



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

## **EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, November 18, 2021 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM**

Conference Room B, 2nd Floor Department of Administration One Capitol Hill Providence, RI 02908

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**Members in attendance:** Commissioner Nicholas Ucci, Tim Roughan, Angela Li, Tom Magliochetti, Karen Verrengia, Joe Garlick, Acting Chair Anthony Hubbard, Kurt Teichert, Perter Gill Case, Sue AnderBois

**Others Present:** Nathan Cleveland, Dr. Carrie Gill, Sam Ross, Craig Johnson, Rachel Sholly, Adrian Caesar, Eric Belliveau, Joshua Kessler, Matt Chase

All meeting materials can be accessed here: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-november-18/>

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

Acting Chair Hubbard called the meeting to order at 3:05pm.

### **2. Meeting Minutes**

Council Member Verrengia motioned to approve the September and October Meeting Minutes. Council Member Garlick seconded. There was no discussion. All in favor; none opposed. The motion passes and meeting minutes are approved.

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

Commissioner Ucci updated the Council on the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Committee (EC4's) public sharing session, which discussed the scope of the update to the 2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan as required by the 2021 Act on Climate, and announced the upcoming EC4 meeting in December. Commissioner Ucci noted the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank is accepting applications to the Municipal Resilience Program through December 17, 2021. Commissioner Ucci reminded the Council to consider potential volunteers to fill EERMC vacancies.

### **4. Acting Chairperson Report**

Acting Chair Hubbard summarized the meeting agenda and pointed council members to materials to review that are not on the meeting agenda today. He thanked participants in the recent council retreat and asked that they please share thoughts and observations with Rachel on the consultant team.

### **5. Program Oversight**

*a) Regulatory Update*

Please refer to [Updated PUC EE Procedural Schedule](#)

Mr. Ross from the Consultant Team reviewed the amended procedural schedule.

*b) National Grid & Consultant Team Presentation on the 2021 Quarter 3 Energy Efficiency Report*

Please refer to [2021 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Program Results – Consultant Team and National Grid Presentation](#) and [2021 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Program Results – National Grid Report](#)

Mr. Caesar and Mr. Johnson from the Consultant Team reviewed performance of electric and gas energy efficiency programs. National Grid representatives, Ms. Li and Mr. Kessler, provided residential and commercial highlights. Council Member Teichert asked for clarification in gas program spending. Mr. Johnson connected spending increases to increased incentive levels for weatherization. Acting Chair Hubbard asked for more detail on National Grid's strategy to increase performance of the income-eligible program from ~31% to ~90%, referencing the Q4 meeting on best practices held this morning between National Grid and the Consultant Team. Mr. Johnson stated that National Grid is no longer expecting to reach the same end-of-year performance levels as they had anticipated. Council Member Verrengia added that the Community Action Agencies (CAPs) have been challenged with finding workers and noted some workforce development efforts. Mr. Johnson responded that the CAPs have begun paying vendors in advance in hopes of encouraging vendor partnerships and noted supply issues preventing savings from appliances. Mr. Ross noted that the issues highlighted are on top of historical poor performance of this program. There was additional discussion about workforce challenges.

*c) Review Timeline for 2023 Energy Efficiency Plan Development, Review, and Submission to the PUC*

Please refer to [2022 Key Deliverables and Schedule Presentation](#)

Mr. Ross from the Consultant Team reviewed key deliverables and timing of those deliverables in 2022. Council members discussed clarifying questions about the timeline. Ms. Li noted a discrepancy in the timeline with the timing of the quarterly reports and will follow up with correct dates.

**6. Council Business**

*a) Review and Vote on Legal Services Budget Increase Request for 2021*

Please refer to [Legal Services Budget Increase Request](#)

Mr. Cleveland reviewed the memo submitted by Council Attorney Desautel requesting a budget increase. Council Member Teichert asked for clarification on drivers for this budget increase. Mr. Cleveland noted the contested docket is primarily driving the overage, with other drivers including the number of Council legal questions, travel and attendance at in-person meetings, and

other factors. Council Member Garlick asked for hourly rates for legal services. Council Member Teichert made a motion to approve the requested \$17,000 increase in funding allocated to legal services in 2021. If any of the \$17,000 increase is unused by the end of 2021, the remainder shall return to the unallocated pool of the EERMC's funds for 2022. Council Member Verrengia seconded. There was no discussion. All in favor; none opposed – the motion passes.

*b) Review 2022 EERMC Meeting Calendar*

Please refer to [Draft 2022 EERMC Meeting Calendar](#)

Mr. Cleveland presented the proposed list of dates for 2022 council meetings. Mr. Cleveland noted that Council Member Teichert will be on sabbatical and unable to attend council meetings in the first two quarters; this in addition to vacant council seats could pose challenges for votes. Council Member Verrengia requested, and Mr. Cleveland agreed, that votes be consolidated within key meetings. Council Member AnderBois noted that the 3-5pm timeframe may present challenges to members and attendees related to conflicting with childcare pickup. Council Members asked if a vote could be taken today, but since the vote was not noticed, Commissioner Ucci suggested holding a vote for the next meeting.

*c) Review Draft 2022 EERMC Budget & Consultant Team Scope of Work*

Please refer to [Draft 2022 EERMC Budget](#), [2022 Consultant Team SOW/Budget – Consultant Team Presentation](#), and [2022 Consultant Team SOW/Budget – Consultant Team Memo](#)

Mr. Cleveland reviewed the Council's draft budget for 2022. Council Member Gill Case, Mr. Cleveland, and Mr. Ross discussed the difference between allocating money to a future potential study and allocating money for a potential study data refresh. Mr. Roughan asked whether unallocated funding could be reconciled; Commissioner Ucci noted that reconciliation had occurred in years past. Council Member Gill Case suggested increasing the legal budget for 2022. Acting Chair Hubbard suggested the education budget may need to be increased as well.

Mr. Ross introduced Eric Belliveau from the Consultant Team who provided an update on staffing. Mr. Ross reviewed their proposed scope of work and budget. Council Member Hubbard asked how the Consultant Team's budget compares across states in which they work. Mr. Belliveau and Mr. Ross explained that the Consultant Team's budget is commensurate with energy efficiency program size across states and depending on the role of the Consultant Team in those states. Council Member Verrengia thanked the Consultant Team for their presentation.

## **7. Special Topic**

*a) Office of Energy Resources Presentation on the Location Based EE/DR*

Please refer to [Targeted EE/DR – OER and Consultant Team Presentation](#)

Dr. Gill and Mr. Ross presented the concept of locational outreach for energy efficiency and demand response as a way to increase the likelihood of locational benefits. Council Member Roughan shared National Grid's perspective on implementing this concept.

#### **8. Public Comment**

None.

#### **9. Adjournment**

Council Member AnderBois made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Verrengia seconded. There was no discussion. All in favor; none opposed. Acting Chair Hubbard adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm.

#### **Outstanding Council Member Questions Requiring a Written Response:**

None