



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 16, 2019 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM

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

Members in Attendance: Chris Powell, Carol Grant, Anthony Hubbard, Robert Fagan, Tom Magliocchetti, Joe Garlick, Karen Verrengia, Jennifer Hutchinson.

Others Present: Matt Ray, Mike Guerard, Mark Kravatz, Dr. Carrie Gill, Ben Rivers, Michael O'Brian Crayne, David Sungarian, Aidan Comell, Erika Niedowski, Raquel Webster, Kai Salem

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 3:35PM.

2. Executive Director Report

Commissioner Grant gave a high-level summary of the RevolutionWind project and indicated that the appointment process is underway for the five empty Council seats. She is hopeful that the seats will be filled before the end of June.

3. Chairperson Report

Chairman Powell indicated that there would not be a quorum at the meeting today, therefore not votes were scheduled for today's meeting.

He then gave an overview of today's meeting, indicating that the Council would hear about:

1. National Grid's workforce study
2. Outcomes from our public CHP meeting that was held on May 2nd
3. An update from National Grid and the C-Team on Quarter 1 program results
4. An overview of Battery storage and it's relation to EE and SRP
5. And under Council business, the Council will review the draft Council Handbook, a draft of the Council's Annual Report to the General Assembly, and will hear an update on the Potential Study process.

He then reminded Council members that the Consultant Team is trying to schedule the Council retreat. Therefore, if anyone has not yet filled out the Consultant Team's online poll to help with scheduling, he asked that to be completed as soon as possible. He also mentioned that next month's full meeting jumpstarts the Council's review process for National Grid's 2020 EE and SRP Plans. During this process Council members should not be shy about reaching out to the Consultant-Team or OER with any questions or concerns.

4. Program Oversight

- a) *Update on EERMC Presentation to National Grid's Energy Efficiency (EE) Technical Working Group (EE Tech Group)*

The Council Consultant Team gave an update on how their presentation on behalf of the Council to National Grid's EE Tech Group went. The Consultant Team indicated that the Council's priorities were well received by the Company and that many other stakeholders represented similar priorities. National

Grid noted that they will be using presented stakeholder priorities to steer the drafting of the 2020 Energy Efficiency Plan.

b) National Grid Presentation on Jobs Study

National Grid presented the preliminary results of the jobs study being conducted for the energy efficiency programs. Ms. Fagan and Commissioner Grant noted that a Department of Labor and Training grant application had been submitted by the Oil Heat Institute in collaboration with the Office of Energy Resources to support training for delivered fuel service providers in building weatherization, heat pump installations, and integrated controls.

Please refer to the [Workforce Study Executive Summary](#) and National Grid's [Jobs Study Presentation](#) for more details.

c) Update on Combined Heat & Power (CHP) Program Review & Public Meeting

The Council's Consultant Team summarized the feedback received from attendees of the Council's public meeting on the current CHP programs. The Consultant Team also highlighted the on-going review process for the 2020 CHP programs in collaboration with the Office of Energy Resources and the Division of Public Utilities & Carriers.

Please refer to the [meeting minutes from the CHP meeting](#) for more details.

d) Presentation on Quarter 1 Program Results

The Consultant Team and National Grid gave a joint presentation on the 1st Quarter results from the 2019 Energy Efficiency Programs. Commissioner Grant and Ms. Verrengia appreciated hearing both perspectives on the results at the same time. Chairman Powell and Mr. Hubbard voiced concerns about servicing income eligible customers. Mr. Guerard responded by noting that a process evaluation is underway for the income eligible programs. The recommendations from that evaluation will be implemented as soon as possible.

Please refer to the [1st Quarter Report](#), the [1st Quarter Presentation by National Grid](#) and the [1st Quarter Presentation by the Consultant Team](#) for more details.

5. Special Topics

a) Presentation on Battery Storage

Dr. Gill give an overview of energy storage for the Council. Commissioner Grant rounded out the presentation by reminding the Council that energy storage is a technology not a strategy. Chairman Powell and Mr. Magliocchetti asked questions about the current technology capabilities especially in residential homes. Mr. Magliocchetti highlighted the benefits of storage in RI and worldwide. Chairman Powell, noted that the cost of storage is still prohibitive but agreed that the benefits are substantial.

Please refer to the [Battery Storage 101 Presentation](#) for more details.

6. Council Business

a) Review of the Council Member Handbook

Mr. Guerard shared brief highlights/content for the EERMC Member Handbook. He asked that if any Council members have feedback on the draft that they please email him or Rachel Sholly as soon as possible. The Consultant Team would like to finalize the Handbook before new Council members are appointed.

Please refer to the [draft Handbook](#) for more details.

b) Review of the Council's 2019 Annual Report to the General Assembly

Mr. Guerard quickly went over the latest draft of the EERMC Annual report the General Assembly. He noted that ideally the Council will be able to vote on the report at the next meeting so we can send the report to the General Assembly prior to the end of the session.

Please refer to [the draft EERMC Report](#) for more information/details.

c) Update on the Potential Study

The Consultant Team noted that the RFP process for the potential study is well underway. When the proposals come in at least three members of the Council will be needed to create an evaluation team.

7. Public Comment

No public comment.

8. Adjournment

Chairman Powell adjourned the meeting at 5:30PM.