



## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 7, 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, Paul Johnson, Jerrold Oppenheim, Emily Webb, Sarah McDaniel, Danielle Winter

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

McCarey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

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

#### ***Climate Bill***

McCarey discussed implications of the newly signed climate bill on Mass Save programs. McCarey noted \$12 million of program budget would be transferred to the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center for workforce development and market transformation initiatives, the Social Cost of Carbon would be used in cost-benefit analysis, and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs would work with DOER to set greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets for the 2022-2024 Plan.

### **3. Consultant Team Q2 Plan**

Belliveau summarized the Consultant Team's (C-Team's) primary tasks and deliverables for Q2 2021. Belliveau said at the portfolio level, 2020 achievement was in a successful range, but analyzing early 2021 program performance will be important to the 2022-2024 Planning cycle. Belliveau added that the C-Team has posed questions related to mid-term modifications and is awaiting program administrator (PA) responses. Belliveau also noted Council website updates are underway, so Councilors were asked to provide professional headshots.

McCarey asked if the Council website updates included improvements to search functionality and development of a page for program performance summary statistics. Belliveau replied that improving search function is a key component to the planned updates, but the C-Team could follow up regarding the program summary page.

Villanueva said that heat pumps will be integral for GHG reductions, but asked what could be done to improve large C&I customer economics for heat pump projects. Belliveau indicated the C-Team and PAs are collaborating on commercial heating electrification strategy, but heat pumps would become more mainstream for meeting climate goals as the market transforms. Villanueva suggested the Council would benefit from more discussion on heating electrification strategy

Johnson stated that weatherization makes more sense to promote than heat pumps, and asked if there were surprises in the Q4 2020 results. McCarey said the Q4 results presentation was posted in March, but the actual presentation and discussion would occur during the April Council meeting. Johnson asked if there were updates to the PA potential studies. Belliveau noted that all PAs have submitted final reports and many of the methodological issues raised by the C-Team have been addressed.

Boyd suggested that Acadia Center could host a webinar on heat pump cost effectiveness. Evans said policy discussions are best framed for full Council meetings, so any discussion held with a quorum of Councilors would have to adhere to Open Meeting Law.

#### **4. Mid-Term Modifications**

McCarey summarized the Council role in mid-term modification (MTM) review, and indicated DOER would review MTMs before discussing them with the Executive Committee. McCarey noted that the May Executive Committee meeting would include detailed discussion on the MTMs to determine recommendations for the full Council.

Hanover stated that all the MTMs are related to overspend or underspend for certain programs, and Cape Light Compact is the only PA not submitting an MTM. Hanover said overspending in Residential Existing Buildings programs was a common pattern, but the PAs will coordinate with the C-Team to answer all pending questions.

McCarey asked which MTMs will be submitted directly to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) instead of the Council. Hanover said there are three to four categories of MTM that will go directly to the DPU, while the rest require Council review prior to filing with the DPU. Belliveau said the C-Team submitted questions to the PAs to determine what drove spending outcomes. Belliveau added that most of the initial explanations do not seem controversial, but the C-Team will investigate further before the May Executive Committee meeting. McCarey suggested that the PAs provide a summary of MTMs during the April Council meeting to prepare for more detailed discussion in May.

Boyd asked when revised Energy Efficiency Guidelines would take effect. Hanover suspected that they may be written to apply to the next Planning cycle, which is why the MTMs will be

filed under current Guidelines. Evans expected any update to the Guidelines would occur prior to the April Draft Plan release.

## **5. Mass Save Program Update – Implementation Efforts During COVID-19**

Lyne announced that the PAs have released updated protocols consistent with Center for Disease Control guidance for contractors who have received COVID-19 vaccinations. Lyne added that positive COVID cases among contractors were decreasing. McCarey asked when the next contractor survey would be released. Lyne replied that the next survey would likely be released in May.

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

Webb listed April Council meeting agenda topics, including a walkthrough of the 2022-2024 Plan review process, summary of themes from public comment, PA update on MTMs, active demand Assessment of Potential, and 2020 Q4 results presentation.

Hanover asked for clarification on what the PAs would be presenting related to the Plan Draft. Webb confirmed that the PAs should present Plan data tables.

Evans asked whether heat pump strategy should be discussed before or after the April Draft Plan release. McCarey said this topic would be embedded within discussion of Q4 results and Draft Plan review. Lyne recommended that a presentation on heating electrification strategy would fit well into the May Council meeting. Evans said time should be allocated for heat pump strategy since there is widespread interest in deeper discussion on the subject.

Webb shared a flow chart of the Plan review process through July 2021. McCarey suggested that written public comment should be requested in June to allow the Council, PAs, and C-Team an opportunity to process stakeholder input before the July resolution development and vote. Boyd appreciated that public comment listening sessions were held at varying time slots during the Fall Planning Workshops.

Johnson emphasized that the PAs need to respond to comments on the Plan in advance of the vote deadline to allow for sufficient review time. Lyne responded that the PAs would collaborate with the Council throughout the Plan review process to make it as efficient as possible.

Abbe asked if there was a guide that described each Plan section. McCarey said there is not a comprehensive guide, but the PAs will present on Plan data tables to prime Councilors for review. For the narrative text, Hanover said there could be thematic sections based on Councilor priorities that will make the Plan clearer to interpret, but the text will still be dense. Lyne said the Green Communities Act includes Plan requirements the PAs reference as a checklist, so reviewing this might help Councilors. McCarey suggested the PAs include the Plan checklist in their presentation on Plan data tables.

Bodemer was apprehensive of the lack of discussion on performance incentive mechanism until August since this is a critical component to the Plan. Bodemer felt the newer Councilors would

benefit from a primer on performance incentives. McCarey said many Councilors want to revisit performance incentive mechanisms, so the lunch and learn slides from last June could be redistributed. Johnson was glad Bodemer mentioned performance incentives, and hoped the Council would be able to meaningfully impact the performance incentive mechanism for the 2022-2024 term.

Downey announced that Cape Light Compact has not received an order on the Cape and Vineyard Electrification Offering (CVEO), but the DPU requested Council discussion on CVEO before inclusion in the Final 2022-2024 Plan. Eidelman said only the CVEO budget would be included in the April Draft Plan. McCarey said a full program description and narrative will be need in the April Draft Plan to inform Council discussion before finalizing the Plan in the Fall.

Villanueva requested that calendar invites for Executive Committee and Council meetings are distributed so everyone is made aware of meeting dates. Webb confirmed that she could send meeting invites.

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

McCarey noted that the May Council meeting would focus on April Draft Plan review and discussion of 2020 Q4 results.

#### **8. Adjournment**

McCarey, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:18 AM.