



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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 4, 2016

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Conference Room B, 2nd Floor

Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI

In Attendance: Abigail Anthony, Marisa Desautel, Marion Gold, Mike Guerard, Chris Kearns, Danny Musher, Jeremy Newberger, Scudder Parker, Rachel Sholly, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Nick Ucci

1. Call to Order

In Chairman Chris Powell's absence, Vice Chair Abigail Anthony called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM. Ms. Anthony moved items "EERMC Role in Resource Diversification", "RGGI Sign-On Letter" and "Legislative Update" to the top of the agenda after the minutes approval.

2. Approval of Executive Committee January Meeting Minutes

Betsy Stubblefield Loucks moved to approve the January meeting minutes. Ms. Anthony seconded and all approved.

3. EERMC Role in Resource Diversification

Ms. Stubblefield Loucks explained that, in reading the EERMC enabling legislation, she learned that "resource diversification" is one of the Council's responsibilities, but the Council does not discuss this issue often. Ms. Anthony confirmed that it is in the legislation but the Council does not discuss it frequently. Ms. Stubblefield Loucks asked what the deliverable in relation to diversification is. Mr. Musher offered that the results of two studies done early on based on least cost procurement law guided the resource acquisition strategies that were the focus of the Council. The landscape was much different when those studies occurred in 2006-2009. Mr. Ucci felt that more time could be spent on this but work has been done through the Distributed Generation Board and formerly the Renewable Energy Coordinating Board. Have tried to educate the Council on regional perspective, distributed generation law – and would be happy to do more of that. Mr. Musher added that the results of the distributed generation pilot in Tiverton and Little Compton could help in figuring out how to potentially incorporate more technologies. Mike Guerard and Nick Ucci called out other efforts to align efficiency and renewables including SolarWise, the Zero Energy Building Task Force, vehicle electrification and CHP. Ms. Stubblefield Loucks thought it would be useful to create a dashboard to track projects that map to the three Council responsibilities. Mr. Musher suggested that Ms. Stubblefield Loucks review the Least Cost Procurement Standards document which was provided in the orientation binders. Mr. Newberger liked the idea of mapping the current work of the Council to those objectives and see where they fall

and identify gaps. Ms. Stubblefield Loucks asked how the Least Cost Procurement values are set. Mr. Newberger explained that the values come from a regional cost study that models gas and electric markets and results in a set of avoided costs which, along with results from other analyses, are used to value energy efficiency and least cost procurement. Ms. Stubblefield Loucks felt that the Council should be clear on its responsibilities and should direct the consultant team to create a dashboard on Council responsibilities and the programs that are helping to fulfill those.

Marisa Desautel, Council attorney, explained that two recent emails were technically violations of the Open Meetings Act. Anytime members of the public body discuss issues relating to its statutory authority it has to be posted so the public can be involved. The only exception is to schedule meetings. In the future, any questions regarding agenda items should be sent to Rachel Sholly.

4. Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Letter from Acadia Center

Ms. Anthony distributed a draft letter developed by the Acadia Center with recommendations to the State administration with recommendations on strengthening the RGGI program. Because the letter was not circulated in advance of the meeting, Ms. Anthony did not ask the Committee to consider its support at that time. She will work with Ms. Desautel to determine an appropriate way to ask Council members if they would like to support the letter.

5. Legislative Update

Chris Kearns of the Office of Energy Resources (OER) reported that about 22 to 25 energy related bills have been introduced, but none relate to EERMC work. There will likely be two or three bills filed over the next couple of weeks relating to least cost procurement and system reliability. The Governor's budget does not include any energy efficiency allocations. An appliance standards bill will likely be filed in both the House and Senate by National Grid and NEEP. If additional bills get filed that relates to the EERMC's work, the OER will evaluate it and notify the Council.

6. Executive Director Report

Commissioner Marion Gold and Nick Ucci reported that the Block Island Saves pilot program was a success. Funded with Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funds, OER partnered with National Grid and the EERMC consultant team to complete energy audits for 10 residential and 5 small business customers with a 50% conversion rate. OER will aim to give a more thorough update at the full Council meeting. In 2016, OER has allocated \$400,000 to expand the program to all Block Island residents and small businesses.

Mr. Ucci reported that OER is now doing two RGGI allocation plans each year. There are about \$6.5 million in 2015 proceeds to allocate in the first plan of 2016, which should come out this month. About \$4.7 million has been allocated to support energy projects in state facilities, aligning with the Governor's Executive Order on Lead By Example. \$300,000 of this allocation will go toward reducing energy demand at state homeless and behavioral health facilities. Ms. Stubblefield Loucks asked how these projects would be identified. Mr. Ucci explained that OER is working with the State's Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance to look at projects under consideration and see where additional resources would allow projects to move forward. OER is also meeting with State agencies to see what they have interest in and how these dollars can be used expeditiously.

An additional \$1 million has been allocated to support efficiency incentives for consumers that heat with delivered fuels. This is in addition to the \$600,000 that rolled over from 2015, for a total of \$1.6 million.

\$300,000 has been allocated to do another round of Solarize with 5-10 communities in late 2016. \$500,000 has been allocated to develop, design and implement a pilot microgrid project, likely to be at a critical infrastructure site, which leverages efficiency, demand response and other technologies to support resiliency. This complements an existing microgrids grant that OER has been working on.

OER has already consulted with DEM and plans to brief the full Council at the February 11th meeting. The consultant team will send a memo to the Council summarizing the RGGI allocation plan and framing the discussion for Council members. The proposed plan will be posted for a 30-day comment period closing with a public hearing.

7. Sustainability Hub Discussion

Michael McAteer of National Grid organized a tour of the Worcester Sustainability Hub for Chris Powell, Abigail Anthony, Sam Marullo and Commissioner Gold. Both Commissioner Gold and Ms. Anthony were very impressed and are eager to explore creating something similar in Rhode Island. National Grid will develop such a proposal and the Council will provide feedback.

8. Finance Update

The Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) has been hosting productive meetings on Commercial PACE. National Grid has been working with RIIB's selected vendor SRS to develop a plan. Ms. Anthony felt that an important point is to know whether the utility feels that they are being fully incorporated into planning for C-PACE implementation. Dunsky has been focused on exploring National Grid's on-bill repayment (OBR) program. The focus now is more on a process evaluation is the critical thing. The consultant team will aim to summarize this update in a memo early next week.

9. Savings Targets Update

Identified four areas working on. Challenge that remains in sub group is in the memo. How it might or might not impact the targets. The Committee reviewed a memo written by Scudder Parker and edited by Danny Musher which outlines the spectrum of issues related to demand response. Mr. Parker said that they are looking for one or two metrics on which to focus for the savings targets. Much of the content of the memo is probably not realistic to include in thinking about a savings target for these subsectors or more difficult areas of market opportunity to be specified. He would like to do a more sophisticated version of National Grid's megawatt target that would be informed by an update on how regional markets will function. Perhaps this will be done well by those markets or maybe there is an opportunity for National Grid to do more that could create value in the residential and small commercial classes. Mr. Parker recommended that the Executive Committee ask the targets working group to make recommendations to the EERMC that would guide the writing of a scope of work to find specific help. Ms. Anthony clarified that the goal is to hire external expertise to assist the Council in understanding demand response in Rhode Island. At next week's meeting, the Council will be asked to empower the consultant team to draft a scope of work and solicit an RFP for expert services up to approximately \$50,000 related to demand response in the context of developing savings targets. The Council will then vote on the selected consultant and final contract at the March meeting.

10. Future Meeting Topics

Creating a dashboard of EERMC activities will help develop topics for future meetings. Mr. Musher offered the topic of energy efficiency data management and online visualization.

11. Draft EERMC February Meeting Agenda

Time will be needed for an update on the RGGI allocation plan. Explain that a vote will be needed during the savings target discussion. The open meetings email issue can be covered under the Executive Committee report. Ms. Stubblefield Loucks recommended giving Council members the Attorney General's open meetings guidelines summary. Ms. Anthony thought it could be further summarized into guidelines for communication via email and phone and in person. The finance update will be removed and may be included in the consultant team's written report. Mr. Parker reminded the Committee that it is time to start developing the Annual Report. The consultant team's scope of work includes assisting with this but not leading. Ms. Sholly said that OER would be starting the process as soon as possible.

12. Adjournment

Vice Chair Anthony adjourned the meeting at 3:53 PM.