



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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, July 2, 2015**

**2:00 PM - 3:30 PM**

Conference Room B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Department of Administration  
One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

**Attendance:** Abigail Anthony, Marisa Desautel, Marion Gold, Mike Guerard, Chris Kearns, Danny Musher, Jeremy Newberger, Chris Powell

**1. Call to Order**

Chris Powell called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

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

Mr. Powell made a motion to approve Executive Committee May meeting minutes. Abigail Anthony seconded the motion and all approved.

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

The agenda will include a vote to sponsor the Energy Expo, a finance update, selecting an interim Executive Committee member, rate design docket and EnergyWise project cost comparison follow-up.

**4. Executive Director Report**

*RGGI Allocation Plan and EERMC Letter*

Ms. Anthony explained that after a conversation with Commissioner Marion Gold and Nick Ucci, she felt that it would be good for the EERMC to submit written comments to the Office of Energy Resources (OER) on the proposed 2015 RGGI Allocation Plan. The letter will need to be submitted before the August meeting. Ms. Anthony will draft an outline for the full Council meeting next week and Chris Powell will finalize if needed. The idea is to ensure that RGGI funds are spent in a cost-effective manner. Mike Guerard pointed out that RGGI funds do have to be spent in a cost-effective manner, but it is not the same definition as what National Grid must follow through Least Cost Procurement. Ms. Anthony said that, per Dan Prentiss, since the term "cost-effectiveness" is not defined in the legislation it defaults

to the general definition of the benefits outweighing the costs and the Council may want to push for a more aggressive definition.

#### *New Member Orientation*

Rachel Sholly explained the plan for the upcoming new member orientation, including attendance, agenda and binder materials. The group discussed logistics and updating the EERMC website to include new members and a resource area.

#### *Selecting New Executive Committee Member*

The Committee decided to invite Joe Newsome to serve as an interim member while the new members are getting up to speed. The group also discussed term limits and the idea of rotating Executive Committee members. This topic will be added to the agenda for next week's Council meeting.

### **5. PUC Rate Design Proceeding**

Ms. Anthony explained that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has opened a docket to explore National Grid's rate design for delivery rates in light of distributed generation. National Grid will be making proposed changes to their delivery rates this month. Ms. Anthony felt that this is important to the Council because changes to the delivery rate design can have implications for how much people value energy efficiency and how much efficiency will help lower their bills. She recommended that the Council consider whether it wants to formally intervene or just submit comments. Ms. Desautel explained that if the Council were to intervene, it would consume a lot of her time and would therefore be a large expense to the Council. The group decided to file the motion to intervene and then decide whether to retract it or not based on how the issue evolves. Mr. Kearns will help Ms. Desautel get on the docket email list.

### **6. Consultant Team Memo on Strategic Electrification**

Scudder Parker presented the memo and recommended that the Council begin considering the impacts of cold-climate heat pumps and strategic electrification in the transportation sector on the way we think about least cost procurement (LCP) work. The issue is that certain scenarios could achieve the underlying principles of LCP, but also increase electric usage. Another key question is how to address the fact that heat pumps are used for both heating in addition to cooling in terms of incentives and fuel switching. Mr. Powell wanted to make sure this can be explained in laymen terms to the new Council members. Jeremy Newberger reported that he received many comments from National Grid and would like these questions to be addressed before the memo is presented to the Council. The Committee agreed that these questions should first be discussed at the Collaborative.

### **7. Finance / Infrastructure Bank Update**

The finance memo included talking points for the RI Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) meeting, which was convened by the Governor's Office and included the Treasurer's Office, Department of Environmental Management, OER, EERMC, Department of Business Regulations, and CommerceRI. The meeting went well and the process is very inclusive. This also ties in to the conversation on follow-up work to the Dunskey finance study. Now that RIIB is moving forward, the consultant team will work with Danny to see what might be needed as follow-up to the Dunskey study, for which the Council set aside \$70,000 if needed. Mr. Powell felt that there should be a clear understanding about what it means for the

consultant team to be representing the EERMC in RIIB meetings, which, Mr. Guerard noted, was the purpose of the memo.

Mr. Newberger saw three different areas in which the consultant team could represent the EERMC: 1) participating in RIIB development meetings, informed by the Dunsky report; 2) during the development of RIIB components, if there is ancillary work that is not being done; and 3) after it is up and running, if there is subsequent work to do to fill remaining gaps in the funding landscape.

Mr. Powell asked that this topic be included on the agenda for the Council meeting next week and that the RIIB memo be sent out in advance. He would also like to know what this would cost the Council and how it would impact the consultant's work plan. The consultant team will modify the memo, for dissemination before the July Council meeting next week, to reflect that this work may result in a proposal to spend against the \$70,000 allocation.

Mr. Kearns explained that the RIIB will be setting up separate meetings for PACE and the Efficient Buildings Fund (EBF). In the meantime, the OER is the statutory lead on the EBF project priority list, so the OER can begin that process.

## **8. 2016 Energy Expo Proposal**

John Marcantonio, the director of the Rhode Island Builders Association (RIBA) provided some background on the Home Show and how it has evolved to include more education. RIBA is also active in advocacy and workforce development. There is an opportunity to bring energy into the career and technical education arena, by having the career and technical education schools build energy education installations. More broadly, Mr. Marcantonio proposed to take on the management responsibilities of the Energy Expo. Mr. Kearns noted that RIBA was one of the few organizations to advocate at the State House for the Least Cost Procurement extension. The Committee decided to bring this to vote at the full Council meeting next week.

## **9. Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 PM.

**Full EERMC Meeting:** Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> 3:30-5:30 PM; Conf. Room B

**Next Exec. Comm. Meeting:** Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup> 2:00-3:30 PM; Conf. Room B