



FULL COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 15, 2025 | 3:00 – 5:00 PM

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

Members in Attendance:

Tom Magliocchetti, Dr. Carrie Gill, Joe Garlick, Harry Oakley, Peter Gill Case, Kurt Teichert, Sue AnderBois, Dave Caldwell, Brett Feldman, Priscilla De La Cruz (3:16 PM)

Others in Attendance:

Steven Chybowski, Karen Bradbury, Danielle Jameson, Katie Critelli, Craig Johnson, Adrian Caesar, Toby Ast, Atticus Makuch, Brendan Dagher, Kevin O'Neil, Chelsea Petrenko, Rawley Loken (virtual), William Owen (virtual), Alison Donovan (virtual), Ann Clarke (virtual), Molly Bertolacini (virtual), Theo Smith (virtual), Mark Thomson (virtual), Jeremy Newberger (virtual), Spencer Lawrence (virtual), Emily Koo (virtual), Leigh Edie (virtual), Chris Kearns (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chair Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

2. Chair Report

Chair Oakley began by sharing the meeting logistics and how to submit public comment. He previewed agenda topics, which includes a special presentation by E3 on the State's climate action strategy, Program Oversight, and Council Business. He noted that Rhode Island Energy (RIE) provided statistics on marketing efforts for the first quarter, as a follow-up to last month's presentation, which can be found under supplemental information on the website. He shared that last week's LEAD session included discussion on the ACEEE scorecard and a presentation from Todd Bianco from the PUC and announced that the next Energy Efficiency Technical Working Group is scheduled for May 22nd.

3. Executive Director Report

Ms. Bradbury updated the Council on federal funding with details on open programs, programs in progress, and paused programs. She shared updates on Lead by Example and legislative appointments.

4. Meeting Minutes – March 31, 2025

a. April 17, 2025

Chair Oakley motioned to approve the April 17, 2025 meeting minutes. Council Member Caldwell seconded. All in favor, none opposed and the meeting minutes were approved.

b. May 5, 2025 LEAD Session

Chair Oakley motioned to approve the May 5, 2025 LEAD session meeting minutes. Council Member AnderBois seconded. Council Members Magliocchetti, Gill Case,



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Teichert, Caldwell, and De La Cruz, approved, Council Member Garlick abstained, none opposed, and the meeting minutes were approved.

5. Public Comment

Kevin O'Neil, *Citizens' Climate Lobby*

Mr. O'Neil raised the issue of the negative press regarding bills and energy efficiency charges and suggested equal weight and communications should be given to discussing the savings that result from those investments.

6. Special Topic

a. *Rhode Island Climate Action Strategy Discussion*

Ms. Petrenko of E3, the organization developing the State's climate action strategy, presented the project timeline and highlighted the pillars of decarbonization to achieve net zero greenhouse gases (GHGs) for Rhode Island. She provided charts on emissions and shared modeling inputs and assumptions. Chair Oakley asked about EPA guidance in relation to the strategy. Council Member AnderBois asked about reflecting the cost of inaction. Council Members and E3 representatives discussed many topics including cost updates, strategies and policies needed to achieve decarbonization goals, costs of pre-weatherization and heat pumps and identifying holistic approaches. Ms. Petrenko addressed the relation between the amount of gas Rhode Island brings into the state and the cost of electricity. Council Member Caldwell brought up the idea to rate apartments based on efficiency and adjust the costs accordingly, explaining that rents are the same for low-efficiency older homes and new efficient buildings, keeping in mind that older apartments will likely have higher utility bills to already cost-burdened customers.

7. Program Oversight

a. *Presentation and Discussion on Energy Efficiency Program Implementation*

Mr. Makuch presented on the 2024 Year End Program Highlights from the efficiency program. Council Member Magliocchetti asked about SEMP initiatives, which accounts for approximately 25% of C+I retrofit savings. Mr. Dagher reported on the EE statistics with SEMP partners. Chair Oakley would like the follow-up presentation on this subject to show the 'under performers' to identify where there are opportunities for program improvements.

b. *Rhode Island Energy Updates on the 2026 Energy Efficiency Plan*



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Mr. Ast updated the timeline, the outline memo, and asked about Council's 2026 priorities. The Council discussed the tradeoffs between short- and long-term costs and benefits vs. long-term harm in budget reductions.

8. Council Business

a. Review and Potential Vote on the Council's 2025 Annual Report and Policy Recommendations

Mr. Johnson presented on the Council's Annual Report. Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to adopt the 2025 Annual Report and policy recommendation, pending the inclusion of final numbers from Rhode Island Energy. Council AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the 2025 Annual Report was approved.

9. Adjournment

Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.