



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 18, 2021 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Cafeteria Conference Room, Basement Level, Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908

Members in Attendance: Anthony Hubbard, Peter Gill Case, Karen Verrengia, Commissioner Nicholas Ucci

Others in Attendance: Nathan Cleveland, Sam Ross

1. Call to Order

Acting Chair Hubbard called the meeting to order at 2:07pm

2. Executive Director Report (5 min, 2:00 - 2:05pm)

Commissioner Ucci will provide an update to the full EERMC meeting at 3pm today, rather than repeating the same updates twice.

3. Council Business (45 min 2:05 - 2:50pm)

a) Updates on 2022 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan Regulatory Review (15 mins, 3:05- 3:20pm)

Mr. Ross briefly reviewed the current procedural schedule and provided an update on recent materials filed in the docket as well as additional discovery that may be forthcoming on behalf of the EERMC. Acting Chair Hubbard asked about the initial data requests issued by the EERMC and Mr. Ross briefly summarized the responses and indicated that follow up clarifying questions may be warranted, and Council members indicated a desire to ensure the record is clear with respect to their priority areas of inquiry.

b) Discuss 2021 Council Meetings, Deliverables, Budget & Council Member Education Efforts (20 min, 3:20-3:40pm)

Acting Chair Hubbard gave a summary of his reactions to the recent Council retreat and expressed an appreciation for the topics covered and the depth and manner in which information was presented on those issues. Council members agreed that Council retreats are a good opportunity to cover substantive and emerging issues in more depth than as part of regular Council meetings and appreciate the opportunity to engage with their colleagues in a different setting as well. Ms. Verrengia noted the value these retreats provide her and emphasized the importance of having potentially multiple sessions each year again in 2022.

Mr. Cleveland led a brief discussion about the 2021 Council meetings and materials delivery and solicited feedback from the Executive Committee regarding the timing of meeting material delivery, cadence of the full council meetings, and balance of the agendas between procedural business and substantive issue discussion and exploration. The Executive Committee all agreed that, with some exceptions, meeting material delivery has been smooth and expressed a preference for maintaining the week in advance delivery schedule moving forward. There was also consensus that meetings

agendas have been well balanced and not overly full of topics and both Mr. Gill Case and Ms. Verrengia commended Acting Chair Hubbard for his management and stewardship of the agenda during full council meetings to ensure efficient and effective meetings.

Ms. Verrengia asked about the possibility of expanding Council meetings virtually, if not for active Council members, for the public to view online and/or for presenters to be able to participate remotely as a means of both increasing engagement and making Council business more accessible. Mr. Cleveland noted that until recently, technology limitations have made live streaming and/or recording Council meetings not feasible that recent technology upgrades in the DOA conference space could now potentially facilitate web-based participation and streaming, though Council Members wishing to participate in the meetings still need to attend in person pursuant to Open Meeting laws. Both Mr. Gill Case and Acting Chair Hubbard expressed an interest to both explore this option for future meetings, as appropriate, and seek ways to better allow for hybrid/virtual meetings in the future – especially given the thin margins EERMC currently has for establishing a quorum. Mr. Ross indicated that recording presentations at retreats and/or Council meetings on specific topics could be a nice way to also build up a library of educational content for the Council website as well as new Council member education as well.

The Executive Committee reviewed the 2021 EERMC budget spending to date and Mr. Cleveland provided an overview of expected future expenses, noting that the legal services budget will need to be increased for 2021 but all other expense categories appear to be on budget at this time.

c) Discuss future Executive Committee Meeting Agendas & Meeting Minutes (10 min, 3:40-3:50pm)

Executive Committee members expressed a uniform desire to discuss and prioritize topics for deep dives and special presentations throughout the 2022 calendar year. Mr. Cleveland provided a list of topics from 2021 that were not addressed as a starting point for Council members to work from and the Executive Committee decided to build from this list through discussion at a future full Council meeting and make more concrete determinations at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Mr. Gill Case suggested a quarterly Executive Committee cadence for 2022 beginning in January, with meetings to take place prior to that month's full Council meeting, which the other Councilors agreed with. Mr. Cleveland reminded this group to arrive 5 minutes early to the December full council meeting in order to vote on the approval of minutes from this meeting.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Adjournment

Mr. Gill Case moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Verrengia seconded and all approved. Meeting was adjourned at 2:57pm