



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

EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Full Council Meeting | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Department of Administration Conference Room 2B, Providence, RI 02908 with additional audio/video participation available through Zoom

Members in Attendance: Commissioner Nicholas Ucci, Brett Feldman, Joe Garlick, David Caldwell, Peter Gill Case, Sue AnderBois, Kate Grant, Bob Izzo, Harry Oakley, Tom Magliocchetti, Kurt Teichert (virtual)

Others in Attendance: Steven Chybowski, Craig Johnson, Tessa Brandt, Tara Bournis, Tyler Zanini, Sarah Barraco, Jessica Darling, Joshua Kessler, Hank Webster, Angela Li, Kyle Bannon, Kai Salem, Nelson DiBiase, Rachel Sholly, Todd DeTonnancourt, Adrian Caesar, Gretchen Calcagni, Karen Verrengia, Sam Ross, John Richards, Jesse Duroha, Audio participant

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

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. Executive Director Report

Commissioner Ucci informed the Council that new members Harry Oakley, Bob Izzo, Dave Caldwell, Brett Feldman, and Kate Grant have been appointed to the Council. He also stated that Council Member Oakley has been appointed as the Council's Chair and Council Member Gill Case has been appointed as the Vice Chair.

Commissioner Ucci noted for the Council that there are current vacancies on the Executive Committee, the education working group, and the current request for proposals technical review team. If interested, volunteers should step forward or reach out to the Office of Energy Resources.

Commissioner Ucci stated that the State's rules and regulations for appliance standards are now available for public comment (<https://rules.sos.ri.gov/Promulgations/part/300-00-00-4>) and that there will be a public hearing on June 20th to gather additional stakeholder feedback. In addition, the State Legislature has passed a 100% renewable target by 2033.

Lastly, Commissioner Ucci noted that the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Committee (EC4) hosted sharing sessions on the thermal sector in June. More information on the EC4 is available at www.climatechange.ri.gov.

3. Acting Chair Report

Chairperson Oakley stressed the importance of reading meeting materials so that Councilors are fully prepared for any votes and recommendations on behalf of the Council. A round of introductions was conducted.

Chairperson Oakley noted that meeting materials are available on the Council's website.

4. Meeting Minutes – [May 19, 2022](#)

Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to approve the May meeting minutes. Council Member Garlick seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

5. Program Oversight (35 Minutes, 3:10 – 3:45 p.m.)

- a) [Rhode Island Energy Presentation on the 2023 Energy Efficiency Outline Memorandum](#) (20 minutes, 3:10-3:30 p.m.)

Council Member Feldman of Rhode Island Energy presented on the Energy Efficiency Outline Memorandum for the 2023 Energy Efficiency Program Plan. He noted that the utility staff will remain consistent with the recent sale of the electric and gas distribution utility. The Outline Memo is only intended to provide broad themes for the planning process. These broad themes include incorporating the *2021 Act on Climate*, an emphasis on equity, and looking at more comprehensive measures beyond lighting. The first draft of the plan will be submitted July 12th.

Council Member AnderBois requested that written comments on the Outline Memorandum be accepted until June 23rd. She also commented that she is not sure if the Company's customer relations goal is relevant for the Council, as it is not directly tied to energy savings and that she would like to see metrics tied to the women- and minority-owned business goals.

Council Members discussed the importance of clear communications and building customer relations, especially in light of the company transition.

Vice Chair Gill Case would like to see more information about energy codes, demand response, the role of CO2 in the performance incentive mechanism, and more specifics of equity initiatives.

Council Member Caldwell mentioned that the Rhode Island Builders Association has a successful school in Central Falls that can be tapped into for development and training of new energy efficiency contractors.

Council Member Grant noted that the CO2 PIM would require an additional deep dive to justify it.

- b) [Council Consultant Team Perspectives on the Energy Efficiency Outline Memorandum](#) (15 minutes, 3:30-3:45 p.m.)

Mr. Ross presented on the Consultant Team's initial takeaways from the Outline Memorandum. He noted that this outline has done well to make more clear commitments, respond to changing global economic conditions, and address changes that came out of the most recent Public Utilities Commission rulings. The Consultant Team would like to see additional details on the company transition, further detail on the *2021 Act on Climate*, and additional specifics around equity.

Mr. Johnson presented on the Consultant Team's initial takeaways regarding the residential sector.

Mr. Caesar presented on the Consultant Team's initial takeaways regarding the commercial and industrial sector.

Council Member Izzo and Chairperson Oakley asked for more details regarding the building analytics program. Mr. Kessler provided a summary of the programs and Mr. Caesar will provide additional materials on the program to the Council Members.

6. Council Business (50 Minutes, 3:45 – 4:35 p.m.)

a) [Review and Potential Vote on the Consultant Team Services Request for Proposals](#) (15 minutes, 3:45-4:00 p.m.)

Mr. Chybowski presented a draft request for proposals (RFP) for the Council's consultant services. This updated draft includes additional emphasis on incorporating the *2021 Act on Climate*, research into equity-related topics, and for proposal budgets to be submitted as "not-to-exceed" amounts.

Chairperson Oakley would like to wait on this vote until the July meeting to have more time to review the RFP.

Vice Chair Gill Case suggested that he believes that the Council should execute its contract option to extend current consultant services for an additional two years for the benefits of stability and continuity for the Council.

Council Member AnderBois would support executing the contract extension as there will be a lot of changes with elections this year and that the continuity could be appreciated. She also requested that we add language to specify that Council Members will be the proposal reviewers and that we look to share this RFP through additional channels to encourage women- and minority-owned businesses to respond.

Commissioner Ucci noted that nothing would prevent the incumbent consultant team from re-applying to the RFP and that there have been many changes since the RFP was last issued. These changes include an increased focus on equity, passage of the *2021 Act on Climate*, and the focus on the Council's budget during the last Public Utilities Commission hearing.

Council Member Izzo is supportive of issuing the RFP to gauge costs in the market.

Chairperson Oakley would like to push a vote on this RFP until next month's meeting and to see what else is available in the marketplace. This will potentially be two votes at the July meeting, one to decide whether to issue an RFP or extend existing consultant services, and a possible second vote to issue the draft consultant services RFP.

b) [Review and Potential Vote on Market Potential Study Refresh Request for Proposals](#) (10 minutes, 4:00-4:10 p.m.)

Mr. Chybowski introduced the draft market potential study data refresh RFP which would provide updated data for the next three-year plan and subsequent annual energy efficiency plans.

Mr. Ross explained that the purpose of these studies is to broadly identify the amount of energy savings that efficiency programs could potentially produce. Because this is a quicker study with a smaller budget than the last market potential study, the goal of this study would be to focus on the economic and maximum achievable potential for efficiency programming. This study would refresh the data for 2024 through 2026.

Chairperson Oakley asked about the duration of this study and role of the current Consultant Team.

Mr. Chybowski clarified that this study would look to take approximately six months and that the Consultant Team would serve as members of the project management team for this study.

Council Member Feldman asked about additional suggestions that he would like to see incorporated into the RFP. He would like to see quantity of units specified as a reporting metric.

Ms. Darling of Rhode Island Energy added she believes that quantity does need to a listed metric in the RFP and that this RFP should include more review and discussion opportunities for the utility.

Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to approve the Market Potential Study Refresh RFP as presented by the Office of Energy Resources (OER) and the Consultant team, on June 16th, 2022, with amendments to allow the utility to review and provide feedback on the study draft and to add quantity of units as a reported study metric, and to direct OER to issue the request for proposals. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

c) [Review and Potential Vote on the 2023 Draft EERMC Budget Proposal](#) (15 minutes, 4:10-4:25 p.m.)

Mr. Chybowski shared the budget proposal for calendar-year 2023 and provided a summary of the Council's new budget process.

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Ross of the Consultant Team shared some additional notes for consideration regarding potential budget allocations.

Council Member Magliocchetti noted that an increased emphasis on public awareness is very important.

Vice Chair Gill Case concurred and mentioned that the public awareness initiative could be bundled as a part of a larger effort with our ongoing educational videos that are under development.

Mr. Ross proposed creating one-pagers on possible additional budget allocations.

Council Member Izzo asked to view previous year actuals to get a sense of what should allocated for calendar-year 2023.

Mr. Chybowski will look to provide spending from previous years.

Commissioner Ucci added that the budget allocations could also be impacted by an RFP for consultant services and that each budget item needs to be fully justified before the Public Utilities Commission.

Council Member AnderBois would like to see a budget allocation for a rebrand and refresh for the Council to better reflect the Council's role and responsibilities.

Chairperson Oakley asked whether funds can be reallocated in the future and Commissioner Ucci noted that this is a new process and that we should seek clarification on the reallocation process.

Vice Chair Gill Case has additional items that he would like considered for additional funding, but he will save that discussion for a later meeting.

- d) [Review and Vote on the Draft of the 2022 EERMC Annual Report](#) (10 minutes, 4:25-4:35 p.m.)

Ms. Sholly presented on the current draft of the 2022 EERMC Annual Report. She noted that many stakeholders contributed to the Annual Report and that the Report got more attention this year than in years past.

Council Member AnderBois motioned to approve the 2022 EERMC Annual as presented by the Consultant Team, on June 16th, 2022. Council Member Garlick seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

7. Special Topic (20 Minutes, 4:35 – 4:55 p.m.)

- a) [Massachusetts Climate and Energy Efficiency Presentation](#) (20 minutes, 4:35-4:55 p.m.)

Ms. Calcagni of Optimal Energy presented on the energy efficiency work and plan in Massachusetts. She noted that greenhouse gas goals and strategic electrification are included as a part of the energy efficiency plans in Massachusetts.

8. Public Comment

Hank Webster, the Acadia Center:

Mr. Webster appreciated the presentations today and believes that there is still a lot of work to do for the 2023 Energy Efficiency Plan. He is disappointed to see the five percent cap incorporated as it limits efficiency program planning considerations. He read the language around the initial five percent cap which allows for deviations if circumstances change. Mr. Webster noted that many things have changed such as the passing of the *2021 Act on Climate*, and now the passage of a 100 percent renewable energy standard. He explained that we learn more about equity and program participation each year which should be incorporated into the Plan. Lastly, he would like clarification on what the five percent cap is applied to by the utility in their planning process.

Kai Salem, Green Energy Consumers Alliance:

Ms. Salem does not believe that she is seeing the nonparticipant study reflected in the Plan Outline Memo and that addressing residential energy is incredibly important. Green Energy Consumers Alliance would like to see the plan built from potential savings and all possible energy savings available rather than starting with an update on the previous year's plan. She also added that this will be her last meeting with the EERMC as she is leaving Green Energy Consumers Alliance to attend law school.

9. Adjournment

Chairperson Oakley motioned to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Gill Case seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.