



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 4, 2020
Virtual Meeting: Zoom

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

Other Attendees: Adrian Caesar, Gretchen Calcagni, Maggie Downey, Audrey Eidelman, Rachel Evans, Amanda Gill, Frank Gundal, Jodi Hanover, Jerrold Oppenheim, Emily Powers, Dennis Villanueva

1. Call to Order

McCarey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

2. Executive Committee Updates and Business

Welcome to Dennis Villanueva: Representing Massachusetts Businesses and Large Commercial and Industrial End Users

McCarey announced that Dennis Villanueva was formally appointed by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) as the Large C&I Representative. Villanueva, Senior Manager of Energy and Sustainability at Mass General Brigham, said he was honored to join the Council and meet the Executive Committee meeting participants.

McCarey noted that the C&I Executive Committee seat was still vacant, and term expiration for the Environmental and Residential Executive Committee seats was approaching. Evans suggested the Council discuss the reappointment for the Executive Committee seats in an upcoming Council meeting, as the Executive Committee Bylaws indicate they have a two-year term limit.

3. Three-Year Planning Workshop

McCarey indicated the materials for the November 5th Workshop on New Construction and Active Demand Management were posted on the Council website. McCarey added that the Consultant Team, Program Administrators (PAs), and Workshop Facilitators were on track to

finalize the briefing materials for the November 10th Income Eligible Program Workshop. Based on discussion during the October Council meeting, McCarey proposed dedicating time to C&I-focused discussion during the December 1st Existing Buildings Workshop, as well as allocating time to Residential program discussion during the December 15th Workforce Development Workshop.

Boyd felt this realignment placed more pressure on the Equity Working Group (EWG) to finalize recommendations in advance of the January 12th Equity Workshop. McCarey responded that the EWG has preliminary recommendations in place, and the Small Business and limited English Proficiency (LEP) strategy recommendations should be ready to present in January. Since the goal is to have full consensus on equity issues in time for the April Draft Plan, McCarey suggested that the Equity Workshop could target areas of disagreement between the Council, PAs, and wider stakeholder group. McCarey also noted the extra Workshop built into the Facilitator budget could be used for additional strategy discussion if necessary.

Bodemer and Jacobson agreed that the proposed time reallocations would still allow for sufficient discussion of each topic, and Lyne felt the PAs would benefit from the proposed changes.

McCarey said the Executive Committee should provide feedback on the first Workshop directly to the Department of Energy Resources (DOER).

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

Lyne indicated the PAs would place emphasis on safety protocol adherence given increased COVID-19 positivity rates in the Commonwealth. Lyne also announced that the no-cost weatherization offering for landlords and renters would be extended through 2020 and likely through the full term.

Jacobson stated that the Low-Income Energy Affordability Network (LEAN) provided its workforce updates on cities and towns with higher COVID-19 risks, but the workforce was still actively delivering services. McCarey suggested that if there are work deferrals due to health concerns, there needs to be a formal and transparent process for such decisions. Jacobson replied that most places with higher COVID rates are being pursued aggressively, but given the frequency of required customer contact for the IES workforce, the heightened awareness was necessary.

Lyne and Gundal indicated the non-IES workforce has not expressed broad concerns about COVID safety, but there were concerns raised from the customer perspective.

5. November EEAC Meeting – Agenda Finalization

McCarey noted that the November Council meeting would include a PA update on new savings opportunities and Active Demand Management programs, as well as a Third Quarter Report. Hanover indicated that the full Summer Active Demand results may not be evaluated in time for

the November Council meeting. McCarey said the goal will be to have fully evaluated data for the November meeting, but if not, then the results should not be discussed until December.

6. December EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda Topics

McCarey indicated that PA and Consultant Team updates on Behavior Programs would be presented during the December meeting. Bodemer suggested that Council review of the completed workshops and suggestions for upcoming workshops should be included in the December meeting agenda. McCarey agreed, and thought similar discussion would be helpful during the November meeting as well.

Boyd asked when the potential studies would be completed. Hanover replied that they would be completed in January in alignment with the original planned timeline.

McCarey asked if the emphasis on Council discussion in the October meeting was helpful, as some Councilors provided positive feedback. Lyne, Boyd, and Bodemer agreed that additional discussion time was good for overall engagement and productivity.

Boyd asked how Mary Wambui's letter regarding equitable contractor procurement would be addressed. McCarey planned on responding on behalf of DOER since it issues procurements on behalf of the Council. Bodemer encouraged McCarey to mention the integrity of the Facilitator procurement process. Boyd asked what pieces of the Facilitator procurement deliberation were open to the public. Evans indicated that all procurement documents became public once the contract was awarded, in accordance with Public Records Law. Evans continued to say that substantive discussion on this topic could only be conducted if relevant materials were posted as agenda items with 48 hours of advance notice of a public meeting. Bodemer, Boyd, and Jacobson agreed that McCarey should respond directly to Wambui's letter on behalf of DOER. McCarey said discussion on equitable contractor procurement could be included in future public meeting agendas.

Calcagni noted that the Consultant Team would be following up with Councilors regarding 2022-2024 Planning priorities in advance of upcoming Workshops. Calcagni added that the Consultant Team would have a completed Draft 2021 Workplan by the end of 2020.

7. Adjournment

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