



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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, November 16, 2017 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM**

Conference Room A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Department of Administration, Providence, RI

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**Members in Attendance:** Chris Powell, Carol Grant, Michael McAteer, Joe Cirillo, Shigeru Osada, Joe Garlick, Diane Williamson, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Bob Bacon, Karen Verrengia, Roberta Fagan and Tom Magliocchetti.

**Others Present:** Mike Guerard, Emily Levin, Nick Ucci, Sara Canabarro, Becca Trietch, Rachel Henschel, Craig Johnson, John Richards, Michael Baer, Brigid Ryan, Mark Kravatz, Laura Rodormer, Mona Chandra.

All meeting materials can be viewed at: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-november-2017/>

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 3:35PM.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve the minutes for October with Mr. Osada's revisions shown in track changes. Mr. Cirillo made a motion, and Mr. Osada seconded it. All approved.

**3. Executive Director Report**

*a) General Update*

Commissioner Grant reported that Betsy Stubblefield is now the Vice-Chair of the EERMC. She also reported that the Power Sector Transformation report is now publicly available. Mr. Osada asked what the next step is, and its timeframe. Commissioner Grant replied that as of right now the report lays out recommendations only, and as opportunities to address these recommendations arise she will inform the Council. Commissioner Grant also stated that the RGGI Semi Annual Plan is publicly posted, and there is a Public Hearing scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>.

**4. Chairperson Report**

*a) General Update*

Chairman Powell stated that there is a special topic presentation from the RI Infrastructure Bank, and National Grid is giving an update on their quarter 3 report. He also reported that the Council will be voting on the C-Team's cost-effectiveness report for filing with the PUC for the 2018 Annual Plan. Chairman Powell stated that now that the Council's Bylaws have been updated, there is only one Executive Committee meeting included in the 2018 meeting schedule. Instead of meeting monthly, the Executive Committee will now meet on an as-needed basis throughout 2018. He added that if any Council members would like to join the Executive Committee, to please let him, Carol or Becca know via email since they are looking for a third member and an alternate.

*1. Public Comment Participation by Council Members*

Chairman Powell reported that there were some questions about how Council members can submit public comments prior to a meeting while maintaining compliance with Open Meeting laws. Marisa, the Council's attorney, developed a short memo outlining an appropriate procedure for submitting public comments prior

to the meeting. This memo can be found in today's packets. If Council members have any questions regarding this procedure, please let Marisa or Becca know.

## **5. Special Topic**

### *a) The Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank Presentation*

Michael Baer gave a presentation on the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank Clean Energy Financing, including their use of program dollars and their overall portfolio of financial offerings. See the PowerPoint presentation in the meeting materials.

Tom Magliocchetti asked what the timeline is for identified C-PACE projects, if the C-PACE program can help with microgrids, and what value of solar construction has gone through the C-Pace program thus far. Mr. Baer responded that it takes about 14 months from beginning to end, the C-Pace program can help with the microgrids and that so far about \$6 million worth of construction is expected to move forward by the end of the year.

Michael McAteer asked if the Efficient Building Fund (EBF) program can be used for non-profits, to which Mr. Baer responded that the EBF program only covers municipal and quasi entities but non-profits and commercial entities can use C-PACE.

## **6. National Grid Programs**

### *a) Presentation on the Cost-Effectiveness Report for the 2018 Annual Plans.*

Mike Guerard summarized the report verbally, stating this is the third and final version, and that the 2018 Annual Plan meets the PUC requirements, which means that the plan is cost effective and less than cost of supply. Craig Johnson stated that this cost effectiveness report was written in the same format as the cost-effectiveness report submitted for the recently completed Three-Year Plan. Therefore, if you look at pages 7-9, the graphs and charts show different the benefits and costs in a manner that allows the reader to compare the RI Test to the older TRC test. Mr. Guerard reinforced that the portfolio is very cost effective and less cost of supply. No matter which test is used (the old TRC or the new RI Test) the Annual Plan is cost effective.

Shigeru Osada stated that the cost-effectiveness report needs to highlight the definition change of the cost of energy efficiency. The new definition only looks at the utility's costs and excludes the customer costs for energy efficiency. Mr. Osada also stated that the report does not show how the 5.2cents (for the cost of energy efficiency) was calculated. Mr. Guerard and Ms. Henschel explained that the Council had already approved the new cost of EE definition since it was part of the 2018 Annual Plan which was approved and submitted to the PUC. Mr. Guerard stated that there is also a reference in the Annual Plan as to why the definition was changed.

Mr. Osada does not approve of the cost-effectiveness report because it doesn't go into depth about the new cost of EE definition. He believes the report should highlight why the definition was changed. Ms. Verrengia asked if it was possible for the C-Team to draft a memo highlighting the new cost of EE definition so it can be part of the EERMC's official record and can be available for easy reference if needed.

### *b) Vote on the Approval of the Cost-Effectiveness Report for the 2018 Annual Plan.*

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve the cost-effectiveness report as it is to meet the PUC deadline. Ms. Verrengia made a motion to approve the cost-effectiveness report as it is and to have the consultant team submit the report to the PUC prior to the November 17, 2017 deadline. She also added to the motion that the C-Team should draft a memo clarifying the new cost of energy efficiency definition and the updated methodology for comparing the cost of energy efficiency with the cost of supply; Mr. Garlick seconded this motion. All approved, except for Mr. Osada, who does not agree with submitting the

cost-effectiveness report to the PUC without the memo describing the new cost of energy efficiency definition.

*c) Energy Efficiency Programs: Quarter 3 Report*

Mr. Guerard gave a brief overview stating that 2017 has been another very strong year in delivering cost-efficiency, exceeding goals, and setting the stage for future innovation.

*d) National Grid: Energy Efficiency Programs Quarter 3 Report*

Chairman Powell asked how National Grid keeps finding new innovative programs, offerings and ideas, and how the C-Team helps with this process. Ms. Henschel offered to bring some experts from National Grid to one of the Council meetings and have a presentation on how the company innovates.

John Richards then went over the Q3 2017 Electric and Gas sector results comparing them to 2016 results. Laura Rodormer gave a brief overview of the highlights from the residential sector, which included the Greenridge Housing Developments, Income Eligible Benefits, Lighting Sector Transformation and HVAC Upstream Product additions. Mona Chandra gave an overview of the commercial sector highlights, which included Large Commercial Retrofit, Small Business Direct Install and Demand Response Pilots in 2017 in both the C&I and Residential sectors.

Mr. Osada noted that the reported actual costs are below the planned costs. He added that if National Grid made more accurate cost estimates from the beginning, he believes the energy efficiency charge can be lowered to achieve the same energy savings goals.

*e) National Grid Sustainability Hub*

Ms. Rodormer gave a presentation on National Grid's newly opened Sustainability Hub located inside the Dunkin Donuts Center. National Grid hopes this Hub will help people to learn about energy, be more engaged with National Grid's programs, and be inspired to take action. Ms. Rodormer informed the Council that their grand-opening had been rescheduled due to the recent storm, but the Company will send out information once they have a new grand-opening date. Mr. Magliocchetti asked if there is some marketing information about the Hub that he can send out to Lifespan. Ms. Rodormer and Mr. McAteer expressed gratitude for this support and will follow up with Mr. Magliocchetti directly. Mr. Osada then asked if the Hub is going to be advertised on tv and what the cost of the hub was. Ms. Rodormer replied that the Hub is going to be part of the Energy Expo, will be featured on TV ads, and other marketing campaigns are also being considered. She added that the total cost for design and construction was about \$250,000 and \$370,000 for annual maintenance cost.

*f) National Grid Customer Site Visits*

John Richards gave an overview of a list of customer sites that have gone through either residential or C&I energy efficiency programs and are available for tours. He asked Council members to reach out to him if they would like to schedule a visit.

## **7. Council Business**

*a) Vote on Consultant Services proposal selection*

Becca Trietch quickly summarized and reviewed the Evaluation Team's recommendation to the Council regarding the selection of a consultant. Based on the proposal received (only one was received), the Evaluation Team recommended selecting Optimal Energy. Mr. Osada asked why there weren't any other bids. Ms. Trietch stated that she did not think many firms have in-depth knowledge of Rhode Island energy efficiency programs and oversight structure. Ms. Verrengia added that she was very happy Optimal Energy wanted to continue supporting the Council as she is very thankful for the quality of work they do.

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve the Consultant Services proposal selection. Ms. Verrengia made a motion to approve the Evaluation Team's recommendation as written; Mr. Cirillo seconded this motion. All approved.

*b) Review of EERMC Handbook, Website & Informational One-Pagers*

Mark Kravatz gave a brief overview and update on the EERMC Handbook. The next steps will be to meet with the Communications Subgroup to review it. After that the C-Team will share it with the full Council in the early portion of Quarter 1.

Craig Johnson gave a very brief overview of the new EERMC website, and where Council members can find meeting materials. Chairman Powell asked what the timeline is for the materials to be up. Ms. Verrengia suggested for Ms. Trietch to send out an email to the Council members once meeting materials are uploaded with a link to the appropriate webpage. She also requested for Mr. Johnson to add different pictures to the main page to enhance its visual interest.

Ms. Trietch shared an information one-pager that was created with an oversight from the Communications Subgroup, to be reviewed by OER.

*c) Review of Draft 2018 Budget*

Ms. Trietch quickly summarized the proposed 2018 EERMC Budget. She asked Council members to look over it, so they can vote on it during the December Meeting. Chairman Powell requested Ms. Trietch and the Consultant Team provide further detail on a few line items (the Public Education line item, the As-Needed Expert Services line item and the Potential Study- Data Collection line) during the December meeting to better inform the vote.

*d) Review of Draft 2018 Calendar*

Ms. Trietch shared a one-page proposal of the 2018 EERMC meeting schedule. Mr. Osada requested Ms. Trietch move the December meeting one week earlier to avoid the holidays, and Ms. Henschel asked to have one of the meetings at the new National Grid HUB location. Council members were asked to send any requested changes to Becca prior to the next full council meeting.

**8. Public Comment**

Ms. Verrengia shared that Brown University is scheduled to open a new state-of-the-art School of Engineering Building, and would like to invite all Council members to attend the building Tour on December 14<sup>th</sup> after the EERMC meeting.

**9. Adjournment**

Chairman Powell requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cirillo made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Garlick seconded the motion. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56PM.