



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

### EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 16, 2023

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

Department of Administration Conference Room 2A, Providence, RI 02908 with additional participation via Zoom.

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

**Others in Attendance:** Marisa Desautel, Sam Ross, Adrian Caesar, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Spencer Lawrence, Steven Chybowski, William Owen, Nelson DiBiase (virtual), Daniel Tukey (virtual), Craig Johnson (virtual)

#### 1. Call to Order

Chairperson Oakley called the meeting to Order at 3:02pm.

#### 2. Chair Report

Chairperson Oakley delivered the Chair Report noting the meeting participation instructions, an overview of the meeting agenda, the launch of the branding and communications initiative, and the upcoming Rhode Island Home Show and Energy Expo. He also shared that the Council's energy efficiency videos are now live on the Council's website.

#### 3. Executive Director Report

Acting Commissioner Kearns delivered the Executive Director report, sharing updates on the status of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding including estimated timelines based on the latest information available from the US Department of Energy. He noted the work of Mr. Chybowski on applications related to energy building codes and energy auditor trainings in coordination with educational institutions. He also announced that the Office of Energy Resources (OER) has released its latest RFP for the ZEOS program in coordination with RIHousing and that applications are due May 1. In addition, he noted that the selection of an administrator for the heat pump program is progressing, that the planning for the Rhode Island Home Show and Energy Expo is nearly complete, and he provided a rundown of legislative updates from the current session.

#### 4. Meeting Minutes - February 16, 2023

Chairperson Oakley motioned to approve the February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Mr.

Garlick seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

**5. Program Oversight (40 Min, 3:10 – 3:55 p.m.)**

*a. Presentation of 2022 Preliminary Q4 and Year-End Energy Efficiency Programming (30 min, 3:10 – 3:40 p.m.)*

Rhode Island Energy and the Council's Consultant Team provided an update on the energy efficiency programming for the fourth quarter of 2022 and the preliminary results for the entire year. Mr. Caesar of the Council's Consultant Team introduced the outline and the general performance trends in the electric and gas sectors and the performance in the commercial and industrial (C+I) sectors.

Mr. Johnson presented on the spending in the income-eligible categories, noting the shortfall in goal achievement based on the preliminary results. Council members discussed the measure life of residential heat pumps and the share of electric savings by sector.

Mr. O'Brien Crayne of Rhode Island Energy provided updates on new construction programming and noted an increase in Q4 in appliance applications. He highlighted two affordable housing projects that were completed and partnerships with Ocean State Job Lot and Home Depot that have increased efficient power strips and appliance availability. RIE also completed a redesign to simplify new large commercial construction pathways to streamline the program.

The Council's discussion focused on maximizing the benefits for low- and moderate-income residents, opportunities to adjust incentive levels to achieve results, and the need to focus on accessibility in order to maximize the utilization of upcoming federal funding.

*b. Discussion and Vote on Council Priorities for 2024-2026 Three-Year and 2024 Annual Plans (15 min, 3:40 – 3:55 p.m.)*

The Council's Consultant Team led a discussion of the Council's priorities for the 2024 Annual Plan and the 2024-2026 Three-Year Plan. Mr. Caesar provided the update including an overview of the Council priorities process.

Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to approve the EERMC's Plan priorities for the 2024 Annual Plan and the 2024-2026 Three-Year Plan as presented by the Council's Consultant Team on March 16, 2023. Chairperson Oakley seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

**6. Council Business (40 Min, 3:55 – 4:35 p.m.)**

*a. Market Potential Study Data Refresh and Target Filing Updates (15 min, 3:55 – 4:10 p.m.)*

Mr. Ross of the Consultant Team shared updates on the market potential study data refresh process and the Council's target filing requirements. Next steps, questions about a detailed analysis of the results, and how the targets will be determined was discussed with the Council.

*b. Review of Proposed Updates to the Council Bylaws (15 min, 4:10 – 4:25 p.m.)*

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Ross from Council's Consultant Team led a discussion of suggested updates to the Council's bylaws based on Council input. The Consultant Team shared the timeline and forum for the vote on the proposed changes, remaining questions related to the process, and the need to review previous documentation on contractual matters. The Council agreed to move further

discussion of the redlines with legal counsel and to revisit potential changes at the April Council meeting.

- c. *2023 Annual Report and Policy Recommendations (10 min, 4:25 – 4:35 p.m.)*  
Mr. Caesar from the Consultant Team and Mr. Chybowski from OER provided updates on the development of the 2023 EERMC Annual Report and the Council's proposed policy recommendations. The Council reviewed the 2022 policy recommendations and achievements and the status of the first draft of the report. Mr. Chybowski discussed the formulation of the policy recommendations, with continuation of the previous years' goals, and new recommendations including coordination of EE programming with federal funding, addressing weatherization barriers, aligning programming with the Justice40 framework, and highlighting the importance of the Future of Gas docket. Mr. Caesar shared the updated timeline for the report.

**7. Special Topics (15 min, 4:35 – 4:50 p.m.)**

- a. *ACEEE State Scorecard Presentation and Discussion (15 min, 4:35 – 4:50 p.m.)*  
Mr. Owen from OER presented on the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's (ACEEE) latest State Energy Efficiency Scorecard rankings and the opportunities identified for Rhode Island. He noted the changes to the scorecard following a scorecard pause in 2021 and the effect of those changes on RI's ranking. MR. Owen identified areas where Council priorities remained aligned with the scorecard rankings, and the opportunity for low- and moderate-income-focused efforts to be refined.

**8. Public Comment**

None.

**9. Adjournment**

Chairperson Oakley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:08 p.m. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed.