



## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 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:** Sagal Alisalad, Eric Belliveau, Adrian Caesar, Maggie Downey, Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Jodi Hanover, Rachel Evans, Jerrold Oppenheim, Elliott Jacobson, Emily Webb, Kate Peters, Frank Gundal, Paul Johnson

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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**

#### ***Contractor Pricing Update***

Peters noted that the contractor pricing increase was implemented on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Peters said the program administrators (PAs), lead vendors, and contractors are finalizing the process, but the price increase would not apply to the customer portion of project costs. Peters said the contractors can include price increases as a line item on project invoices. Peters added that contractors are now providing feedback on the RFP approach to price adjustments since the 2022-2024 Plan has been filed, but the exact RFP release date was unclear.

### **3. Consultant Team Budget Amendment**

Belliveau requested a budget amendment due to Equity Working Group engagement, greenhouse gas reduction scenario analysis, Avoided Energy Supply Component Study work, and additional 2022-2024 planning efforts in 2021. Belliveau indicated the reallocation of the unspent \$68,467 from 2020 would likely mitigate the need for any additional budget requests. Belliveau said a corresponding memo would be shared with the Council providing full details on the budget reallocation.

McCarey requested that the C-Team provide the memo prior to the November Council meeting for Executive Committee review. McCarey said the Council would need to vote on the budget reallocation during the November Council meeting. Webb noted that the original 2021 C-Team workplan included the possibility of reallocating 2020 dollars back into 2021. Webb also noted that there would be no change to the overall 2021 Council budget request amount submitted to DPU, rather, the budget would be shifted from 2021 Operating Budget to the 2021 Consultant Team Budget. Additionally, this amendment would not change the total Consultant Team contract amount. McCarey asked that the difference between planned and projected 2021 hours is included in the memo. McCarey also asked that the Executive Committee provide feedback on the memo by November 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **4. 2022-2024 Three-Year Plan – Next Steps**

Evans announced that the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) issued a pre-filing statement with the overall procedural schedule for the 2022-2024 Plan. Evans said the PAs filed the 2022-2024 Plan on November 1<sup>st</sup>, and petitions to intervene are due on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Evans indicated there would be public hearings on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> for the public to comment on the 2022-2024 Plan, followed by evidentiary hearings between December 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, and extensive work for the PAs during the discovery process. Evans said the DPU has 90 days from the Plan filing date to issue a determination on the Plan. Hanover noted there would be Spanish interpretation at the public hearings. Evans also noted there are headings for filings in multiple languages.

McCarey said the Council has not submitted any other formal filings than the October Resolution, which is attached to the Plan. McCarey stated that the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is an intervener, but Councilors are able to submit their own detailed public comment on the Plan separately. McCarey also said the C-Team is reviewing updated benefit-cost models and Plan data tables to ensure alignment with the final 2022-2024 Term Sheet numbers.

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

Lyne reported that there were no new COVID-19 cases among contractors, but contractor safety protocols and collaboration with health experts would continue. Lyne thanked DOER and the Office of the Attorney General for supporting implementation of the health and safety protocols.

Johnson asked if vaccinations would be made mandatory for implementation contractors. Gundal indicated Bob Lawrence, who has led COVID-19 safety protocol efforts, and the PAs would provide an update once they review federal vaccination requirements.

#### **6. November 17<sup>th</sup> EEAC Meeting –Agenda Finalization**

McCarey indicated the November 17<sup>th</sup> Council meeting would include planning for the Complementary and Alternative Implementation Models Working Group, updates on 2022-2024 Plan proceedings, Mixed Income Protocol discussion, and votes on the Cape Light Compact mid-term modification and 2021 C-Team budget amendment.

Abbe understood that the past few months have been focused on the 2022-2024 Plan, but thought an update on 2019-2021 Plan progress would be appropriate. McCarey asked if the PAs could provide a 2021 Q3 update and year-end projections during the November Council meeting. Lyne said QA/QC would be in progress, but performance updates through Q3 and high-level year-end forecasts could be provided.

Boyd asked for clarity on the Complementary and Alternative Implementation Model Working Group. McCarey said this was in reference to Arcate's motion during the July 28<sup>th</sup> Special Council meeting to set up a working group for the Council to develop recommendations for alternative program implementation models and report its findings in 2022. Boyd asked if the Executive Committee or DOER should recommend a process for establishing the working group, or if Council should provide input. McCarey said the Executive Committee should draft a charter for the working group, then get feedback from the Council.

Downey indicated that Cape Light Compact does not have bandwidth to participate in all working groups given the 2022-2024 Plan will require substantial effort to deliver. Downey said the Equity Working Group was effective and meaningful, but more staff would be needed if the proposed working group would be as intensive. McCarey replied that the framework and deliverables for the working group still needed to be fleshed out.

Villanueva commented that the working group may need a higher meeting frequency at the beginning to accelerate work. Villanueva also thought the working group would be C&I focused. McCarey said the C&I Working Group was agreed to in the 2022-2024 Plan separately from Arcate's motion to establish the working group on alternative program implementation models. McCarey quoted Arcate's July 28<sup>th</sup> motion to, "have the Council review and evaluate complementary and alternative implementation models, including third-party implementation of program areas such as heat pumps and C&I deep energy retrofits, to help achieve the Commonwealth's decarbonization targets, and issue its findings in 2022 to inform the out years of the 2022-2024 Plan and the work of the Massachusetts Clean Heat Commission.". McCarey said Arcate's motion does not stipulate a working group for researching complementary and alternative implementation models. Villanueva suggested the C&I Working Group could investigate alternative implementation models. McCarey added that work to identify alternative program funding sources could also fit into this. McCarey, to Downey's point, recommended that the goals from Arcate's motion are narrowed down to determine best approach.

Johnson disagreed that PA bandwidth should be a concern, since the PAs would not be heavily involved in researching complementary and alternative implementation models. Johnson anticipated the potential working group would report on successful third-party implementation models in other states. Johnson believed this research exercise would be interesting, as the goal is not to abandon utilities, but to explore better potential implementation models. McCarey sensed a general consensus that a working group focused on alternative program implementation models might not be necessary, so Arcate's motion and the Executive Committee's general stance should be included in the November Council meeting agenda. Johnson thought there would be volunteers to perform the research in alternative implementation models. McCarey said if Councilors volunteered, that would essentially constitute a working group, so the full Council should discuss the appropriate approach.

Lyne indicated the PAs want to understand the goals and strategies for implementing Arcate's motion. McCarey responded that there would be more discussion on the topic now that the 2022-2024 Plan is filed.

McCarey asked Lyne and Hanover to confirm they can present on the mixed income protocol during the November Council meeting. Lyne said the PAs would meet with LEAN to solidify the mixed income protocol presentation.

## **7. December 15<sup>th</sup> EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda Topics**

McCarey stated that the December 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting may include DPU Plan proceeding updates and updated year-end projections. McCarey added that Webb was working on the 2022 Council meeting schedule and draft topics that may also be discussed in the December Council meeting.

McCarey suggested that if year-end projections are provided in November and there are no pressing issues in December, then the December 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting could be cancelled. Belliveau said the C-Team workplan and budget for 2022 could be a December agenda topic, but they could be presented in January for a Council vote. McCarey said if the December Council meeting is cancelled, then the C-Team should still send the 2022 workplan memo and budget.

Bodemer said December 15<sup>th</sup> is technically a hearing day for the 2022-2024 Plan. Johnson recommended a shortened Council meeting might be suitable since the Council is still meeting virtually. McCarey agreed, but added that the meeting time may need to shift. Evans said DPU hearings are scheduled December 13<sup>th</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. McCarey said the Council meeting would have to move to Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> pending any additional hearings that week.

Boyd said the purpose of monthly meetings is also to allow public access, transparency, and comment. McCarey said if the December Council meeting is truncated, then public comment would be included in the agenda. McCarey added that a final decision would be made during the December Executive Committee meeting.

Lyne appreciated Council support for the 2022-2024 Plan, and thanked DOER and the Attorney General's Office for their work on the Term Sheet.

## **8. Adjournment**

McCarey, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:57 AM.