



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 18, 2024 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM

Department of Administration Conference Room 2A, Providence, RI 02908

With public participation available via Zoom.

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### Members in Attendance:

Harry Oakley, Peter Gill Case, Sue AnderBois

### Others in Attendance:

Brett Feldman, Steven Chybowski, Marisa Desautel, Craig Johnson, Rachel Sholly, Georgia Cheney, Katie Critelli

#### 1. Call to Order

Chair Oakley called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

#### 2. Chair Report

Chair Oakley previewed the meeting agenda. He also reminded attendees that any public comment must be made during the public comment period. Chair Oakley also flagged to attendees that all meeting materials are available online.

#### 3. Executive Director Report

Mr. Chybowski from the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) updated the Executive Committee members on recent program activities. Mr. Chybowski introduced a new member of the OER staff, Katie Critelli, to the Executive Committee. He also noted that OER has posted the latest Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) allocation plan to its website. He shared that the RFI responses to the Home Energy Rebate programs have also been posted to the website.

Additionally, the straw proposal for the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) program is posted and stakeholder feedback is welcomed. A public meeting on the straw proposal for the HEAR program will be posted on the website shortly. The Home Show hosted in April was a success, attendance seemed to be up, and OER got several questions about solar and heat pump installations. Finally, council member badges to enter the Department of Administration (DOA) are in progress. Council Members are asked to provide a headshot and photo of their license to finalize the badges.

#### 4. Meeting Minutes – March 21, 2024

Chair Oakley motioned to approve the January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the meeting minutes were approved.

#### 5. Public Comment

None.



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### 6. Council Business

a. Committee Updates on Council Rebranding Efforts and the Climate and Energy Efficiency Awareness Campaign

Mr. Chybowski and the Council's Consultant Team provided updates on the Council's rebranding efforts which have been completed. The climate and energy efficiency awareness campaign vendor has been selected and the contract has been fully executed. The Consultant Team is meeting with the climate and energy efficiency awareness campaign vendor tomorrow to determine administrative duties and schedule a kick-off call. Vice Chair Gill Case would like the Consultant Team to ask council members what they think the relationship between energy efficiency and climate change is in the LEAD session to guide the climate and energy efficiency awareness campaign. Ms. Sholly, of the Consultant Team, is working to develop framing questions for the LEAD session about energy efficiency and climate change. Mr. Chybowski updated the council members on the status of the URI contract which is still in process. The council has agreed to reduce the lecture series to two lectures and increase the work URI has been doing with the Health Equity Zones. Vice Chair Gill Case emphasized the importance of the work URI is doing with the Health Equity Zones that will benefit the state.

b. Discussion of Council Learning, Education, and Advancement Discussion (LEAD) Meeting Agenda

Mr. Johnson from the Council's Consultant Team shared the proposed agenda for the Council's spring LEAD session with the Executive Committee. Mr. Johnson flagged that a building decarbonization bill has been introduced and asked for the Executive Council's opinion on if they would like to add an informative talk on this bill to the LEAD session. Emily Koo from the Acadia Center has offered to lead a talk on the building decarbonization bill. The hearing for the bill is set for May 1<sup>st</sup>, if the council would like to support the bill, they would need to vote at the LEAD session to do so. Council Member AnderBois asked if the EEC can sign a letter of support for the bill if they are not a lobbyist. Legal counsel Ms. Desautel answered that signing on to another person's letter of support is not considered lobbying. Vice Chair Gill Case supports the idea of hearing about the decarbonization bill. He also would like to prioritize talks on the Future of Gas and the Energy Efficiency Climate Awareness Campaign. The Consultant Team will rework the drafted LEAD agenda to fit a talk about the building decarbonization bill.

c. Review and Discussion of Proposed Updates to the Council's Bylaws

The Council's Consultant Team and Mr. Chybowski provided an update on the Council's bylaws for Executive Committee consideration. The Executive Committee reviewed and expressed support for the bylaws as they are written.



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d. Review of Council Budget Year-to-Date Spending and Preview of 2025 Budget Planning Process

Mr. Johnson reviewed the Council's 2024 spending to-date which is available on the council's website. Mr. Chybowski showed the Executive Committee the 2025 budget planning timeline. Chair Oakley asked if the URI budget was decreased at all with hosting less lectures and Mr. Johnson answered that their budget was not reduced because work was added to do outreach with the Health Equity Zones. Mr. Johnson asked the Executive Committee members for feedback on the budget categories.

### 7. Adjournment

Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 2:54 p.m.