



MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

100 Cambridge St, 2nd Floor

Conference Rooms B & C

Boston, MA 02114

Councilors Present: Eric Beaton (for Chrystal Kornegay), Brian Beote (for Elliott Jacobson), Leah Berger (for Elizabeth Cellucci), JoAnn Bodemer (for Maggie Downey), Don Boecke (for Maura Healey), Amy Boyd, Cindy Carroll, Larry Chretien, Fran Cummings (for Paul Gromer), Frank Gundal (for Tilak Subrahmanian), Charles Harak, Paul Johnson, Judith Judson, Richard Malmstrom, Deirdre Manning, Jeremy Newberger, Robert Rio, Victoria Rojo, Michael Sommer, Brad Swing (for Austin Blackmon), Trish Walker

Councilors Absent: Michael Ferrante, Michael McDonagh, Andrew Newman, Sharon Weber (for Martin Suuberg)

Consultants Present: Eric Belliveau, Craig Johnson, Margie Lynch, Courtney Moriarta, Glenn Reed

DOER Staff Present: Rachel Evans, Matt Rusteika, Arah Schuur

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:11 AM.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was given.

3. Council Updates and Business

EEAC Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2017

At the time of approval, the Council had not yet reached a quorum. Approval of the August 16, 2016 EEAC Meeting Minutes were moved to the next Council meeting.

EEAC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – September 6, 2017

At the time of approval, the Executive Committee had not yet reached a quorum. Approval of the September 6, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes were moved to the next Council meeting.

4. Residential Program Impacts

Margie Lynch, Courtney Moriarta, and Glenn Reed, on behalf of the consultant team (C-Team), presented on lighting impacts and other drivers for residential program innovation in 2019 – 2021 and beyond.

They began their presentation by reinforcing the success of the residential programs over the last several years. They noted that lighting has been a key to that success due to its low delivery cost compared to other initiatives. They also reminded the Council that increasing baselines are eroding the PA's ability to claim savings from lighting initiatives. They went on to discuss the evolution of whole building approaches and new measures and strategies that could be considered for the next plan. They concluded their presentation with a preview of measure- and end use-specific improvement opportunities that would be discussed in more detail at the upcoming planning workshop.

Chretien referenced the C-Team's presentation where they talked about joint goals and desired outcomes for the residential programs. He suggested that the PAs follow Rhode Island and include calculated benefits for greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions in the amount of \$100/ton as per the findings in the AESC study. He also noted that he felt there was a limit on how much energy efficiency can be done without dynamic pricing. He added that it would be useful to see an analysis on what could be achieved with dynamic pricing. Lastly, Chretien emphasized the need to have the residential seat filled as soon as possible.

Boyd seconded each of Chretien's points. She added that the 2030 GWSA goals are rapidly approaching and that the programs should be mindful about whether or not it makes sense to be incentivizing efficiency measures with long measure lives for fossil fuel applications.

Boecke indicated that he felt fuel switching was an interesting topic that aligns with state goals. That said, he indicated that there could be some legal issues with whether or not it is lawful to use energy efficiency funds for something that is not necessarily energy efficiency.

Newberger asked the C-Team if the Vermont has dynamic pricing tied into its Tesla Powerwall efforts. Reed indicated that he was unsure about dynamic pricing, but noted that the intent of the program was to pair them with solar.

Johnson indicated that he was not optimistic about the future. He expressed concern that it would be difficult to capture customers without lighting solutions. He also indicated that he was skeptical about a technology-based approach to acquiring customers, noting that you need to spend time with customers in order to get them to participate.

Commissioner Judson noted that there are many ideas to be pursued and that innovative approaches will be important to the future success of the programs.

5. Residential Delivery Channels

Vavak began by thanking the C-Team for their presentation and noted that it was demonstrative of the conversations that the PAs and the C-Team have been having for several months. Following a brief introduction, several representatives of the PAs presented on a variety of their residential program initiatives and efforts. These included their renovations and additions initiative, integrated community grant initiatives, Fraunhofer demonstration, LEDs to foodbanks initiative, Mass Landlords Association partnership, appliance standards and technical assistance, and workshops on high performance and zero energy buildings.

Johnson asked how the renovation and additions initiative was being incentivized. Meredith Miller indicated that they would be using the same blended savings approach that they just adopted for the new construction program.

Johnson expressed concern that people who participate in the integrated community grant initiative might not do energy efficiency if they are doing solar. He indicated that participants that receive an incentive for solar should be required to participate in energy efficiency.

Manning praised the PAs for the LED to foodbanks initiative and recommended that they continue to explore similar ways to promote the programs in that manner.

Commissioner Judson referenced the appliance standards and technical assistance initiative and asked if there are opportunities that the state should pursue or focus on at the federal level. Kevin Rose indicated that the PAs are currently focusing their efforts at the federal level. He added that there may be opportunities at the state level and that the PAs are looking into those. Harak asked if the PAs are proposing to lead the effort in advancing federal regulations in a manner similar to what California is doing. Rose indicated that that would be ideal and that their intent is to follow the same construct of how California is doing it.

Swing noted that there are issues about the statutory framework that the Council works in. He indicated that he is concerned that customers will be confused about what to do as renewables become an important part of energy efficiency efforts. He asked whether or not it would be appropriate for the Council to think about suggesting changes to the laws if Councilors felt that the current framework is hold them back. Rio and Harak both expressed support for Swing's statement.

Manning noted that she recently needed to replace her water heater and that she had to go to a specific store because it was purchased there and was still under warranty. She noted that she could not get a 12-year EnergyStar model because they only had 6-year models in stock. She indicated that she felt that that was inexcusable and that the PAs need to work more closely with stores to make sure they have more energy efficient models in stock.

Commissioner Judson thanked the PAs and noted that she was encouraged by the level of innovative thinking that is going on.

6. Statewide Database and Mass Save Data

Riley Hastings, on behalf of the PAs, updated the Council on Mass Save Data and the statewide database. She began with a review of the database issue and the development of Mass Save Data (MSD). She then went on to discuss the DPU's review and order, and how MSD addresses key elements of the DPU's order. Hastings also noted the additional data that has been added to MSD based on stakeholder comments. Hastings then highlighted the PA's ongoing enhancement efforts, geographic data improvements, and the evaluation component of the MSD. She concluded by reviewing components of the MSD, including the frequency of data updates, the sources of data, and the costs associated with it.

Harak noted that the HEAT Loan data on MSD has been tremendously useful to his constituents.

Boyd noted that she felt that MSD is much improved over what it was when it launched. She asked if it were possible to use data from actual implementation for the geographic portion of MSD as opposed to using evaluation results. Hastings noted that there are complications with using actual implementation data. She cited difficulties in linking ZIP codes to upstream programs as one reason, and multiple PAs working across multiple ZIP codes as another.

Boyd also noted that including GHG data by incorporating Massachusetts DEP emissions factors is a great addition to MSD.

Cummings asked if they ever have to aggregate geographic data up to the county level. Hastings indicated that there are some instances in Western Massachusetts where they need to do so.

Commissioner Judson asked if there are data points that they are not able to break out by ZIP code. Hastings indicated that they do not have the ability to break administrative costs such as marketing out by ZIP code. She also suggested that the PAs could do a future presentation on lessons learned from developing and using MSD.

Lynch noted that the C-Team uses MSD as its first choice for data in their analyses and that their second choice is the benefit-cost models. She asked Hastings to give the Council a few examples of data that is in the benefit-cost models that does not make its way onto the MSD website. Hastings cited avoided costs and measure lives as a couple of examples. Lynch also asked if it were possible to separate residential and low-income data instead of having them be aggregated. Hastings noted that it would be difficult to do so because some customers are eligible for low-income programs even if they are not on a low-income rate. She added that in a similar fashion, some customers bounce back and forth between the low-income and standard offer rates.

Finlayson asked if Hastings could provide an update on the convergence between PAs on data platforms and naming conventions. Hastings indicated that the PAs have worked hard on harmonizing their data using measure identifications that are included in their benefit cost

models. She acknowledged that there has not been much progress on harmonizing the PAs tracking systems.

7. Workshop Kickoff

Commissioner Judson noted that the Council's October meeting would be canceled in lieu of having several upcoming workshops. Rusteika noted that the PAs, DOER, C-Team, and the workshop facilitator have been working together to get the materials set up for the workshops. He strongly urged that the Councilors read the briefing materials in their entirety before attending the workshops.

8. Adjournment

Commissioner Judson, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 12:08 PM.