



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 4, 2019
100 Cambridge St, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Executive Committee Members Present: Don Boecker, Amy Boyd (via phone), Emmett Lyne, Rick Malmstrom, Maggie McCarey (for Judith Judson)

Other Attendees: Gretchen Calcagni (via phone), Maggie Downey, Audrey Eidelman, Frank Gundal, Jodi Hanover, Craig Johnson, Emily Powers

1. Call to Order

McCarey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM.

2. 2020 Planning and Council Calendar

McCarey previewed the draft calendar for the Executive Committee and the Council for 2020. She noted that all of the meetings were currently scheduled at their usual locations and that the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) would look into scheduling one or two meetings outside of Boston. Downey offered the Cape Light Compact's (CLC) offices as a possible location for a fall meeting.

Hanover noted that the draft calendar had the Program Administrators (PAs) presenting on the first quarter 2020 report in April. She noted that the PAs typically present that information in May. McCarey indicated that DOER would adjust the calendar accordingly. Hanover added that the PAs could do their fourth quarter 2019 report presentation in March. She also noted that the plan year report would be filed in May and that June would be a good time for the PAs to present on that topic.

Lyne indicated that he would run the calendar by the PAs to see if they had any additional input. He added that it was helpful to the PAs to have the schedule organized early in 2019 and that he appreciated that DOER was doing that again.

Downey asked if the Council would begin discussion on the 2022-2024 Three-Year Plan in 2020. McCarey indicated that it would likely begin discussions in the second half of the year. She added that the second half of the year has not yet been fully fleshed out.

Hanover asked if the residential meeting in February would include low-income updates. McCarey indicated that it could, but also noted that there would be time allocated for low-income at the March meeting.

McCarey noted that they had not included any lunch-and-learns in the calendar, but that they were considering them. She added that potential topics for those might include data tables, benefit cost models, and/or performance incentives.

McCarey noted that DOER did not include too many specific topics for the Executive Committee meetings. She added that she has heard from the Executive Committee that those meetings should be used to do short term Council priority setting. She suggested that at the beginning of each quarter, the Consultant Team (C-Team) could review the past quarter and discuss priorities for the next quarter. McCarey noted that for the first quarter of 2020, she would like to review the roles of all the bodies involved, including the Executive Committee, the Council, and the C-Team. She added that Emily Powers had done some initial work by looking at the Council by-laws, the statutes, results from the Raab report, and recent Council surveys.

McCarey noted that the C-Team presented on Council priorities at the November meeting. She indicated that she felt they had received enough feedback to begin working on the Council priorities for 2020 and asked if any of the Executive Committee members would like to help with that. Boyd volunteered to help in December.

3. December Council Meeting Agenda

McCarey reviewed the draft agenda for the December Council meeting. She indicated that it would include an update from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) on its renewable thermal and heat pump program, an update from the PA's and the C-Team on third quarter results and a year-end forecast, an update from Columbia Gas on its targeted efforts in the Greater Lawrence area, and a presentation from the C-Team on lessons learned from the Council's most recent planning process.

Third Quarter Report Update

Hanover indicated that the PAs were working on their presentation for the third quarter update. She requested that if there were any priorities for things the Council would like to see in that presentation to let her know as soon as possible.

Columbia Gas Update on Greater Lawrence

McCarey noted that Columbia Gas had been asked by community members and elected officials to extend its enhanced program offerings in the Greater Lawrence area. She noted that the enhanced programs have significantly increased participation in the market rate sector, but less so for low-income.

Boyd noted that she had heard that many of the barriers that prevented low-income folks from participating were not something that could be addressed through the energy efficiency programs. McCarey indicated that DOER had committed to putting forward funds to work on energy efficiency barrier mitigation.

Malmstrom noted that getting audits done also seemed to be a barrier with it being difficult for auditors to get into homes on weekdays. Hanover indicated that contractors do offer some nights and weekend hours.

McCarey noted that barriers were not the only issue. She indicated that they also need to figure out how to increase resources for low-income. She wondered if the program could be limited to a low-income program. Jacobson indicated that the program could prioritize Lawrence without de-prioritizing Andover and North Andover.

Lyne indicated that any extension of the enhanced offerings would likely require a mid-term modification that would need to be approved by the Council. McCarey indicated that she did not expect a vote in December on this matter, but possibly could have one in January.

Council Planning Lessons Learned

McCarey indicated that the C-Team would be putting together some process lessons learned from the previous planning period and make some recommendations about the next planning process. She added that this would include information on the timing of potential studies, workshops, and briefing documents among other things.

Cape Light Compact Cape and Vineyard Electrification Offering

Downey noted that the CLC had originally intended on presenting an update on its CVEO offering in December. She indicated that they still had some unanswered questions and so she would be more inclined to give an update in January. McCarey indicated that she felt it was important for the Council to hear where CLC is with its CVEO offering.

4. January Council Meeting Agenda

McCarey indicated that the January Council meeting would be focused on the commercial and industrial (C&I) sector and would include updates on the C&I customer profile study and draft evaluation results for the 2019 daily dispatch program. She added that it would also include an update from the C-Team on its 2020 work plan. Lastly, McCarey noted that she was hopeful that the Council would be able to vote on a resolution for the CLC's CVEO offering.

5. Adjournment

McCarey, as Chair, adjourned the Executive Committee at 10:55 AM.