



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 6, 2021
Virtual Meeting: Zoom

Executive Committee Members Present: Don Boecke (for JoAnn Bodemer), Amy Boyd, Elliott Jacobson, Emmett Lyne, Maggie McCarey

Other Attendees: Liz Anderson, Eric Belliveau, Adrian Caesar, Maggie Downey, Audrey Eidelman, Rachel Evans, Frank Gundal, Jodi Hanover, Charlie Harak, Paul Johnson, Jerrold Oppenheim, Emily Powers, William Stevens, Rosemary Wessel

1. Call to Order

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

2. Executive Committee Updates and Business

McCarey indicated there were no Executive Committee updates to share.

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

Lyne reported there have been no instances of COVID-19 transmission to customers, despite the increase of positive cases within the implementation contractor network. Lyne added that an informal COVID-19 mitigation working group will meet in January to brainstorm about continued health and safety strategy. Lyne also noted that the Program Administrators (PAs) will administer another contractor survey to assess current trends in the field, contractor hiring efforts, and contractor community needs.

4. Consultant Team Draft 2021 Workplan

Belliveau presented the Consultant Team (C-Team) Draft 2021 Workplan which included 2022-2024 Planning support, PA Potential Study review, and 2022-2024 Term Sheet development. Belliveau indicated that Crystal Johnson, who specializes in equity and income eligible programs, would be joining the C-Team, while Jeff Schlegel would reduce consulting support

this year. Lastly, Belliveau said about \$50,000 of 2020 budget should rollover into 2021 to compensate for remaining funds from a previous transfer.

Jacobson was impressed by the workplan and pleased that Crystal Johnson would be joining the C-Team. Belliveau said he could organize an introductory meeting in January.

McCarey said it would be helpful to involve the Equity Working Group (EWG) on any equity-focused evaluation studies scheduled for 2021, as they have been considering next steps for the Non-Participant Study and future data collection strategy.

Johnson requested the inclusion of C-Team staff hourly rates in the budget proposal for clarity. Belliveau replied that the hourly rates by title could be provided.

McCarey asked that the Executive Committee provide feedback on the C-Team 2021 Workplan by January 15th so it could be posted with the January Council meeting materials for a vote.

5. Energy Efficiency Guidelines

Evans indicated that the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) opened an investigation on Docket No. 20-150 regarding the updated Energy Efficiency Guidelines. Evans said the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) requested an extension of the comment period due to the holidays, so the deadline is January 19th for comments and February 3rd for reply comments. The DPU issued a new notice of investigation, and Evans encouraged people to review the Docket which is online in the DPU file room.

6. 2021 EEAC Priorities

McCarey noted the 2021 Council Priorities include key additions to existing priorities such as continued implementation of current 2019-2021 Plan, COVID-19 strategy, and new 2022-2024 Planning priorities stemming from 2022-2024 Planning Workshop discussions. Powers asked that Executive Committee members provide written feedback on the 2021 Council Priorities by January 15th.

Lyne said the PAs appreciated the focused nature of the priorities, and the draft priorities have been shared with the full PA team.

Boyd commented that the text in Priorities 2 and 3 may need correction since the Council would approve the EWG recommendations before the PAs do, and the Council has historically received a Plan Draft in September. McCarey said the language in Priorities 2 and 3 can be edited accordingly.

7. January EEAC Meeting – Agenda Finalization

McCarey indicated the January meeting would be extended by thirty minutes to accommodate for the long agenda. McCarey suggested the Council vote on Workshop Meeting Minutes during

the final Planning Workshop. Powers added that many of the scheduled votes need to occur in January, so the PA presentation on Behavior programs should be moved or abbreviated.

Lyne said the PAs would prefer to present on Behavior programs in January to inform stakeholders of challenges and innovations in behavior space. Lyne suggested that substantive discussion on Behavior programs could be postponed to a later date. In addition, Lyne indicated the PAs would be prepared to present preliminary 2020 year-end data in January. McCarey recommended that the preliminary 2020 year-end results could be posted and discussed without formal presentation in January.

Boyd elected to keep the Behavior program presentation on the agenda and postpone presentation on preliminary 2020 results. Boyd also asked if enough Executive Committee nominations were submitted to fill the open seats. McCarey said there was at least one nomination for each seat.

8. Q1 2021 EEAC Meetings – Draft Topics

Powers presented draft 2021 Council meeting topics for the first quarter, including potential study and Avoided Energy Supply Cost (AESC) study presentations, a vote 2021 Council Priorities vote, and DPU budget request vote in February. Powers also noted that the February Executive Committee and full Council meetings would be held one week later than usual. McCarey indicated that some January agenda topics could be moved into February as needed.

Johnson was concerned that much more time was spent discussing Residential programs and there were longer briefing documents during the 2019-2021 Planning Workshops. Johnson emphasized the need to strategize for the absence of lighting savings and COVID-related challenges. McCarey responded that most Councilors were in favor of shorter, more digestible briefing documents for the Workshops, but the C-Team did raise the need for additional Residential Coordinated Delivery (RCD) discussion. McCarey added that the C-Team whitepapers on Residential programs were supplemental to Workshop briefing materials. Jacobson worried an additional meeting on Residential programs would be too burdensome, and noted that stakeholders could express their concerns in venues outside of the Workshops. Belliveau commented that packaging the Plan recommendations successfully would allow the PAs to identify priority items during program implementation.

Boyd asked if additional C-Team recommendations on RCD would need to be vetted in a full Workshop to be added to the Plan priorities list. McCarey said any recommendations would need to be discussed by the full Council before being included in the February vote on Plan priorities. McCarey was confident the C-Team could bring forward a few focused RCD recommendations that could be discussed during the last Workshop. Belliveau noted the C-Team could cross-reference issues raised in various forums to the current set of Plan priorities and determine which important recommendations are still outstanding.

Johnson doubted there was enough substantive discussion on Residential programs during this Planning Workshop cycle, and felt that more issues still needed significant attention. Boyd said the extensive hours dedicated to RCD discussion in the past meant less time was needed during

this cycle. Harak commented that the quality of work is more important than the quantity of time spent in discussion. Harak added that the EWG dedicated many hours to Plan priorities, many of which related to Residential program implementation issues. Jacobson also noted that creativity in program implementation often happens once efforts in the field begin. McCarey suggested Johnson reach out to the C-Team to raise any specific issues in mind so they could be brought before the whole Council.

9. Adjournment

McCarey, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:13 AM.