



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

EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

Thursday, February 17, 2022

Full Council Meeting | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Meeting conducted virtually using Zoom with additional audio conference capabilities

Members in Attendance: Commissioner Nick Ucci, Anthony Hubbard, Sue AnderBois, Peter Gill Case, Karen Verrengia, Joe Garlick

Others Present: John Richards, Marisa Desautel, Jesse Duroha, Diane Quesnelle, Sam Ross, Nathan Cleveland, Steven Chybowski, Brett Feldman, Joel Munoz, Nelson DiBiase, Craig Johnson, Rachel Sholly, Adrian Caesar, Eric Belliveau, Margaret Hogan, Jessica Darling, Josh Kessler, Anika Kreckel, Samantha Caputo, Kai Salem

All meeting materials can be accessed here: <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-february-2022/>.

1. Call to Order

Acting Chair Hubbard called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. and noted that the Council did not have a quorum.

2. Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2022

Acting Chair Hubbard tabled agenda item two for the March meeting.

3. Executive Director Report

Commissioner Ucci notified the group that the Office of Energy Resources is continuing to identify potential candidates to fill current EERMC vacancies. Recommendations for any vacant seats can be shared with Mr. Chybowski.

Commissioner Ucci also stated that work on the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) continues and that there will be an advisory board meeting next Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and that everyone is welcome to attend.

Lastly, Commissioner Ucci stated that OER will begin a public comment period on rules and regulations for updated appliance standards based on legislation from last year. A specific date

hasn't been set yet, but the EERMC will be notified once the rules and regulations are posted for comment.

4. **Acting Chairperson Report (items 1-4: 10 min, 3:00 - 3:10pm)**

Acting Chair Hubbard stated that no votes will be taken today and discussion items will be tabled until March. Acting Chair Hubbard also requested that the Office of Energy Resources share the Council retreat survey link after this meeting.

5. **Program Oversight (40 min, 3:10 – 3:50 pm)**

- a. *National Grid Update on Conclusion of 2022 Energy Efficiency Plan Hearings (15 minutes, 3:10 – 3:25pm)*

Mr. Richards provided a high-level overview of the results of the Public Utilities Commission hearings of the 2022 Energy Efficiency Plan. The approved energy efficiency plan had a nine percent budget reduction from the originally proposed energy efficiency plan. The “Alternative Base Plan” was the approved energy efficiency plan. The evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V) budget was also reduced for 2022, and EM&V studies have been altered to reflect the budget changes. Lastly, energy efficiency rates are typically in effect for a full calendar year, but 2022's energy efficiency rates were not in effect until February 1st, because the energy efficiency plan was not finalized until mid-January. There were no questions from the Council.

- b. *Regulatory Update on Conclusion of 2022 Energy Efficiency Plan Hearings (25 minutes, 3:25 – 3:50pm)*

Mr. Ross led a presentation identifying Public Utilities Commission rulings that impact the Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council (EERMC). Mr. Ross noted that the Council's budget was set at a specific amount, which will be funded proportionally from National Grid's gas and electric accounts. All expenses will now be paid by National Grid, upon approval from OER's Commissioner acting as Executive Director of the EERMC, and National Grid is expected to file copies of all invoices paid to the Public Utilities Commission on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Ross explained that the Consultant Team is also proposing changes to their scope of work and budget for 2022 to reflect the rulings of the Public Utilities Commission and the Consultant Team is always open to constructive feedback for improving their services to the Council. The Consultant Team's billing changes will be implemented starting on April 1st once the Consultant team is able to adapt their internal systems. The Consultant Team will help leverage EM & V studies from other jurisdictions to support National Grid's EM & V work and drive efficiency.

Council Member AnderBois thanked Mr. Ross and the Consultant Team for the thorough presentation.

6. **Council Business (65 Minutes, 3:50 – 4:55pm)**

- a. *Updates, Discussion, & Potential Vote on Consultant Team Recommendations and/or Scope of Work (15 minutes, 3:50 - 4:05pm)*

Mr. Ross provided an informational update to the Council noting that Jesse Duroha has been hired as the inaugural Mike Guerard Energy Fellow, and that a new Consultant Team scope of work and budget has been developed and shared to reflect the rulings of the Public Utilities Commission.

Acting Chair Hubbard asked if the changes from the original scope of work could be presented in another way to make the differences clearer. Mr. Ross stated that he will provide a tracked changes version of the scope of work to the Council for additional review.

b. *Discussion & Potential Vote on Legal Services (10 minutes, 4:05 - 4:15pm)*

On the recommendation from legal counsel Desautel, all additional agenda items have been tabled until the March meeting.

c. *Discussion & Potential Vote on 2022 EERMC Budget (25 minutes, 4:15 - 4:40pm)*

Agenda item tabled until the March meeting.

d. *Discussion of Priorities for 2023 Energy Efficiency Annual Plan (15 minutes, 4:40 - 4:55pm)*

Agenda item tabled until the March meeting.

7. **Public Comment**

Agenda item 7 was tabled until the March meeting.

8. **Adjournment**

Acting Chair Hubbard adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.