

APPENDIX C: RELEVANT MEETING MINUTES





STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 17, 2022

Full Council Meeting | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Department of Administration Conference Room 2B, Providence, RI 02908 with additional audio/video participation available through Zoom.

Members in Attendance: Harry Oakley, Peter Gill Case, Brett Feldman, Kate Grant, Joe Garlick, Kurt Teichert, Chris Kearns, Bob Izzo, Tom Magliocchetti

Others in Attendance: Adrian Caesar, Sam Ross, Craig Johnson, Rachel Sholly, Steven Chybowski, Greg Ohadoma, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Toby Ast, Josh Kessler (virtual), William Owen (virtual), Nelson DiBiase (virtual), Fara Oyenuga (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

2. Chair Report

Chairperson Oakley provided an overview of the meeting agenda and provided instructions for making public comments. He reiterated a solicitation for nominations for the open council seats and volunteers for the branding and communications review committee. Chair Oakley and Vice chair Gill Case volunteered as two members of the review committee.

3. Executive Director Report

Interim Commissioner Kearns delivered an update on OER program progress and provided details on federal funding and timelines. He answered questions from the Council on potential program design and scope given the limited information currently available regarding implementation of the federal funds.

4. Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2022

Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the October 20th meeting minutes. Council Member Garlick seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

5. Program Oversight (50 Minutes, 3:10 – 4:00 p.m.)

- a. Regulatory Updates on the 2023 Energy Efficiency Plan Docket Proceedings (20 min, 3:10 – 3:30 p.m.)*

The Consultant Team shared updates on the regulatory process for the 2023 Energy Efficiency Plan including a review of the schedule, updates from the data requests,

and changes to the plan ahead of the December hearings. Mr. Ross noted use of the social cost of carbon (SCC) would be deferred to deliberations of the 3-Year Plan. The Consultant Team submitted pre-filed testimony on the Council's behalf. Mr. Johnson presented to the Council on the budget developments and Mr. Caesar presented on the Council's plan review testimony. Vice Chair Gill Case commended the Consultant Team on their work for the 2023 plan and its handling of the Council's position during this process which Chair Oakley echoed. Mr. Feldman shared additional context on the SCC outlook moving forward as well as budget deliberations.

- b. Presentation of 2022 Q3 Energy Efficiency Programming (30 min, 3:30 – 4:00 p.m.)*
Rhode Island Energy (RIE) and the Consultant Team provided an update on the 2022 energy efficiency programming for the third quarter of the year. Mr. Caesar shared year-on-year comparison data for the commercial sector programs, highlighting the potential shortfalls for 2022 and the Council discussed the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the assessments. Mr. Johnson provided residential program comparisons, highlighting current proportions of energy savings sources and the need to monitor the distribution to prevent overreliance on particular technologies to meet overall goals. He also noted the lag in appliance replacements. Mr. Kessler provided context around the data requests RIE responded to regarding supply chain studies.

Mr. O'Brien Crayne presented RIE's highlights on residential, income-eligible, and C&I program findings, including efforts to improve performance on the appliance replacements and effort with the CAP agencies to assist that effort. He also discussed the code compliance initiative and the need to implement those enhancements effectively, and work with vendors to address supply chain concerns. Mr. O'Brien Crayne and Vice Chair Gill Case noted that more stringent codes will require training, but code compliance should not be considered a barrier given the incentives coming soon.

6. Council Business (40 Minutes, 4:00 – 4:50 p.m.)

- a. Discussion and Potential Vote on Legal Services (10 min, 4:00 – 4:10 p.m.)*
The Council reviewed the existing legal services contract and discussed opportunities to either extend existing services or going out to bid for services in 2023. Exercising the option to extend the current contract will use the second one-year extension provided in the original contract. Council discussed what the process to solicit a new RFP might entail. Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to execute the Council's contract option to effectuate a second and final 12-month extension to its current contract with Desautel Law to continue providing legal services to the EERMC. Further, to direct the Office of Energy Resources to work with OER's attorney and the Chair to execute this 12-month contract extension before April 30, 2023. Chair Oakley seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.
- b. Planning Discussion for the Council's Learning, Education, and Advancement Discussion (10 min, 4:10 – 4:20 p.m.)*
Ms. Sholly from the Council's Consultant Team led a discussion to finalize topics and the agenda for the Council's fall Learning, Education, and Advancement Discussion (LEAD) meeting, and noted meeting materials would be circulated ahead of the session and physical copies would be available. Additionally, there would be a

virtual attendance option. Council discussed the facilitation of the MA-RI equity assessment.

c. *Overview of Market Potential Studies and Market Potential Study Data Refresh Proposal Recommendation and Vote (20 min, 4:20 – 4:40 p.m.)*

The Council's Consultant Team provided an overview of market potential studies to led by Mr. Ross, who also provided detail on the timing for the Council's recommendations to the Commission by March 1st and the potential to request an extension. Then, the Technical Review Committee shared the results of the scoring for the market potential study data refresh services and the Committee's recommendation for next steps. The Council discussed the vendor selection and future actions, centering around the vendor budget for the refresh, honing an effective scope to use in negotiating, and deliberating on the usefulness of the MPS refresh to the 3-Year Plan. Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to authorize the Council's Consultant Team and OER to negotiate with Dunsky on a modified scope of work, budget, and timeline in line with the Council's expectations and needs and to bring an updated scope of work and budget for consideration at the December Council meeting. Council Member Garlick seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

d. *Discussion and Potential Vote on the Council Meeting Calendar for 2023 (15 min, 4:40 – 4:55 p.m.)*

The Office of Energy Resources led a discussion regarding the Council's meeting schedule and logistics for 2023. Council Members raised the possibility of amending scheduled dates as needed in the future, and raised the question of remote attendance. Mr. Ross noted a request had been sent to the Council's legal counsel to clarify this, noting the in-person practices of other state agencies, and that the Council by-laws currently bar virtual votes. Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to approve the 2023 EERMC meeting calendar as presented and to direct OER to reserve meeting space and distribute calendar invites for the meeting dates to the Council as soon as possible. Chair Oakley seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

7. Public Comment

None.

8. Adjournment

Council Member Teichert motioned to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Gill Case seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:01PM.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

EERMC LEARNING, EDUCATION, AND ADVANCEMENT DISCUSSION MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 28, 2022

Council Meeting | 1:00 - 4:00 PM

President's Dining Room, Donovan Dining Center, Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908 with additional audio/video participation available through Zoom.

Members in Attendance: Harry Oakley, Peter Gill Case, Sue AnderBois, Dave Caldwell, Joe Garlick, Kurt Teichert, Bob Izzo, Brett Feldman

Others in Attendance: Rachel Sholly, Adrian Caesar, Sam Ross, Craig Johnson, Margie Lynch, Steven Chybowski, William Owen, Claire Kokoska, Toby Ast, Josh Kessler

1. Arrival, Refreshments, and Welcome

Ms. Sholly opened the meeting at 1:02 p.m. with an introduction of the agenda, noting a specific focus on equity across the agenda topics and within deliberations on the Three-Year Energy Efficiency Plan in 2023.

2. Introductions and Icebreaker

Ms. Sholly led the room in introductions among Council Members, Consultant Team staff, OER staff, and public attendees.

3. 2024-2026 Three-Year Plan – Overview & Market Potential Study

Mr. Ross of the Council's Consultant Team presented on the Three-Year Plan and the Market Potential Study (MPS) as an introduction to the development of the Three-Year Plan, timing of the plan, and details of the MPS refresh. The Council discussed the use of the MPS for expectations and agenda setting in developing the Three-Year Plan, with a focus on achievability and how the Council will choose targets during deliberations on the Plan.

The Consultant Team presented a comparison of the planned targets versus the achieved results, with a discussion on demand response (DR) topics within the refresh, how DR can affect equity, and the potential for a Rhode Island Energy (RIE) presentation on DR. Council Member Feldman presented an overview of updates to the MPS around assumptions in the model and RIE's role in assisting in the study refresh. Chair Oakley commented on the benefit-cost ratios as useful targets, and the Council discussed BCRs both for technology types and program models, and how to reconcile BCRs against social costs and ratepayer

concerns, as well as how involvement in the refresh process would include stakeholder participation. The Council intends to include equity metrics in the Three-Year Plan.

4. MA Energy Efficiency Equity Targets, Metrics, & Reporting

Ms. Lynch gave a presentation on the Massachusetts approach and implementation of equity in energy efficiency, including a review of the MassSave program, the timeline for equity development, studies of non-participant populations and implications for both residential and business participation, and comparisons for MA and RI. She also covered the creation and composition of the Equity Working Group, how Environmental Justice communities were defined, and the setting of an equity target with the performance incentives. The presentation highlighted the 71 equity recommendations in Massachusetts and the assessment of budget costs spent on equity efforts. Ms. Lynch presented on target categories including renter populations, English-isolated populations, how targets were assessed, and the assignment of tasks to gather more effective data and gain confidence in the ability to achieve program targets. She mentioned that workforce development targets received program administrator pushback due to risk concerns and resulted in more task assignments on expanding workforce development growth.

5. RI & MA Energy Efficiency Equity Targets, Metrics, & Reporting

Council Member Teichert raised the question of the oversight body's role/allowance of equity targets in EE plans. Ms. Lynch noted MA DPU did not allow equity incentives in prior version of MA plan, but public feedback and refinement of program plus a change in the overall conversation around equity resulted in the idea being adopted, and Mr. Ross noted that there are mechanics such as the Service Quality Adjustment which could potentially include equity as a metric as the structure exists within the scheme.

Vice Chair Gill Case asked whether 3rd-party implementation of these equity factors was part of the conversation, to utilize the effort of existing community groups. Ms. Lynch responded it was not common due sensitivity around the issue, but there is some, and the effort to enhance heat pump adoption is growing the community-based role. Workforce development was shifted from the Program Administrators to the MA Clean Energy Center.

Council Member Caldwell noted that this is an area where RI can surpass MA and set a model for other areas to support workforce development for small contractor/BIPOC entities in order to further the goal of reaching EE targets through greater adoption in communities that those businesses would represent. The conversation touched on the possibility to partner with established organizations to generate greater BIPOC workforce participation and the barriers these contractors face. There is significant federal funding that will be available soon which could help this effort.

6. 2024-2026 Three-Year Plan – EERMC Priorities and Strategy

The Council discussed their priorities for the next Three-Year Plan and highlighted workforce development for inclusion, noting opportunities to utilize funding and targets that can provide signals to the business community. There was discussion of also including targets for climate, electrification, equity, and more broadly, how energy efficiency fits into the goals for the 2021 Act on Climate.

Vice Chair Gill Case raised the topic of narrative priority, and the ability to leverage public concern for plan details through stronger messaging to raise awareness, and the need to utilize the rebranding moment to enhance the wider goals. Ms. Lynch noted that the MA

group included activists on the Council, who had ties back to communities who could raise support and/or opposition to program proposals.

The Council summarized initial priorities for the Three-Year Plan around equity, workforce development, climate goals, billing and costs, and engagement with 3rd parties to enhance or accelerate the work. There was discussion around pilot programs for target communities and raising awareness through press events, and the need to support MBE small contractors to emphasize the equity targets.

Mr. Ross briefed the Council on the PUC session regarding the EERMC budget and the corrections made to it, and noted that the meeting provided a framework for updating the Council's budget proposal after the initial submission. Mr. Chybowski noted for the group that we are still seeking recommendations to fill the three vacant seats on the Council.

7. Public Comment

None.

8. Adjournment

Councilmember Oakley adjourned the session at 4:01PM.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

Full Council Meeting | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Department of Administration Conference Room 2B, Providence, RI 02908 with additional audio/video participation available via Zoom.

Members in Attendance: Harry Oakley, Peter Gill Case, Bob Izzo, Dave Caldwell (left at 3:45 p.m.), Sue AnderBois, Kate Grant, Brett Feldman, Joe Garlick, Tom Magliocchetti, Kurt Teichert

Others in Attendance: Sam Ross, Craig Johnson, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Steve Chybowski, William Owen, Alyssa Bailey, Josh Kessler (virtual), Samartha Mohan (virtual), Nelson DiBiase (virtual), Rachel Sholly (virtual), Nick Martin (virtual), Jeremy Newberger (virtual), Claire Kokoska (virtual)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Chair Report

Chairperson Oakley provided the chair report noting that today's meeting will cover updates to the 2023 energy efficiency docket proceedings and a discussion of priorities for 2023 led by the C-Team.

3. Executive Director Report

Mr. Chybowski delivered the Executive Director's report for Interim Commissioner Kearns. The report included updates on the Office of Energy Resources' (OER) high efficiency heat pump program, a newly proposed Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative funding round, the status of the 2022 Act on Climate report, the status of guidance for new federal funding from the Department of Energy, and noted that Karen Bradbury would be joining the OER staff the week of December 19th.

4. Meeting Minutes -

a. November 17, 2022

Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the Nov 17th full council meeting minutes. Council Member Caldwell seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and Council Member AnderBois abstained.

b. Learning, Education, and Advancement Discussion November 28, 2022

Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the LEAD session meeting minutes. Chairperson Oakley seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

5. Program Oversight (35 Minutes, 3:10 – 3:45 p.m.)

- a. *Regulatory Updates on the 2023 Energy Efficiency Plan Docket Proceedings (15 min, 3:10 – 3:25 p.m.)*

The Council's Consultant Team shared relevant updates on the ongoing regulatory proceedings for the 2023 Energy Efficiency Plan noting the record requests and system benefit charge rate setting comments delivered on behalf of the Council following the hearings on 12/6 and 12/8. Details of the revised plan, fund balance refund options, and key themes from the hearings were shared by Mr. Ross and Mr. Johnson. Council Members discussed the fund balance return options.

Chairperson Oakley noted that the changes made after the Council's endorsement of the Plan this year are understandable, but are an exception to the regular Plan review process. Mr. O'Brien Crayne shared a notice that the 12/16 hearing had been cancelled.

- b. *Summary and Discussion of the Council's Priorities for 2023 (20 min, 3:25 – 3:45 p.m.)*

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Ross of the Consultant Team provided a summary of the Council's initial priorities as identified at the Learning, Education, and Advancement Discussion (LEAD) for energy efficiency programming and planning in 2023 and the Three-Year Plan. Mr. Johnson outlined the process of plan development, stakeholder input, and the greater integration of equity into the planning process with diffusion more fully into plan areas of focus. Council Member AnderBois suggested partnering with a wider group of entities to address the structural obstacles facing low- and moderate-income populations from accessing energy efficiency benefits. Mr. Ross shared the System Reliability Procurement Plan priorities as well as the impact of prevailing economic trends and pending decisions on potential plan topics. Chairperson Oakley invited the Council to discuss the 2023 Plan, focusing on impacts to the targets and to seek to proactively engage on priorities through technical sessions.

6. Council Business (55 Minutes, 3:45 – 4:40 p.m.)

- a. *Market Potential Study Data Refresh Proposal Recommendation and Vote (15 min, 3:45 – 4:00 p.m.)*

The Council's Technical Review Committee and the Council's Consultant Team shared the results of the negotiations with the potential vendor for the market potential study data refresh services and the Committee's recommendation for next steps. Mr. Chybowski and Mr. Ross presented the revised proposal from the vendor and the changes in scope to achieve the revised study budget. Council Member Izzo of the Technical Review Committee shared his assessment of the proposal and next steps for Council to discuss. Mr. Ross explained the origin of the budgeted study amount.

Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the Technical Review Committee's recommendation to select Dunsy Energy and Climate Advisors to conduct the market potential study data refresh as described in the submitted revised proposal and associated work plan, contingent upon securing approval for the incremental funding to cover the full cost of the proposal. Further, to direct the Council's legal counsel and Consultant Team to prepare and submit this funding request to the

Public Utilities Commission. Vice Chair Gill Case seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

b. Review and Potential Vote on the Consultant Team's 2023 Draft Scope of Work (15 min, 4:00 – 4:15 p.m.)

Mr. Ross presented Optimal Energy's draft scope of work for 2023 including priorities, tasks, and staff level costs of work. Council Member Teichert motioned to approve the 2023 scope of work for the Consultant Team, led by Optimal Energy, and the associated budget for that scope of work as presented at the December 15th, 2022 Council Meeting. Further, to direct the Office of Energy Resources to incorporate this approved scope of work and budget into the current consultant services contract. Chairperson Oakley seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

c. Preview of Council Timeline and Potential Discussion Topics for 2023 (15 min, 4:15 – 4:30 p.m.)

The Council's Consultant Team led a discussion regarding the Council's meeting schedule and discussion topics for 2023. Mr. Johnson described the Company's potential filing strategies and the impacts those options would have on plan-related schedules. Vice Chair Gill Case inquired as to the impact of the three-year plan on the schedule and Mr. Johnson shared those potential impacts as well as options to address timing conflicts with filing deadlines. Council Member AnderBois inquired as to the timing of approving funding for the Farm Energy Fellow and Mr. Chybowski confirmed this has been included in the Council's budget for 2023.

d. Discussion and Potential Vote on a Budget Increase for 2022 Legal Services (10 min, 4:30 – 4:40 p.m.)

The Council reviewed current expenditures and the option to reallocate funds to the Legal Services line item. Chairperson Oakley asked for clarification on the language for the motion which Mr. Chybowski provided along with an overview of the future potential expenditures. Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to approve a reallocation of up to \$20,000 from the unallocated fund balance to the line item for legal services in order to have the funds available to cover invoices for 2022's legal services. Chairperson Oakley seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

7. Special Topics

a. Presentation from the 2022 Farm Energy Fellow (10 min, 4:40 – 4:50 p.m.)

Alyssa Bailey, the 2022 Farm Energy Fellow presented to the Council on her work and key achievements over the course of 2022. Ms. Bailey's work included diversifying the Clean Energy Portfolio for Farms in Rhode Island. She shared the redesigned program and outreach materials, the farmers market outreach effort, and materials focusing on heat pump marketing with the Council.

8. Public Comment

One comment was submitted online by Christopher Warfel with the Town of New Shoreham Housing Board, which was concerning affordable housing programs and incentives on Block Island. Mr. Chybowski read the comment to the Council and noted that OER would look to respond. The Council discussed the subject and noted some potential mechanisms and sources of funding.

Mr. Feldman shared the ACEEE rankings released as a point of discussion for future meetings and Mr. Johnson noted the Utility and Public Benefits category of the rankings was a more direct measure of the council's purview and scored higher than the state's overall ranking.

9. Adjournment

Chairperson Oakley motioned to adjourn the meeting and Vice Chair Gill Case seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

EERMC FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 19, 2023

Full Council Meeting | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Department of Administration Cafeteria Conference Room, Providence, RI 02908 with additional participation via Zoom.

Members in Attendance: Harry Oakley, Peter Gill Case, Sue AnderBois, Brett Feldman, Chris Kearns, Tom Magliochetti, Bob Izzo, Kate Grant, John Santoro

Others in Attendance: Sam Ross, Steven Chybowski, William Owen, Anika Kreckel, Karen Bradbury, Hank Webster, Adrian Caesar, Craig Johnson (virtual), Josh Kessler, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Toby Ast, Spencer Lawrence, Diane Quesnelle, Nelson DiBiase (virtual), Kimberly Koriath (virtual), Angela Tuoni (virtual), Rachel Sholly (virtual), David Bradley (virtual), Katie Schibler (virtual), Samantha Caputo (virtual), Frank McMahon (virtual), Jon Erickson (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m.

2. Chair Report

Chairperson Oakley delivered the Chair report including an overview of the agenda, including topics of the market potential study data refresh, the council budget, the results of the branding and communications review committee's efforts, and 2023 priorities for special topics and LEAD sessions.

3. Executive Director Report

Mr. Chybowski delivered the Executive Director's report, updating the council on the State's request for proposals (RFP) for an administrator for the High-Efficiency Heat Pump program, efforts to fill the vacant seats on the Council, and work on the federal funding opportunities from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). He also introduced Karen Bradbury, OER's new Administrator of Energy Legislation and Programs.

4. Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2022

Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to approve the December 15th, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

5. Program Oversight (40 Min, 3:10 – 3:50 p.m.)

- a. *Regulatory Updates on the 2023 Energy Efficiency Plan Docket Proceedings (20 min, 3:10 – 3:30 p.m.)*

Rhode Island Energy (RIE) and the Council's Consultant Team presented updates on the regulatory process and plan updates for the 2023 Energy Efficiency Plan. Mr. Ast of RIE shared that RIE had received 113 data requests, provided updates on the plan reallocation for the requested electric resistance heating conversions and the plan to execute that effort, the Public Utility Commission's order on the System Benefit Charge, a slight gas budget change and a spending forecast deadline of June 30th. Council discussed the electric resistance heating conversion plan. Mr. Ross presented an update on the Council's budget for 2023 and the potential of the Council's budget being restricted by the statutory budget cap. The Council discussed the history of the Council's budget and the potential implications for 2023.

b. Discussion of the Council's Priorities for the 2024-2026 Three-Year and 2024 Annual Plans (20 min, 3:30 – 3:50 p.m.)

The Council's Consultant Team led a discussion of the Council's priorities for energy efficiency programming and planning for the next Three-Year Plan and the 2024 Annual plan. Mr. Caesar and Mr. Ross presented an update on the Council's priorities and next steps for development of energy efficiency (EE) priorities into the full EE plans. The Council discussed the ordering of priorities and the Consultant Team shared feedback on the process in Massachusetts, the impact of the 2021 Act on Climate on the priorities, the schedule for priority development, the malleability of the Three-Year Plan to respond to statutory changes, the crafting of targets in the Three-Year Plan to be achievable, and the state of delivered fuels decarbonization with the potential for a future special topic presentation on the subject.

6. Council Business (45 Min, 3:50 – 4:35 p.m.)

a. Update on the Market Potential Study Data Refresh Process (10 min, 3:50 – 4:00 p.m.)

The Council's Consultant Team shared updates on the market potential study (MPS) data refresh. Mr. Ross presented the timeline of preliminary conversations with the MPS consultant and the schedule for discovery and preliminary results. The Council discussed the schedule, materials, and the C-team presented potential reallocations to the budget to fund the full scope of the study.

b. Review of the 2023 Council Budget and Potential Vote for Reallocation Adjustments (15 min, 4:00 – 4:15 p.m.)

The Council reviewed their budget for 2023 and the allocation needed to fully fund the MPS refresh. Chairperson Oakley proposed that the Council reallocates funds from the market-based solutions study to the MPS and to still plan to pursue the market-based solutions study in 2024. Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to reallocate \$68,884 from the market-based solutions line item to the MPS data refresh line item, to fully fund the MPS data refresh. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

c. Council Branding and Communications Proposal Recommendation and Vote (10 min, 4:15 – 4:25 p.m.)

The Technical Review Committee and the Office of Energy Resources shared the results of the scoring for the Council's branding and communications services and the Committee's recommendation for next steps in moving forward with the preferred vendor. The Council discussed priorities with the preferred vendor and set expectations for results of the vendor's work respective to the funding level allocated.

Chairperson Oakley motioned to approve the Technical Review Committee's recommendation to select Advocacy Solutions, LLC to conduct the Council's branding and communications development as described in the submitted proposal and associated work plan and to direct the Office of Energy Resources and the Council's legal counsel to prepare and execute a contract with the chosen vendor. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

- d. *Finalize Timeline and Potential Discussion Topics for 2023 (10 min, 4:25 – 4:35 p.m.)*
The Council's Consultant Team led a discussion regarding the Council's meeting schedule and topics of relevance for 2023. Mr. Johnson presented a schedule and overview of the EE planning schedule for the Three-Year and annual plans, and the system reliability procurement (SRP) planning timeline.

7. Special Topics (15 min, 4:35 – 4:50 p.m.)

- a. *Office of Energy Resources Presentation on Federal Funding (15 min, 4:35 – 4:50 p.m.)*
Ms. Bradbury from the Office of Energy Resources presented on the federal energy funding opportunities that the State is planning to pursue with time for Council Members to share initial thoughts and feedback on the opportunities. She presented an overview of the opportunities in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, the nature of how the funding is administered, and the one-time nature of the funding. She outlined RIE's applications and application deadlines, OER's applications and coordination with other agencies, and the status of pending guidance from the Department of Energy. The Council discussed how funding can be applied for and administered and the role of stakeholder entities in assisting realization of benefits from the funding to the state.

8. Public Comment – Chair opened the floor to public comment.

Mr. Chybowski presented the public comment received online from Glenn Rhodes of Trinity Solar inquiring about the timeline for the 2023 Council Meeting schedule and 2023 policy recommendations be published considering the Inflation Reduction Act incentives for efficiency and job growth. Mr. Chybowski noted that the schedule has been posted to the EERMC website and that the Annual Report would be posted in the spring with the Council's policy recommendations.

Hank Webster – Acadia Center

Mr. Webster reiterated his desire to see the MPS study targets achieved and the value of the electric resistance to air source heat pump conversions, and the need to discuss the future of the energy configuration of the state.

9. Adjournment

Council Member AnderBois motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Izzo seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
**ENERGY EFFICIENCY &
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

EERMC FULL COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 16, 2023

Full Council Meeting | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Department of Administration Conference Room 2A, Providence, RI 02908 with remote participation via Zoom.

Members in Attendance: Harry Oakley, Peter Gill Case, Sue AnderBois, Kate Grant, Kurt Teichert, Joe Garlick

Others in Attendance: Karen Bradbury, Sam Ross, Craig Johnson, Hank Webster, Steven Chybowski, William Owen, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Toby Ast, Priscilla de la Cruz, Adrian Caesar (virtual), Rachel Sholly (virtual), Maggie Hogan (virtual), Daniel Tukey (virtual), Spencer Lawrence (virtual), Seth Handy (virtual), Kathryn Cleary (virtual), Fara Oyenuga (virtual), Jon Erickson (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Oakley called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

2. Chair Report

Chairperson Oakley delivered the chair report providing meeting participation instructions and an overview of the agenda.

3. Executive Director Report

Mr. Chybowski delivered the Director's report on behalf of Interim Commissioner Kearns. He noted that the Office of Energy Resources has received proposals for the High-Efficiency Heat Pump Program administration which will be evaluated and scored over the coming weeks.

4. Meeting Minutes - January 19, 2023

Chairperson Oakley motioned to approve the January 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

5. Special Topics (15 min, 3:10 - 3:25 p.m.)

a. Office of Energy Resources Updates on Federal Funding (15 min 3:10 - 3:25 p.m.)

Ms. Bradbury from the Office of Energy Resources (OER) provided an update regarding federal funding for energy initiatives including new details for energy efficiency and conservation block grant funding and home energy rebate programs. She noted that OER staff recently attended a NASEO conference to learn more about how rebates, incentives, and tax credits can potentially stack together to benefit

homeowners, along with the requirements of the Justice40 initiative. The Council discussed how these efforts can be coordinated to serve disadvantaged communities and how the upgrades in energy efficiency and clean heat targets could be accelerated.

6. Program Oversight (55 min, 3:25 – 4:20 p.m.)

a. Council Discussion of 2023 Policy Recommendations (10 min, 3:25 – 3:35 p.m.)

Mr. Chybowski presented the Council's 2022 policy recommendations for review and led an initial discussion about the Council's policy priorities for 2023. The Council discussed the addition of staying apprised of potential legislative changes to energy efficiency programs and how it can contribute to the discussions of these potential changes.

The Council discussed its role in protecting ratepayers, how mitigating climate change and decarbonization protects ratepayers, and noted that energy efficiency implementation is a significant factor in achieving emissions reductions and the mandate of the 2021 Act on Climate. The Council then discussed the Future of Gas docket at the Public Utilities Commission and the invitation for stakeholder participation. Vice Chair Gill Case nominated Council Member AnderBois to be the Council's representative and Mr. Ross noted the process for making that nomination.

b. Regulatory Updates on 2023 EE Plan Docket Proceedings (5 min, 3:35 – 3:40 p.m.)

Mr. O'Brien Crayne presented on the final rulings of the 2023 Energy Efficiency Plan docket noting the compliance filing on January 21st and outlined the final amendments and changes to the Plan. The Public Utilities Commission approved the compliance filing on January 31st, 2023.

c. Discussion and Potential Vote on Updated Draft Council Priorities for the 2024-2026 Three-Year and 2024 Annual Plans (25 min, 3:40 – 4:05 p.m.)

Mr. Caesar of the Council's Consultant Team led a discussion of the Council's priorities for the 2024 Annual Plan and the 2024-2026 Three-Year Plan, noting that the C-Team has continued to work with the Council and RIE to update the priorities. Council Members discussed the timing of a vote on priorities and the impacts it would have on planning, reviewed some of the history of the procedural requirements of the Three-Year and Annual Plan filing, the actionability of priorities, and considerations from RIE on whether the Council should move forward with a vote. Chairperson Oakley requested that the Council wait to vote on the priorities until March. Mr. Caesar suggested that the Council could rank the priorities based on importance and Vice Chair Gill Case requested that the C-Team create a ranking survey for the Council before the March meeting.

d. Discussion of Targets for the 2024-2026 Three-Year Plan and Potential Vote for Requesting a Target Filing Deadline Extension (15 min, 4:05 – 4:20 p.m.)

The Council discussed their program targets for the 2024-2026 Three-Year Plan facilitated by the Consultant Team. Mr. Johnson outlined the target development process, including the potential for changes to the Least-Cost Procurement (LCP) standards and the effect that this would have on the plan targets, the purpose of the targets, and next steps. Council Members discussed the timing of the extension and the impact on the target utilization in the planning process. Council Member

Teichert motioned to direct EERMC legal counsel, Desautel Law, to file a request with the Public Utilities Commission to extend the 2024-2026 Three-Year Plan target filing date to align with the results of the Council's market potential study data refresh and Council meeting timeline. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

7. Council Business (25 min, 4:20 – 4:45 p.m.)

a. Market Potential Study Data Refresh Update (10 min, 4:20 – 4:30 p.m.)

Chairperson Oakley elected to hold the discussion on the market potential data refresh until the March Council meeting.

b. Review of the Council's 2023 Budget and Potential Vote for Reallocations (15 min, 4:30 – 4:45 p.m.)

Mr. Chybowski outlined the budget process and the statutory funding formula from the LCP standard resulting in the shortfall of the Council's budget for 2023. The Council discussed how the budget can be reallocated, timing of deferred action on Council initiatives, and the possibility of seeking additional funding sources to overcome the shortfall. Chairperson Oakley noted that the budget in previous years was notably higher and that there is now a constraint on Council activities. Vice Chair Gill Case raised the question of the Council's capacity to operate at a deficit. He also noted line items which could be reduced following discussion by the Education Committee including the 2023 public forum and lecture series, the EE and climate awareness campaign, and the market-based solutions study, while preserving the K-12 energy education funding. Chairperson Oakley outlined the remaining shortfall and potential reallocations from the Consultant and Legal services line items.

Due to the \$89,616 shortfall of the Council Budget allocation, Chairperson Oakley motioned to set the 2023 budget allocation for 2023 public forum and lecture series, the EE and climate awareness campaign, and the market-based solutions study line-items to \$0, in addition to reducing the 2023 consultant services budget allocation by \$36,694.23, and the 2023 legal counsel services budget allocation by \$3,838.17 in the Council's budget. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

8. Public Comment

Hank Webster – The Acadia Center

Mr. Webster commented that RIE could use the maximum potential study targets from the previous market potential study to begin setting targets. He encouraged the Council to work to advocate for energy efficiency programs, working with the Administration to increase funding for the EC4 and EERMC, and avoid the elimination of the performance incentive mechanism. He noted that this would be his last meeting at the EERMC as he prepares to join the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

9. Adjournment

Chairperson Oakley motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member AnderBois seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

EERMC FULL COUNCIL DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 16, 2023

Full Council Meeting | 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Department of Administration Conference Room 2A, Providence, RI 02908 with additional participation via Zoom.

Members in Attendance: Harry Oakley, Sue AnderBois, Peter Gill Case, Tom Magliocchetti, Joe Garlick, Kurt Teichert, Kate Grant, Brett Feldman, Chris Kearns

Others in Attendance: Marisa Desautel, Sam Ross, Adrian Caesar, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Spencer Lawrence, Steven Chybowski, William Owen, Nelson DiBiase (virtual), Daniel Tukey (virtual), Craig Johnson (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Oakley called the meeting to Order at 3:02pm.

2. Chair Report

Chairperson Oakley delivered the Chair Report noting the meeting participation instructions, an overview of the meeting agenda, the launch of the branding and communications initiative, and the upcoming Rhode Island Home Show and Energy Expo. He also shared that the Council's energy efficiency videos are now live on the Council's website.

3. Executive Director Report

Acting Commissioner Kearns delivered the Executive Director report, sharing updates on the status of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding including estimated timelines based on the latest information available from the US Department of Energy. He noted the work of Mr. Chybowski on applications related to energy building codes and energy auditor trainings in coordination with educational institutions. He also announced that the Office of Energy Resources (OER) has released its latest RFP for the ZEOS program in coordination with RIHousing and that applications are due May 1. In addition, he noted that the selection of an administrator for the heat pump program is progressing, that the planning for the Rhode Island Home Show and Energy Expo is nearly complete, and he provided a rundown of legislative updates from the current session.

4. Meeting Minutes - February 16, 2023

Chairperson Oakley motioned to approve the February 16th, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Mr.

Garlick seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

5. Program Oversight (40 Min, 3:10 – 3:55 p.m.)

a. Presentation of 2022 Preliminary Q4 and Year-End Energy Efficiency Programming (30 min, 3:10 – 3:40 p.m.)

Rhode Island Energy and the Council's Consultant Team provided an update on the energy efficiency programming for the fourth quarter of 2022 and the preliminary results for the entire year. Mr. Caesar of the Council's Consultant Team introduced the outline and the general performance trends in the electric and gas sectors and the performance in the commercial and industrial (C+I) sectors.

Mr. Johnson presented on the spending in the income-eligible categories, noting the shortfall in goal achievement based on the preliminary results. Council members discussed the measure life of residential heat pumps and the share of electric savings by sector.

Mr. O'Brien Crayne of Rhode Island Energy provided updates on new construction programming and noted an increase in Q4 in appliance applications. He highlighted two affordable housing projects that were completed and partnerships with Ocean State Job Lot and Home Depot that have increased efficient power strips and appliance availability. RIE also completed a redesign to simplify new large commercial construction pathways to streamline the program.

The Council's discussion focused on maximizing the benefits for low- and moderate-income residents, opportunities to adjust incentive levels to achieve results, and the need to focus on accessibility in order to maximize the utilization of upcoming federal funding.

b. Discussion and Vote on Council Priorities for 2024-2026 Three-Year and 2024 Annual Plans (15 min, 3:40 – 3:55 p.m.)

The Council's Consultant Team led a discussion of the Council's priorities for the 2024 Annual Plan and the 2024-2026 Three-Year Plan. Mr. Caesar provided the update including an overview of the Council priorities process.

Vice Chair Gill Case motioned to approve the EERMC's Plan priorities for the 2024 Annual Plan and the 2024-2026 Three-Year Plan as presented by the Council's Consultant Team on March 16, 2023. Chairperson Oakley seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

6. Council Business (40 Min, 3:55 – 4:35 p.m.)

a. Market Potential Study Data Refresh and Target Filing Updates (15 min, 3:55 – 4:10 p.m.)

Mr. Ross of the Consultant Team shared updates on the market potential study data refresh process and the Council's target filing requirements. Next steps, questions about a detailed analysis of the results, and how the targets will be determined was discussed with the Council.

b. Review of Proposed Updates to the Council Bylaws (15 min, 4:10 – 4:25 p.m.)

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Ross from Council's Consultant Team led a discussion of suggested updates to the Council's bylaws based on Council input. The Consultant Team shared the timeline and forum for the vote on the proposed changes, remaining questions related to the process, and the need to review previous documentation on contractual matters. The Council agreed to move further

