EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 7, 2019
100 Cambridge St, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Executive Committee Members Present: Don Boecke, Amy Boyd (via phone), Emmett Lyne, Rick Malmstrom, Maggie McCarey (for Judith Judson), Jerrold Oppenheim (for Elliott Jacobson)

Other Attendees: Eric Belliveau, Maggie Downey, Audrey Eidelman, Rachel Evans, Jonathan Goldberg, Frank Gundal (via phone), Craig Johnson

1. Call to Order

McCarey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM.

2. General Updates

McCarey informed the Executive Committee (ExCom) that the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) was working to find a location outside of Boston for one of the Council meetings later in 2019.

3. Cape Light Compact and Eversource Active Demand Update

Downey indicated that the Cape Light Compact (CLC) had accepted final language from Eversource. Gundal added that Eversource was working on signing the agreement with the hope that it would be completed by end of the day.

McCarey noted that the document would need to be completed and an update sent to the ExCom by the end of the day. She suggested that ExCom would need to prepare two agendas for the August Council meeting in case the agreement is not finalized. Boecke agreed and added that Eversource and CLC should be prepared to have presentations assembled for the August Council meeting.
4. September Residential Presentation Topics

McCarey noted that the Council asked the PAs to assess residential program design, look at new enhancements, identify adjustments and to report back on those items. McCarey suggested that this topic would likely need more coordination between stakeholders than in previous months.

McCarey noted that the plan was to fully develop energy optimization in 2019 with a complete roll-out in 2020. She asked if the PAs could present some information about that in September. Lyne asked if there were areas that the PAs should focus on. McCarey suggested the online calculator, training and workforce development, the decision tree, and the customer journey as part of the in-home assessment as areas of interest.

Belliveau noted that the consultant team (C-Team) did not have a complete understanding of how the residential redesign comes together. He indicated that the C-Team would need time in August to work with the PAs through some items so that they could really understand the redesign. Belliveau added that once that has happened, the C-Team can report back to the Council to see how things that were planned out are working.

Malmstrom noted that it is important that the C-Team have a complete understanding of the residential redesign. Boyd agreed and added that it was troubling to hear that the C-Team did not have a complete understanding. Belliveau clarified that there has been communication between the C-Team and the PAs, but that the C-Team was not yet in a place where the individual pieces they have received from the PAs add up to a coordinated delivery. Oppenheim noted that the PAs are undertaking a complete redesign and that there are numerous details that need to be thought about. He added that a lack of understanding is inherent in taking on something of the magnitude.

Boecke noted that he liked what the Plan had said about residential coordinated delivery and that he thought it was responsive to the Council’s concerns. He added that the Council wants to see that it is working, and if it is not, what the PAs are doing to address reasons why it is not. Boecke suggested that he would be looking for some detailed information that goes beyond statements about what the PAs have met and talked about.

McCarey asked if the PAs would have data on what impact the current enhancements are having. She suggested links to costs, savings, and participation as example data points that she thought might be helpful. Lyne indicated that he would talk to the PAs to identify what data might be available for the September meeting. McCarey noted that data and results were important to help identify what other changes might be needed for 2020 and 2021. Boyd agreed.

Boyd suggested that the PAs report on what they have rolled out for program enhancements and how those are going so far. She also suggested that they report on areas that they had planned for but have not yet completed, as well as areas that were not stated in the Plan but are being considered for 2020 and 2021.
Lyne thanked the ExCom and suggested that all that feedback was helpful and that he would bring it back to the PAs. He added that what the PAs are doing is a complicated effort and that areas that lack clarity are driven by the fact that the PAs are still working through those areas.

5. EEAC Technical Consultant Procurement Update

McCarey informed the ExCom that the Council can execute short term extensions of contracts. She noted that DOER would recommend that the Council extend the C-Team’s existing contract through the end of 2019 and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) in the fall of 2019 with an intended start date of January 1, 2020. Evans added that the Council would not need to grant any additional approval given that the Council’s budget for the technical consultant was approved for the entirety of 2019. She added that the Council would only need to approve the C-Team’s short-term workplan through the end of the year. The ExCom agreed that DOER’s suggestion made sense.

6. Upcoming Meeting Agendas

August Council Meeting
McCary reviewed the August Council meeting agenda. She noted that it would be focused on the PA’s second quarter report and evaluated 2016-2018 Plan year results. McCarey also noted that the meeting would include an update from the CLC and Eversource on their active demand negotiations. She added that if the two parties did not reach agreement, then that topic would be expanded, and review of the 2016-2018 Plan year results would be reduced.

McCarey also noted that the August Council meeting would include a non-mandatory brownbag lunch before the meeting to review the results of the EEAC surveys. Lyne noted that the PAs would welcome the opportunity to do future brownbag sessions on topics such as benefit-cost ratio models and data collection processes. McCarey suggested that performance incentives could be an additional topic for future brownbag lunches.

September Council Meeting
McCarey noted that the September meeting would be largely focused on residential coordinated delivery and program design and that the topics of that discussion would largely be driven by the ExCom’s earlier discussion.

7. Adjournment

McCarey, as Chair, adjourned the Executive Committee at 11:00 AM.