



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 3, 2020
Virtual Meeting: GoToWebinar

Executive Committee Members Present: Amy Boyd, Joseph Dorfler, Elliott Jacobson, Emmett Lyne, Maggie McCarey

Other Attendees: Eric Belliveau, Adrian Caesar, A.T. Desta, Maggie Downey, Audrey Eidelman, Rachel Evans, Ian Finlayson, Jonathan Goldberg, Frank Gundal, Paul Johnson, Alyssa Meyer, Jerrold Oppenheim, Emily Powers

1. Call to Order

McCarey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

2. Mass Save Program Update – Implementation efforts during COVID-19

Lyne announced that contractors would be able to resume exterior building work on June 3rd following completion of health and safety protocol training. Lyne said the June 2nd webinar for interior work with no customer contact was completed, and the safety protocols have been finalized and shared. The last two trainings, one involving interior work in C&I spaces and the other addressing Residential customer contact, have been scheduled for June 11th. Lyne noted the PA's have prioritized safety, but recognized the importance of capturing savings and economic benefits. In addition, Lyne said there was an update to the Mass Save FAQ page to ensure business partners and contractors knew that on-site, exterior Phase 1 work has resumed. Lyne also emphasized that the health and safety process is organic, so other stakeholders including the contractor best practices working group provide feedback regularly.

McCarey asked for the status of the no-cost insulation offer, and indicated there was confusion among contractors regarding the continuation of on-premise work after the June 11th virtual training. Downey responded the no-cost insulation offer was extended for customers who receive audits by July 31st and have the upgrades installed by November 30th. Gundal said the willingness of customers to move forward with projects and worker access to personal protective equipment (PPE) would be the main roadblocks to resuming work after health and safety

training. Regarding the procurement of PPE, Gundal said Steve Cowell was working with EFI to stockpile PPE for contractor purchase.

Johnson asked what conditions must be met prior to resuming in-home work with no customer contact. Gundal felt confident that work would resume quickly following the June 11th safety protocol training, but the PA's cannot control when contractors get certified to continue interior work. Gundal added that contract changes with lead vendors could prevent individual contractors from resuming field work, but these changes are unlikely to inhibit progress.

Johnson asked if the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) would be extended beyond its June 30th deadline for loan forgiveness qualification, since many contractors could go out of business without an extension. Lyne responded the PA's are monitoring the bill and updating the Contractor Resources page on the Mass Save website to keep contractors informed. Finlayson indicated the Senate passed the House version of a bill that could extend the PPP to December 31st.

Johnson suggested the PA's cover PPE expenses for contractors as it would help those who have been unable to work since COVID-19 restrictions were implemented. Gundal replied PPE would need to be strategically provided if the PA's determined it would be reasonable. McCarey said if access to PPE bars contractors from resuming work, then using ratepayer funds to stimulate the workforce may be appropriate. Dorfler cautioned against using energy efficiency funds to provide PPE until the cost to ratepayers is thoroughly understood.

McCarey indicated that as work restarts, it will be essential to collect feedback from contractors on how the safety protocols and PPE are impacting projects. Gundal said there is not yet an exact process to obtain that feedback, but there is a process for quality assurance of completed projects. Lyne added there is a contractor best practices working group that provides meaningful feedback in real-time. Lyne also hoped the 100% insulation incentive would spur the continuation of work to help mitigate COVID-related impacts.

3. 2022 – 2024 Planning Process: Initial Proposal Discussion

McCarey said DOER and the Consultant Team (C-Team) have incorporated many aspects of the 2019-2021 planning process into the upcoming 2022-2024 process, including third-party discussion facilitators and topic-specific workshops instead of sector-specific sessions.

Boyd thought the workshops and facilitators were helpful, especially since the facilitators urged participants to summarize discussion points and recommendations before workshops. Johnson said the workshop briefing materials that the PAs and C-Team assembled before were extremely helpful. Lyne added that the PAs were supportive of third-party facilitators as well.

Powers noted that listening sessions would be held closer to the Fall workshops, unlike the 2019-2021 planning cycle when eight listening sessions occurred between February and April before the 2019-2021 Plan First Draft. McCarey noted the Fall listening sessions and workshops would likely be virtual meetings.

Dorfler believed webinars would elicit more public participation. Downey asked if Governor Baker would extend the Open Meeting Law waiver in order to allow for virtual sessions. McCarey said DOER is aware a waiver extension would be necessary to allow the proposed Three-Year planning process changes. Boyd was supportive of holding listening sessions that feed into the Fall Council workshops, but worried that some areas may have more issues engaging with virtual sessions.

Jacobson said COVID-19 has caused many customers to become eligible for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which will stretch LEAN members thin during the Summer and Fall. Lyne recommended that workshops are spread out appropriately to allow sufficient time for meeting material preparation. McCarey said the meeting topics will be determined as quickly as possible so the PA's and C-Team can prepare well in advance.

4. June EEAC Meeting – Agenda Finalization

McCarey listed the agenda items for the June 17th Council meeting, which included PA updates on implementation efforts during COVID-19, 2019 Plan Year Results discussion, and a joint presentation from LEAN and Columbia Gas on Greater Lawrence.

Boyd suggested that time during the June meeting is allocated for discussion of the 2020 Q1 results. Belliveau replied that the C-Team would incorporate Q1 results and KPIs into the 2019 Plan Year results presentation. Johnson said video conferences increase participant engagement and would be better for upcoming Council meetings. McCarey said video options can be explored as some Councilors have also expressed interest.

5. July EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda Topics

McCarey noted the July Council meeting will be EM&V focused.

6. August EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda Topics

McCarey said the broader Low-Income meeting will be held in August in order to accommodate for the Low-Income program restart as well as the increase in income-Eligible customers.

7. September EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda Topics

McCarey announced the September Council meeting will be focused on Residential programs.

8. Adjournment

McCarey, as Chair, adjourned the Executive Committee meeting at 11:11 AM.