



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

## **EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 17, 2019 | 3:30 - 5:30 PM**

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

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

**Others Present:** Rachel Henschel, Mike Guerard, Mark Kravatz, Becca Trietch, Sara Canabarro, Dr. Carrie Gill, Erika Niedowski, Kai Salem, Matt Ray, Matt Chase, Jonathan Schrag, Charlene Cirillo, Phil Kazlauskas.

All meeting materials can be accessed here: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-january-2018-2/>

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

Chairman Powell called the meeting to order at 3:36PM.

Chairman Powell thanked Mr. Cirillo for all his service, quickly noting he's been working on Rhode Island energy codes since 1975.

Commissioner Grant also spoke on Mr. Cirillo's resignation and thanked him for his hard-work throughout all these years – the Council will not be the same without him.

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

Chairman Powell requested a motion to vote to approve December's meeting minutes. Ms. Verrengia made a motion to approve December's meeting minutes and Mr. Garlick seconded this motion. All approved.

### **3. Executive Director Report**

Commissioner Grant spoke on the Council's vacancies and stated that they have a few nominations already and have been meeting with possible candidates. She noted that the candidates she has met with so far are extremely excited and looking forward to doing the work and being part of the Council.

Commissioner Grant reported that there are (2) major energy procurements happening at the moment:

- 400MW Offshore Wind
- Up to 400MW of other Clean Energy projects – bids are online, and so far, they have a variety of solar, onshore, offshore and possible hydro projects.

Commissioner Grant stated that she will keep the Council informed as these procurements continue to develop.

### **4. Chairperson Report**

Chairman Powell reported that today the Council will hear about the Public Utilities' rulings on the Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurements Plans, followed by the first quarter 2019 priorities for the

C-Team. National Grid will then talk about their perspective on preliminary 2018 results and 2019 priorities.

Chairman Powell stated that the rest of the meeting will primarily be focused on completing council business. He noted that as the Council members know, they are likely to have an on-going quorum issue until new members are able to be confirmed by the Senate in 2019. Therefore, we are attempting to complete necessary council business today and provide specific authority to the Executive Committee as appropriate.

Chairman Powell also noted that for those that would like to provide public comments during today's meeting, the public comment period was moved to early in the agenda so those who need to leave early can do so.

## **Energy Efficiency Program Oversight**

### *a) Update on Public Utility Commission (PUC) Rulings*

Mr. Guerard reported that the PUC met at the end of December and approved the Energy Efficiency and System Reliability Procurement Plans with some significant alterations.

Mr. Guerard stated that there was a lot of discussion on the Energy Efficiency Plan. The PUC flagged two main items related to Performance Incentives:

1) Pilots, Initiatives, and Assessments. He noted that under these three categories, some efforts are expected to create savings, others might create savings, and, others have estimated savings. The PUC wants to be careful to give performance incentives to the utility only for elements that are going to save quantified, measurable amounts of energy.

2) The Efficient Buildings Fund (EBF) which is administered by the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank, will receive a contribution of \$5Million dollars through the 2019 Energy Efficiency Plan. The PUC felt that this allocation did not have enough clarity regarding the amount of energy savings it would support in 2019. The PUC therefore, approved conditionally the \$5Million allocation, but requested further reporting from the RI Infrastructure Bank about the exact savings that will be achieved in 2019, versus future years, with these funds.

Mr. Guerard stated that in addition, the PUC required National Grid to file definitions for terms like assessments, demonstrations, initiatives, etc. for use in future EE Plans. These terms need to be filed for review and approval by the PUC by March 31<sup>st</sup> and are meant to provide greater clarity within the 2019 Annual EE Plan and future Plans.

Mr. Guerard reported that there were many changes to the System Reliability Plan, and what is left is a Marketing Assessment and budget. National Grid is refilling the SRP Plan by next Wednesday and will be taking a re-look at the proposed budget. Mr. Guerard stated that no action is required by the Council because this a refilling based on requests by the PUC – nothing new needs to be approved, only performance incentive elements need to be removed.

Lastly, Mr. Guerard noted that the PUC also indicated that they are going to initiate a process to possibly change the timing for filing the Annual EE Plan and SRP Plans – they are interested trying to make the deadlines for these two Plans different. The PUC stated that they are going to start a stakeholder process to get feedback on this possible change.

### *b) Consultant- Team Quarter 1 Update*

Mr. Guerard stated that at the beginning of each quarter, the C-Team is going to try to give the Council an update as to what activities/projects or work the Consultant-Team is focusing on.

Mr. Guerard highlighted two items they are currently working on:

1) The Annual Report: Rachel Sholly is taking the lead on working on the Annual Report for the General Assembly – it needs to be submitted by April 15<sup>th</sup>. For this report, the Council weighs in heavily on the Policy Recommendations (these have been drafted and the Council will be going over them at subsequent meetings). Other portions of the report are drafted by the Consultant Team, OER and National Grid based on available data.

2) Network of Energy Efficiency: In addition to the Collaborative, the C-Team is working on educating a broader array of stakeholders on how they can participate in the energy efficiency planning and program feedback processes. This work is being undertaken as part of the Council's responsibility to educate the public on energy efficiency.

Chairman Powell asked if this networking group is part of the Collaborative. Mr. Guerard replied that the group is going to be related to the Collaborative, but it won't be going into depth on the issues, instead it will be focused on bringing others to the table either at Collaborative or at the Council meetings.

Mr. Guerard also reported that the Council had voted last time to allow the Consultant Team to issue an RFP for the Potential Study in conjunction with OER and National Grid. Therefore, the C-Team is working with the Office of Energy Resources and National Group to put a draft out soon. By the next Council meeting, they will have key aspects and the scope of work done to get additional feedback and input from the Council members. Mr. Guerard noted that the goal is to get the RFP out, reviewed, and voted on by July of this year.

Mr. Kravatz stated that the C-Team coordinates monthly Sector Team (C-Team, OER, DPUC, National Grid) meetings that are focused on innovation for the energy efficiency programs. To jumpstart the year, the primary strategy is to host two full-day workshops February (one for C&I programs and one for Residential program) to make sure everyone is on the same page and to present the current programs. Mr. Kravatz noted that the C-Team will have a lot to report back to the Council from these workshops and will keep everyone informed.

Mr. Kravatz reported that he and Ms. Trietch will start to reach out to the Council members to schedule the council member 1:1 meetings prior to the retreat in May.

Chairman Powell asked if it would be possible to reach out to future Council members to set up 1:1's with them ahead of their official appointments. Mr. Kravatz replied that he will work with Ms. Trietch to find out more about that possibility. He noted that Rachel Sholly is actively working on the Council's Handout which will be extremely useful to the current and future Council members.

Mr. Kravatz spoke on the 2019 Retreat – the C-Team is starting to plan and work on the agenda.

*c) National Grid: Preliminary 2018 Results & 2019 Priorities*

Ms. Henschel gave a preliminary glimpse of the 2018 results:

On the Electric Side: they hit 108% of their targets (mostly driven by the residential sector and lighting).

The Income-Eligible Sector came in at 95% due to some projects not moving forward.

The Gas Side hit 118% of their goal – the home energy report savings came in higher than expected at 140% in that sector.

Ms. Henschel stated that all this information will be included in next month's full report.

Chairman Powell asked about the budget – if National Grid could provide a presentation/more info on the budget. Ms. Henschel replied that she can have the team come in to give a presentation on the numbers since she does not have exact numbers today. Commissioner Grant also requested to have year-over-year trends included in the presentation. Ms. Henschel agreed.

Ms. Henschel stated that National Grid is also trying to align topics across Energy Efficiency meetings (EERMC, Collaborative, C-Team, OER, etc). She suggested the following topics for future EERMC meetings:

- K-12 school retrofits/programs
- Efficient Buildings Fund (EBF)
- Electrification of heat
- Restaurant initiatives
- More customized ways of working with Small C&I customers
- Residential lighting
- Smart Home technologies
- Income-Eligible implementation
- Test Performance Incentive Mechanisms (PIMs)
- Better coordination with their customer call center

Ms. Henschel asked the Council members to brainstorm on other topics that might interest them and reach out to her.

Mr. Hubbard asked why they are still pushing on residential lighting – he thought they had reached the cap for claimable lighting savings. Ms. Henschel stated that the federal lighting standards have not yet (and may not be) ramped up as expected. In addition, 2018 and 2019 will show an incredible push for energy efficiency programs to take advantage of all remaining lighting opportunities.

Mr. Hubbard asked about the Income-Eligibility process evaluation and what this would entail. Ms. Henschel explained that the Income-eligible program goes through the CAP Agencies, and they are going to have surveys from different parties to go over experience, process, and how the program is working. Chairman Powell asked if Ms. Henschel can share the information/results with the Council. Ms. Henschel replied that she can share both the before and after details.

Ms. Verrengia asked if the Council could see a written list of topics suggested by Ms. Henschel, so the members can see them and keep track of them. Ms. Henschel replied they can pick which topics they would like information/knowledge on and National Grid is happy to present on them. Ms. Verrengia noted she would still like to see the list first to then decide which topics to have presentations on.

Chairman Powell spoke on Connecticut’s sustainable business initiatives. He would like to learn more about SEM in Rhode Island – can it be done in hospitals?; what is National Grid finding about this program from other jurisdictions?; etc. Ms. Henschel replied that she can have a team come in and bring more information on SEM – National Grid just started working with industrial customers on this.

## **5. Public Comment**

### *a) Public Comment*

None.

## **6. Council Business**

### *a) Council Review of Final 2018 EERMC Budget*

Ms. Trietch apologized for last meeting’s confusion with the budget, and explained that the numbers did not add up because all of 2018’s invoices were not in. Ms. Trietch gave a brief overview of the expenses for 2018. With the exception of the Building Operator Education line item, all other 2018 invoices are now final values (rather than estimated values shown during last month’s meeting). Please refer to [EERMC 2018 Year-End Budget Table](#).

*b) Council Review, Discussion, & Vote on EERMC 2019 Budget*

Ms. Trietch went over the EERMC 2019 Budget in contrast with the EERMC 2018 Budget expenditures. She briefly highlighted that the C-Team budget is expected to be higher in 2019, Legal Council services are lower, and they added a line for the Potential Study- that's why the current expenditures budget is very close to the overall EERMC budget.

Chairman Powell reported that the Council members are only voting on the expenditures in 2019. He stated that Becca is working with Marisa to verify the balance in the client fund. They believe there are additional funds in the account not shown on the 2019 Draft budget document - The amount shown on the 2019 Draft Budget document is the minimum amount available in the client fund.

Chairman Powell noted that a full update will be given in February once they have gone back and audited all client fund balances over the past 5 years. There are likely additional funds available. Chairman Powell stated that due to the on-going quorum issue, it is recommended that the Council give the Executive Committee the authority to allocate an appropriate amount of any additional funds found in the Client Fund to the Potential Study. Chairman Powell noted that this time, the Council knows they can allocate \$250,000 to the Potential Study but they are expecting this study to cost closer to \$500,000. Therefore, it is recommended that any additional funds, if they are found through the audit process, be allocated to the Potential Study, which is currently a severely under-funded directive.

Ms. Verrengia asked if this discrepancy was found during an internal audit. Ms. Trietch replied yes.

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve the 2019 expenditures and to give the Executive Committee the authority to allocate any funds available found during the audit.

Mr. Garlick made a motion to approve the 2019 expenditures as shown and to give the Executive Committee the authority to determine, at their Jan 31, 2019 meeting, an appropriate amount of any identified additional funds to be allocated to the 2019 Potential Study.

Ms. Stubblefield Loucks seconded this motion. All Approved.

*c) Review, Discussion & Vote on Draft Public Education Fund Allocations*

Ms. Trietch went over the proposed allocations for 2019 Public Education funds, which included:

- The RI Home Show: Energy Efficiency & Resource Management Council/National Grid 2019 Energy Expo Sponsorship Package (Please refer to [2019 Energy Expo](#)).
- Farm Energy Fellow Education (Please refer to [Farm Energy Fellow](#)).
- URI: Increasing Energy Efficiency Literacy Amongst RI Decision- Makers Through Educational Outreach Events (Please refer to [URI Project](#)).

Ms. Trietch spoke to the RI Home Show, stating that it was similar to what they did last year, and the cost is the same at \$40,000.

Ms. Verrengia asked Ms. Trietch if she could get the tickets earlier this year so they have enough time to share/give to others.

Ms. Trietch stated that for the Farm Energy Fellow opportunity, the cost is going to be split almost 50/50 with National Grid.

Ms. Trietch reported that for the URI project, historically, URI used to host an energy lecture series: 2-3 events which tended to reach a broad array of people. She noted that the URI project is a sponsorship opportunity that would bring back those lectures for \$10,000. Ms. Trietch stated that she also asked them to help with the Annual Energy Efficiency event, to which they replied they would help with speakers, food and engagement for an additional \$5,000 – a total of \$15,000 for their proposal.

Ms. Stubblefield Loucks asked if by accepting these proposals the Council could make the EERMC go over budget. Ms. Trietch replied that their education budget is \$70,000 and they would only be using \$20,000 for these proposals (the Energy Expo's \$40,000 line item is shown separately in the EERMC budget).

Ms. Trietch noted that the Council will be looking over the recommendations from Energy Education Needs Assessment later in February and will have a presentation on the final results later in the year.

Chairman Powell requested a motion to approve the Public Education funding allocations for 2019. Mr. Garlick made a motion to approve the three 2019 Public Education funding allocations as shown, and to direct the Communications Subgroup, in collaboration with the Office of Energy Resources, to move forward with any necessary event planning, sponsorships and/or procurements in a timely manner. Ms. Verrengia seconded this motion. All Approved.

*d) Discussion Potential Policy Recommendations for the 2019 Annual Council Report to the General Assembly*

Ms. Trietch gave a brief introduction on the 2019 Policy Recommendations (Please refer to [2019 Policy Recommendations](#)). She noted that if anyone had any questions/comments about these to please email her.

Ms. Stubblefield Loucks stated that Recommendation #2 should be split into two different issues. Both Ms. Stubblefield Loucks and Mr. Garlick would like more explanation on the energy financing options. Mr. Garlick is also not sure about the RI Schools financing portion. Ms. Trietch replied that she will do more research about the financing options. Chairman Powell stated that Dunsky did some work/research on financing for the Council last year, Ms. Trietch should review those materials in case they are relevant. Ms. Trietch stated that she will connect with the C-Team to review Dunsky's findings.

Ms. Stubblefield Loucks asked if it would be appropriate to give a presentation to the General Assembly. Ms. Trietch replied that a presentation would need to be requested by the General Assembly or scheduled for a committee hearing for that to happen.

Ms. Verrengia stated that she believes recommendation #7 is super important- they should definitely focus on workforce development. Mr. Guerard agreed with Ms. Verrengia's comment stating that workforce development is going to be a crucial topic in the future.

Commissioner Grant stated that they will come back with more input/information for recommendation #8.

Ms. Trietch quickly went over the Progress Report: Previous Policy Recommendations. She noted that #1 and #2 are the same as last years, but #3 is new.

Ms. Trietch asked the Council members to take another look at the recommendations document and to send any comments/feedback to her within a week to allow enough time to finalize the document prior to the next EERMC meeting.

## **7. Adjournment**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14pm.