



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 9, 2021 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Conference Room B, 2nd Floor Department of Administration One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02901

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**Members in attendance:** Angela Li, Tom Magliochetti, Karen Verrengia, Joe Garlick, Kurt Teichert, Perter Gill Case, Sue AnderBois

**Others Present:** Nathan Cleveland, Dr. Carrie Gill, Anika Kreckel, Sam Ross, Craig Johnson, Rachel Sholly, Adrian Caesar, Joshua Kessler, Joel Munoz

**Online Attendees:** Maggie Hogan, Todd Bianco, Alan Nault, John Harrington, Jenna McCauley

All meeting materials can be accessed here: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-december-2021/>

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### 1. Call to Order

Council Member Gill Case, standing in for Acting Chair Hubbard, called the meeting to order at 3:15 pm.

### 2. Remembering Mike Guerard

Moment of silence and sharing of memories of Mike Guerard, of the EERMC Consultant team, who recently passed.

### 3. Meeting Minutes

Council Member AnderBois motioned to approve the November Meeting Minutes. Council Member Garlick seconded. There was no discussion. All in favor; none opposed. The motion passes and meeting minutes are approved.

### 4. Executive Director Report

Mr. Cleveland gave updates on behalf of Commissioner Ucci, who was unable to be present. Mr. Cleveland updated the Council on the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Committee (EC4's) upcoming meeting at Innovate Newport.

### 5. Acting Chairperson Report

Council Member Gill Case gave updates, filling in for Acting Chair Hubbard. He noted that the Energy Efficiency Plan Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Hearings Update meeting material

was posted to EERMC website today. The agenda was summarized. Participants were welcomed to make public comment on today's meeting and instructed on how to do so.

## **6. Program Oversight**

### *a) Regulatory Update, Council Discussion & Potential Vote on Alternative Energy Efficiency Plan Considerations*

Please refer to the [Regulatory Update Presentation](#)

Mr. Ross and Mr. Johnson from the Consultant Team presented updates on the PUC's hearing on the Energy Efficiency (EE) Plan. Council Member Teichert and Council Member Gill Case discussed with the Consultant Team the trade-offs of removing \$9 million from the plan.

Council Member Teichert made a motion, that given a limited choice between only the Alternative Base Plan and the Provisional Plan, to support the Provisional Plan as presented to, and discussed by, the Council on December 9, 2021. The Council also notes that its original concerns with respect to the Energy Efficiency Plan and planning process as filed in Docket 5189 are outstanding and remain valid regardless of this vote. EERMC support for this plan option is also predicated on EERMC Consultant team review of any adjustments made. Council member Garlick seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. The motion passes.

### *b) Review and potential vote on timeline for 2023 Energy Efficiency Plan Development, Review, and Submission to the PUC*

Please refer to the [2023 EE Planning Timeline Presentation](#)

Mr. Caesar from the Consultant Team presented on the timeline for developing the 2023 EE Plan. The timeline can be voted on today, but the Council does not need to vote to approve the Timeline. Amendments to the timeline are permitted throughout the year.

Council Member Verrengia requested feedback on how the good faith approach for the 2022 planning timeline fared. Ms. Li and Mr. Ross responded that it was largely successful and all posted deliverables were submitted on time. Council Member Gill Case proposed proceeding with a good faith approach for the 2023 Plan Development Timeline.

Council Member Teichert asked whether maintaining the Council meeting schedule would be difficult if there is an expectation that some of the deliverables in the Timeline will shift.

The Council agreed to not vote on the 2023 EE Planning Timeline and instead take a good faith approach among the parties to meet the deliverable deadlines.

## **7. Council Business**

### *a.) Review and Vote on EERMC 2022 Meeting Calendar*

Please refer to the [Proposed 2022 EERMC Meeting Calendar](#)

Council Member AnderBois made a motion to modify today's meeting agenda and discuss the 2022 calendar ahead of the Deep Dive on 2022 topics, making it item 7a, instead of 7b. Council Member Garlick seconded. All in favor; none opposed.

Most important date to discuss is the last meeting in September, when the Council must vote on the 2023 EE Plan.

Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the 2022 meeting calendar with the following amendment: to shift the September 15, 2022 meeting to September 22, 2022. Council Member Verrengia seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. The motion was approved.

*b.) Council Discussion of 2022 Deep Dive/Special Topics*

Council Member Teichert raised Demand Reduction Induced Price Effects (DRIPE) as a potential idea. Ms. Li raised the topic of the 2022 RI Home Show results. Council Member Garlick proposed revisiting the idea of agreeing on an equity statement. Council Member AnderBois mentioned the need to better braid funding resources from the Federal government (Rescue Plan and Infrastructure Bill funding) with existing local resources to better advance energy efficiency and climate goals in Rhode Island.

*c) Review and Vote on 2022 Consultant Team Scope of Work & Budget*

Please refer to [Consultant Team 2022 Scope of Work Presentation](#) and the [Supporting Memo](#)

Mr. Ross from the Consultant Team provided a brief summary of the Consultant Team's 2022 scope of work and budget. Hiring a URI Energy Fellow for 2022 was proposed; an offer has already been placed to a potential candidate. Council Member Gill Case expressed support of the budget increase for this position on the condition it is named in honor of Mike Guerard.

Council Member Teichert made a motion to approve the 2022 scope of work for Optimal Energy with the following change: the addition of the URI Energy Fellow position to the scope and the position to be named in honor of Mike Guerard. As a result of these changes the approved budget for the 2022 scope of work shall be \$922,976.00. Further direct the Office of Energy Resources to update the contract with the EERMC to reflect the 2022 scope of work and budget as approved today. Council Member Verrengia seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed.

*d) Review and potential vote on EERMC 2022 Budget Priorities*

Please refer to the [draft 2022 EERMC Budget](#)

Mr. Cleveland provided an overview of the draft budget from November's meeting and reviewed whether or not the Council needed to adopt a formal budget at today's meeting in response to a question from Council Member Gill Case. Council Member Verrengia expressed interest in not adopting a formal budget and also using more funding for public education. Council Member Garlick expressed interest in adopting a formal budget at some point for the next fiscal year. The

Consultant Team and Council Members discussed how the budget may be affected by the novel circumstances of an unapproved EE Plan for the following year. As part of that discussion, Mr. Ross noted that the Council, at its discretion, can return any unallocated funds to the Company at the end of a calendar year and that is one consideration made by the Council as part of being responsible stewards of public funds.

## **8. Special Topics**

### *a) Presentation from the 2021 Farm Energy Fellow*

Ms. McCauley presented her work as the 2021 Farm Energy Fellow, which included work on the Agricultural Energy Grant Program. There was a strong focus on maximizing and increasing outreach and providing both education and awareness about grant opportunities to drive more investment in clean energy projects across the agricultural sector. She also helped redesign the farm energy website, helped develop a video profile, and began developing a database of all farms in Rhode Island.

## **9. Public Comment**

Grant Dulgarian made a comment on clean water and water treatment projects being proposed by Narraganset Bay Commission and asked for Council action to support a more robust environmental review of the proposed project.

## **10. Adjournment**

Council Member Teichert made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Verrengia seconded. There was no discussion. All in favor; none opposed. Council Member Gill Case adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm.

### **Outstanding Council Member Questions Requiring a Written Response:**

None