

6/22/2012 Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council Executive Committee Minutes - Final

Convened: 2:09 PM

Commenced: 2:55 PM

Attendees: Christina Halfpenny, Elliott Jacobson, Jeremy McDiarmid, Christina Dietrich, Matthew Saunders, Emmett Lyne, Paul Johnson, Steve Venezia, Carol White, Jeff Schlegel (phone), and Kathryn O'Rourke.

Minutes:

- **Summary of 11-120 Phase II Technical Session:** Schlegel recapped the technical session. The DPU split the presentation discussion into two parts, 1) Annual Reports, Performance Incentive (PI), and the Reconciliation Factor and 2) the Mid-term Modification (MTM) process. The presentation was mostly DPU staff presenting. Schlegel suggested a couple questions Council Members should ask themselves when forming a response to the DPU straw proposal. 1) Does the Council want to take on additional responsibility? 2) Does the Council have adequate time to take on additional responsibility and/or what additional resources are needed if they take on this additional responsibility? Jacobson stated that the DPU straw proposal is another process, and it takes away from the quality and substance of the programs. McDiarmid stated that the DPU is trying to streamline the PA process and true-up at the end of the 3-year plan, and Venezia added that the DPU has seen an uptake in ancillary processes since the passing on the Green Communities Act (GCA) and their proposal would alleviate some of the congestion in the current process. Halfpenny asked if the DPU straw proposal changes any of the requirements. White responded that it could potentially and Schlegel outlined the following four areas where there could be potential streamlines; 1) Annual Report Process – annual review would only occur at Council, 2) Annual Reports – improve what goes into annual reports, 3) MTM Triggers – review the triggers and have a % and \$ figure, and 4) MTM Process – right now the Council reviews, but they would review and approve the process going forward. There was some concerns expressed about the lack of potential DPU involvement in the MTM process, expressed the need to insert a regulatory backstop in the process. McDiarmid stated that the subcommittee needs to meet before the July 10th EEAC meeting. Lyne added that for the PAs there's a heavy focus on July 2nd (next draft of the 3-year Plans are due), Schlegel provided a recap of the 11-120 Phase II Technical Meeting, it will be an iterative process, and the DPU is open to ideas. Halfpenny said the next steps are getting the subcommittee together for 1 hour on the afternoon of 6/27 or morning of 6/28.
- **Budget Overview:** Halfpenny announced that through May 2012, the Council has spent 48% of their allotted budget. The final Synapse invoice is \$88,000 and will be added to the Council Budget. The Optimal contract does not include work on Net Savings and Carbon. Her concern is that we manage Consultant's time because work on 11-120 wasn't included in the Optimal contract, and stated that Consultant time might be able to be scaled back from implementation. McDiarmid would like to see monthly budgets. White stated that evaluation work should level out.
- **Database Update:** Halfpenny stated that 3 vendors will present at the Database Webinar, and wanted to get feedback from the group on when a realistic time to host a webinar would be and should PAs put a placeholder in the filings for a database budget. She also stated that there are basically 2 paths, 1) improving PARIS and 2) overhauling PARIS. White stated that she votes to replace PARIS and wanted to know if the state had access to other funds. McDiarmid asked who would have access to the database, and Halfpenny stated that some queries could be made available. The group agreed that the best time for a webinar would be after July 23rd.
- **July Meeting:** Lyne stated the PAs would like to give an overview of the plan. McDiarmid agreed with Lyne but wanted to make sure the Council gets through a 11-120 resolution first. Quarterly reports will be presented in August and the EM&V overview will be covered in a webinar on 6/25. It was agreed that the PA presentation will proceed with:
 - High-level Overview
 - Savings Targets/Costs
 - Performance Incentive
 - Programmatic
 - Other

- **Best Practices:** Johnson asked to present at the July meeting on HPC issues. Halfpenny stated that Paul Gromer, the facilitator of the Best Practices Working Group, would be the best person to give an update on the Best Practices working group to the Council and she would reach out to Gromer.