



# FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Thursday, May 28, 2026 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

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

With public participation available via Zoom.

**Members in attendance:** Brett Feldman, Priscilla De La Cruz, Chris Kearns, Peter Gill Case, Tom Magliocchetti, Joe Garlick, Dr. Carrie Gill, Sue AnderBois, Kurt Teichert

**Others in attendance:** Toby Ast, Brendan Dagher, Craig Johnson, David Augustyn, Steven Chybowski, Katie Critelli, Georgia Cheney, Olivia Poulos, Atticus Makuch, Emily Koo, Theo Smith, Spencer Lawrence, Jordan Galluzzo, Stephanie Morse, Claire Williams, Sam Ross, Adrian Caesar (virtual), Allison Archambault (virtual), Ann Clarke (virtual), Beatrix Picotte (virtual), Dylan Voorhees (virtual), Jeanne Cherry (virtual), Jeremy Newberger (virtual), Jessica Reno (virtual), Kevin O'Neill (virtual), Leo Eberman (virtual), Mark Siegal (virtual), Max Payeur (virtual), Michael Greco (virtual), Rayna Rose (virtual), Ryan Cote (virtual), Sophia Gosselin-Smoske (virtual), Theo Smith (virtual), Tina Munter (virtual)

## 1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Gill Case called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

## 2. Chair Report

Vice Chair Gill Case provided instructions on how to make public comments and outlined the meeting agenda.

## 3. Executive Director Report

Acting Commissioner Kearns, of the Office of Energy Resources (OER), shared updates on some of OER's programs, including HEAR, NEHPA, HER, the battery storage program and EV charging stations.

## 4. Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2026

### a. *March 19, 2026*

Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the March 19, 2026 meeting minutes.

Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed and the minutes were approved.

### b. *April 16, 2026*

Council Member De La Cruz motioned to approve the April 16, 2026 meeting minutes.

Council Member Garlick seconded. Council Members Garlick, De La Cruz, and Gill Case were in favor; Council Members Teichert and AnderBois abstained. The minutes were approved.

## 5. Public Comment

None.

## 6. Special Topic

### a. *Office of Energy Resources Presentation on Clean Heat RI*

Ms. Cheney presented an overview of Clean Heat Rhode Island (CHRI) which originally launched as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). She shared program and funding details. CHRI is currently operating using Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funding. Ms. Cheney explained program requirements and eligibility. Her presentation included data on the incentives with a breakdown by type (residential, income-eligible and commercial) and information on the recent Carroll Tower window heat pump installation. She then explained the future funding of the program which includes funding from the New England Heat Pump Accelerator (NEHPA).

Council Member AnderBois asked about the NEHPA funds and if it has been determined how much RI will receive. In reply, OER clarified the structure of the funding from the NEHPA to provide an estimated figure to those in attendance. Vice chair Gill Case asked about units/households served and estimated about 1% of the state's housing units have received incentives from this program alone.

## **7. Program Oversight**

### ***a. Presentation and Discussion on 2025 Energy Efficiency Program Implementation Results***

Mr. Johnson, Ms. Galluzzo, Ms. Morse, Mr. Dagher and Mr. Makuch presented an overview of the key takeaways on 2025 residential energy efficiency program performance. For the Portfolio, both electric and gas achieved about 80% of lifetime savings goals. Program benefits were up 7% compared to 2024. In the Residential and Income Eligible sectors, Ms. Morse shared that savings continue to decline. Mr. Dagher spoke about drivers for decreasing performance (such as lighting savings) and noted that the energy efficiency program has already served a significant number of income-eligible heat pump customers. This trend of decreased savings is also seen in the gas sector. Ms. Galluzzo shared graphics showing savings in both electric and gas sectors and which programs performed above, at, or below goal.

The Council discussed high-efficiency HVAC and hot water heaters. Mr. Dagher spoke about heat pump incentive goals and the challenges in meeting the goals. Council Member AnderBois asked about the barriers; Mr. Dagher stated cost is a concern and that the incentive has been raised for 2026. Vice Chair Gill Case prompted discussion by requesting presentation of the prepared EnergyWise results where weatherization is driving the high performance of the program. The Council then reviewed and discussed heat pump statistics in neighboring states, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

### ***b. Rhode Island Energy Updates on the 2027-2029 Energy Efficiency Plan***

Mr. Ast shared Rhode Island Energy's proposed updates to the 2027-2029 Energy Efficiency Plan including proposed updates to Least Cost Procurement ("LCP"), the revised timeline, and feedback from both the plan memo that was published in April and the Customer Listening Sessions. The updates to LCP are proposing shifting the filing date from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>. This change affects the planning and deliverable timeline for stakeholders. He highlighted main themes of stakeholder feedback on the initial EE plan memo as well as feedback received at customer listening sessions.

## **8. Council Business**

**a. Discussion and Potential Vote on Council Efficiency Plan Priorities**

Mr. Johnson reviewed the April meeting's discussion on plan priorities. The Council discussed the vision statement and then the Executive Summary memo. Vice Chair Gill Case felt the memo represents the EEC well. Vice Chair Gill Case motioned that the Council adopt the Executive Summary of the Draft 2027-2029 Energy Efficiency and Systems Reliability Procurement Plan Priorities as its formal statement of priorities for the Plan development with the inclusion and addition of the Vision Statement taken from page 2 of the Draft 2027-2029 EE & SRP Plan Priorities, dated May 28, 2026. Additionally and in the same motion, Vice Chair Gill Case motioned that the Council recognize that the full draft Council Priorities document prepared by the Consultant Team act as guidance to support and contextualize the development of Council plans with the hope that Rhode Island Energy considers acting similarly. The Vice Chair invited the Council to discuss the priorities and the proposed motion. Council Member AnderBois asked how the Council's priorities relate to RIE's planning process, as her prior comments in past priorities discussions were not included in reporting. Dr. Gill complimented the vision statement, but in looking at the 4-page and 50+ page docs, she indicated a preference for more specificity that would permit clear performance assessment. Council Member AnderBois seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed, and the vote passed.

**b. Review and Potential Vote on the Council's 2026 Annual Report**

Mr. Johnson presented the drafted Annual Report with an associated briefing memo. Minor revisions and review are going to be done, none of which will change the overall narrative. Mr. Chybowski asked if the priorities are included in the Annual Report; Mr. Johnson explained that a condensed version will be incorporated into the report. Council Member Teichert motioned to adopt the 2026 EEC report policy recommendations pending the inclusion of final updates, numbers, policy recommendations, and priorities as represented by the consultant team at the May 28, 2026 EEC meeting. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed and the vote passed.

**9. Public Comment**

Emily Koo, *The Acadia Center*

Ms. Koo suggested that the EEC could provide their expertise on a recommended path with the State budget and the proposed budget cap on the efficiency programs.

**10. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Gill Case adjourned the meeting at 4:54 PM.