



FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 19, 2026 | 3:00 – 5:00 PM

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

Members in Attendance:

Harry Oakley, Chris Kearns, Peter Gill Case, Tom Magliocchetti, Priscilla De La Cruz, Kurt Teichert, Sue AnderBois

Others in Attendance:

Steven Chybowski, David Augustyn, Katie Critelli, Toby Ast, Craig Johnson, Adrian Caesar, Atticus Makuch, Theo Smith, Rachel Sholly, Allison Archambault (virtual), Jessica Reno (virtual), Jeremy Newberger (virtual), Kate McAuliffe (virtual), Jonathan Stout (virtual), Kathryne Cleary (virtual), Jordan Galluzzo (virtual), Spencer Lawrence (virtual), Stephanie Morse (virtual), Mark Siegal (virtual), Tina Munter (virtual), Ann Clarke (virtual), Oliwia Krupinska (virtual), Brendan Dagher (virtual), Theo Smith (virtual), Jeanne Cherry (virtual), John Harrington (virtual), Samantha Caputo (virtual), Matthew Socks (virtual), Sophia Gosselin-Smoske (virtual), Brett Feldman (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chair Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

2. Chair Report

Chair Oakley began by sharing the meeting instructions for making public comment. He shared details about the upcoming RI Home Show which will be held April 10-12. He also announced that RI has been selected for a technical assistance award from ACEEE. He then stated that Optimal and URI submitted an abstract for ACEEE's Summer Study conference. Their paper was accepted, and they will share their work with a national audience later this year. He previewed the agenda. This will include Rhode Island Energy (RIE) presenting on the next energy efficiency plan and the 2025 year-end results of the Connected Solutions demand response program. During the council business agenda item, the Consultant Team will present on the development of energy efficiency targets for 2027-2029 as well as a discussion on the Council's programmatic priorities for the next energy efficiency plan and policy recommendations.

3. Executive Director Report

Acting Commissioner Kearns raised items of note to the Council from the Governor's budget article. These include the extension of energy efficiency programming for ten years; transitioning the state energy efficiency program to a three-year program; the proposal of a \$10M bond to support energy efficiency (EE) activities; codifying state buildings benchmarking into law; and transferring the Weatherization Assistance Program to OER. He then shared federal funding updates on the progress of the HEAR program, the HER program, the EECBG, TREC, and New England heat pump accelerator program. He stated that RI has joined twelve other states in a lawsuit challenging the termination of funding created by the IRA and IIJA. He shared project updates on the Carroll Tower apartment building where window-unit heat pumps



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have been installed, and the Newport Park and Ride where construction is set to begin in the coming months to add Level 3 EV Fast Chargers. With regard to Revolution Wind, Acting Commissioner Kearns explained that monitoring the appeal by the Trump Administration is ongoing.

4. Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2026

Chair Oakley motioned to approve the January 15, 2026 meeting minutes. Council Member Magliocchetti seconded. All in favor; none opposed, and the January EEC minutes were approved.

5. Public Comment

Kate McAuliffe, Acadia Center

Ms. McAuliffe spoke about the proposed \$75M cap on energy efficiency program spending and how energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce energy costs, support the local economy, and combat climate change. She urged the Council to use their position to champion the benefits of energy efficiency.

6. Program Oversight

a. *Energy Efficiency Planning Updates and Timeline Discussion*

Mr. Ast of Rhode Island Energy (RIE) spoke about the challenges of the current one-year energy efficiency plan. RIE recommends moving to a three-year plan which would shift the focus from planning to implementation. Reporting would remain the same with quarterly and annual reports. He summarized the proposed least-cost procurement (LCP) standards changes in the categories of budgets, savings, performance incentive, reporting, mid-term changes, and evaluation.

Chair Oakley asked about the timing of planning; specifically, if there is enough time to start the three-year plan in 2027. Mr. Johnson of the Council's Consultant Team then spoke about how LCP is reviewed every three years and will be a docket item this year. Vice Chair Gill Case asked about LCP standards and Mr. Johnson explained the process. Mr. Chybowski spoke about it being the Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) authority to change LCP through a docket. Council Member Teichert asked if "midterm adjustments" mean that adjustments can be made at any time during the three-year period. Mr. Ast spoke about the difference between Level 1 and Level 2 mid-term modifications in RIE's proposal for a three-year plan. Mr. Ast then shared the proposed planning timeline. Mr. Caesar of the Council's Consultant Team spoke about how Massachusetts develops its three-year plan. Chair Oakley suggested the thought of changing the three-year time frame from 2027-2029 to 2028-2030 to align with Massachusetts and allow for more



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planning. The Council agreed to ask Attorney Handy his legal opinion on what the LCP law allows regarding plan timing. Council Member Teichert asked about the three-year timeline, noting it says EEC 'reviews' and asked about clarifying the role of the EEC to possibly add approve/disapprove to that language in RIE's proposal.

b. 2025 ConnectedSolutions Program Results Presentation

Ms. Archambault and Ms. Reno from RIE presented on the 2025 ConnectedSolutions program results. Council Member AnderBois asked about how people can find out about EV charging for residents and small businesses. Ms. Archambault shared that the program is marketed through RIE partners and equipment installers. Council Member AnderBois suggested working with electricians to 'spread the word' and Ms. Archambault shared some limitations of eligibility for ConnectedSolutions based on different company compatibility. Ms. Archambault then shared a chart of Demand Response (DR) events and average load shed. Chair Oakley asked about finding out the exact number of MW so that the dollar value can be determined. Chair Oakley asked how much money was saved by using DR throughout the season. RIE stated that they will share with EEC when annual report is submitted in early March. Ms. Reno shared summer C&I results, with targets and actuals. Chair Oakley cautioned RIE against penalizing C&I participants for non-participation. Chair Oakley suggested the data highlight more weather information to more accurately show the number of hours per event. Ms. Archambault shared 2025 program estimated costs.

7. Council Business

a. Consultant Team Presentation and Potential Vote on Setting 2027-2029 Energy Efficiency Targets

Mr. Socks from Optimal Energy/NV5 discussed a brief review of how targets have been established in previous planning cycles. He shared slides on the consultant's latest target development methodology and began discussing results. Chair Oakley suggested that it would be better to start with the results to illustrate, from the outset, if the targets are higher or lower, and then detail the methodology to get there. Mr. Socks then presented data on the results in comparison to the previous targets. The Council decided to consult with Attorney Handy to extend the March 1st deadline to the PUC so that additional information can be presented to the Council on the 2027-2029 Energy Efficiency targets at the next meeting.

b. Discussion of Council Priorities and Policy Recommendations

Mr. Johnson of the Consultant Team noted the difference between plan priorities and policy recommendations from the Council. Ms. Sholly outlined legislative updates under



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consideration including the Governor's FY2027 budget. Vice Chair Gill Case asked Acting Commissioner about stakeholder engagement regarding any proposed changes to net metering. Council Member De La described including stakeholders (including non-profits, hospitals, etc.) as institutions having certain these savings or funds built into their bottom lines as critical for consideration with net metering. Council Member AnderBois recommended that the EEC be very specific in its priorities and recommendations this year. Council Member De La Cruz agreed and felt that the focus needs to include protecting threatened programs. Council Member De La Cruz asked that the record reflect that the EEC did not support the cuts to the EE program for the 2026 program year. Chair Oakley shared that a letter was sent to Administrator George and the Senate Finance Committee Chair clarifying EEC's stance on the alternative solution proposed.

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Adjournment 4:38 pm

Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 5:06 PM.