



MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 21, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Councilors Present: Greg Abbe, Cindy Arcate, Jo Ann Bodemer (for Maura Healey), Amy Boyd, Cindy Carroll, Tim Costa (for Victoria Rojo), Justin Davidson, Maggie Downey, Frank Gundal, Charlie Harak, Elliott Jacobson, Paul Johnson, Jane Lano, Deirdre Manning, Maggie McCarey (Chair), Cammy Peterson, Chris Porter, Robert Rio, Stephanie Terach, Mary Wambui, Sharon Weber (for Martin Suuberg), Patrick Woodcock

Councilors Absent: Elizabeth Cellucci, Michael Ferrante, Paul Gromer, Andrew Newman

Consultants Present: Eric Belliveau, Adrian Caesar, Elizabeth Chant, Margie Lynch

DOER Staff Present: Rachel Evans, Ian Finlayson, Emily Powers

1. Call to Order

McCarey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM.

2. Public Comment

McCarey indicated that no public comment was submitted for the meeting.

3. Council Updates & Business

Virtual Meeting Procedure Review

McCarey reviewed the virtual EEAC meeting procedures, which included the following:

1. The Council meetings would be recorded
2. All attendees except for Councilors and presenters would remain muted for the duration of the meeting
3. Councilors would hold comments until the end of presentations, but Councilors and other participants should speak instead of using any chat functionality
4. Councilors who disconnect from meetings need to announce when they rejoin.
5. All Council votes would be taken by a roll call for accuracy.

Commissioner Woodcock noted that on Thursday, October 15th, there was an announcement regarding the integration of clean energy policy into the fundamental design of regional energy markets. Commissioner Woodcock said this was coupled with a vision statement issued by New England State's Committee on Electricity that explores whether the current structure of energy markets are working effectively toward a decarbonization pathway. Commissioner Woodcock suggested that heating, cooling, and transportation electrification efforts will require significant clean energy load growth. In addition, Commissioner Woodcock thanked Councilors and stakeholders for their involvement in the 2022-2024 Planning process, as well as Eversource for hosting a socially-distanced event for Energy Efficiency Day. McCarey added that Governor Baker issued a proclamation in Massachusetts to recognize Energy Efficiency Day.

September 2, 2020 EEAC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Bodemer motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. McCarey seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed or abstaining. The minutes were approved, as submitted, by the Executive Committee.

Eversource CMA Acquisition Settlement Update

McCarey announced that the Eversource acquisition of Columbia Gas of Massachusetts (CMA) was filed and approved by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU). McCarey indicated \$56 million of settlement funding due to the 2018 gas explosions would be used to benefit impacted customers in Merrimack Valley. McCarey noted the funding would be used to eliminate income eligible CMA customer arrears, technical barrier mitigation, local workforce development, public affordable housing development, and municipal clean energy projects. McCarey added that the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and Office of the Attorney General (AGO) would file a memorandum of understanding with the DPU on October 23rd to lay out the proposed funding allocations. Commissioner Woodcock emphasized the exact details and timelines for these programs have not been solidified, but DOER is looking to deploy them quickly and receive stakeholder feedback in an iterative process. McCarey also noted that the spending horizon for the settlement funds would be five years.

EEAC Consultant Team 2020 Budget Amendment and Council Vote

Belliveau explained that the proposed 2020 Consultant Team (C-Team) Budget amendment was due to the acceleration of certain tasks meant to better inform the 2022-2024 Planning process. The 2020 budget would increase by \$82,090, but this funding was redirected from the 2021 C-Team Budget resulting in a zero-sum change.

Harak motioned to approve the Consultant Team 2020 Budget Amendment as submitted. Johnson seconded. All were in favor, with none opposed or abstaining. The Consultant Team 2020 Budget Amendment was approved, as submitted, by the Council.

Facilitator Procurement and Planning Workshop Schedule Update

McCarey noted the first 2022-2024 Planning Workshop would be moved from October 26th to November 5th to ensure sufficient time for briefing material development and Workshop Facilitator orientation. McCarey announced that three proposals were received for the Workshop Facilitator role, and the Executive Committee made the award to Raab Associates and their

partner CONCUR. McCarey also indicated that no time for public comment was planned during the Workshops since public comment would be received during listening sessions.

Wambui was very concerned that Raab Associates, despite their experience, would not sufficiently address equity during Workshop facilitation. Wambui was disappointed that the least diverse respondent was selected, and felt that the Council has not done enough to foster equitable program implementation. McCarey replied that the Workshop Facilitator Request for Qualifications (RFQ) allocated points for minority- and women-owned businesses (MBE/WBEs); while there were other bidders that scored higher in this category, Raab Associates scored highest overall. Bodemer was similarly reluctant to rely on a less diverse facilitator, but expertise in meeting facilitation was critical given virtual meeting conditions. Boyd emphasized that the Council, C-Team, and Program Administrators (PAs) determine the Workshop subject matter, so they can ensure that the facilitator places an appropriate emphasis on equitable program delivery. Boyd also added that the new subcontractor working with Raab Associates would be leading the Equity Workshop and could coordinate with the Equity Working Group in advance.

Johnson asked why there would be no public comment at the Workshops. McCarey replied that public comment would be received during the two-hour Listening Sessions since they are directly tied to the upcoming Workshop topics. Johnson said providing public comment as close as possible to the Workshops would be most beneficial, so any additional time during Workshops should be used for public comment. Weber noted that separating public comment into the Listening Sessions would provide more time to cover Workshop briefing materials and discussion topics.

Harak suggested they ask the facilitators if including public comment in the Workshops makes sense. McCarey said the facilitators preferred separate sessions for public comment and Workshop discussion. Belliveau also noted that people unable to attend listening sessions are more than welcome to provide written public comment. Bodemer said the relationship between Workshops and Listening Sessions should be made clear with the public, as well as how they can submit public comment and participate in meetings. Johnson added that distributing the briefing materials a week in advance of Workshops would be helpful for discussion.

4. 2022-2024 Three-Year Planning Kickoff: Council Discussion

Planning Priorities and Council Engagement with Stakeholders

Harak stressed the importance of funding workforce development in order to facilitate equity and program delivery in underserved communities, especially limited English proficiency (LEP) areas. Transitioning past simple lighting projects into deeper retrocommissioning (RCx) work will require skilled workers, so Harak suggested the Plan consider what form workforce development programs take. In addition, Harak suggested that strategy for reaching customers in small and medium multifamily buildings will be essential to equitable program delivery, since many LEP, low- and moderate-income, and other underserved demographics live in these buildings.

Peterson highlighted the role of municipal and community partnerships in the 2022-2024 Plan as a key to serving residents, businesses, and public facilities in underserved areas. Peterson noted that focusing on renters, communities of color, environmental justice communities, low- and moderate-income, LEP customers, and workforce diversity are high priorities for the Plan. Peterson added that energy efficiency program strategy will need to include electrification, renewable energy generation, deep energy retrofits, and active demand response in alignment with the Commonwealth's climate goals. Peterson also hoped that baselines, incentive levels, goals, and program structures will be fully fleshed out in advance of 2022 so implementation could kick off quickly. In addition, Peterson announced a stakeholder engagement session on November 17th in order to get municipal stakeholders involved in the Planning process.

Arcate felt the Planning discussions should emphasize C&I programs given the percentage of savings and budget tied to this sector. Arcate suggested that COVID-related impacts on programs and HVAC technologies need to be anticipated and incorporated into program design, and flagged this as an opportunity to compensate for the loss of claimable lighting savings. Arcate noted the importance of existing buildings relative to savings and climate goals since 85% of square footage in place today will still exist in 2050. Arcate also recommended that efficiency programs take a holistic approach to clean energy by considering how technologies work together. Arcate mentioned that she maintains communications through Power Options and Massachusetts Nonprofit Network and the Clean Energy Center to engage with her nonprofit constituents.

Wambui prioritized quantifying equitable program delivery and participation of ISBEs in the energy efficiency ecosystem in all sectors; tracking the number of contracts executed with ISBEs was an example metric Wambui provided. Wambui felt an equity forecast of some kind for existing buildings would help illustrate which cities are still underserved. Wambui noted that community residents have been engaged in the preliminary stages of 2022-2024 Planning through direct writing.

Rio suggested that EE program marketing should highlight other benefits, such as COVID resilience, to attract more customers. Rio also suggested that cross-program coordination between non-lighting initiatives be a priority moving forward. Rio added that DOER should incentivize the removal of highly inefficient equipment in retail stores.

Weber stressed the need to serve LEP customers by building a workforce well-versed in non-English languages. Weber said that tracking measurable outcomes related to the 2022-2024 Plan priorities will be crucial once implementation begins. Weber agreed with Peterson that program implementation should begin as soon as possible in 2022, and added that performance tracking needs to be in place. Weber noted that cross-sector coordination will help with electrification and other efforts to help the Commonwealth achieve climate goals. Weber also noted COVID-19 impacts on C&I HVAC and the loss of claimable lighting savings as critical issues for discussion during the Workshops.

Abbe suggested that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction play a bigger role in screening projects, as time is running out to mitigate climate change impacts. Abbe indicated that workforce development will be critical to ensure the effective useful life of newly installed

measures are maximized. Abbe also prioritized human health as a consideration when installing upgrades to buildings, especially since there are health disparities between many communities. Abbe recommended the quantification of health impacts of programs, such as the reduced air pollution from reduced power plant generation. In addition, Abbe suggested linking performance incentives and metrics on which PAs are assessed to the Council priorities. Lastly, Abbe commented that reaching underserved populations is of high importance as they contribute to programs and deserve program benefits.

Bodemer noted that the Attorney General's Office has prioritized equity, which should be supported through comprehensive workforce development efforts, in the 2022-2024 Plan. Bodemer added that the Plan needs to align with state climate goals, but cautioned against using EE as a solution to all the Commonwealth's issues. Bodemer reiterated that all suggestions and discussion from the Workshops may not be incorporated into the Plan, so stakeholders would need to determine the most critical aspects for the PAs to include.

Commissioner Woodcock was interested in ensuring program coordination and precision in workforce development efforts. Commissioner Woodcock noted that 2020 is important for the GHG emissions planning, as a Clean Energy and Climate Plan will be developed this year. Commissioner Woodcock suggested that building sector transformation, air source heat pumps, and geotargeting of programs will be essential to promote equity and meet program-specific goals.

Johnson agreed with Bodemer's point regarding the inclusion of the most critical Plan recommendations, as 120 recommendations were included in the previous Plan and the PAs were unable to address all of them. Johnson suggested that creative approaches will be needed to encourage landlord and renter participation. Johnson also noted that the PA potential studies will identify segments with high savings opportunity that should be targeted. McCarey replied that the potential studies are underway and should be finalized in January.

Boyd prioritized equity, expanded program access, electrification, and climate goal attainment in agreement with statements by other Councilors.

Equity Working Group Update

McCarey provided a brief overview of the Equity Working Group (EWG) formation, as well as a list of the EWG members and stakeholders. McCarey indicated the EWG has engaged with over 20 stakeholders representing EE industry support organizations, community organizations, non-profits, renters, landlords, tenant organizations, weatherization service providers, and local educational institutions. McCarey said initial programmatic recommendations to reach underserved customers have been developed, and the EWG will meet through January to finalize Plan recommendations. Peterson noted that stakeholder feedback and recommendations will be critical to addressing equity concerns in the 2022-2024 Plan.

Johnson was impressed by the stakeholder group and asked if there was a list of preliminary program recommendations. McCarey said notes and feedback from stakeholder sessions will be shared with the Council once they have finalized recommendations.

5. Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Program Updates

Program Administrator Presentation

Haggerty Perrault, Bryant, and Cullinane presented C&I program updates on behalf of the PAs. Haggerty Perrault covered updates on the Equipment & Systems Performance Offering (ESPO) that include increased marketing efforts, COVID-19 impacts on C&I customer interest, new low-cost tuning measures, and COVID-19 support for ESPO customers. Bryant described the modified small Commercial heat pump offering launched in August that now features a downstream incentive model, new Energy Optimization (EO) offering, and harmonization with residential heat pump requirements. Cullinane detailed the four different New Construction pathways, and a new verification incentive for zero net energy and Whole Building EUI (Energy Use Intensity) pathways.

Consultant Team Presentation

Jacobs provided a presentation on HVAC system functionality, challenges to implementing Commercial HVAC system upgrades, solutions to addressing these challenges, and next steps to consider during the 2022-2024 Planning process.

Council Discussion

McCarey was pleased by the rollout of Small Business heat pump incentives and restructuring of the New Construction program.

Johnson was impressed by ESPO and asked how the EO heat pump incentive worked for customers. Bryant responded that the EO heat pump were aligned with the Residential pathway, and that higher incentives would be provided for replacing electric resistance or delivered fuel heating with heat pumps. Johnson also said comparisons of non-energy impacts used in cost-effectiveness screening for Residential and C&I weatherization would be informative. Kullkarni said C&I weatherization is typically cost effective as long as it is bundled with other measures.

Peterson mentioned that the Council is responsible for aligning cost-effectiveness screening with climate goals. Peterson was excited to help communities and municipalities across the Commonwealth take advantage of the Net Zero New Construction pathway. Peterson asked if there was a Whole Building pathway update for ESPO. Haggerty Perrault said majority of recorded ESPO savings are from the Whole Building pathway, and the PAs are also taking comprehensive approaches in small commercial buildings that are customized to the site.

Wambui was glad to see continuous monitoring included in ESPO, as it will be necessary to ensure installed equipment performs as expected.

Johnson worried that lighting projects with controls were not being promoted sufficiently in ESPO and New Construction pathways. Jacobs replied that after initial conversion to LEDs, there is often insufficient opportunity for additional savings to make further upgrades attractive for customers. Jacobs added that early lighting controls projects were not panning out well, largely due to a lack of appropriate building operator training in controls. Johnson said it is important to promote controls and prepare the workforce now, otherwise potential savings will

be lost. Cullinane said the PAs are promoting lighting and HVAC controls in the New Construction pathways, especially since they are moving to an EUI reduction approach.

6. Adjournment

McCarey, as chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:00 PM.