Grid has brought energy conservation programs to the consumer, through rebate or incentive programs.

Brought up was the "Least-Cost Procurement" goals of meeting electrical energy needs in Rhode Island in a manner that is optimally cost effective, reliable, prudent and environmentally responsible. The Act requires the Office of Energy Resources (OER) as well as the Energy Efficiency and Resources Management Council to provide the Public Utilities Commission with recommendations regarding procurement of system reliability and energy efficiency resources by March 1, 2008. The PUC is required to solicit input on standards required to implement LCP, and to issue those standards by June 1, 2008.

It was unanimously approved that the monthly meeting for the Council would be held at the Department of Administration Building on the 2nd Thursday of each month starting at 4 P.M. (location TBD)

**Adjournment:** A motion to close the meeting was call by Alfred Degen and seconded by Victor Allenello. The meeting adjourned at 6 PM