



FULL COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 17, 2024 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

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

Members in Attendance:

Harry Oakley, Peter Gill Case, Carrie Gill, Tom Magliocchetti, Joe Garlick, Brett Feldman, Kurt Teichert, Chris Kearns, Dave Caldwell, Priscilla De La Cruz

Others in Attendance:

Will Owen, Katie Critelli, Georgia Cheney, Jack Green, Craig Johnson, Kaeley Skakalski, Seth Handy, Helen Anthony, Kate Felder, Toby Ast, Brendan Dagher, Spencer Lawrence, Margie Lynch (virtual), Carinel LeGrand (virtual), Rebecca Foster (virtual), Theo Smith (virtual), Joel Munoz (virtual), Ann Clarke (virtual), Jordan Galluzzo (virtual), Margaret Hogan (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chair Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

2. Chair Report

Chair Oakley explained the meeting logistics and how to provide public comment. He presented an overview of agenda with presentations from RI Energy and the Consultant Team. He mentioned the new website and reminded the group about upcoming events.

3. Executive Director Report

Acting Commissioner Kearns shared that OER is working on an electric leaf blower program with funds allocated by the General Assembly. This program is expected to launch this fall. He also shared that the EC4 approved a \$1.6 million plan to invest in renewable energy at schools, employer-provided RIPTA passes, and DEM resilience projects. He also announced that there's a survey on the RIPTA website regarding the development of the proposed Metro Connector and encouraged the Council to take and share the survey with those anywhere between the Cumberland and Warwick communities.

4. Meeting Minutes

Chair Oakley motioned to approve the September 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Council Member Teichert seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the meeting minutes were approved.

5. Public Comment

Mr. Owen with the Office of Energy Resources asked that members of the public attending the meeting sign in so that the minutes can accurately reflect all in attendance.

6. Program Oversight

a. *Rhode Island Energy Presentation on 2024 Equity Working Group Report*

Mr. Dagher and Ms. Felder presented on behalf of Rhode Island Energy. Ms. Felder reported that the Group met seven times in 2024. She also spoke about the themes,



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recommendations, and ongoing actions to address the recommendations. Mr. Dagher discussed the timeline of this year's report, as well as the equity metrics. Chair Oakley expressed his appreciation for their hard work, especially with incorporating the feedback.

b. *Rhode Island Energy Presentation on Old Mill Lane LNG Facility*

Council Member Feldman presented and shared historical information about Aquidneck Island's past gas service issues. His presentation addressed the issues of capacity and vulnerability. Mr. Feldman also shared the utility costs for the different options as well as the findings of the Energy Facilities Siting Board in August. These findings included a requirement that the Company files a demand response, energy efficiency, and heating electrification conversion plan with the PUC specifically for Aquidneck Island with the objective to eventually eliminate the design-day peak hour capacity gap on the Island. This plan is due June 1, 2025 to the PUC. Council discussion included concerns including cost benefit analysis and valuation of environmental impacts in light of the Act on Climate.

c. *Consultant Team Presentation and Vote on the Cost-Effectiveness Report for the 2025 Annual Energy Efficiency Plan*

Mr. Johnson's presentation outlined the Council's requirements, cost-effectiveness report development, and the report's findings. All programs in both the electric and gas portfolios are cost-effective based on the established Rhode Island Test. Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to approve the cost-effectiveness report as currently written and to direct the Consultant Team and legal representatives to submit the report by October 22, 2024 deadline. Council Member De La Cruz seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The report will be submitted without amendments by October 22nd. The Handy Law firm will assist in the filing.

d. *Discussion of the Council's Comments and Approach for Engagement in the 2025 Energy Efficiency Plan Docket Proceedings*

Mr. Johnson outlined the topics that the Council may want to highlight in the upcoming docket proceedings, along with recommendations on next steps. The topic areas included economic impacts in the RI Test benefit-cost analysis, rate and bill impacts, compliance with the Act on Climate, an equity-based performance incentive, and emergency heating system replacements.

It was suggested that Council Member Teichert represents the EEC at the upcoming docket hearings to speak on behalf of the Council. Mr. Johnson explained the process where Council Member Teichert would complete pre-file testimony and be open to cross



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examination. Mr. Feldman asked for the EEC to show the areas where they support the plan in addition to the expressing the concerns they have.

7. Council Business

a. *Review of Council's 2024 Budget and Potential Vote to Reconcile Allocations*

Mr. Owen presented the budget spending and projected year-end spending. He shared items for the Council to consider, suggesting that the Farm Energy Fellow line item can be zeroed out as OER has a grant to cover that role. He also suggested the removal of K-12 energy education budget as it was not pursued this year amidst other Council activities. He also flagged a potential increase in website spending this year and adding a line item for an outstanding URI invoice.

Chair Oakley brought forth the recommendation to zero out the line items for the 2024 Farm Energy Fellow and the K-12 energy education and add a line item for the 2023 URI invoice. Then, based on the forecast, the Council would have financial flexibility through the end of the year. Chair Oakley motioned to remove the line items of the 2024 Farm Energy Fellow and the K-12 energy education and add a line item for the 2023 URI invoice of the total of \$1,439.41. Council Member Teichert seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

b. *Planning Discussion for the Council's Learning, Education, and Advancement Discussion Meeting*

Mr. Johnson presented the draft agenda for the LEAD session. Chair Oakley asked to re-order the agenda topics.

8. Adjournment

Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.