



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

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 20, 2022 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM**

Meeting conducted virtually using Zoom with additional audio conference capabilities

**Members in Attendance:** Anthony Hubbard, Karen Verrengia, Peter Gill Case

**Others in Attendance:** Nathan Cleveland, Steven Chybowski, Joel Munoz, Margaret Hogan, John Harrington, Sam Ross, Rachel Sholly, Marisa Desautel, PUC Recorder

All meeting materials can be accessed at: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-executive-committee-meeting-january-2022/>.

### **1. Call to Order**

Acting Chair Hubbard called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

### **2. Meeting Minutes – November 2021**

Mr. Gill Case moved to approve the November 2021 meeting minutes. Ms. Verrengia seconded and all approved.

### **3. Executive Director Report (5 min, 2:00 - 2:05pm)**

Commissioner Ucci will provide an update to the full EERMC meeting at 3pm today, rather than repeating the same updates twice.

Mr. Cleveland introduced Steven Chybowski, a new employee with the Office of Energy Resources.

### **4. Council Business (45 min 2:05 - 2:50)**

#### *a) Review Council Member Performance, Attendance, and Codes of Conduct (5 min, 2:05-2:10pm)*

Please refer to the [2021 Council Member Attendance](#).

Mr. Cleveland shared the Council meeting attendance record and attendance policies for the Council. Mr. Cleveland explained that Bill Riccio resigned from his municipal seat in 2021, and that Tim Roughan, Matt Ray, and Angela Li are filling the utility gas and electric seats on the Council, with Ms. Li replacing Mr. Ray after his departure in the summer of 2021. Mr. Gill Case noted that meetings shifted from a virtual format to in-person in July 2021. No action is required on this item at this time.

#### *b) Review Council By-Laws (10 min, 2:10-2:20pm)*

Please refer to the [EERMC Bylaws](#).

Mr. Cleveland led a brief discussion around the Council by-laws, which should be reviewed, and if needed, amended, at least once per year. Ms. Verrengia noted that it's a good practice to share the governing principles regularly and Mr. Gill Case stated that he saw no issues to raise at this time.

The Council discussed the challenges of getting new members appointed and Mr. Cleveland offered to connect with Commissioner Ucci or the Office of Energy Resources' legislative liaison to provide an update on the issue to the Council at a later meeting if the Council is interested.

*c) Discuss 2021 EERMC Budget Status (10 min, 2:20-2:30pm)*

Please refer to the [2021 EERMC Budget Update](#).

Mr. Cleveland provided an overview of the Council budget with the high-level line items represented. The budget shows both the main and client fund budgets and the budget includes all of the 2021 invoices. December 2021 invoices have been received, but still need to be paid. Education and outreach work is still ongoing and won't be invoiced until it is completed in 2022. Mr. Cleveland explained that the budgeted amounts column were the original amounts budgeted for 2021 and that the contracted amounts column account for the approved, increased contracted amount of services for consultant services and legal counsel.

Ms. Sholly provided an update on the educational materials development. She stated that the current plan is to cover 11 different topics with two videos per topic. The plan is to develop all scripts first, and then shift to filming. The teacher trainings are being developed as well and are expected to be complete around June.

Mr. Gill Case inquired about the education line item appearing in both funds in the budget, and Mr. Cleveland explained that the Council is paying for a portion of the videos and the Office of Energy Resources is also contributing. The two line-items for the educational videos add to the full contractual obligations of the Council and that funds were budgeted in the Main Fund for 2021 because the original expectation was that some of the videos would be complete by year end.

Mr. Ross noted that the Potential Study refresh for 2022 was proposed as a limited data update covering the second three-year portion of the recent Market Potential Study, and this refresh would sufficiently update the existing data to reflect any changes in market conditions since the original study. He noted that this is different than conducting another full Market Potential study, which would not need to be done for several more years. Mr. Gill Case explained that these studies are how the EERMC calibrates itself and Rhode Island's utilities with other states and informs the Council's target setting process.

*d) Discuss 2022 Deep Dive/Special Topics List & Council Member Education Efforts (15 min, 2:30-2:45pm)*

Please refer to the [2022 Deep Dive/Special Topics List](#).

Mr. Cleveland led a discussion on special topics. Acting Chair Hubbard has requested that the Council equity statement topic be elevated and reserved for a retreat. Mr. Ross noted

that many of the special topics are related to participation studies currently in progress by National Grid and suggested that National Grid could present on the insights and proposed changes based on those studies. Ms. Verrengia suggested that she would like to see a presentation on how energy efficiency investments impact ratepayer bills. Mr. Gill Case noted that his priorities are ratepayer financial impacts, braiding resources, and that demand response could be a revisited topic.

*e) Discuss Future Executive Committee Meetings Agenda Topics (5 min, 2:45-2:50pm)*

Acting Chair Hubbard has requested that we spend time reviewing the Council budget in the next meeting. Ms. Verrengia suggested that the Council look at the energy code cycle to see if there is any action or inquiry that can be made. Mr. Gill Case requested time dedicated to reflecting on the impact of a contested settlement.

**5. Public Comment**

None

**6. Adjournment**

Acting Chair Hubbard adjourned the meeting at 2:53 pm.