



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

EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 15, 2018 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM

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

Members in Attendance: Chris Powell, Carol Grant, Karen Verrengia, Bob Bacon, Michael McAteer, Joe Cirillo, Anthony Hubbard, Tom Magliocchetti.

Others Present: Nick Ucci, Rachel Henschel, Becca Trietch, Sara Canabarro, Carrie Gill, Matt Kravatz, Ben Rivers, Ilene Mason, Alex Hill, Leslie Malone, Ryan Mulcahey, Angela Li, Chan Wong, John Richards, Matt Ray, Courtney Lane, Sam Ross, Mona Chandra, Laura Rodormer

All meeting materials can be viewed at: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-march-2018/>

1. Call to Order

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 3:38PM.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Powell requested to postpone the approval of February's meeting minutes since they did not have a quorum at this time.

3. Executive Director Report

a) General Update

Commissioner Grant stated she had two legislative updates. First, there is a bill from last year's session that didn't pass last year, but has made its return. The bill requires that a study be conducted by the Office of Energy Resources to review the evaluation process of the energy efficiency programs. The Office of Energy Resources is working with key stakeholders to improve the language in the bill.

Secondly, she reported that another bill includes a proposal to place a cap on the system benefit charge. Commissioner Grant noted that the language in this bill is not clear, so the exact consequences of the bill are difficult to describe at this time. She added that a hearing on this bill has not yet been scheduled, but she wants the Council to be aware of what is happening.

Ms. Verrengia has reservations about the second bill which includes a cap. She asked if it is possible for the Consultant Team to provide education about this item, so that Council members can fully understand what is going on. Chairman Powell agreed with Ms. Verrengia, and stated it would be beneficial to have the Consultant Team explain what this bill means, since it seems to be a conflict with how the Least Cost Procurement law is currently written.

Commissioner Grant noted that she will talk to the Consultant Team about providing education on the current bills.

4. Chairperson Report

a) General Update

Chairman Powell stated that today's meeting will focus on completing some council business, followed by presentations from National Grid and Dunsky with a focus on financing. He reported that as a general update, Ms. Trietch is working with Ms. Marisa Desautel and the Consultant Team to create a way to accept public comments through the EERMC website. We will let you know when that functionality has been created. All public comments that are submitted through the website will be shared as meeting materials at the next EERMC meeting.

Chairman Powell reminded the council members that National Grid is attempting to arrange a tour of a Zero Energy Home in Rhode Island. If members have not already, he asked that they please fill out the poll included in Ms. Trietch's most recent email before this weekend. National Grid is trying to find a date and time that will work for a good number of the council members.

Chairman Powell added that council member Mr. Bob Bacon has resigned due to a conflict with another Committee. Chairman Powell thanked Mr. Bacon for all his work and for being part of the Council. Mr. Bacon thanked everyone, and stated he would like to stay in touch and involved with the Council's work in the future.

Lastly, Chairman Powell noted that since they are waiting for one more council member to join the meeting, item #6 (National Grid presentation), and item #7 (Dunksy Presentation) will be moved up to items #5 and #6.

5. National Grid

a) National Grid presentation on updates to C&I Financing (Please refer to National Grid PowerPoint)

Mr. Rivers gave an overview of National Grid's primary areas of focus in 2018 for financing. This includes on-going collaboration with the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) and two finance tests. Mr. Rivers also clarified the difference between a Test and a Pilot.

Mr. Rivers noted that Finance Test I will focus on addressing the potential reduction in incentive amounts when financing is available. Test II will focus on motivating more comprehensive projects.

There was a brief discussion amongst Mr. McAteer, Mr. Magliochetti and Mr. Rivers about the Ascentium Partnership and its financing options as well.

Ms. Mason reviewed the C&I Finance Test I Hypothesis: Incentives can be reduced if financing is provided; and Finance Test II Hypothesis: Customers are willing to implement more comprehensive projects if financing is easily available. Chairman Powell asked what the deadline for these tests is. Mr. Rivers replied that these tests will most likely run until mid-2019; an exact date has not yet been determined.

6. Financing Update

a) Dunsky Presentation on EE Financing Efforts (Please refer to Dunsky PowerPoint)

Mr. Hill reviewed Dunsky's end-of-contract report on energy efficiency financing. Mr. Hill provided a quick overview of Dunsky's work for the EERMC which began in 2014 focusing on supporting three key objectives:

- 1) Expanding program reach and coverage (fill gaps)
- 2) Reduce cost to rate-payers
- 3) Support wider and accelerated adoption of efficient and clean energy technologies

Mr. Hill reviewed the EE Financing Work to Date which included a Timeline of Dunsky's Work for the EERMC; Financing Objectives; Financing Programs in RI; and work with the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB). He gave an overview of the Residential Financing programs such as the Heat Loan, CT's Smart-E product, the Capital Good Fund, and the multifamily product (to come). He also covered Commercial and Industrial Financing; RIIB and National Grid Reporting; On Bill Repayment; OBR Financing Tests by National Grid in 2018; the Efficient Buildings Fund; and C-PACE.

To wrap it up, Mr. Hill went over the progress being made toward the three-financing objectives, and how the 3-Year plan sets a direction for the next steps including: Evaluations; New Tools and Reporting.

7. Council Business

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve February's meeting minutes now that they have a quorum. Mr. Cirillo made a motion, and Mr. Bacon seconded it. All approved.

a) Discussion & Vote on Retreat Budget Allocation

Ms. Trietch gave a brief overview of the funding recommendation for the EERMC's 2018 May retreat. She requested for the Council to vote on allocating up to \$2,500 from the unallocated portion of the EERMC annual budget.

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve the funding recommendation of up to \$2,500. Mr. Bacon made a motion to approve the budget allocation recommendation as is; Mr. Cirillo seconded this motion. All approved.

b) Discussion & Vote on Legal Services Proposal Selection

Chairman Powell reported that the evaluation team, comprised of himself, Ms. Stubblefield Loucks and Mr. Garlick reviewed the two proposals for the legal services RFP, received by the EERMC on February 7th.

Based on the review of the proposals submitted, the Evaluation Team believes that the Marisa Desautel proposal offers all the components that this requisition specifies with an appropriate cost to the Council. In contrast, the DarrowEverett proposal was determined to not be technical qualified. Therefore, the DarrowEverett cost and ISBE proposals were not opened, and no points were awarded to the DarrowEverett proposal in the categories of cost and ISBE.

Chairman Powell noted that the Evaluation Team proposes that the contract with Marisa Desautel be limited to one year from the contract start date with the option to renew the contract up to two additional, twelve-month periods depending on vendor performance (maximum three-year contract length). The contract should be limited to a total amount of \$25,000 per year. The Evaluation Team also encourages the Council to accept the workplan as submitted by Marisa Desautel on 2/7/2018 as the basis of the contract.

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve the budget and selection of the legal services proposal. Ms. Verrengia made a motion to approve the Evaluation Team's recommendation as written; Mr. Hubbard seconded this motion. All approved.

c) Discussion on 2018 EERMC Annual Report Timeline

Ms. Trietch gave a brief overview of the draft timeline for finalizing the 2018 EERMC Annual Report. Ms. Trietch asked the Council members to submit their comments/feedback via email by April 10th, so that she can incorporate them into a second draft that the Council will vote on at the April full council meeting. Once the Council approves the final draft, the report will be finalized and printed in early May.

Ms. Verrengia asked Ms. Trietch to send an email after today's meeting to remind the Council members who are absent today about these deadlines.

d) Update on Public Education Event

Ms. Trietch went over the “Save the Date” invite for the Public Education Event. This event will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 from 3-4:30pm at the VETS Loft, 5th Floor, Veterans Memorial Auditorium, 1 Avenue of the Arts, Providence, RI.

Ms. Trietch reported that Dr. Gill has been working on the One-Pager “4 Benefits of Energy Efficiency in Rhode Island” and the half-pager “3 ways you can join the Energy Efficiency conversation” to distribute at the public event.

Ms. Verrengia asked to modify the language on the Benefits of EE One-Pager so that the number 4 is removed and it is clearer what is meant by economic benefits. Ms. Trietch asked the Council members to send their comments/changes to her email by the end of day on Monday, so they have enough time to update and print the document prior to the event.

8. Public Comment

Ms. Lane shared that National Grid did a quick analysis on how the possible bill that would cap the SBC at 2.5% could affect the EE programs. Ms. Lane stated that this cap would dramatically reduce the Energy Efficiency Program budget over a period of time. Ms. Lane concluded that this would result in higher energy bills for ratepayers in the future and would negatively impact Rhode Island’s clean energy jobs and local economy.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Powell requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cirillo made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Verrengia seconded the motion. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27PM.