



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

EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 22, 2022

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

Department of Administration Conference Room 2A, Providence, RI 02908 with additional audio/video participation available through Zoom.

Members in Attendance: Peter Gill Case, Sue AnderBois, Brett Feldman, Tom Magliocchetti, Harry Oakley, Kate Grant, Joe Garlick, Bob Izzo, Kurt Teichert

Others in Attendance: Steven Chybowski, Adrian Caesar, Craig Johnson, Nelson DiBiase, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Josh Kessler, Angela Li, Sam Ross, Rachel Sholly, Hank Webster, Emma Rodvien, John Marcantonio, Louis Cotoia, Cheryl Boyd, Diane Quesnelle, Karen Verrengia, Jeremy Newberger, David Moreira, James Lynn

All meeting materials can be accessed at <https://rieermc.ri.gov/meeting/eermc-meeting-september-2022-2/>.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:17 p.m.

2. Chair Report

Chairperson Oakley provided an overview of the meeting agenda, listed materials available online that will not be discussed at today's meeting, and provided instructions for making public comments. He thanked the Rhode Island Builders Association for joining the meeting and reminded Council Members that we will meet again in one week to decide on endorsement of the 2023 Energy Efficiency Program Plan.

3. Executive Director Report

Mr. Chybowski provided the Executive Director Report on behalf of Interim Commissioner Kearns. He noted that the request for proposals (RFP) for offshore wind procurement is available for public comment on the Public Utilities Commission website and that candidate recommendations are being sought for the three vacancies on the Council.

4. [Meeting Minutes – August 18, 2022](#)

This item was moved to the end of the agenda, after agenda item six, to give Council Members time to review their notes. Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to approve the August 18th meeting minutes with an amendment to include that in the previous meeting he had

noted that non-incentive costs were particularly high and wanted to have further study of them. Council Member Teichert seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

5. Council Business (30 minutes, 3:10 – 3:40 p.m.)

- a. [Rhode Island Builders Association Home Show Presentation](#) (15 minutes, 3:10 – 3:25 p.m.)

Mr. Marcantonio of the Rhode Island Builders Association (RIBA) presented a history of the Home Show and the Energy Expo. Mr. Cotoia shared the attendance and demographic data from the 2022 Rhode Island Home Show and Energy Expo. He noted the increase in student involvement with the RIBA Home Show which is a part of their workforce development efforts. Council Members asked for more demographic data to be collected and provided on the Home Show attendees and on the students participating to help ensure that a wide population is reached through these efforts.

- b. [Discussion and Potential Vote on Council Branding and Communications Request for Proposals](#) (10 minutes, 3:25 – 3:35 p.m.)

Chairperson Oakley introduced the Council branding and communications effort stating his belief that this effort is important for the future of the Council. He noted that this RFP is more substantial and strategic than what was initially discussed and that there is no price specified within the RFP. Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to approve the Council Branding and Communications RFP with an amendment to strike the reference to energy-related backgrounds in section 5.3, and to direct OER to issue this request for proposals. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

- c. *Vote to Establish an EERMC Education Committee and to Approve Members to the Committee* (5 minutes, 3:35 – 3:40 p.m.)

Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to establish the EERMC Education Committee and to approve Vice Chair Gill Case, Council Member AnderBois, and Council Member Teichert to the EERMC Education Committee effective September 22nd, 2022. Council Member Garlick seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

6. Program Oversight (70 Minutes, 3:40 – 4:50 p.m.)

- a. [Rhode Island Energy Presentation and Discussion of the Updated Draft of the 2023 Energy Efficiency Program Plan](#) (20 minutes, 3:40 – 4:00)

Council Member Feldman presented an overview of the updates and new proposals to the Rhode Island Energy 2023 Energy Efficiency Program Plan draft. Mr. Kessler presented on updates to the commercial and industrial sections of the plan proposal. Mr. Feldman noted that the plan proposal includes fuel switching to heat pumps in limited circumstances and a fuel cell project that is in the early stages of development. Vice Chair Gill Case requested that the Company prepares a provisional spending plan by next week, if possible, in case the fuel cell project is removed from the plan.

- b. [Consultant Team Presentation and Discussion of the Updated Draft of the 2023 Energy Efficiency Program Plan](#) (20 minutes, 4:00 – 4:20)

Mr. Ross presented an overview of the Council's Consultant Team takeaways on the updated draft of the 2023 Energy Efficiency Program Plan. He noted that there may be some minor changes to some of the numbers based on additional analysis conducted over the next week. Vice Chair Gill Case noted that for both the utility and the Council that support for equity and access is ramping up, but that both sides still have more work to do to sufficiently

represent the hardest-hit energy customers. Mr. Caesar presented on updates to the commercial and industrial sector programming. Mr. Johnson presented on plan updates to the residential and income-eligible sector programming. Council Members requested more clarity and simpler graphs and charts in future presentations as they found some of the diagrams presented here to be difficult to follow. Chair Oakley reminded Council Members to reach out to the Consultant Team and use them as a resource as needed for explaining the information provided in the presentations.

c. Council Discussion on Program Oversight (30 minutes, 4:20 – 4:50)

Council Members expressed their thoughts on this year's planning process in comparison to the previous year and noted that they believe that this year has been more collaborative between the utility and the Council.

Chairperson Oakley commented that he sees this year as a rebuilding year for both the Company and the Council. He also stated that an approval of the plan is also a reflection of what the Council has put into the plan process.

Vice Chair Gill Case asked to check in with the Council's legal counsel about how votes could be recorded for any Council Members that are not in attendance next Thursday.

Council Member Teichert commented that he believes that equity and the income-eligible sector work are starting to move in the right direction and that he wants to see the Company be more proactive in these spaces moving forward.

7. Public Comment

Hank Webster, the Acadia Center

Mr. Webster explained that program administrators in Massachusetts are attempting to push more efficiency and weatherization savings ahead of this winter's rate increases. He was also hoping to see movement on demand response for more winter opportunities and to include it on the gas side with connected thermostats which could help mitigate the winter energy concerns, but we are not currently seeing expansion of demand response in the 2023 plan. He noted how much energy load the State of California was able to conserve with a text and voluntary load reduction which could be a helpful tool in Rhode Island in upcoming winters.

8. Adjournment

Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member AnderBois seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.