



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 2, 2022
Virtual Meeting: Zoom

Executive Committee Members Present: Greg Abbe, Jo Ann Bodemer, Amy Boyd, Joseph Dorfler (representing Emmett Lyne), Maggie McCarey

Executive Committee Members Absent: Dennis Villanueva

Other Attendees: Eric Belliveau, Adrian Caesar, Rachel Evans, Paul Johnson, Alyssa Vargas, Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Katelyn Mazuera, Brian Beote, Steve Menges, Charlie Harak, Bill Graham, Amanda Formica, Elliott Jacobson, Leah Cohen, Maggie Downey

1. Call to Order

McCarey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

2. Executive Committee Updates and Business

Bodemer requested a status update for the EEAC Consultant Services request for responses (RFR). McCarey said that the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is finalizing the RFR before posting publicly.

3. EEAC Management

Follow-Ups from October EEAC Meeting

McCarey asked for feedback on the October EEAC meeting, and said Ralph Prahls' presentation on program evaluation and the Mass Clean Energy Center (Mass-CEC) presentation on workforce development were both helpful. McCarey recommended that Mass-CEC is allocated more presentation time in the future. Bodemer agreed that Mass-CEC should have more presentation time.

Caesar noted that there were three unanswered questions asked during the October EEAC meeting, and Dorfler said he would follow up with Lyne.

Councilor Term Updates

McCarey announced that resumes and statements of interest for the Municipalities Seat on the Council are due by November 4th. Cammy Peterson's term will expire in December, in addition to the seats representing the Massachusetts Association of Realtors, ISO New England, and Nonprofits, so DOER will review responses for new potential Councilors. McCarey said the Energy Efficiency Small Businesses Seat held by Paul Johnson will require the Consultant Team (C-Team), DOER, and the PAs to facilitate an election by the end of 2022.

4. November EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda

McCarey announced that the location for the hybrid November EEAC meeting would be determined by November 4th. The November EEAC meeting would focus on Income Eligible program updates from the C-Team, LEAN, and the PAs, weatherization and home energy assessment performance updates, and review of the Equity Working Group Charter.

Jacobson said that LEAN and the PAs are coordinating closely on a presentation covering the past, present, and future of Income Eligible program implementation. Jacobson suggested planning time allotments for each presentation. McCarey said Council updates and review of the Equity Working Group Charter should take no more than 20 minutes. Belliveau said all presentations would require some iteration once shared between the C-Team, PAs, and LEAN. Jacobson recommended using a parallel presentation development process in order to meet Council expectations.

McCarey noted that the Equity Working Group was initiated in March 2020 to provide recommendations to the EEAC, so it must be approved as a formal EEAC subcommittee once its charter is developed. McCarey offered Executive Committee members the opportunity to review the draft Equity Working Group Charter before sharing it with the full Council. Two Councilors, the Residential Seat, the Municipal Seat, DOER, and Attorney General's Office are proposed standing Equity Working Group members included in the draft Charter, along with four PA representatives, two LEAN representatives, and three other stakeholder representatives.

Harak suggested clarifying whether Jacobson represented the EEAC or LEAN by participating in the Equity Working Group. McCarey said LEAN participation in the Equity Working Group is helpful and proposed listing LEAN as one of the standing EEAC representatives.

Assuming one of the two remaining Council seats would be filled by LEAN, Boyd asked if the other standing EEAC Seat on the Equity Working Group would be competitively decided. McCarey replied that LEAN would be added as another standing EEAC Seat. Boyd expressed interest in revisiting Acadia Center's ability to participate in the Equity Working Group. McCarey said the group will become a formal EEAC subcommittee, so non-Councilor representatives from any organization can listen to the meetings.

Bodemer reiterated concerns regarding Open Meetings Law and quorum requirements if six additional in-person meetings will be held annually for the Equity Working Group. Evans replied that under the current COVID-19 accommodation extension, EEAC subcommittees can be fully remote, hybrid, or in-person, but it is unclear what will happen once the extension expires. Evans

added that a designee for the Attorney General's Office could attend in-person meetings. Bodemer suggested that remote participation increases public access and transparency into the Equity Working Group. McCarey said that the Equity Working Group should be an official EEAC subcommittee since it advises the Council. Bodemer asked if a smaller number of official Equity Working Group members would alleviate quorum issues.

Downey noted that Cape Light Compact's Board of Directors has 21 members so quorum requirements were modified to allow for hybrid meetings with a quorum of Executive Committee members.

Johnson asked for a status update on the C&I Working Group. McCarey responded that the C&I Working Group will hold its third meeting in December and all meeting materials have been posted on the DOER website. Johnson asked which Councilors participate in the C&I Working Group and whether he could also participate. McCarey said Rio and Villanueva are the EEAC representatives in the C&I Working Group and the remainder of participants are commercial customers.

5. December EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda

McCarey proposed that the December EEAC meeting cover EEAC updates and business, review of the Cape Light Compact's Cape and Vineyard Electrification Offering (CVEO), contractor pricing updates, the Q3 program report, and summer active demand program results. McCarey said the C-Team and Council have 60 days to review the CVEO, so comments should be provided in December.

Bodemer recalled that the Council provided comments for prior CVEO filings, so a resolution should be developed to communicate feedback.

Boyd asked how the Council resolution on CVEO could persuade the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to approve the offering. Boyd believed repeated rejection by the DPU undercuts the value of the Council. McCarey said that C-Team review and Cape Light's presentation on the updated CVEO would cover differences from prior rejected filings. Downey noted that recent legislation addressed the issue that the DPU did not support using energy efficiency dollars for the renewable component of CVEO. Specific language now allows municipal aggregators or PAs to develop a pilot like CVEO before July 2023. Downey added that the proposed CVEO budget is lower. Eidelman Kiernan said language included in the latest Climate Act should also provide better support. McCarey said Cape Light's presentation should cover changes to CVEO and legislative context.

Dorfler recommended covering active demand management program updates in January since the active demand stakeholder meeting is scheduled for December. McCarey said active demand offerings should be discussed no later than January.

Johnson asked for updates on electricity prices since customers are receiving increased bills. Dorfler responded that the PAs hold weekly meetings, price mitigation strategies have been launched, and the PAs have received positive feedback on enhanced marketplace offerings.

Johnson noted that a communication on fuel assistance was released. Dorfler said home performance contractors have been canvassing targeted moderate-income census tracts and yielding higher conversion rates since the streamlined income verification offering was rolled out. Johnson suggested that the PAs provide a full update on the offering. McCarey agreed.

Jacobson said additional federal and state funding, including federal fuel assistance resources, would become available for income-eligible customers. McCarey asked how much of the \$1 billion in federal fuel assistance funding would be allocated to Massachusetts. Jacobson estimated that \$20-30 million in additional federal fuel assistance funding and \$15-50 million in state dollars for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program would be provided, but the timing of the disbursement is unclear.

Johnson asked how the additional funds would integrate into Mass Save program. McCarey said that DOER is participating in a Department of Energy (DoE) task force to provide recommendations on funding use, but DoE would likely release a request for information before sharing any guidance.

Bodemer commented that the Internal Revenue Service is also soliciting stakeholder input on administering tax credits included in the Inflation Reduction Act.

6. Adjournment

McCarey, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:55 AM.