



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

## **EERMC RETREAT & FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 17, 2018 | Retreat: noon-4:30 PM | Council Meeting 4:45 - 5:30 PM**  
Rhode Island Innovation Hub, Inside the Dunkin' Donuts Center at the Corner of Sabin Street & La Salle Square, Providence, RI 02903

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### **COUNCIL RETREAT**

The EERMC Retreat was an educational session for council members. No council business was conducted during the retreat. All retreat materials can be viewed at: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-2018-council-retreat/>

### **COUNCIL MEETING**

**Members in Attendance:** Chris Powell, Carol Grant, Karen Verrengia, Tom Magliocchetti, Diane Williamson, Shigeru Osada, Joe Cirillo, Joe Garlick, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Michael McAteer and Rachel Henschel.

**Others Present:** Nick Ucci, Mike Guerard, Becca Trietch, Ben Rivers, Carrie Gill, Courtney Lane, Jeff Loiter, Rachel Sholly, Matt Ray, Mark Kravatz, Kate Venturini, George Lawrence, Marisa Desautel, Dilip Shah, Albert DeMiranda, and Hannah O'Connor

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

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 4:51PM

#### **1. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve the minutes for the April council meeting with Mr. Osada's revisions shown in track changes. Ms. Verrengia made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, and Mr. Magliocchetti seconded it. All Approved.

#### **2. Council Business**

##### *a) Public Comment*

There was one public comment submitted through the EERMC website.

Ms. Verrengia asked who answers the public comments, such as the one submitted through the website that needed a response. Commissioner Grant stated that on behalf of OER, who manages the incoming mail, public comments submitted through the EERMC website, are to be treated the same way as the ones made in person at the meetings- the same rules apply. Chairman Powell noted that this specific comment will be directed to the Distributed Generation Board.

Ms. Williamson suggested to add automatic immediate reply when comments are submitted through the website. She noted to add something along the lines of "Thank you for your comment, the Council does

not reply directly to the message, however, you are more than welcome to join an EERMC meeting and share your feedback”. All members agreed with Ms. Williamson suggestion.

Mr. Osada asked if the Council members are allowed to submit Public comments as well. Chairman Powell replied that anyone can send in comments and share their opinion.

*b) Discussion & Vote on Updated Standards Language*

Chairman Powell asked if anyone had any questions, comments, or concerns about the new edits to the Updated Standards Language document.

Mr. Osada stated that at the last EERMC meeting he asked the C-Team to clarify in the Standards that the cost of energy efficiency does not include the customer’s contribution. Even though this is now addressed in the document, Mr. Osada noted that there is no fundamental explanation as to why this change was made. He stated that years down the line, anyone should be able to read this document and understand why these changes were made in first place.

Mr. Loiter noted that there is a memo on record as to why changes have been made. Ms. Trietch added that this is a public memo that everyone has access to, and it explains in detail the changes made.

Mr. Osada asked if the State of Massachusetts has a Standards document that they can use to compare it with Rhode Island’s. Mr. Loiter replied that he believes MA has a document on legislation that states “cost is less than supply” but, he has doubts about a Standards document.

Mr. Osada stated he does not support the Standards Language document because he believes its loosening the test to specify how to use ratepayer’s money and he doesn’t believe its beneficial for them.

Ms. Stubblefield Loucks noted that this is a better process and everything has been clarified. She is very satisfied with the work the C-Team and National Grid have done, and how careful and transparent they have been with the members while integrating these changes. Ms. Stubblefield congratulated everyone for their hard work.

Ms. Williamson asked if this new change affects ratepayers. Ms. Lane explained that there is a cost-effective analysis done every time, and even after these changes and updates, the analysis is still cost-effective for the ratepayers.

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve and submit the Standards document to the Public Utilities Commission. Mr. Garlick made a motion to have the EERMC attorney submit the updated Standards to the Public Utilities Commission by close of business on May 18, 2018. Ms. Verrengia seconded this motion. All approved, except for Mr. Osada.

*c) Discussion & Vote on public Education Allocation Recommendation*

Ms. Stubblefield Loucks gave an overview of the Workforce Development for Facility Managers document-proposal. She reported that there are gaps in knowledge and training for building operators, facility managers, and maintenance crews that have been identified by OER and other stakeholders as a barrier to the adoption of zero-energy and highly-energy efficient buildings. These funds would support much-needed workforce development, which will help transform the market for energy-efficient buildings. This education is especially urgent as the construction needs from the Rhode Island Schools Assessment are prioritized and implemented.

Ms. Stubblefield Loucks reported that this funding would enhance access to and leverage existing funding for Building Operator Certification for building operators and facility managers. She noted that the Building Operator Certification (BOC) represents the completion of 74 hours of training on HVAC systems, electrical systems, lighting, data collection, environmental regulations, and code compliance. Furthermore, the eight BOC classes are each an opportunity to educate attendees on energy efficiency

benefits, programs, and policy. Additionally, this training provides an opportunity for peer networking which enables channels of communication and continued peer education following the completion of the training.

Ms. Stubblefield Loucks stated that the proposal is to leverage current funding to fully incentivize a Rhode Island-based BOC training in Fall 2018. This training would be open to school facilities managers, municipal facility managers, facility managers for multi-family affordable housing, and facility managers for non-profit, community-based organizations, all with buildings that use more than 1.5 million kWh annually. She noted that the training will be coordinated through existing channels, with additional lunchtime presentations and modules on energy efficiency benefits, programs, and policy in Rhode Island coordinated by the Office of Energy Resources (all made publicly available).

Ms. Williamson wants to make sure that all 39 cities and towns in RI are aware of this training opportunity. Ms. Verrengia stated that many cities and towns are informed of these trainings and certifications, and have participated in the past. Ms. Verrengia recused herself from the vote.

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve the allocation of Public education funds. Mr. Magliocchetti made a motion to approve the budget allocation recommendation as is. Mr. Cirillo seconded this motion. All approved.

### **3. National Grid**

#### *a) Jobs Study Results*

Ms. Lane gave a brief summary of National Grid's 2017 Jobs Study results. She highlighted that over the years, roughly 900 to 1000 companies and agencies have been directly involved in implementing Rhode Island's energy efficiency (EE) programs. Of those, about 79% are located in Rhode Island.

Mr. Osada asked if all 38.2 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) of National Grid staff are located in Rhode Island. Ms. Lane stated that the 38.2 FTE number represents National grid staff members who work on EE programs all over Rhode Island regardless of where they live. She added that many of the National Grid workers that work on RI EE Programs live in MA.

Ms. Lane also noted that creating a Company List uses a completely different methodology than estimating a FTE count. Ms. Henschel added that there are different metrics when it comes to jobs vs companies.

Mr. Osada asked about the jobs report summary, and would like to follow up on the different metrics and how National Grid interprets these metrics. Commissioner Grant stated that estimating job impacts is not easy, and all industries struggle to use and compare appropriate metrics. She noted that maybe OER can work on putting together a summary about this and share it with the Council.

Ms. Lane concluded the presentation by stating that Energy Efficiency is supporting local jobs in Rhode Island and a lot of Rhode Island residents depend on these Energy Efficiency programs. She stated that these programs are supporting local job growth regardless of which methodology is used.

### **4. Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31PM.