



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

## **EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, June 21, 2018 | 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, Karen Verrengia, Tom Magliocchetti, Shigeru Osada, Joe Cirillo, Joe Garlick, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Anthony Hubbard, Michael McAteer and Rachel Henschel (representing Jennifer Hutchinson).

**Others Present:** Nick Ucci, Mike Guerard, Jeff Loiter, Becca Trietch, Sara Canabarro, Carrie Gill, Erika Niedowski, Kat Burnham, John Richards, Matt Ray, Ben Rivers, Bob Yoffe, Lou Cotoia, Cheryl Boyd, Jake Giacchino, Paul Gonsalves, Mark Hengan, Karen Bradbury, John Marcantonio, Louis Cotoia and Alice Hourihan

All meeting materials can be accessed here: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-june-2018/>

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

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 3:33PM.

### **2. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Powell requested to postpone the approval of May's meeting minutes and to move item #5 (Rhode Island Building Association Presentation) to the start of the agenda due to a need for the presenters to leave early. Mr. Cirillo made a motion, Mr. Hubbard seconded it. All approved.

### **3. Council Business**

#### *a) Presentation on Energy Expo*

The Rhode Island Builders Association (RIBA) gave a brief presentation on the outcomes of the 2018 Energy Expo at the Rhode Island Home Show.

John Marcantonio, Cheryl Boyd and Louis Cotoia went over the statistics, feedback, results, and general outcomes from the 2018 Energy Expo. Mr. Marcantonio concluded that the Energy Expo was a success, and every year is getting more and more attention. He noted that overall, energy efficiency (EE) is strongly supported and it's important to continue having great EE Programs in RI.

Ms. Henschel stated that the student displays were amazing at the Energy Expo this year, and that RISE is going to be using the displays going forward.

Mr. McAteer agreed with Ms. Henschel's comments, and stated that he talked to the students during the setup, and he was impressed with their passion for EE. Mr. McAteer applauded RIBA for their continuous great job. Ms. Verrengia agreed with the previous comments, and commended RIBA for their amazing work.

Chairman Powell is very pleased that participation increased by 36%; it shows that the cost to the Council is extremely efficient and the show is reaching a lot of people.

#### **4. Executive Director Report**

Commissioner Grant was not present during this time. She provided an update to the Council towards the end of the meeting during Public Comments.

#### **5. Chairperson Report**

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve the minutes for the May Council meeting. Mr. Cirillo made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, and Mr. Garlick seconded it. All approved.

Chairman Powell reported that he accepted a new position at CleaResult and therefore must recuse himself from voting on items such as the 2019 Annual EE Plan. He is also working to obtain a ruling from the Rhode Island Ethics Commission.

Chairman Powell noted that the Council has already heard RIBA's presentation about the outcomes from this year's Energy Expo Sponsorship. Next, the Council will focus the majority of the meeting time on recent Energy Efficiency reports and the 2019 Annual Plan development process. He added that he'd like to have the Consultant Team give a brief update on the Standards that have been filed with the PUC.

Mike Guerard provided a brief update on the Standards summarizing that the C-Team, with assistance from the Council's attorney, had filed responses to PUC Information Requests by the June 20 deadline set by the the Public Utilities Commission, and that the responses were consistent with the EERMC's input and vote approving the update to the Standards. He also noted that there are PUC meetings on the Standards in July, and that and that he would keep the Council abreast of any relevant outcomes.

Lastly, Chairman Powell stated that the C-Team and OER are working to get information about the Collaborative up on the EERMC Website. The EERMC will host the information about how to become a member and who to contact at National Grid for more information while National Grid works to setup their own webpage.

He also reminded everyone that for those who would like to provide public comment in advance of Council discussion on the Energy Efficiency Program reports, they should sign-up on the Public Comment Sign-in Sheet. As usual, there will also be a public comment period at the end of the meeting for any comments not related to the recent Energy Efficiency Program reports.

#### **6. Energy Efficiency Program Oversight**

##### *a) Presentation on 2017 Year-End Report*

John Richards went over the 2017 MWh Savings Goals by Sector, and compared achieved savings to 2017 Electric Goals and Natural Gas Goals. Mr. Richards noted they are looking forward to 2019 raising savings.

Matt Ray went over the 2017 Residential Highlights and the End-of-Year numbers. Mr. Ray stated that some major changes in 2017 included the launching of email high use alerts and the installation of upgraded central boilers in income-eligible multifamily properties. The Food Bank Lighting Initiative and Fridge recycling programs were also successful in 2017. Chairman Powell asked if the central boilers were separate units. Mr. Ray answered the 60 boilers were not separate units, but central systems.

Ben Rivers went over the Commercial Program Highlights, and Year-End numbers for 2017. Mr. Rivers noted that some major efforts in 2017 included: the Energy Smart Grocer initiative, the Industrial Initiative, expanded strategic energy management plan efforts (SEMP) and Combined Heat & Power. He

stated they will continue to work on Codes and Standards, Demand Response, Investigate SEM and Financing Mechanism Research in 2018 and 2019.

Ms. Verrengia asked why someone would choose Ascentium Financing rather than on-bill-repayment (OBR). Mr. Rivers replied that OBR has limited funds, and Ascentium is another great option for financing.

Chairman Powell asked about the difference between SEMP and SEM. Mr. Rivers replied that SEMP is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that can cover anything with energy savings. SEM is a program led by a vendor focused on behavior and specific savings opportunities (it is usually a 2-3-year intervention and is generally a Tune-Up type program).

Chairman Powell asked about the declining LED Savings, since the numbers show the decline is starting to happen now. Mr. Richards replied that they are moving more units in 2018 to help compensate for the decline in attributable savings. Mr. Guerard noted that the major drop off in claimable lighting savings will more likely begin in the 2020 – 2021 time period.

*b) Presentation on 2018 Quarter 1 Report*

John Richards gave a brief intro on the First Quarter 2018 Results, and quickly went over the progress towards MWh, and MMBTU Savings Goals in Q1 2018 by Sector.

Matt Ray highlighted Community-Based Outreach & Vendor Trainings. He stated that during the RI Home Show, 270 customers signed up for energy assessments, they sold 1,771 lighting kits and conducted customer and vendor testimonials to learn more about program impacts and their experiences. Lastly, Mr. Ray stated that for the EnergyWise program, they established a \$500k revolving loan fund at the Capital Good Fund for moderate income customers that need financing for EE projects; there's also the direct install of Nest E and Nest 3<sup>rd</sup> generation thermostats with a customer copay, and they received an ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year: Sustained Excellence Award in Program Delivery.

Ben Rivers went over the 2018 Q1 Commercial Highlights and Q1 numbers. He gave a brief update on what to expect for 2019 and what they are currently working on towards during the remainder of 2018.

Chairman Powell asked how the Income Eligible Services are delivered. Mr. Ray explained that these trainings and services are delivered through the CAP Agencies with support from a Lead Vendor working for Grid, and with close coordination with the Department of Human Services which administers federal funds for LIHEAP and DOE that are invested in energy efficiency for income eligible customers.

Chairman Powell asked about the \$500k revolving loan fund at the Capital Good Fund for moderate income customers financing energy efficiency projects. Mr. Guerard explained that the Capital Good Fund is used to provide customers with less good credit an option to finance. The buydown to get the interest rate to 0% through the Capital Good Fund is higher for National Grid than via other lenders who offer in the HEAT Loan to customers who participate in the EnergyWise program.

Chairman Powell also asked what RIDAP stands for. Mr. Rivers replied that it stands for Rhode Island Digital Application Portal, which is a platform being created for 2019 to make forms electronic and more accessible/easier for customers and vendors.

Mike Guerard rounded out the presentation by giving a brief summary of the 2017 Year's Results in relation to the 2017 targets. He also went over the current implementation experiences by comparing 2017 and 2018 1<sup>st</sup> Quarters, and providing some early take-aways for 2018.

*c) Public Comment on Program Reports*

Don Bruen (Renewable Energy Solutions) raised concerns about the small business program's max demand usage. He believes the current limit is hurting Rhode Island Small Businesses, and believes the limit should be higher and more OBR would be helpful for the program.

Mike Sokoll (Northeast Solar) agrees with Mr. Bruen's comments, and wants Rhode Island to raise the small business program demand limit to match what is used in the State of Massachusetts. He noted that all the small-businesses contribute to RI's successful EE programs, and they would like to have more access to funds. He believes a limit above the current 200KW limit would accomplish this.

Ms. Verrengia agreed with the public comments, and understands their frustration. She explained that in her previous position, she faced the same frustration and issue with the 200KW limit.

Ms. Henschel noted that Massachusetts is different than Rhode Island because of the cost and the tradeoffs. They can look into setting a higher limit, but that will also mean higher costs. She noted that she can work on putting some numbers together, and have a presentation to discuss options. However, she would like everyone to keep in mind that it all comes down to costs, and tradeoffs.

Chairman Powell asked to have more information on this issue, possibly a presentation for the next Council meeting in July by the Consultant Team. He noted he really wants to understand this issue, and wants to be able to help the small businesses succeed in Rhode Island. Ms. Henschel states that she will work with the Consultant Team on putting this together for the next Council Meeting.

Kat Burnham stated that she is very happy to have members of the public attend the meeting today and share their valid concerns; she encouraged them to come back and participate more often. She also agreed with their comments, and that this issue needs to be address as soon as possible. Ms. Burnham also asked if their public comments would be reflected in the meeting's minutes. Ms. Trietch responded that all comments will be shown in the meeting minutes and available on the EERMC website once approved by the Council.

*d) Council Discussion*

No additional discussion.

*e) Presentation on 2019 Annual Plan Development Process*

Mike Guerard gave an overview about the upcoming 2018 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan. He went over the Targets and reminded the Council of the Three-Year Plan's high-level priorities: Customers; Least Cost; Environment and Innovation/Planning for the Future.

Jeff Loiter covered the Least Cost Procurement Standards update and its timeline. He noted that the C-team continuously works with Marisa Desautel and OER on the LCP Standards filing, and once the public comment period is over, the Public Utilities Commission will vote on it in time for the 2019 Annual EE Plan.

Mr. Guerard went over the Variable Factors that will influence the 2019 Annual Plan, which include:

- Innovation: Evolving markets & new and/or improved technologies
- Regulatory: Public Utilities Commission; Division of Public Utilities and Carriers
- State & Local Policy Objectives: Governor's Office; OER; Municipalities

- Other State Agencies and Quasi Agencies: RI Building Code Commission; RI Infrastructure Bank and RI Housing
- Legislation

Mr. Guerard and Mr. Loiter went over the schedule and deadlines for the remainder of 2018. Mr. Guerard noted that Legislation is a big factor that might change the schedule and deadlines, but as of today nothing has changed, and there are no new surprises on legislative.

## **7. Public Comment on All Other Topics**

Commissioner Grant reported that as of right now, the Measurement and Verification Study is most likely to pass as Legislation, the Appliance Standards Bill may also move forward, but there is no SBC or Budget Cap on any EE Programs as of today. She noted that the Study is a reasonable accommodation, and OER will be taking the lead on it. Commissioner Grant added that she will have more updates on Legislation by the time the Council meets in July.

Commissioner Grant also announced a 400MW Offshore Wind Procurement with the State of Massachusetts. National Grid is still negotiating the final details. She noted that there is a lot of great work happening in Rhode Island right now and thanks the Council and everyone involved for their continuous hard work.

John Richards informed the Council that National Grid is hosting a forum to get feedback from vendors, customers, and the general public on their EE programs. This meeting will take place at the Omni Hotel, on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **8. Adjournment**

Chairman Powell requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cirillo made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Verrengia seconded it. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25PM.