



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

EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

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

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

Members in Attendance: Harry Oakley, Peter Gill Case, Bob Izzo, Dave Caldwell (left at 3:45 p.m.), Sue AnderBois, Kate Grant, Brett Feldman, Joe Garlick, Tom Magliocchetti, Kurt Teichert

Others in Attendance: Sam Ross, Craig Johnson, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Steve Chybowski, William Owen, Alyssa Bailey, Josh Kessler (virtual), Samartha Mohan (virtual), Nelson DiBiase (virtual), Rachel Sholly (virtual), Nick Martin (virtual), Jeremy Newberger (virtual), Claire Kokoska (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

2. Chair Report

Chairperson Oakley provided the chair report noting that today's meeting will cover updates to the 2023 energy efficiency docket proceedings and a discussion of priorities for 2023 led by the C-Team.

3. Executive Director Report

Mr. Chybowski delivered the Executive Director's report for Interim Commissioner Kearns. The report included updates on the Office of Energy Resources' (OER) high efficiency heat pump program, a newly proposed Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative funding round, the status of the 2022 Act on Climate report, the status of guidance for new federal funding from the Department of Energy, and noted that Karen Bradbury would be joining the OER staff the week of December 19th.

4. Meeting Minutes -

a. November 17, 2022

Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the Nov 17th full council meeting minutes. Council Member Caldwell seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and Council Member AnderBois abstained.

b. Learning, Education, and Advancement Discussion November 28, 2022

Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the LEAD session meeting minutes. Chairperson Oakley seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

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

- a. *Regulatory Updates on the 2023 Energy Efficiency Plan Docket Proceedings (15 min, 3:10 – 3:25 p.m.)*

The Council's Consultant Team shared relevant updates on the ongoing regulatory proceedings for the 2023 Energy Efficiency Plan noting the record requests and system benefit charge rate setting comments delivered on behalf of the Council following the hearings on 12/6 and 12/8. Details of the revised plan, fund balance refund options, and key themes from the hearings were shared by Mr. Ross and Mr. Johnson. Council Members discussed the fund balance return options.

Chairperson Oakley noted that the changes made after the Council's endorsement of the Plan this year are understandable, but are an exception to the regular Plan review process. Mr. O'Brien Crayne shared a notice that the 12/16 hearing had been cancelled.

- b. *Summary and Discussion of the Council's Priorities for 2023 (20 min, 3:25 – 3:45 p.m.)*

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Ross of the Consultant Team provided a summary of the Council's initial priorities as identified at the Learning, Education, and Advancement Discussion (LEAD) for energy efficiency programming and planning in 2023 and the Three-Year Plan. Mr. Johnson outlined the process of plan development, stakeholder input, and the greater integration of equity into the planning process with diffusion more fully into plan areas of focus. Council Member AnderBois suggested partnering with a wider group of entities to address the structural obstacles facing low- and moderate-income populations from accessing energy efficiency benefits. Mr. Ross shared the System Reliability Procurement Plan priorities as well as the impact of prevailing economic trends and pending decisions on potential plan topics. Chairperson Oakley invited the Council to discuss the 2023 Plan, focusing on impacts to the targets and to seek to proactively engage on priorities through technical sessions.

6. Council Business (55 Minutes, 3:45 – 4:40 p.m.)

- a. *Market Potential Study Data Refresh Proposal Recommendation and Vote (15 min, 3:45 – 4:00 p.m.)*

The Council's Technical Review Committee and the Council's Consultant Team shared the results of the negotiations with the potential vendor for the market potential study data refresh services and the Committee's recommendation for next steps. Mr. Chybowski and Mr. Ross presented the revised proposal from the vendor and the changes in scope to achieve the revised study budget. Council Member Izzo of the Technical Review Committee shared his assessment of the proposal and next steps for Council to discuss. Mr. Ross explained the origin of the budgeted study amount.

Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the Technical Review Committee's recommendation to select Dunsy Energy and Climate Advisors to conduct the market potential study data refresh as described in the submitted revised proposal and associated work plan, contingent upon securing approval for the incremental funding to cover the full cost of the proposal. Further, to direct the Council's legal counsel and Consultant Team to prepare and submit this funding request to the

Public Utilities Commission. Vice Chair Gill Case seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

b. Review and Potential Vote on the Consultant Team's 2023 Draft Scope of Work (15 min, 4:00 – 4:15 p.m.)

Mr. Ross presented Optimal Energy's draft scope of work for 2023 including priorities, tasks, and staff level costs of work. Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the 2023 scope of work for the Consultant Team, led by Optimal Energy, and the associated budget for that scope of work as presented at the December 15th, 2022 Council Meeting. Further, to direct the Office of Energy Resources to incorporate this approved scope of work and budget into the current consultant services contract. Chairperson Oakley seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

c. Preview of Council Timeline and Potential Discussion Topics for 2023 (15 min, 4:15 – 4:30 p.m.)

The Council's Consultant Team led a discussion regarding the Council's meeting schedule and discussion topics for 2023. Mr. Johnson described the Company's potential filing strategies and the impacts those options would have on plan-related schedules. Vice Chair Gill Case inquired as to the impact of the three-year plan on the schedule and Mr. Johnson shared those potential impacts as well as options to address timing conflicts with filing deadlines. Council Member AnderBois inquired as to the timing of approving funding for the Farm Energy Fellow and Mr. Chybowski confirmed this has been included in the Council's budget for 2023.

d. Discussion and Potential Vote on a Budget Increase for 2022 Legal Services (10 min, 4:30 – 4:40 p.m.)

The Council reviewed current expenditures and the option to reallocate funds to the Legal Services line item. Chairperson Oakley asked for clarification on the language for the motion which Mr. Chybowski provided along with an overview of the future potential expenditures. Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to approve a reallocation of up to \$20,000 from the unallocated fund balance to the line item for legal services in order to have the funds available to cover invoices for 2022's legal services. Chairperson Oakley seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

7. Special Topics

a. Presentation from the 2022 Farm Energy Fellow (10 min, 4:40 – 4:50 p.m.)

Alyssa Bailey, the 2022 Farm Energy Fellow presented to the Council on her work and key achievements over the course of 2022. Ms. Bailey's work included diversifying the Clean Energy Portfolio for Farms in Rhode Island. She shared the redesigned program and outreach materials, the farmers market outreach effort, and materials focusing on heat pump marketing with the Council.

8. Public Comment

One comment was submitted online by Christopher Warfel with the Town of New Shoreham Housing Board, which was concerning affordable housing programs and incentives on Block Island. Mr. Chybowski read the comment to the Council and noted that OER would look to respond. The Council discussed the subject and noted some potential mechanisms and sources of funding.

Mr. Feldman shared the ACEEE rankings released as a point of discussion for future meetings and Mr. Johnson noted the Utility and Public Benefits category of the rankings was a more direct measure of the council's purview and scored higher than the state's overall ranking.

9. Adjournment

Chairperson Oakley motioned to adjourn the meeting and Vice Chair Gill Case seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.