



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

EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 15, 2018 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM

Conference Room A, 2nd Floor, Department of Administration, Providence, RI

Members in Attendance: Chris Powell, Carol Grant, Karen Verrengia, Jennifer Hutchinson, Betsy Stubblefield Loucks, Anthony Hubbard, Joseph Garlick.

Others Present: Nick Ucci, Rachel Henschel, Mike Guerard, Mark Kravatz, Jeff Loiter, Becca Trietch, Sara Canabarro, Dr. Carrie Gill, Kai Salem, Matt Ray, Mona Chandra, Chris Porter, Peter Gill Case, Rachel Sholly, John Richards, Jonathan Schrag, Sam Ross, Jackie Tantimonaco.

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

1. Call to Order

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 3:34PM.

2. Approval of Council Meeting Minutes

Chairman Powell requested to postpone the approval of October's meeting minutes since they did not have a quorum at this time.

3. Executive Report

Commissioner Grant spoke on the Clean Energy Initiatives – encouraging sites in Brownfields.

Commissioner Grant reported that the 400MW ORSTED offshore wind project proposal is moving forward, and the contract is currently under review.

Commissioner Grant stated that she was very pleased to announce that the Murry Family Award went to one of our Council Members: Mr. Garlick.

4. Chairperson Report

Chairman Powell stated that today the Council will be reviewing National Grid's Quarter 3 report, discussing ways to improve the EE Plan development timeline, and learning more about the Potential Study we will be conducting in 2019.

Chairman Powell noted that due to a lack of quorum today, the Council can no longer vote on the two items towards the end of the agenda.

Chairman Powell reported that as always, to assist Council members with all of the discussions today, there is a sheet with recommended discussion questions attached to Council member agendas. Please reference this document if you find it useful throughout the meeting.

Chairman Powell stated that for those that would like to provide public comments during today's meeting, there is a sign-up sheet near the food and drinks. He noted that there are two opportunities for public comment: one earlier in the meeting for anyone who needs to leave early and one at the end. Ideally the first public comment opportunity will focus on program oversight topics, but no one will have to wait if they cannot stay until the end of the meeting.

Finally, Chairman Powell requested that due to the tight schedule, all presenters and Council members stick to the time allotments shown on the agenda.

5. Energy Efficiency Program Oversight

a) National Grid Presentation on Quarter 3 Program Results

Mr. Richards gave an overview of the Q3 2018 savings achievements for all programs in contrast with Q3 2017 achievements.

Mr. Ray went over the residential highlights which are finishing strong in Q3, with the exception that under Income Eligible, the multifamily electric goal may come in a little lower than expected. He noted that under the gas goal, we will see a jump by the end of December due to some backlogged invoices.

Mr. Ray also gave a brief overview of the Zero Energy Pilot. He noted that the Fisher Homes will have 9 Zero Energy Homes in Rhode Island, and they are currently developing the first one. Commissioner Grant asked for the location of the Fisher Homes. Mr. Ray does not know the exact locations but will look into it and provide that information by the next meeting.

Mr. Ray then went over the Q3 Highlights for: Home Energy Reports, EnergyWise, Lighting, and Heat Pump Initiative. Mr. Ray stated that they had a 20% increase in audits under the EnergyWise Program, which resulted in 7933 audits in Q3. Mr. Ray also noted that trainings are starting for ASHPs under the Heat Pump Initiative. Finally, Mr. Ray reported that due to recent U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports, there might be a potential 6-10% cost increase for lighting in 2019.

Ms. Stubblefield Loucks asked for more clarification on the cost increase. Mr. Ray and Mr. Richards explained that as of today they are not seeing a direct impact, but they wanted the Council to be aware that there is a possibility for a bump in price due to Chinese tariffs on LEDs. Ms. Henschel noted that they are all keeping a close eye on this matter and will keep the Council informed of anything changes.

Ms. Chandra spoke about the C&I program highlights. She reported that under new construction, the electric goal will be reached by the end of the year, as well as the gas goal. Under retrofit, Ms. Chandra highlighted a couple of grocery stores case studies that have been highly successful through the EnergySmart Grocer program.

Ms. Chandra gave an overview of the C&I projects: progress and status.

Chairman Powell asked about the Zero-Net Energy Building. Ms. Chandra said it is going to be a 30 Unit multifamily project and hopes that they will have a few contracts established by 2019.

Chairman Powell asked if the SEM program is commercial or industrial. Ms. Chandra replied that the SEM Program is industrial and the Company will look into expanding the program after results come in. She noted that she will look to see if they have any current commercial SEM programs and will report back to the Council.

Ms. Chandra reported that the Company may not follow through with the following demonstration projects: Lighting as Service, Advance Daylighting Design, and Muni Lighting Re-Spec Incentive.

b) Consultant- Team Presentation on Quarter 3 Program results & Council Discussion

Mr. Guerard explained how to read the Electric and Natural Gas Portfolio Results chart. He highlighted a few areas:

- The need to focus on Multifamily Income Eligible for the remainder of the year, and in 2019
- The strong dependence on lighting, which will be changing
- The cost per savings are doing well and on the portfolio level, goals will be met.

Chairman Powell asked about the Home Energy Reports and if it that will help to fill the gap as lighting starts to shift away.

Ms. Henschel explained that they try to reach every household, but it is reaching a point that there are no more households to add to the Home Energy Reports. She noted the Council should not focus on this program to be the one to fill the gap to make the difference for lighting. Ms. Henschel stated that these numbers today will look very different in the next few years. Mr. Guerard stated they will continue to monitor these behavior programs.

Mr. Guerard also stated that the C-Team will give another update on the Portfolio Results in 2019.

c) Council Discussion on Possible Adjustments to EE Plan Development & Review Timeline

Mr. Kravatz went over the Rhode Island Annual Energy Efficiency Planning timeline and suggested ways to improve it. He highlighted some areas:

Challenges:

- Annual Plan editing/review timeline is too compressed
- No formal structure for EERMC and stakeholder priorities input

Objectives:

- More clarification on defining key issues, and process for settling
- More time for review and feedback
- Increase timeframe for analysis & fact-checking

Opportunity:

- Adjust and enhance the process before the cycle starts again

Mr. Kravatz gave an in-depth overview of the timeline chart (please refer to the [presentation](#)).

Commissioner Grant asked if this timeline is accurate compared to what usually happens every year. Mr. Kravatz replied that this timeline is what's been used for many years until former Council member Mr. Osada raised his concerns with timing.

Mr. Kravatz stated that they have just started conversations with National Grid about making changes and would like the Council to make suggestions as well. He noted that a few changes could include: an earlier customer listening session; a 45- day window to review the draft and provide feedback; moving the final draft version up a little to have enough time to review the final draft and provide any comments. He concluded that the biggest change on the timeline would be expanding the time on the first draft review.

Chairman Powell stated that he really likes the 45-Day window suggestion to review the draft and suggested to possibly create a Sub-Committee group to review certain topics. Mr. Kravatz said they could definitely look into that option.

Ms. Verrengia is extremely impressed with this whole process, and is very thankful to have a presentation that goes over this process timeline. She stated that she really likes the 45-day window as well and believes it would be a great change for the process, and everyone involved in it. Ms. Verrengia noted that if National Grid can make this happen, would be a great, and that a more formal process for stakeholder

engagement would be great as well.

Chairman Powell agreed with Ms. Verrengia's comments and asked to prioritize making this process easier not only for National Grid, but for the C-Team as well- it should be made more efficient for everyone.

Ms. Henschel stated that the Sub-Committee idea is definitely worth exploring. She noted that one of her biggest concerns with having an earlier draft, is the fact that the numbers provided will all be previews instead of actual numbers/results, and it is a whole lot of information to be processed. She added that she also does not want the Planning Process to take away from program implementation time.

Mr. Guerard suggested that the C-Team could work on putting together a priority list for the 2020 EE Plan and present it to the Council in Q1.

Commissioner Grant suggested that maybe the Council Retreat Day could be moved earlier, and then use as a focus day for the priority list.

Mr. Hubbard asked to be able to make priorities before the narratives are written, he noted that it felt a little too late and rushed during this year's process. Mr. Kravatz agreed with Mr. Hubbard's concern, and stated that the 1-on-1 meetings between the C-Team and Council members will start happening in early March 2019. Ms. Verrengia thinks it would be more beneficial to have the 1-on-1's before the Retreat.

Chairman Powell added that he would like to carefully plan out the agendas for the EERMC next year. He noted that at times it seems like some presentations feel out of place when they could use the time to focus on current, more pressing topics.

Mr. Kravatz thanked everyone for their feedback/suggestions and asked the Council members to send Becca any other ideas they might have.

d) Consultant -Team Update on Program Potential Study

Mr. Guerard gave an introduction covering the history of the last Program Potential Study.

Mr. Ross went over the presentation and explained how Potential Studies are conducted. He also covered the High-Level Study Scope, and a brief overview of the Draft Timeline.

Mr. Ross stated that the EERMC meeting in December will have a presentation with draft Potential Study details, and that the Council will vote on the 2019 budget for the Energy Efficiency Potential Study at the December meeting as well.

Ms. Verrengia asked who conducted the last Potential Study. Mr. Guerard replied that it was KEMA (later bought by DMVGL).

e) Public Comment on Program Oversight Topics

Mr. Richards stated that they are working on scheduling a Site Visit over at Coventry Highschool for November 28th 3-5:00pm. He will send an email to Becca with all the information, so she can share with the Council members. He noted it would be great if at least 3 Council members could attend.

Ms. Verrengia explained she would like to attend this site visit but has a conflict for that day and asked if it was possible to share other dates/times. Mr. Richards said he will work on that and get back to Becca with more details.

Mr. Schrag reported that he is extremely supportive of the work everyone's been doing on improving the development and review timeline for 2019. He noted that the 45-Days goal for the draft process would be great to have since the DPUC works with multiple consultants and parties to review the Plans.

Mr. Schrag added that he would like to find a way to better connect the conversations that happen during the Collaborative with the Plan Development Process – he believes it would be beneficial for everyone.

No other public comments.

6. Council Business

a) Intern Presentation on Farm Energy Outreach

Dr. Gill gave a brief overview of the Farm Energy Outreach which was funded by the EERMC and National Grid.

Dr. Gill quickly explained that she started working on this project with Ryan Laird from URI, but due to personal circumstances he could no longer continue working on this project. She then introduced Jackie Tantimonaco, who took over Ryan's role on this project- also from URI.

Ms. Tantimonaco covered the outreach strategy including attendance at local farmers markets, social media platforms, and the creation of additional resources for farmers.

Mr. Hubbard asked about how they determine what counts as a "Farm". Dr. Gill explained that DEM has this information and they based it off that. Ms. Henschel added that learning what counts as a farm has been new for National Grid, and they're learning how to target and funnel farms appropriately. She quickly noted that out of the 38 farms audited this year only 22 were actually considered and served as a farm- it is a learning process.

Ms. Stubblefield Loucks asked they are working with other partners. Dr. Gill replied that they work with URI Outreach and NRCDC.

Ms. Verrengia quickly mentioned that she is impressed by how much was done with such little money and would like to have more opportunities like this one in the future.

b) Council Discussion & Vote on Recommended Additional 2018 Funding Allocation for the Consultant- team

Mr. Guerard gave a brief description of the additional 2018 funding allocation being requested by the C-Team. He reported that the 2018 EERMC budget included \$614,935 for a "Core Allocation" for the Optimal Energy Consultant Team (C-Team). An additional amount of \$250,000 was also included under Consultant Services for "As-needed Expert Services" in the budget.

He stated that \$130,000 of the \$250,000 was left unallocated until a clearer sense of what other as-needed conditions would develop. He noted that through efficiencies and consolidation, only half of the remaining funds set aside will be needed to complete all EERMC tasks by the C-Team. The estimated up-to-\$65,000 relates to support for additional work necessarily undertaken on core activities and for still-to-be completed tasks.

Mr. Guerard highlighted the tasks that are still-to-be completed (Please refer to document [C-Team Budget Modification](#)). He noted he can provide more details during the December meeting, when the Council will have to vote on this budget allocation.

No vote was taken due to the lack of a quorum.

c) Council Discussion & Vote on Recommended Amendment to Building Operator Certification Funding Allocation

Ms. Verrengia and Ms. Trietch gave a brief highlight of the Building Operator Certification Proposal and requested an amendment of the funding allocation (Please refer to the “[Workforce Development Proposal](#)” document to see the requested changes). Ms. Trietch stated that the two relatively small changes are:

1. Expand categories of eligible facility managers
2. Support Lunch

Chairman Powell asked how long the training is going to take. Ms. Verrengia replied that the training is 8 days over a 4-month period. Chairman Powell noted that in his current position, he has a hospital manager who has taken the class, and he finds it very helpful.

Ms. Henschel believes this is going to be a great training/certification to have under people’s belts and will be very beneficial to them.

Ms. Verrengia stated that she would like to keep funding these education efforts throughout 2019.

d) Division of Public Utilities & Carriers (DPUC) Update on Rate Case and Power Sector Transformation Dockets

Mr. Schrag gave an update on the current Rate Case and Power Sector Transformation Dockets. He quickly gave a brief intro describing what the Rate Case and PST dockets are.

Mr. Schrag noted that the Rate case is a Multi-Year rate plan, and the Capital Efficiency Mechanism are incentives for the company to use its capital appropriately. He added that the base rates resulting from the rate case had a less than 5% cost increase for both gas and electric.

Mr. Schrag reported that under the Power Sector Transformation the biggest key changes/outcomes include:

- Time-varying rates for electric vehicle owners (pilot)
- Make-ready for charging stations (360 stations across the state)
- Fleet Advisory services
- Storage (behind and in-front of meter)
- Performance Incentive Mechanisms (PIM) for annual MW capacity savings
- Electric Heating was taken out of the settlement: it is now officially part of EE Programs.
- PST Advisory Working Group was tasked with making plans for advanced meters and Grid Modernization due to the PUC around May 1st

He also quickly noted that the EERMC should participate at the appropriate level in the PST advisory group discussions. The DPUC and the Company will continue to work to keep the Council involved.

Mr. Schrag thanked the Council for their continuous hard- work.

e) Council Review & Discussion of Draft EERMC Consultant-Team 2019 Work Plan

Mr. Guerard quickly went over the Memo summarizing the C-Team’s 2019 Scope of Work content and objectives.

Mr. Guerard noted that the C-Team proposed to maintain the majority of the 2018 Scope of Work services for 2019. Their approach remains organized into three major work areas:

- EERMC oversight (day-to-day activities)
- Cyclical planning and reporting activities
- Policy and strategy

Mr. Guerard quickly covered 2019 elements that will require new or expanded efforts compared to 2018 (please refer to [“C-Team 2019 Scope of Work Content and Objectives”](#) document).

Mr. Guerard reported that the proposed estimate for the three work areas is as follows:

Task 1: EERMC Oversight: 2298hours = \$401,210

Task 2: Cyclical Planning & Reporting Activities: 1342hours = \$233,690

Task 3: Policy & Strategy: 1369hours = \$241,360

Work Areas Total: 5,009hours = \$876.260

Mr. Guerard noted that after Council discussion on this memo, the C-Team will provide a more detailed description of core activities, as well as new or expanded activities in a more detailed scope of work to be presented at the December meeting.

f) Council Review & Discussion of Draft EERMC 2019 Budget

Ms. Trietch covered the EERMC 2019 Budget Draft comparing it with the 2018 Budget (the final version of which was approved Sept 20, 2018). She quickly highlighted where things are expected to be at the end of 2018.

Ms. Verrengia asked why the cost of the EERMC retreat was so high. Ms. Trietch explained that that was an estimated amount when it was provided to the C-Team. However, she stated that they did not use the full amount requested. Ms. Verrengia asked to help coordinate the next EERMC Retreat in order to keep costs down.

7. Public Comment on All Other Topics

No Comments.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44pm.