FULL COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 10, 2026 | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

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

With public participation available via Zoom.

Members in attendance: Peter Gill Case, Chris Kearns, Brett Feldman, Kurt Teichert, Priscilla De La Cruz, Dr. Carrie Gill, Joe Garlick (arrived at 3:25 PM), Melissa Travis (arrived at 3:50 PM)

Others in attendance: Steven Chybowski, David Augustyn, Katie Critelli, Jordan Galluzzo, Adrian Casesar, Toby Ast, Atticus Makuch, Olivia Poulos, Timothy Lett, Seth Handy, Craig Johnson, Spencer Lawrence, Brendan Dagher, Jamie Rhodes, Oliwia Krupinska, Kevin O'Neill (virtual), Alex Kuffner (virtual), Stephanie Morse (virtual), Emily Koo (virtual), Jeremy Newberger (virtual), Samantha Caputo (virtual), Kristin Dupre (virtual), Logan Ziegler (virtual), Adam Jacobs (virtual), Claire Williams (virtual), Ann Clarke (virtual), Sam Ross (virtual), Jeanne Cherry (virtual), Allison Archambault (virtual), Carinel LeGrand (virtual)

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1. **Call to Order**
   Vice Chair Gill Case called the meeting to order at 3:04 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, spoke about the HEAR program. He introduced Timothy Lett, Assistant Administrator of the Weatherization Assistance Program at the Office of Energy Resources.
4. **Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2026**
   (*held for later in the meeting*)
5. **Public Comment**
   Jamie Rhodes, *Conservation Law Foundation*
   Mr. Rhodes commented on working with Rhode Island Energy on a heat pump benefit program around the demand-side management program and is supportive of the efforts made by the Company to-date.
6. **Program Oversight**
   a. ***Presentation and Discussion on Draft Demand Side Management ("DSM") Investment Proposal***
      Mr. Caesar of the Consultant Team outlined the DSM Proposal in the context of Chapter 7 of the Least-Cost Procurement (LCP) Standards. The Council will review the DSM proposals and vote on whether to endorse DSM proposals. He provided the DSM proposal potential timeline, including the Council filing a cost-effectiveness memo within three weeks of the Company filing the DSM proposal.

Dr. Gill of Rhode Island Energy (RIE) explained the requirements of a DSM proposal: manage existing demand or manage demand growth. She demonstrated the investment proposal concept with a graph that illustrated the goal of increasing winter electric demand with the adoption of heat pumps. The Council discussed incentivizing new versus existing heat pump customers. Dr. Gill spoke about how the Company is designing the program with many considerations in mind. Acting Commissioner Kearns would like a visual of what a heat pump customer is currently paying and what they would be paying. Council Member Teichert felt that households that have both kinds of heating systems (heat pumps or delivered fuel) will decide when to run the heat pump based on cost. Dr. Gill requested any research or data on that subject as it would be helpful for program development.

b. ***Rhode Island Energy Presentation of the Second Draft of the 2027-2029 Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan***

Mr. Ast of RIE shared the second draft of the 2027-2029 Three-Year Energy Efficiency (EE) Plan. The timeline includes a discussion and potential vote of endorsement during the next EEC meeting on 9/24 and the Company's date of filing scheduled on 10/1. He shared the forms of stakeholder feedback with the themes and examples. The Council questioned their role in mid-term modifications to the Plan and Vice Chair Gill Case requested clarification in advance of the vote. The Council asked that Mr. Caesar draft language for RIE regarding the concerns raised during this discussion. Vice Chair Gill Case suggested that Council members schedule a 1:1 meeting with Mr. Caesar or another member of the Consultant Team to discuss status and developments leading to the 9/24/26 vote.

c. ***Consultant Team Presentation and Facilitated Discussion on the Second Draft of the - 2027-2029 Three-Year Plan***

On behalf of the Consultant Team, Mr. Caesar presented on the Least Cost Procurement (LCP) Standards and the second draft review process. He reviewed key takeaways and lifetime savings of the portfolios, as well as key drivers of change in the savings goals. Regarding key areas with reduced goals, Dr. Gill drew attention to the reduction of residential heat pumps. She recalled that the EEC would like to see data on all the state-wide programs on increasing heat pump installations. Mr. Lett suggested using the CAP agencies to help supplement such data. Ms. Morse of the Consultant Team presented on the key improvements from the first to second drafts and also shared areas for improvement.

Council Member Teichert motioned to reorder the agenda, moving the agenda item 4 (Meeting Minutes) to be voted on next; and to move the budget discussion to 7a and the LEAD session discussion to 7b. Council Member Travis seconded. All in favor, none opposed and the motion passed.

7. **Meeting Minutes – August 20, 2026**

Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to approve the August 20, 2026 meeting minutes; Council Member Travis seconded. Vice Chair Gill Case and Council Member De La Cruz abstained. Council Members Teichert and Garlick in favor, none opposed and the minutes were approved.

8. **Council Business**

a. ***Council Discussion and Vote on the 2027-2029 Draft EEC Budget Proposal***

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Mr. Chybowski presented on the budget; with the change to planning a three-year budget and the estimates of costs year to year. Council Member Teichert appreciated the adjustment to legal and consulting services based on the three-year plan and asked how the numbers were calculated. Dr. Gill suggested that OER remove responsibilities from previous Scope of Work to better estimate costs as the tasks will change annually. Mr. Handy would like to review these budget numbers. The Council discussed whether unused budgetary funds go back to rate payers at each calendar year or at the end of the three-year period. Council Member De La Cruz suggested leaving the legal and consultant fees steady as the oversight of the three-year plan and budget is unclear. Council Member Teichert wanted to increase the numbers and Council Member Travis agreed.

The Council discussed approving the budget with language that allows for changes. Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the EEC budget with the following amendments; the total number will be $2.7M and that the EEC has a process for revising the budget based on updated information that comes between now the evidentiary hearings. Council Member Travis seconded. All in favor; none opposed and the vote passed.

b. ***Planning Discussion for the Council's Learning, Education, and Advancement Discussion (LEAD) Session –POSTPONED***

9. **Public Comment**
   None.

10. **Adjournment**
    Vice Chair Gill Case adjourned the meeting at 5:12 PM

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