

**Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council**  
 FINAL Meeting Minutes  
 Tuesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
 Approved by the EEAC at its 2-25-14 Meeting

**Councilors Present:**

<b>Voting</b>	<b>Present (designee)</b>	<b>Non-Voting</b>	<b>Present (designee)</b>
Nancy Seidman	X	Elizabeth Cellucci	X
Martha Coakley	Matthew Saunders	James Carey	X
Penn Loh	Staci Rubin	Tilak Subrahmanian	X
Mark Sylvia	Tina Halfpenny	Michael Ferrante	
Debra Hall		Maggie Downey	X
Charles Harak	X	Cindy L. Carroll	X
Elliot Jacobson	X	John Ghiloni	
Christina Dietrich	X	Paul Gromer	
Robert Rio	X	Andrew Newman	X
Deirdre Manning	X	Michael Sommer	X
Brian Swett	Brad Swing	Carol White	X
Michael McDonagh	X	Eric Winkler	X
Paul Johnson	X		
Larry Chretien	X		

DOER: Steve Venezia

Consultants: Eric Belliveau, Jeff Schlegel, Sam Huntington

**Present:**

Monica Cohen	Lyn Huckabee	Harrison Grubb
Mike Davis	Susan Kaplan	Clayton Hale
Lisa Shea	Jeremy Shenk	Sharon Daly
Jodi Hanover	JoAnn Bodemer	Mike Myser
John Howat	Shaela Collins	Leo Steidel
Jeff Leupold	Alex Pollard	Matt Dugan
Pat Coleman	Lawrence Masland	Sharon Weber
Amy Vavak		

Halfpenny called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm and welcomed everybody.

**Public Comment**

Jeremy Shenk, representing Community Labor United and the Green Justice Coalition, spoke about the importance of the statewide database project. He emphasized the need for public accountability and oversight, and explained how the database would enable more effective collaboration.

## **General Updates**

### *December 10<sup>th</sup> EEAC Meeting Minutes*

Saunders motioned to approve, and Dietrich seconded the motion. All were in favor. No one opposed or abstained, though Hall was absent. The minutes were approved.

### *November 26<sup>th</sup> Database Subcommittee Meeting Minutes*

Winkler noted a correction to a quote he made regarding the functioning of a database. Saunders motioned to approve, and Swing seconded the motion. All subcommittee members were in favor. The minutes were approved as amended.

### *December 16<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting Minutes*

Saunders noted an addition to a quote he had made regarding the role of the consultants and the PAs' lawyers. Dietrich noted a correction to a date in the minutes. Hanover noted a correction to a quote from Emmett Lyne. All executive committee members voted in favor. The minutes were approved as amended.

### *Monthly Report*

Hanover, speaking on behalf of the PAs and in lieu of their normal presenters, provided a rough overview of the monthly report. Overall, she said, the year end results were slightly higher than they had forecasted the previous month. Both annual and lifetime electric savings were around 90% of goal, while both annual and lifetime gas savings were around 100% of goal. Spending for both gas and electric was below 90% of budget.

Chretien commented that the latest numbers, while positive, only emphasized the hockey stick effect. Halfpenny commended the PAs on their achievements, but agreed with Chretien, adding that the hockey stick issue had only been getting worse. Schlegel explained that the implementation updates, for which this year would be a trial, could be a way to monitor and address the issue. Commenting on the timing of the update, Hanover noted that due to the focus on the final report in February, and the short three week window between the February and March meetings, the implementation update would not be ready in time for the March meeting. Halfpenny suggested the Council consider canceling the March meeting and moving the implementation update to April. Seidman suggested Councilors get a preview of the implementation update before the meeting so that they have more time to digest the information before the discussion. Chretien motioned to cancel the March meeting. All were in favor except Johnson, who opposed, and Hall, who was absent. The motion was approved. Schlegel noted that the executive committee would decide whether to have a webinar before the April meeting that previewed the implementation update.

### **Consultant Procurement Update**

Halfpenny noted that only one proposal had been received – from the incumbent team lead by Optimal Energy. She described a few highlights of the proposal, including new team members, a very forward looking tone, and proposed modifications to the Council's website. Belliveau presented some slides with statistics on the visitors to the website. He suggested that the statistics reflected a growing interest in the Council's actions. He noted that the Consulting Team had hired another firm – Cahoots – to help redesign the website. He also noted that the Team had hired subject matter experts in commercial real

estate and commercial market segmentation. Other significant changes addressed in the proposal included improved monthly reporting, and a greater focus on task-driven work.

Belliveau transitioned to an overview of the Consulting Team's upcoming agenda. He focused on the topic of improving feedback loops, noting that all the teams were looking forward to a process where the Council had a better idea of what the teams were doing with the PAs, and the teams had clearer direction from the Council. He further noted that the C&I team was working on segmentation, and the EM&V team was working on developing webinars. Halfpenny asked that the webinars be timed to coincide with the Council's schedule of focus topics. Belliveau agreed.

### **Statewide Database Update**

Finlayson introduced the topic of the statewide database requirements specifications, noting that he would give an overview of the issues while Steidel would describe the draft specifications. Steidel proceeded to describe the various forces that drove the process, including stakeholder interviews, reviews of the PA tracking systems, and a review of the TRM. He noted that the PAs were already reporting a lot of data at a summary level, and that he was looking at areas of their processes where automation could be applied. He described different levels of information – including screening tool data, project site data, and meter data – and how each could be used for different types of analysis. He summarized the specifications as directing the database to collect those different levels of information from the PAs.

Finlayson explained the issues that arose in a recent day-long meeting with the working group, including hosting, interaction with the TRM, and content of data. He noted that there was broad consensus that hosting should be done by the PAs, and similar consensus that there were advantages to an electronic TRM. He said most of the day's discussion focused on the depth and content of the data going into the database.

Collins, speaking on behalf of the PAs, noted that the PAs had submitted consensus comments back in December. She proceeded to briefly describe some of the key issues. Regarding access to data, she noted that there were still many details to address. Regarding TRM automation, she noted that the PAs were in agreement that an electronic TRM would streamline activities, but that it was not yet clear how that would get accomplished. Regarding geographic data, she noted that the PAs had an interim proposal but that there were still issues to sort through about how to sufficiently mask the data. Regarding EM&V data, she noted that a study-related database is a static snapshot in time, and that making it dynamic would be considerably more complex. She concluded by stating that the current draft specifications were not a consensus document and that the heart of the matter was in the topics that had been identified as needing further discussion.

Downey asked if the PA-only space was intended to replace the PAs' current tracking systems. Steidel responded that tracking systems were very different from what the specifications were proposing, and that the intent of the PA-only space was not to replace tracking systems but to provide a place to look at data before making it public.

Halfpenny requested that the specifications include more breadth on what the database could provide for the Council, the PAs, and for the state. She clarified that she wanted the consultants to go back and figure out exactly what the database would accomplish, and what needs it would fill for the Council. Once the Council had that information, she added, they would be able to better resolve issues around depth of data.

She asked the consultants to complete that task before the subcommittee's next meeting. Winkler added that the specifications should have clearly articulated goals and a set of objectives for reaching that goal.

White asked the Council to think carefully about the incremental value that different levels of data offer. She explained that it was important to assess the costs versus the benefits, and that she couldn't understand how people could understand the merits of a suggestion without a discussion of the costs. Belliveau added that they needed to know all costs, including costs under the current model.

Seidman said she understood the importance of confidentiality issues, but suggested that since other utilities around the country had solved them, the Massachusetts PAs surely could as well. Collins said she understood everyone's eagerness to make progress, but explained that it could take as long as a month to get approval from all the different levels of internal oversight. Furthermore, she added, the specifications were simply not very specific in what level of user access to data was required. Schlegel, clarifying Seidman's comment, said they wanted to understand any objections on a corporate, statutory, or regulatory level, broken out in those dimensions. He suggested the PAs must know what the restrictions are, and that they should be able to explain them without having to examine thousands of data fields.

Halfpenny reminded the Council that the next database subcommittee meeting would be held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, with the time dependent on availability.

### **Adjournment**

Halfpenny adjourned the meeting at 4:41pm.