



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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 8, 2015**

**2:00 - 3:00 PM**

Bureau of Audits Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Department of Administration  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

**In Attendance:** Marion Gold, Mike Guerard, Chris Kearns, Michael McAteer, Chris Powell, Paul Ryan, Rachel Sholly, Nick Ucci

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Paul Ryan called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

**2. Approval of Executive Committee December Meeting Minutes**

Approval was deferred until February as there was not a quorum. A discussion was had regarding who on the Executive Committee can vote. It was agreed that voting members of the Council should also be the voting members in subcommittees.

**3. Review of Draft EERMC January Meeting Agenda**

Chairman Ryan asked when the OER's legislative recommendations would come out. Commissioner Gold said they are aiming for February. Mr. Guerard felt that the Council should think about what big-issue presentations it wants to put on future agendas. He said that behavior programs will need some solid explanation as they are always under scrutiny. Mr. Powell added that the Council could try to spread its presentations across multiple sectors to make sure a wide array of issues are coming before the group. Commissioner Gold felt that with the recent System Integration work and the expanding Distributed Generation program, the EERMC will probably get back to joint energy efficiency and renewable energy sessions likely with a different group than before, which is something to put on the calendar.

#### **4. Executive Director Report**

##### *New Member Appointments*

Commissioner Gold reported on the current slate of candidates that she is working to compile and submit to the Governor. Chairman Ryan recommended submitting multiple candidates per position. Mr. Powell agreed, adding that the administration may have candidates of their own. The group suggested several other names and organizations to look at. Mr. Guerard felt that for the workforce development position, it would be good to have an individual who understands the entire pipeline of training. Mr. Ucci felt that the perfect candidate would have connections to government programs. Mr. Guerard reminded the Council that Julie Gill has resigned, so it will also need to find a new oil representative. Commissioner Gold will continue to pursue the leads discussed here.

##### *Legal RFP*

Ms. Sholly reported that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for EERMC legal services has been posted to the EERMC website and distributed through the Rhode Island Bar Association's network of energy and environmental law firms. The proposals are due at the end of January.

#### **5. Final Review of Bylaws Before Council Approval**

The bylaws should be sent to Dan Prentiss for review before the meeting next week so that they can be voted on. Mr. Powell pointed out a couple parts of the quoted statute that may be antiquated or unclear. Instead of quoting from the statute, the language could be simplified and summarized. Mr. Ucci asked if the bylaws document must be posted on the Secretary of State website. The OER will get a legal opinion.

#### **6. 2015 Energy Efficiency Program Plan Technical Session Debrief**

Mr. Parker was very pleased with how the session went. National Grid made a smart decision in not making a long presentation. The Division played a constructive role. The consultant team presented interesting graphs that related to the rate increase. The PUC members were very engaged and voted to approve the Plan. There were questions about the behavior programs, which is best addressed by being proactive. Michael McAteer noted a few topics that were asked about, like oil to gas conversions, wifi thermostats as a luxury piece of technology and home energy reports. He felt that an informal technical session would be a good opportunity to explain the depth behind Home Energy Reports and to engage Opower.

Mr. Ucci was concerned that after such great discussion, the same issues came up at the open meeting without any apparent opinion changes. In particular the idea that, especially on the heels of historic rate increases, energy efficiency is a resource which is directly in control of the state, getting to some of the state's regional challenges. Mr. McAteer recalled questions on bill impacts, participants and equity. He felt that there is an opportunity to better communicate that equity across markets is a priority. Jobs was not a focus. Converting customers from oil to gas and harming the local delivered fuels industry was a concern of Commissioner DeSimone. Mr. Ucci tried to make the point that this is a path to future growth. Mr. Parker felt that overall, the Division was fully supportive of it.

Mr. McAteer reported that Doug Gablinske of The Energy Council of Rhode Island (TEC-RI) wants to partner with the Office of Energy Resources, CommerceRI and National Grid do a two-day forum to engage TEC-RI constituents around efficiency, renewables and interconnection.

## **7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **8. Adjournment**

Chairman Ryan adjourned the meeting at 3:16 PM.

**Full EERMC Meeting:** Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 3:30-5:30 PM; Conf. Room B

**Next Exec. Comm. Meeting:** Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> 2:00-3:00 PM; Bureau of Audits