



## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, March 3, 2021**  
Virtual Meeting: Zoom

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**Executive Committee Members Present:** Greg Abbe, JoAnn Bodemer, Amy Boyd, Emmett Lyne, Maggie McCarey, Dennis Villanueva

**Other Attendees:** Marie Abdou, Eric Belliveau, Adrian Caesar, Maggie Downey, Audrey Eidelman, Rachel Evans, Frank Gundal, Jodi Hanover, Elliott Jacobson, Jerrold Oppenheim, Emily Powers, William Stevens, Sarah McDaniel, Danielle Winter

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### **1. Call to Order**

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

### **2. Executive Committee Updates and Business**

McCarey announced the 2021 EEAC Budget Request was submitted to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU).

#### ***Consultant Team 2020 Q4 Report***

Belliveau summarized 2020 fourth quarter efforts that have led into the first quarter of 2021, including processing Planning Workshop discussions, coordination with the Equity Working Group, and 2020 program results analysis. Belliveau indicated the 2020 budget was not fully expended, and the Consultant Team (C-Team) has work on the Assessment of Potential and 2022-2024 Planning with the program administrators (PAs).

### **3. Draft EEAC Resolution Regarding 2022-2024 Three-Year Planning Recommendations**

McCarey reviewed the structure of the EEAC Resolution on 2022-2024 Plan Recommendations that would be submitted to the PAs. McCarey noted that Plan recommendations on the performance incentive mechanism (PI) and reporting requirements would be revisited since they have not been deliberated by the full Council.

Boyd asked what would be included in sections pending updates. McCarey said there are some reporting recommendations in the full list, but a placeholder to indicate the Council might revisit those topics during the year would also be included. Boyd suggested including a high-level summary of reporting best practices, benefits of increased data transparency, and the plan for further discussion on PI. McCarey agreed, and also proposed including the connection between PI and key performance indicators (KPIs).

Bodemer thought it was reasonable to have placeholders indicating that further Council discussion was required for PI and reporting requirements. Lyne was encouraged by the proposed structure of the Resolution since it was outcome-driven and highlighted high-level priorities.

#### **4. 2021 Three-Year Planning Activity**

Powers shared the 2021 Council and Executive Committee meeting schedule. McCarey indicated that the planned budget for 2022-2024 Planning Workshops facilitated by Raab Associates was exhausted, but additional budget could be requested if another workshop were needed after the April Plan Draft release. McCarey added that listening sessions may be scheduled before the July Council meeting to incorporate public comment into the July Resolution. Lyne suggested that the PAs could coordinate lunch and learns on Mass Save data tables, Residential Customer Profile Data Dashboard, and other topics of interest in the coming months.

Bodemer asked if the proposed lunch and learns would precede Council meetings as they would in the past. McCarey said lunch and learns preceded Council meetings when meetings were in-person for convenience, so scheduling could change given virtual meetings. Bodemer asked if other stakeholders would be invited to the lunch and learns, as many have expressed interest in the aforementioned topics. McCarey replied that they would be open meetings, so all stakeholders could participate and pose questions.

McCarey commented that a walkthrough of Three-Year Plan data tables would be helpful prior to the release of the April Draft. Lyne said this would fit nicely into the April Council meeting, where the Total Resource Cost (TRC) test and Benefit-Cost (BC) Models would be presented. McCarey said a presentation on the Plan data tables could be included in April if there is sufficient time.

Boyd added that Acadia Center's next generation energy efficiency approach, which they are implementing in Massachusetts and rolling out in other states, might fit well into the April meeting.

Villanueva asked if any existing studies explored the consumer economics of electrification. Boyd responded that Acadia Center has a model on the economics of electric heating in Residential New Construction and could share that information. Villanueva was interested in the economics of electrification as it relates to C&I customers. Belliveau indicated the PA market potential studies, of which consumer economics are a major component, model electrification potential and factor in Avoided Energy Supply Cost (AESC) study results.

Boyd commented that the implications of the Clean Energy and Climate Plan on the 2022-2024 Plan need to be considered. If a greenhouse gas emission reduction targets within Three-Year Plans become mandated by law, Boyd suggested that climate considerations need to become an integral part of current planning efforts.

Villanueva asked if there was a specific carbon price included in the proposed climate bill. McCarey said the bill would include a specific Social Cost of Carbon (SCC). Boyd said AESC 2021 included a SCC of \$128 per short ton. Villanueva wondered how much this would impact project screening. McCarey indicated it would impact which measures screen as cost-effective.

Boyd asked to what extent public comment received during listening sessions were incorporated into Plan recommendations. McCarey said the C-Team and DOER factored public comment and workshop summaries into the Plan recommendations. Lyne said the PAs maintain a summary of recurring themes received in public comment they receive, and this repository of information can be shared if helpful.

## **5. Mass Save Program Update – Implementation efforts during COVID-19**

Lyne indicated the last positive COVID case for a contractor occurred on February 26<sup>th</sup>, but there were still no reported contractor to customer transmissions. Bodemer asked if there was success in moving up contractors in vaccination eligibility queue. Lyne hoped the approval of Johnson and Johnson vaccine may accelerate the contractor vaccination timeline.

## **6. March EEAC Meeting – Agenda Finalization**

McCarey reviewed March Council meeting agenda, which centered on finalizing the Resolution on the 2022-2024 Plan, C-Team Assessment of Potential, and AESC Study results. McCarey noted that Consultants expressed interest in moving the meeting to March 24<sup>th</sup> to give the C-Team more time to analyze potential study results. Belliveau stated that some PAs still needed to provide results to the C-Team, and aggregating the PA results takes time.

Lyne agreed that delaying the March Council meeting by a week would make sense, especially since the February meeting was similarly delayed.

Bodemer and Boyd supported the proposal to postpone the March meeting until the 24<sup>th</sup>. Abbe added that having fully fleshed out potential study results would make the delay worthwhile. McCarey indicated the Council would receive notice of the date change.

McCarey noted that finalizing the Plan Resolution and discussing potential study results were most critical for the March meeting, and proposed alternative methods for handling other agenda items. Since the HVAC in K-12 School presentation was very detailed and posted online, McCarey suggested dropping it from the March agenda. McCarey also noted there would not be time for a full presentation on Behavior program updates from the PAs. Lyne said the PAs would continue to work with the C-Team on Behavior programs and likely present a memo on potential study results and process overview.

## **7. April EEAC Meeting – Draft Topics**

Powers said the Draft Plan review process would be discussed during the April Council meeting. McCarey added that Assessment of Potential follow-up and a presentation on the Residential Customer Profile Database may be included on the April agenda.

## **8. Adjournment**

McCarey, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:02 AM.