



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 21, 2019 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM

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

Members in Attendance: Chris Powell, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Carol Grant, Anthony Hubbard, Robert Fagan, Tom Magliocchetti, Karen Verrengia.

Others Present: Rachel Henschel, Mike Guerard, Mark Kravatz, Becca Trietch, Shauna Beland, Dr. Carrie Gill, John Balfe, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Erika Niedowski, John Richards, Matt Ray, Peter Gill Case, Rachel Sholly, Jerry Drummond, Craig Johnson, Joel Munoz, Dino Larson, Alice Hourihan, Kurt Teichert

All meeting materials can be accessed here: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-march-2019/>

1. Call to Order

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 3:36PM.

2. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

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

3. Executive Director Report

Commissioner Grant reminded everyone that the latest Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funding plan had been announced publicly by OER. Within this Plan, funding has is being allocated to a Zero Energy buildings pilot for affordable housing in RI. All parties are welcome to comment on the Plan at the public hearing.

Commissioner Grant also noted OER's on-going monitoring of ISO-NE's possible changes to how energy efficiency is treated in the Forward Capacity Market. Rachel Henschel also mentioned that National Grid along with other energy efficiency program administrations are following these developments as well. Lastly, Commissioner Grant reminded everyone that the Revolution Wind project's contract which would construct a 400MW offshore wind farm is before the Public Utilities Commission. She will keep the Council updated as things progress.

4. Chairperson Report

Chairman Powell welcomed Mr. Hubbard as the new EERMC Vice-Chair. He also informed the members that the Council name tents have been reformatted to indicate their seats on one side and to list the (4) EERMC responsibilities on the other – hopefully this will help all members to steer and focus the Council's work.

Chairman Powell asked if Ms. Trietch had distributed all the Energy Expo tickets yet – Ms. Trietch replied that she has already given the tickets to everyone who asked for them, and she requested that anyone else who wants more tickets to please let her know. Ms. Trietch quickly noted that RIBA has invited all Council members to attend the RI Home Show Opening Ceremony on April 4th at 12:00pm, and both the Governor and Commissioner Grant are expected to be there.

Chairman Powell reported that since they do not have (6) voting members present at today's meeting, they will not be able to vote on the meeting minutes, and no other votes were scheduled for today.

Chairman Powell stated that during today's meeting the Council members will hear from the C-Team on the preliminary 2018 Energy Efficiency (EE) program results and on-going Evaluation, Measurement & Verification (EM&V) work. In addition, the members will take about (20) minutes to discuss and continue to brainstorm Council Priorities for the 2020 Energy Efficiency (EE) and System Reliability Procurement (SRP) Plans. The C-Team will be facilitating this discussion and will be showcasing priority recommendations that have come out of the members one-on-one meetings.

Next, Council members will learn about energy efficiency in schools from both Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) and National Grid, and then OER will provide a workforce development presentation. Afterwards, the Council will round out the meeting with some Council Business.

Lastly, Chairman Powell reminded Council members that if any of them had not yet conducted a one-on-one meeting with the C-Team and OER to please reach out to the C-Team to get that scheduled.

5. Program Oversight

a) Preliminary Results from the 2018 Energy Efficiency Programs

Mr. Guerard gave a brief introduction about the presentation.

Mr. Johnson went over the 2018 Energy Efficiency Programs preliminary results. He reported that:

- Electric and gas portfolios both exceeded annual savings goals by significant margins
- Electric and gas portfolio spending was pretty much on target compared to plan
- Electric and gas costs to achieve savings came in under target

Mr. Johnson concluded by stating that National Grid will file an official Year- End report with finalized tables by May 1, 2019. He noted that overall, this was another successful year for the programs, and that the Sector Teams are in the process of revamping monthly and quarterly data sharing to ensure increased transparency and improve program monitoring.

Ms. Henschel quickly spoke on Home Energy Reports and stated that the goals for were reset/adjusted for 2019 Plan.

Mr. Johnson stated that in May they will update and do a deeper dive into these programs results.

Please refer to [2018 Energy Efficiency Programs Presentation](#) for more details.

b) Discussion of Council Priorities for the 2020 Energy Efficiency & System Reliability Procurement Plans

Mr. Guerard reported that formalizing a set of Priorities allows the EERMC to provide guidance and direction to National Grid, the EERMC C-Team and stakeholders, including the Technical Working Group, in the development of the 2020 Annual EE and SRP Plans. He stated that these Priorities should be consistent with EERMC's legislated role in supporting Least-Cost Procurement law. He quickly spoke on balancing priorities concerned with the What & Why vs the How.

Mr. Guerard and Mr. Kravatz asked the Council members to break into smaller groups to discuss and brainstorm Council priorities. Mr. Guerard asked the members to split into (3) groups of (2):

All Council members broke into groups and started brainstorming on their priorities – facilitators then reported out publicly (Ms. Trietch, Mr. Guerard and Mr. Kravatz were the facilitators).

After going over the groups' suggestions on how they would rank the priorities, Mr. Kravatz stated that the C-Team will continue to work on these and share them with the Council members – by the next Council's meeting in April the Council will have a more final version to vote on.

Please refer to [Council Priorities Presentation](#) for more details.

c) Evaluation, Measurement & Verification (EM&V) Presentation

Mr. Kravatz gave a brief introduction and background on the RI Evaluation team. He stated that the evaluation team is extremely busy currently working on the programs' end-of-year reports. He then went over the general evaluation process and then highlighted some key evaluation studies that will inform the 2020 Plans. First he covered the Residential Process evaluation for income eligible services, then he highlighted a few 2019 Commercial & Industrial Studies, a few Cross-Cutting studies, the heat pump market assessment, and the Jobs Study.

Mr. Kravatz concluded by stating that the evaluation process is rigorous and that moving forward all studies will include a one-page overview of what they and the results.

Please refer to [EM&V Presentation](#) for more details.

6. Special Topics

a) Presentation on Energy Efficiency in Schools

Mr. Balfe gave a brief introduction/background on Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships and what they do. He noted that this presentation focused on why we should be supporting energy upgrades in schools, why it's important, and why RI should continue to support these types of programs.

Please refer to [NEEP's Presentation](#) for more details.

Ms. Verrengia asked Ms. Trietch the reason behind NEEP's presentation. Ms. Trietch replied that the Council leadership wanted to make sure there was a regional perspective of why schools are a focus for this year. She also noted that NEEP has a lot of regional expertise about the broader benefits of school energy upgrades such as health and learning benefits. She noted that Mr. Drummond from National Grid will now round out this presentation by showing how National Grid is supporting all of these opportunities in RI.

Ms. Verrengia added that she is extremely supportive and thankful to both of them for being here presenting on this topic.

Mr. Drummond from National Grid then started his portion of the presentation by stating that many people and organizations are really focusing on Public School in Rhode Island. He then covered Why National Grid is working with the public-school market; why this is a priority now; what National Grid's approach is; key drivers and challenges; and then additional resources.

Please refer to [National Grid EE Opportunity with Public Schools in RI](#) presentation for more details.

Mr. Guerard quickly noted that the Council's Potential Study will look into public schools and buildings to give a better sense of potential for Energy Efficiency savings.

b) Presentation on Office of Energy Resources Workforce Development Efforts

Ms. Beland introduced herself and gave a brief background on her presentation and the need for energy workforce development in RI. She then highlighted that the 2018 RI Clean Energy Jobs report indicated that there were about 15,866 clean energy jobs in RI which is a 72% growth in the clean energy workforce since 2014.

Ms. Beland then reported that for the years of 2019-2020:

- It is likely EE jobs will stay steady at around 10,000 jobs
- There is a lot of optimism for offshore wind, including supply chain opportunities
- Solar jobs are continuing to decline, reflecting national trends
- It is possible that the State may not meet the Governor's Goal of 20,000 Clean Energy jobs by 2020 but every is working to continue supporting job growth in clean energy sectors.

Ms. Beland the went over the new Rhode Island Clean Energy Internship Program – including program timeline and goals. This program is administered through OER and seeks to pair interns with energy firms throughout the state.

Please refer to Ms. Beland's [Workforce Development](#) presentation for more details.

7. Public Comment

a) *Public Comment*

Michael O'Brien Crayne on behalf of EcoMetrics spoke on the importance of focusing on public schools. He stated that any energy efficiency/energy improvements should be included as part of a school's curriculum so that students learn about new energy technologies. He asked both National Grid and the EERMC to support these kinds of opportunities that will help kids to get interested in energy at a young age.

Chairman Powell and Commissioner Grant read Ms. Salem's comment (since she could not be present at today's meeting but she had written it on the public comment sign-up sheet). Ms. Salem asked for help/testimony to support Appliance Standards legislation at the General Assembly. Ms. Salem also shared her contact info if anyone was is interested in providing testimony.

8. Council Business

a) *Review of 2019 Annual Council Report to the General Assembly*

Ms. Sholly quickly went over the EERMC Annual report the General Assembly timeline. She highlighted that by March 28th written sections are due; April 18th present first draft; April 15th Council edits are due; May 16th present and vote on final draft; May 18th OER submits e-version and before June 1st hard copies are printed.

Please refer to [Updates on: Annual Report & EERMC Handbook](#) presentation.

b) *Presentation on the Council Member Handbook*

Ms. Sholly shared brief highlights/content for the EERMC Member Handbook. She noted that the C-Team is thinking about making videos/webinars explaining complex topics in a very easy/simple way later in the year. She noted that the draft Handbook is going to be ready by the April Council's meeting, but if any members have feedback on the draft before them, please let her know as soon as possible.

Please refer to [Updates on: Annual Report & EERMC Handbook](#) & [RI EERMC Member Handbook](#) for more information/details.

Mr. Kravatz quickly noted that the C-Team is extremely excited and happy about finalizing the Council member handbook - they have been working very hard to finish it.

Chairman Powell stated that he thinks it looks great so far – he is extremely impressed, and it is terrific to have something like this available to the current/ and future Council members.

9. Adjournment

Chairman Powell requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hubbard made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Verrengia seconded it. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37PM.