

**Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council**  
 Meeting Minutes  
 Tuesday, September 9, 2014

**Councilors Present:**

<b>Voting</b>	<b>Present (designee)</b>	<b>Non-Voting</b>	<b>Present (designee)</b>
Martha Coakley	Matthew Saunders	James Carey	X
Nancy Seidman	X	Cindy Carrol	X
Arthur Jemison		Elizabeth Cellucci	X
Betsy Glynn	X	Maggie Downey	X
Charles Harak	X	Michael Ferrante	
Elliott Jacobson	X	Paul Gromer	
Deirdre Manning	X	Andrew Newman	
Richard Malmstrom	X	Michael Sommer	X
Amy Boyd	X	Tilak Subrahmanian	X
Robert Rio	X	Carol White	X
Larry Chretien	X	Eric Winkler	X
Paul Johnson	X		
Michael McDonagh	X		
Brian Swett	Brad Swing		
Meg Lusardi	Tina Halfpenny		

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

**Present:**

Tony Barnes	Amy Eischen	Larry Masland
Andy Belden	David Gibbons	Maggie McCarey
JoAnn Bodemer	Frank Gundal	Steve Menges
Jessica Bruno	Clayton Hale	Cara Mottola
Brandy Chambers	Jodi Hanover	Matthew Nelson
Melanie Collins	Riley Hastings	Alex Papali
Shaela Collins	Natalie Hildt Treat	Nathan Peyton
Kimberly Crossman	Lyn Huckabee	Andrew Pratt
John Danek	Antonio Larson	Lisa Shea
Stacey Donnelly	Jeff Leupold	Margaret Song
Sarah Eckstein	Emmett Lyne	Lynn Westerlind

Halfpenny called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm and welcomed everybody.

### **Public Comment**

Natalie Hildt Treat of NEEP announced that she and her husband recently finished construction on their net zero energy home which is serving as Boston magazine's Design Home 2014. She also noted that the home is open for tours through October 5 to benefit Boston Children's Hospital.

Alex Papali of Clean Water Action spoke on behalf of the Green Justice Coalition (GJC) to express concern that their recommendation of Councilor Loh was not honored. Papali further stressed that the residential seat on the Council is not held by a person of color and that this is representative of challenges that exist with equity.

Halfpenny responded that the Council greatly appreciates feedback from the GJC as they have been excellent with continuous support to the Council and that she hopes that support and feedback continues in the future.

Jeremy Shenk of the GJC commented to show support for a public database whereby customers have access to the data collected as part of the programs to which they are paying into. He also noted that GJC is feeling great about the Efficient Neighborhoods Plus program and recommended that moving forward the PAs share best practices to ensure that they are being helpful to each other and the stakeholders who are trying to make the program successful.

### **General Updates:**

Halfpenny began the meeting by announcing that Arthur Jemison is leaving the Commonwealth to become Detroit's Director of Housing and Revitalization and that the Council is in the process of looking for a replacement to his position.

Halfpenny also welcomed and introduced Betsy Glynn as a new council member representing residential customers.

#### *August 12<sup>th</sup> EEAC Minutes*

Glynn suggested a minor edit to the Low Income Multifamily section to clarify that in reference to WegoWise, the tool uses btu/sf/HDD as opposed to btu/sf. Saunders motioned to approve the minutes as amended. All were in favor, with no opposed and Manning and Seidman abstaining. The minutes were approved as amended.

#### *August 27<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Minutes*

Halfpenny noted that EC discussed the Consultant Team budget, winter peak price concerns, process assessment and a few other topics. Halfpenny noted that Belliveau assured the EC that the Consultant Team is keeping a close eye on the tight budget and that they expected to bill fewer hours in August and December.

Halfpenny also noted that the EC had an open conversation about the ability of the Council to have meaningful and productive discussions at the Council meetings. She suggested that extending the meetings or cutting down the agenda might be ways to address her concerns. She welcomed feedback from the Council to suggest ideas for improving the effectiveness of the Council meetings.

Saunders motioned to approve the minutes. Boyd seconded the motion. All were in favor, with no opposed or abstaining. The minutes were approved.

#### *RCS Guidelines*

Finlayson reminded the Council that he noted at the last meeting that there was a public comment period on revising the RCS guidelines. He noted that based on the comments received, DOER is starting the internal process of revising the RCS regulations and once it is complete there will be time for formal comments.

Harak asked if the DPU would be involved in pricing and peaks. Halfpenny confirmed that they would.

#### *Database DPU*

Halfpenny noted that the PAs submitted a template on the data inputs they are willing to provide to the database. She also noted that DOER responded along with others on that template and that they are looking forward to taking it to the next level because without the database the Council is hindered as to what it can do with energy efficiency as a resource.

#### *Avoided Cost DPU*

Halfpenny noted that DOER and DEP submitted joint testimony on avoided costs of compliance with GWSA and that it is currently open docket 14-86 at the DPU. She further mentioned that Discovery is underway and is set to close October 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### *AESC 2015*

Schlegel explained that the 2015 Avoided Energy Supply Cost (AESC) study is intended to be complete in March to line up with the Commonwealth's three-year planning schedule. He noted that an RFP was posted on September 4<sup>th</sup> and that proposals are expected in the first week of October.

#### *Website Upgrade*

Belliveau introduced the new website and noted that a powerful search function is able to scan through over 1,400 documents on the site dating back to 2009. He also noted that they are struggling with identifying the level of detail and links to put on the site.

Halfpenny noted that the website is indeed functioning as she explored the search function and that it worked as advertised.

Seidman inquired if meeting materials could be sent as links to the website as opposed to large sets of attachments in emails.

Belliveau suggested that it is possible and that they would love to do this but that it can be tricky if meeting materials such as presentations are sent to the Consultant Team too close to the meeting.

#### *Consultant Monthly Report*

Belliveau reviewed the highlights from the monthly report. He noted that Ralph Prahm would be giving a complete update on EM&V later in the Council meeting. In regards to planning and analysis he mentioned that the team has been working on AESC and that in the original plan this would be 2 – 2.5 months further out right now than it currently is so the team is working to get on this faster. He noted that the residential team did a lighting deeper dive analysis that Schlegel would give an update on later in the meeting. Lastly, Belliveau noted that the C&I team was working with CIMC to see how they can bring ideas into processes and also that health care best practices research was another key highlight for the C&I team in August.

Halfpenny noted that the length of the monthly report might be too long and suggested that there would be an opportunity to work with the EC to streamline it.

#### *EEAC Champion Award*

Halfpenny reminded the Council that it was selected as 2014 Champions of Energy Efficiency by ACEEE and that she recently accepted the award on behalf of the Council at the ACEEE Summer Study. She commended everyone at the table and noted that all are deserving of this award.

Johnson noted that when Halfpenny accepted the award she gave credit to everyone and that the Council was well received by attendees.

#### *Process Assessment*

Halfpenny informed the Council that an RFR recently went out and that proposals are due September 12<sup>th</sup>. She noted that the EC would be meeting the following week to discuss proposals and set up interviews and that a consultant would be selected by the next meeting.

Johnson inquired if any proposals had been received. Halfpenny responded that no proposals had been received.

## **Q2 Report**

Matt Nelson presented on behalf of the PAs to update the Council on second quarter 2014 performance and a preliminary outlook at the year-end forecast. Starting with the September electric dashboard, Nelson noted that the PAs are doing very well on the residential side and that C&I has a bit to go but that that is expected as there is typically a lag in this sector to the end of the year. He also noted that they are ahead of where they were last year and that residential and low-income are doing very well so far.

Halfpenny noted that the participant 3 year goal has been reached only 19 months into the plan and wondered if what makes a participant should be redefined so that the PAs can get a more accurate forecast going forward.

Nelson discussed the September gas dashboard and noted that it is doing very well with 87% of participants at only 40% of funding spent. He noted that residential is dominating these numbers and that they are looking good to meet end of year goals. He further noted that the goal is to be at 80% savings at the end of year two and that they are already at 73%.

Nelson concluded by discussing the year end forecast for gas and electric. On the electric side, Nelson suggested that they are going to fall a bit short on the C&I side but that this should not come as a shock as it is a topic that has been discussed in the past. He followed up by mentioning that they are, however, looking good overall. On the gas side, Nelson suggested that they expect to come in at least at, or perhaps even exceeding the goal for the end of the year.

Schlegel noted that it would be helpful to give more information in the future and that any feedback from the Council as to how best to communicate this information would be appreciated. Schlegel further suggested that the Council look over the provided graphics to make sure they are easy to understand.

## **EM&V Overview**

Ralph Prahel introduced himself to the Council and noted that the EM&V process is a collaborative one and that the PAs are a big part of this process. He began by reporting on the current status of EM&V, noting that the primary focus has been on implementation and that this is a large and aggressive program, perhaps the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> largest in the country. His overall assessment was that there is a lot of good and some bad. In particular he focused on a “threat” to the process which is that for the first time in a long time the Consultant Team and the PAs failed to agree on something and that he was wary about moving into a new era where this becomes the norm.

Halfpenny noted that this issue had come to the EC and that it is a topic that needs to be discussed. White noted that National Grid and Prahel have had discussions about disagreements and that they have made progress on such disagreements. Prahel added that a subcommittee has been established to examine future baseline issues and to address disagreements.

Prahl then discussed highlights and key takeaways of several of the recent studies which included the following:

- Lighting Market Assessment Study
- Lighting Market Lift Study
- Efficient Neighborhoods Plus Study
- Code Compliance Study
- MiniSplit Participant Survey
- Umbrella Marketing Study
- End-User General Population Survey
- Customer Profile Study

Of all the studies, his discussion on the Efficient Neighborhoods Plus study drew the most interest from the Council. Prahl noted that this program ran in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2013, affected 9 communities for a total of 12,000 eligible customers. He suggested that this pilot, while on a small scale, is a real success story. As evidence of this, Prahl noted that the program generated 3-4 times as many assessments and projects, and 4-6 times as much savings as the standard HES program would have in the same communities.

Chretien noted that this is very interesting and a pretty good concept considering it would be relatively easy to identify the right communities to target just by crunching census data and doing some geomapping. He also inquired about how long it took and how much it cost to do this project. Prahl responded that it is not a particularly long or expensive process, perhaps taking just six months and not costing much more than \$100,000.

Swing was also very interested in this evaluation and questioned why the program ended up focusing on single family homes when the original intent was to go after multifamily. Prahl concluded that that was the intent but going after multifamily just was not as successful. In response, Swing noted that just because it is that way does not mean it is not something that can be improved. Malmstrom further questioned what ended up happening with multifamily and why the focus was not there. Cellucci responded that they did do targeted marketing and door-to-door and also tried to work with the city to get more information to tenants and landlords. Swing suggested that PAs utilize the full time landlord coordinator to address this issue in the future.

Prahl concluded by asking all Council members and other interested parties to attend an upcoming webinar that would be discussing some of these studies in more detail.

Halfpenny requested that the meeting be extended for an additional 15 minutes. No Council members opposed this request.

### **Implementation Update Wrap Up – Findings and Requested Council Actions**

Schlegel presented to the Council a summary of results and recommendations for Council action for the residential lighting, C&I large retrofit, and multifamily “Deeper Dives.”

### *Residential Lighting*

Schlegel indicated that National Grid, NSTAR and WMECo have all increased lighting savings compared to the projected savings for 2014 and that they are in conversation with Cape Light Compact and Unitil as to how to increase their savings. Chretien noted that there are still a lot of sockets left to be filled with the right type of bulb. Schlegel agreed and noted that good progress is being made here.

Winkler asked about the baseline to which the residential lighting numbers are being compared and questioned what the percentage increases are really showing. Schlegel, Prahl, and Nelson all agreed that there is imperfect knowledge on this matter.

Schlegel discussed three actions that the Council should charge the PAs to carry out, including a CFL exit program for the next Three-Year Plan, an increase in direct installation of LEDs, and a goal to achieve nation-leading Retail Lighting Initiative savings. Finally, Schlegel requested that the Council direct the PAs to report to the Council on these actions by end of November.

Halfpenny asked the PAs whether or not a report on these actions by the end of November would be feasible. Consensus from the PAs was that there would be a discussion on these items by that time but that a report would not be feasible because the action items would still yet to be resolved. Schlegel noted that the actions do not need to be resolved, but that it is important that the PAs report back to the Council so that they are updated on how things are going and what path the PAs are on.

### *C&I Large Retrofit*

Schlegel noted that their primary findings for C&I large retrofit were that the PAs lack a systematic mechanism for assessing and adopting new and effective approaches and that without a clear instrument to assess the project pipelines, the Consultant Team is not able to estimate C&I performance relative to the goal. As a result of this finding, Schlegel requested the Council to charge the PAs with a resolution to these two issues.

Several of the PAs disagreed with the findings and recommendations and stated that they are already doing a lot of what is being asked in terms of pipeline projects. Furthermore, they suggested that they would be able to do a better job of sharing this information if they were given more time at the Council meetings to present.

Schlegel and Belliveau reiterated that they looked at how ideas are implemented and adopted and found that there is simply not enough transparency, adding that if there is a process, they would like to be a part of it. Several Council members echoed support for this suggesting that it sounds like the PAs do have a process for evaluating pipeline progress and that it would be nice if this was a bit more transparent to the Council.

Malmstrom reminded the Council that the point of this is to get better C&I savings and that it is important to keep that frame in mind.

Subrahmanian restated on behalf of the PAs that they would be happy to be more transparent about the pipeline process but that it would be a lot easier to pass on this information if they were allowed to present on it. Doing this in a report form is not only difficult but it would also likely require a lot of follow ups.

Halfpenny suggested that this be something that is worked on and talked about over the next month.

### *Multifamily*

Schlegel noted that the primary findings for multifamily were that the program savings are generally above the goal and that the cross-cutting nature of multifamily retrofits poses unique challenges. Schlegel requested the Council to charge the PAs/Consultant Team to pursue a fully integrated and distinct multifamily effort and explore it as its own unique sector.

Rio suggested that with the proper legislation, RGGI money could be used for these types of programs and that that might be better than SBC charges.

### *Implementation Update Discussion Wrap-Up*

White made a statement to indicate that none of the PAs have proposed to reallocate goals from C&I to Residential. Furthermore, she wanted to make clear that there was no misunderstanding of their proposal, which is to retain the C&I budget and goals and that it is not too early to give up on where they think they can get with C&I. Halfpenny thanked White for clarifying that the PAs are not backing down from their goals.

### **Mid-Term Modifications (MTMs)**

Emmett Lyne informed the Council that they would be asking for a resolution on MTMs next month. Lyne then gave a primer on what MTMs are and the two different categories of them. Lyne noted that they are only in for category one MTMs, which means they are looking for additional budgets and are not looking to change goals or plans.

White noted that the Council would be receiving updating information on what National Grid is proposing and confirmed that the ask they will be getting is a budget request, not a request to change goals.

Downey noted that they have seen a lot of action with the HEAT loan and that Cape Light Compact would also be making a budget request.

Carroll noted that Unitil would be asking for a budget increase in their whole house assessment program due to very strong demand and a desire to be able to continue providing that service.

### **Adjournment**

Halfpenny adjourned the meeting at 4:19 pm.