



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 20, 2023 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Department of Administration Conference Room 2A, Providence, RI 02908

Members in Attendance: Peter Gill Case, Sue AnderBois

Others in Attendance: Nathan Cleveland, Jake Curran, Maria Desautel, Craig Johnson, Rachel Sholly, Brett Feldman, Samuel Ross (virtual), Jordan Galluzo (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Gill Case called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

2. Chair Announcements

Vice Chair Gill Case provided instructions for the public to provide public comments at the meeting and during non-meeting hours. He also noted the additional meeting materials that were posted for Council awareness and review.

3. Executive Director Report

Mr. Cleveland delivered the Executive Director Report on behalf of Acting Commissioner Kearns. He briefed the Council on the Clean Heat RI program, with a new tentative launch date aiming for mid-August. The next EC4 advisory board meeting will be held on August 30th, and Mr. Cleveland gave comment on where to find information about the meeting. The DOE recently issued guidelines concerning state-based home EE training grants, with the aim of supporting the development of the EE workforce. Notably, RI has been given a \$1.1 million allocation dedicated to advancing this essential process.

4. Executive Committee Meeting Minutes - April 2023

Council Member AnderBois motioned to approve the April 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Vice Chair Gill Case seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

5. Council Business (50 min, 2:05 - 2:50 p.m.)

a. Review Updates to Council Bylaws (15 min, 2:05 - 2:20 p.m.)

During the meeting, it was noted that the updated version of the bylaws were not available for review. Additionally, there was a discussion about. A motion was put forward by Council Member AnderBois to swap items "c" and "a" on the agenda and seconded by Vice Chair Gill Case to enact this change.

Among the matters that could be discussed during the meeting, Mr. Johnson proposed the idea of changing the name of the EERMC to become more appealing to the public. Vice Chair Gill Case raised a question regarding the significance of maintaining consistency in the logo

amidst potential changes to the committee's name. It was pointed out that the existing legislation does not explicitly reference the committee's logo. Within the logo, Vice Chair Gill Case requested the seal logo to have fewer words, specifically "energy council", as long as it stays within the bylaws, wanting to figure out what flexibility is available.

Ms. Desautel stated that since the title of the chapter is the RI Energy Efficiency Resource and Management Council, it cannot change. However the Council is free to colloquially call themselves whatever they'd like, but by changing the ERRMC the bylaws would have to change. Council Member AnderBois prompted a possible shorter name, the Energy Efficiency Council for short.

Vice Chair Gill Case emphasized the need for increased public outreach and expressed concerns about the public's confusion regarding the current acronym. To address this issue and enhance the overall rebranding efforts, Vice Chair Gill Case proposed making the committee's name more identifiable. Ms. Desautel shared that as long as the committee's official website continues to display the acronym "EERMC," the committee could potentially adopt a different name for external use.

Ms. Sholly wanted further clarification from Ms. Desautel on what the committee is allowed to call itself to ensure a shared understanding. She provided an example of the possibility of removing the acronym "EERMC" from the logo, but not the website. Ms. Desautel restated that any outward-facing communications must explicitly include the full term "Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council."

Mr. Johnson further stated that the renaming and the logo were main points brought up on the updated bylaws that were not shared. Vice Chair Gill Case asked when the next time the updated bylaws will be brought up, to which Mr. Johnson replied that the red lined version of the bylaws will be completed by the next ExComm meeting.

b. Review of the EERMC's 2024 Budget Proposal (15 min, 2:20 – 2:35 p.m.)

Mr. Johnson presented the proposed budget from 2023 and the building blocks for 2024. After the budget was approved, the next step involved providing information to the Rhode Island Energy Consultant Team. He stated that in 2023, the Council reached a statutory cap, however, it is not anticipated to occur in the 2024 budget. The 2024 budget will not include a potential data study refresh and a market-based solution study since both items have either been completed or deferred.

Mr. Johnson then went on to discuss the implementation of EE initiatives through the upcoming RFP, stating that new legislation is requiring OER to work in coordination with the EERMC to issue a competitive RFP for EE program implementation. The estimated cost for Consultant Team support on this effort is \$100,000, but does not include the current effort to help OER draft the RFP. The C-Team will be absorbing the additional money to help OER.

Mr. Ross stated that the C-Team has been meeting with Mr. Chybowski on a regular basis before the next comment period begins to provide valuable feedback on the draft RFP, stating that the feedback given was over a page long.

At this time, Mr. Ross politely encouraged all potential bidders to leave the room and exit the Zoom until discussion of this agenda item is completed. Council Member Feldman exited the meeting.

Mr. Ross shared that the draft RFP is currently in its first phase, awaiting a second comment period. He also added the need for additional detail and context to be incorporated into the RFP before the subsequent public comment period. One other piece he wanted to share was that both the Council and the C-Team are not restricted to the comments made to OER which enables an ongoing supportive role in working together to engage.

Mr. Cleveland wanted to reiterate OER's continuous appreciation to the C-Team with their help on this process. Vice Chair Gill Case agreed, expressing appreciation for both the C-Team and OER.

At this time Council Member Feldman was welcomed back into the meeting.

c. Discussion of Energy Efficiency Target Data Requests and Vendor Support (15 min, 2:35 – 2:50 p.m.)

Mr. Ross noted that the PUC had put forth a request for clarification on specific phrases, including the description of incentive models, and were looking for tables comparing models to budgeted incentive models. These are due back to the PUC by August 1st. It was highlighted that a series of data refreshes were also requested by RIE consultants. Mr. Ross expressed desire to involve the C-Team in this process.

Vice Chair Gill Case raised a question if there was any room left in the budget for Dunsky to bill a discovery request for the Commission's requests. Mr. Ross noted that he met with Mr. Chybowski, and there is around \$12,000 in the budget for data requests. the ExComm approved of this action. Mr. Cleveland made a note that if the proposed expenses were to exceed the initial budget, a plan of action would be required.

6. Public Comment

None.

7. Adjournment

Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member AnderBois seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.