

**Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council**  
 Meeting Minutes  
 Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Councilors Present:**

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

DOER: Steve Venezia

Consultants: Eric Belliveau, Jeff Schlegel, Ralph Prah, Sam Huntington

**Present:**

|                |              |               |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Emmett Lyne    | Alex Papali  | Margie Lynch  |
| Frank Gundal   | Jeremy Shenk | Beth Lonergan |
| Lisa Shea      | Matt Zenni   | Lyn Huckabee  |
| Matthew Nelson | Kim Crossman |               |

*Note: the public attendance sheet was never returned*

Halfpenny called the meeting to order at 1:05pm and welcomed everybody.

**Public comment**

Halfpenny read a letter from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, dated July 9<sup>th</sup> 2013. The letter described how energy efficiency programs are funded through a charge on customer electric bills, highlighting the fact that the money comes from ratepayers. The letter requested that the state establish a public database and report certain data by zip code and census tract.

Jeremy Shenk from the Green Justice Coalition spoke up in support of the letter from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, echoing the need for a publicly accessible database.

Alex Papali from the Green Justice Coalition spoke up in support of a bill in front of the state house that parallels what would be done administratively on data and databases. Papali went on to read a letter from co-sponsors of the legislation that highlighted how transparent, public data helps ensure programs are “maximally effective.”

Halfpenny noted that 21 bills related to energy efficiency were being heard on this day.

## **General Updates**

### *June 12<sup>th</sup> EEAC Meeting Minutes*

Halfpenny introduced the minutes from the June 12<sup>th</sup> EEAC meeting and noted a couple changes. Saunders moves to approve. The council voted and approved the minutes with no one opposed and Manning abstaining.

### *June 19<sup>th</sup> Database Subcommittee Meeting Minutes*

Halfpenny introduced the minutes from the June 19<sup>th</sup> Database Subcommittee meeting. Saunders motioned to approve, no one opposed and no one abstained. The council voted and approved the minutes.

### *Conflict of Interest Training*

Venezia distributed a summary of the Conflict of Interest law, noting that council members needed to acknowledge receipt. He also noted that there were slightly different rules for state employees.

### *Commercial Real Estate working group*

Halfpenny updated the council on the Commercial Real Estate working group and summarized the upcoming events. She noted that the group would proceed with an informational interview process to assess the unique opportunities and needs of different market segments.

### *C&I Update*

Matthew Zenni of New England Gas updated the council on program activity in the C&I sector. He explained how the programs were working with the DEP on opportunities in the wastewater realm and explained the new MassSave Grocery Initiative. He highlighted how the financing team was working with the Mass Bankers Association to extend loan amounts from 100 thousand dollars to 500 thousand dollars; that the CHP working group was taking a new tiered approach to incentives; that all the utilities were working to convert streetlights to LEDs; that the CoolChoice program was moving upstream; and that the Mainstreet programs were working with municipalities. Swing asked who controlled the decision to increase the loan amount. Zenni responded that the decision was ultimately up to the bankers. Belliveau asked what the impetus was behind the increase in the loan amount; if it was a barrier. Zenni replied that the PAs didn't believe it was a barrier, but in case it was they wanted to remove it.

### *Avoided Energy Supply Cost study update*

Schlegel updated the council on the study noting that the final report is due out on Friday, and that it would be posted to the EEAC website. He reviewed the overall results of the

study, noting that there was new component of DRIPE, as well as additional components of environmental costs, including one proposed for the Global Warming Solutions Act. He concluded by explaining that discussions were underway for getting a report out on what the implications for current programs would be given the new avoided costs.

#### *Consultant Monthly Report*

Belliveau delivered an update to the council on the activities the consultant team had been working on since the last council meeting. He highlighted streamlining, EM&V results, and the AESC study as key areas of work that were all coming together, requiring interpretation. Winkler requested a written summary of the consultant team's review of the Connecticut database. Saunders asked if the consultant team had a sense of where they were on their budget. Belliveau responded that they were on track but would check and present anyway.

#### *August Meeting Planning*

Halfpenny explained the scheduling conflicts with the August meeting and proposed changing the date. Discussion ensued amongst the councilors, but they were unable to reach a conclusion. Halfpenny proposed making a decision at the end of the meeting.

#### **Remote Participation Policy**

Halfpenny asked if there were any comments on the policy which was put up on the projector. Lyne, responding for the PAs, requested the policy be modified such that non-voting members would be allowed to participate remotely as well. Saunders responded that language to that extent was already in the policy. Halfpenny said she would like to discourage the use of a conference line in their meetings, noting that the forum does not lend itself well to a spider phone or similar technology. Johnson asked what the alternative was. Halfpenny clarified that she intended the remote participation policy to only apply to subcommittee work, not the general council. Jacobson echoed Halfpenny's remarks, adding that remote participation for the general council should only be permitted in extreme situations such as when snowstorms make travel impossible. Winkler objected to writing the subcommittee condition into the policy, suggesting that the decision be left up to the chair and considered on a case-by-case basis. He agreed that spider phones were generally insufficient for participation, but reasoned that better technology may come along that makes participation possible, in which case they would need to revisit the policy, thus wasting time. Halfpenny expressed her concern that if they held a council meeting and a remote voting member was unable to hear, they could claim the meeting was in violation of the open meeting law, thus making all the work completed during the meeting void. The language of the policy was amended to allow remote participation only in subcommittee meetings. Saunders moved to approve the policy as amended. The council voted and approved the policy with no one opposing and no one abstaining.

Halfpenny noted that the meeting was already behind schedule and wanted to make sure sufficient time was reserved for the EM&V discussion. She asked the council members if they would be willing to postpone other elements of the agenda in the interest of time. Johnson said he would be willing to let the Home Energy Services discussion slide until

August. Schlegel added that the streamlining discussion could be shortened and/or postponed.

### **Data Dashboard**

Nelson updated the council on July data dashboard. Key metrics on the electric side included participation (38% of goal), total spending (25%), capacity savings (19%), annual energy savings (19%), and lifetime energy savings (17%). Key metrics on the gas side included total participants (12% of goal), total spending (31%), annual therms (21%) and lifetime therms (26%). He noted the low income and residential were generally tracking closely to the forecast, and that they were slightly behind on C&I lifetime savings. Winkler noted that some of the numbers presented orally were not clearly apparent in the visual, and encouraged the PAs to revise the dashboard to that effect. Winkler also requested that the quarterly reports show metrics tracked against the quarterly goals, and that future monthly reports show year-to-date metrics compared to the previous year. Chretien expressed his hope that next month's dashboard would show greater spending and savings on the C&I side, noting that a significant amount of money was left unspent last year despite missing their savings goal. Halfpenny added that while they wanted to see savings increase on the C&I side, they did not want to see frivolous spending. Gundal commented that they never talk about saving money, only about procuring reductions. Halfpenny concluded by requesting that the next C&I update discuss where the programs are focusing – which market segments, which initiatives, etc.

### **EM&V**

Ralph Prah delivered a presentation on the past, present, and future EM&V activities associated with Massachusetts' energy efficiency programs. He began by describing his background, and noting that he was charged with overseeing the evaluation team, including members of the PAs, and ensuring a collaborative process. He noted that due to time constraints he would be skipping some slides. After giving some background on the history of EM&V in Massachusetts, he described the current framework tied to the three year plan. He offered his own assessment that the current planning process was somewhat problematic, noting that a) programs are so large its getting hard to plan on an ad hoc basis, b) planning is increasingly shaped by resource constraints, and c) the process is driven by the need to complete impact evaluations in time for application to the annual report. Tina interjected that EM&V was not something the council had generally focused on, explaining that the while they have one of the most robust EM&V programs in the country, the current ad hoc planning approach was insufficient – the process needed to be more strategic. Prah agreed. He went on to describe the value EM&V had added to programs and then provided a summary of the studies underway. He noted that the overall effect would be to slightly increase savings, but cautioned that those results vary across PAs. He went on to describe the C&I customer profile study, the results of which showed only 1.5% of small account participating. Gundal commented that this finding was not surprising, and noted new programs designed to address it. Prah went on to describe the HEHE NTG/Market evaluation. He said he was surprised at the finding that the majority of savings from the program were from fuel switching. In describing the repeated residential lighting evaluations, he noted that CFL socket saturation appeared to be plateauing, and suggested that CFLs are replacing old CFLs. Johnson asked how he had come to that conclusion. Prah responded that it was the only explanation that was

consistent with the findings of high NTG and stagnant saturation. He went on to describe the EM&V team's priorities for the future, including running top-down, econometric analyses aimed at finding evidence of global program impact. Winkler asked if a top-down would provide greater accuracy in projecting demand savings, to which Prahl responded that he wasn't sure. Prahl then shifted the conversation to the options for developing a strategic plan. He noted that the PAs had been too busy to plan, and expressed concern that if they switched focus entirely, they would be sacrificing effort on other studies. He also commented that he didn't think there were enough PA project managers in EM&V. Halfpenny asked if there was a problem finding qualified people. White responded that the situation was different for different PAs. Prahl reiterated that their activities work was constrained not by budget but by people. Halfpenny said she was uncomfortable leaving this issue, noting that they were halfway through their three year plan and there was no strategic vision for EM&V. Prahl reminded everyone that Massachusetts has probably the most robust EM&V program in the country, but agreed that they lacked a strategic long term plan. He presented two options, 1) dropping everything and spending three months developing a long term plan, and 2) gradually allocating resources and developing the plan over the course of the next nine months. Halfpenny expressed dismay at the nine month horizon. White suggested the council let the planning committee decide how to balance the priorities best. Swing agreed that nine months was a long time, but added that this was only the first three year plan and the planning process would presumably be applicable to future plans as well. Loh noted that the council had never been involved with the planning process for EM&V and would like to see that going forward. Westerlind noted that there would be a webinar soon where the team would present more detail on a long term plan. Halfpenny noted that the council meetings in Connecticut each had a formal section dedicated to EM&V.

### **August Meeting**

Halfpenny revisited the discussion on the August meeting date, suggesting that they push it back a couple weeks. She proposed the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of August, but noted that it may depend on room availability.

### **Adjourn**

Halfpenny adjourned the meeting at 4:05pm