

DRAFT

Sept 24, 2014 EEAC Executive Committee Meeting Notes

Attendees: Christina Halfpenny (DOER), Matt Saunders (AG), Amy Boyd (ENE), Jerry Oppenheim - (LEAN), Emmett Lyne (PAs), Shaela Collins (PAs), Marie Abdou (NGrid), Lisa Shea (NU), Frank Gundal (NU), Eric Belliveau – phone (Consult), Jonathan Raab (Consult), Paul Johnson (Greentek), Ian Finlayson (DOER) Lyn Huckabee (DOER), Maggie McCarey (DOER), Steve Venezia (DOER)

Agenda:

- Process Assessment Kick-Off Meeting

Meeting began at approximately 10:05am

- (Raab) Would like to aim for a draft of the interview protocol on 9/29 in preparation for the 10/2 EC meeting. He would like an interim EC meeting on 10/17. Interviews will be finished by 10/29. EC interviews will be on 10/1 and 10/2 and the rest of the stakeholders will follow. He proposed to present the assessment and engagement plan on the 11/12 full EEAC meeting (with drafts a day or two before). An EC will be needed within a day or two after the full meeting to process feedback. The target date for the final plan is 12/3 for implementation by 1/5. For this meeting, he asked to go through the data he has already received and ask questions of the EC.
- (Halfpenny) Added that she has access to the stakeholder comments from the last 3-year planning process, PA monthly and quarterly reports, and consultant reports. She identified the size of program files as a pain point, as is version control and lack of centralization.
- (Belliveau) Suggested that Raab look at the Council priorities and sense of the Council documents. These were available starting in 2009.

Interview Information

- (Raab) The budget allows for interviews of up to 27 people. He would like voting and non-voting members, consultants, and non-seated stakeholders (e.g. DPU staff).
- (Johnson) Suggested that some current Councilors are very new and that their predecessors might be better resources for this purpose.
- (Finlayson) Also suggested someone from the Green Justice Coalition.
- (Halfpenny) Suggested that Raab interview Lyne for the view of the PAs collectively because individual PAs not represent them all. Lyne could also speak more to the nuts and bolts of the planning process.
- (Gundal) Suggested that Raab look at the transition between policy and implementation.

- (Several EC members agreed that all non-voting Councilors should be interviewed)
- (Raab) Asked if there were any Councilors who were unengaged with the process.
- (Halfpenny) The representatives from Oil Heat, Marlboro and Blackstone
- (Raab) Would like the initial list ASAP. He would also like to interview the consultants as a group. Who at the DPU should be interviewed?
- (Halfpenny) Ben Davis should be asked who to interview.
- (Boyd) Suggested the GJC be held to the back of the list if there is room.
- (Raab) Indicated that the interview length will be 1 hour. EC interviews will likely be longer because they will be the first and they are also the most engaged.

Confidentiality

- (Raab) Is looking for areas of convergence and divergence. He doesn't normally assign comments to specific people but he would like to know how valuable grouping will be.
- (Boyd) Doesn't want to be a slave to confidentiality if frank feedback is what helps them progress (others agreed)
- (Raab) If he serves as a "mediator" rather than a "facilitator," he has more flexibility around confidentiality.
- (Lyne) Asked if Raab would like to interview multiple people from larger PAs.
- (Raab) No, just the named Councilor unless he or she delegates the responsibility.

Miscellaneous

- (Raab) Asked if the EC really wanted weekly updates. He had assumed an in person meeting every other week.
- (Councilors agreed that every other week is fine with an e-mail on the off weeks)
- (Raab) Asked the EC to send notice to Councilors so his requests are expected.
- (Boyd) Expressed some concern about asking Councilors for priorities for upcoming plan because, if those priorities are not addressed in the process, those Councilors may become disenfranchised with the process.
- (Johnson) Requested the questions in advance so he had time to think about them
- (Raab) Agreed that priming Councilors was a good idea. They should be prepared to discuss priorities, likes, improvements, and how to engage Councilors.
- (Belliveau) Wanted a relative weighting of attention between process and priorities.
- (Raab) 50/50 split with priorities informing the engagement plan.

Brainstorming

- (Raab) What are the things we need to explore concerning the EEAC process? He added that there was no need for consensus or debate during the process.

- (Boyd) Logistics such as meetings and agendas are issues, as is the actual business of the Council. She used the sluggish performance in C&I as an example.
- (Gundal) Need to clarify the roles of players – PAs, Council, Consultants, DPU
- (Raab) Mentioned that Gundal's issue speaks to dispute resolution processes and the idea reminded him that he should have documents giving legal authority.
- (Belliveau) Wants to know clearly what issues warrant a vote – what is within Council power.
- (Halfpenny) Wants to know which issues require a resolution.
- (Gundal) Added that the statute defines the EEAC as an advisory body rather than an executive body.
- (Raab) Asked if these issues come up offline
- (Halfpenny) Responded that the issues almost exclusively come up during EC meetings where the agenda is determined.
- (Raab) Asked if the current crowd was typical
- (Halfpenny) Responded that members of the public and DPU attend EEAC meetings but that, otherwise, the turnout was typical.
- (Raab) Asked if consensus was sought in voting matters. After a comment from Venezia about certain topics getting different treatment, Raab asked for copies of all Council resolutions. He then asked how often non-resolution votes happen (3-4 times/yr)
- (Saunders) Added that most resolutions are pre-negotiated by the EC before going to the EEAC.
- (Halfpenny) Included that the issue of the database resolution was the only one that did not receive significant consensus. Otherwise, they only get a few abstentions.
- (Boyd) Changed the brainstorming subject to implementation.
- (Halfpenny) Offered that the biggest issues there are with data and costs.
- (Lyne) Added to the previous discussion that, before the EC meeting, PAs and consultants work out issues.
- (Belliveau) The process is fairly ad hoc
- (Raab) Who staff management committees (PA staff with a few exceptions)
- (Saunders) Expressed concern over the Council's ability to have conversations that don't run afoul of the open meeting law.
- (Halfpenny) Identifies that the Council has a clear role in planning but that not everything can be prescribed so they need to determine better ways to quantify success and enable a productive dialogue.
- (Raab) Asked if the problem was lack of time to deliberate or lack of a clear question.
- (Johnson) Emphatically added that the problem was a lack of discussion. (other councilors agreed all of the above)

- (Halfpenny) Would like to know what the Councilors think the EEAC could be. Additionally, she would like to know how to process the information that arises out of Council priorities. This leads in to how to best track performance to those priorities.

Engagement Place/Priorities Issues

- (Raab) He would like to think about the 2016-2018 plan
- (Saunders) Indicated that his role in developing the three-year plans is different than most other councilors in that he is focused more on high level issues related to budget, savings, and performance incentives than on programs
- (Oppenheim) Cares about reaching challenging customers like Oil/MF users and broad cost-effectiveness.
- (Boyd) Cares about getting to the ALL part of the state EE mandate. She wants high goals that are achieved, innovation, flexibility with planning process, and high quality programming for consumers.
- (Halfpenny) Agreed and expressed doubt that the priorities from 2013 would change much in 2015. DOER's main issue is lack of access to data because our job is to plan. Additionally, we're concerned about cost effectiveness and efficiency and C&I segmentation.
- (Johnson) C&I performance, lost opportunity, market potential, implementation modifications, and follow through on new ideas.
- (Belliveau) Wants to clarify what role the Council plays in implementing the plan once it has been submitted.
- (Raab) Asked who the audience was for the engagement plan
- (Halfpenny) It's the Council, although each Councilor has a sector to represent. DOER sees itself as the portal for other stakeholders to be heard.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10pm