



FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 19, 2026 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

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

Members of the public may join via Zoom. Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/IIQ6Zu3bTpSfggN3XuOYOa>

Members in attendance: Brett Feldman, Sue AnderBois, Joe Garlick, Peter Gill Case, Kurt Teichert, Dave Caldwell (departed at 4 pm), Harry Oakley

Others in attendance: Steve Chybowski, Dave Augustyn, Josh Cornell, Craig Johnson, Seth Handy, Adrian Caesar, Mark Siegal, Theo Smith, Emily Koo, Spencer Lawrence, Kevin O'Neill

1. Call to Order

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

2. Chair Report

Chair Oakley provided public comment instructions and shared updates on the Home Show. He then gave a preview of today's meeting agenda. He also gave an update on the State's energy efficiency program administrator RFP, and the Council has shared the materials from that procurement process as meeting materials.

3. Executive Director Report

Mr. Chybowski of the Office of Energy Resources shared updates on federal funding, a new Rhode Island Commerce energy efficiency program, and that Revolution Wind has started sending power to the electric grid.

4. Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2026

Harry motions to approve the February 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes. Council Member AnderBois seconded. Council Members AnderBois, Oakley, Gill Case, Teichert, and Caldwell voted in favor, Council Member Garlick abstained, and the meeting minutes were approved.

5. Public Comment

Emily Koo, Acadia Center

M. Koo had a question about the EE Admin RFP material postings which she will review in more detail. She also has a continued interest in the EEC being a stakeholder in the budget conversation at the Statehouse and the budget of EE programs going forward.

6. Program Oversight

a. **2025 ConnectedSolutions Program Results Presentation and Next Steps with System Reliability Procurement Planning**

Ms. Reno of Rhode Island Energy began the presentation which will focus on residential programming. Ms. Archambault spoke about the residential program results and noted that device enrollment is lagging, but each pathway is growing and load shed performance is strong. Chair Oakley requested that the presenters explain the terms more thoroughly in the presentation.

Unenrollment in the Bring your own Thermostat (BYOT) program grew from 2024 to 2025. RIE will use partner marketing to help enroll customers in the programming such

as Nest. The battery energy storage exceeded its device enrollment goal, but it did fall slightly short of the load shed goal. Members discussed the need for more battery storage in the state and to develop a stronger virtual power plant. The EV demand response program is a new offering for RIE. This offering fell short on device enrollment, but did achieve the load shed target. EV demand response (DR) pauses charging during the event.

Mr. Feldman presented the benefits of the DR program and gave a brief overview of the Company's timeline to develop the next System Reliability Procurement (SRP) 3-year plan, which the Council would vote on in October. PUC staff would like the ConnectedSolutions plan within the SRP plan.

7. Council Business

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

Mr. Johnson of the Council's Consultant Team introduced the discussion topic. Then, Mr. Socks presented the Consultant's calculated targets for energy efficiency and active demand response for the next 3 years. These results used the Council's last market potential study refresh as the main foundation. The new targets are lower than the past 3 year targets, but increase modestly each year over the next 3 years. Vice Chair Gill Case commented on the disconnect between the current target setting and what is actually achieved, and would like to see this become more applicable in the future.

Council Member Teichert motioned to approve and adopt the 2027-2029 targets as presented by the Council's Consultant Team on March 19, 2026 and to direct the Council's legal counsel to file these targets with the Public Utilities Commission. Council Member AnderBois seconds. All in favor, none opposed, and the motion passed.

b. Discussion and Potential Vote on Council Priorities and Policy Recommendations

Mr. Johnson presented an introduction to this presentation topic highlighting the different audiences for priorities and policy recommendations and noted that the discussion will focus on policy recommendations today. These policy recommendations include considering weighing the trade-offs if the programming had a budget cap, supporting the move to a 3-year plan, and aligning the programming with the Act on Climate. Council Member AnderBois thinks it would be helpful to highlight that this Council was created by the General Assembly with a role to help evaluate the right size of the programs and that they are not set arbitrarily. Chair Oakley would like all the policy recommendations to be from the perspective of how their recommendations would benefit ratepayers, which Council Member Garlick also supported. Chair Oakley shared that from the business perspective, there's a need to demonstrate the return on investment of policies. Council Member AnderBois likes the information as presented with the primary recommendations and secondary recommendations. The Council Members discussed specific language for their policy recommendations.

Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the priorities and policy recommendations for 2027-2029 as discussed by the Consultant Team and Council Members meeting upon this date, with final refinements to the language made by

appointed members of the committee and consultant team. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

c. Review and Vote on University of Rhode Island Public Education Services (20 min, 4:35 – 4:55 p.m.)

Vice Chair Gill Case provided an overview of the URI proposal for the next year. Council Member Teichert motions that we execute an extension of the existing contract with URI Cooperative Extension through the year 2027, and to direct the OER to work with legal counsel to execute the extension documents. Council Member AnderBois seconds. all in favor, none opposed.

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Adjournment

Chair Oakley adjourned the meeting at 5:04 pm