



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 2, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Executive Committee Members Present: JoAnn Bodemer, Amy Boyd, Elliott Jacobson, Emmett Lyne, Maggie McCarey

Other Attendees: Marie Abdou, Eric Belliveau, Adrian Caesar, Maggie Downey, Audrey Eidelman, Rachel Evans, Frank Gundal, Emily Powers, Jodi Hanover, John Matra, Charlie Harak

1. Call to Order

McCarey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

2. Executive Committee Updates and Business

Three-Year Planning Workshops

Powers noted there were no updates to the Draft Workshop Schedule that was posted for the August EEAC Meeting, and that the third-party Workshop facilitator request for quote (RFQ) was shared.

McCarey announced that if the workshop facilitator was not procured in advance of the October 6th workshop, then it would be postponed to a later date. McCarey said an announcement would be made prior to the September Council meeting, and added that a Council meeting may be used as a workshop in the event of postponement.

Jacobson referenced the previous Three-Year Planning cycle timeline and was unsure a facilitator would be secured before the October 6th workshop. McCarey said if a facilitator is not procured in advance, then the first workshop would be on October 27th.

Lyne asked if the goal of workshops was to allow for brainstorming on potential Three-Year Plan ideas, or to solicit feedback from workshop participants on ideas that program administrators (PAs) present. Lyne added that briefing materials would be more helpful if they are limited to a reasonable length. McCarey replied that participants would propose ideas for the next Three-Year Plan and provide feedback on ideas presented by PAs.

Jacobson felt briefing documents would be valuable, but focusing too heavily on them would limit open discussion. Jacobson agreed with Lyne that making concise briefing documents would elicit more open feedback and discussion. McCarey said structured discussion will be needed, as completely unguided brainstorming would not be productive.

Boyd believed that the briefing documents would bring all Councilors to the same level of background knowledge. Belliveau added that historical context is important to avoid bringing up dated approaches for solving future. Bodemer suggested the briefing materials should include strategies that have been successful, unsuccessful, and new strategies that may be implemented. Bodemer also agreed that concise, bulleted briefing documents would be more digestible and facilitate open discourse.

McCarey asked if the workshop topics were aligned with the PA priorities for the next Three-Year Plan. Lyne said the topics are sufficiently broad to allow the addition of any new priority items. Hanover said some PAs provided feedback on some workshop topics that seemed too broad, and that the PAs would provide the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) this feedback.

Jacobson worried that Income Eligible-specific discussion may be limited since there is only one workshop for Income Eligible programs, despite the fact that Income Eligible programs need to be considered at most of the workshops. Jacobson also asked what role the Executive Committee would play in the facilitator selection process. McCarey – said the Executive Committee and DOER form the review committee that score the RFPs. McCarey noted that there will be points associated with experience facilitating virtual meetings and familiarity with Massachusetts programs.

McCarey indicated that workshop preparation discussions were being scheduled with the PAs and Consultant Team (C-Team) to ensure the October 6th workshop was still feasible. McCarey stated that the workshops should result in concrete recommendations on what to include in the 2022-2024 Three-Year Plan. Belliveau said at previous workshops there has been disagreement on what should go into plans, so the expectation that some ideas will be omitted needs to be established.

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

Lyne noted that over 35 school districts participated in the Best Practices for Efficiently Meeting Indoor Air Quality Standards in K-12 Schools webinar on September 1st and that a recording would be shared once available. Lyne added the PAs are assessing accuracy of virtual audits since they are trying to increase use of virtual tools. McCarey asked if no-cost insulation would be extended through September. Downey said there were no updates on whether no-cost insulation would be extended.

Evans noted that it is harder to get building permits in some municipalities, and asked if this was a barrier to completing insulation projects. Downey said there have been no challenges with

building permits in Cape Light Compact territory. Evans said she witnessed this as a barrier in Somerville in particular. Hanover said she can investigate this issue further.

4. September EEAC Meeting – Agenda Finalization

McCarey listed the agenda items for the September 17th Residential program-focused Council meeting, which included an update on the Equity Working Group, Council discussion on the 2019 Plan Year Report, and an update on the 2022-2024 Three-Year planning process. Belliveau said the meeting will focus on transformations that need to occur in the next Three-Year Plan, key performance indicators, year over year program trends, and COVID-19 impacts. Belliveau noted that overall COVID impacts on programs were significant, but not as large as initially projected. Lyne said the PAs would include their thinking on the future of VHEAs in the September PA update.

5. October EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda Topics

McCarey noted the October Council meeting would include C&I program updates, including lighting and Energy Optimization. McCarey said the PAs should provide an update on the Daily Dispatch program rollout. Hanover said the peak day occurred on the same day as the DPU approval order, so it was too late to increase Daily Dispatch enrollment this summer. McCarey suggested that summer active demand results and an update on the Daily Dispatch outreach plan would be helpful. Hanover said indicated that summer results would likely not be available by October. McCarey recommended that a rollout plan should be developed early since the sales cycle for energy storage units can take significant time.

McCarey noted that DOER will draft a schedule of the remaining Council meeting and workshop schedules for 2020 to facilitate preparation. Lyne said the PAs appreciate the prior planning efforts.

6. Adjournment

McCarey, as Chair, adjourned the Executive Committee meeting at 10:46 AM.