



## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Friday, March 3, 2023**  
Virtual Meeting: Zoom

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

**Executive Committee Members Absent:**

**Other Attendees:** Eric Belliveau, Adrian Caesar, Gretchen Calcagni, Rachel Evans, Paul Johnson, Brian Beote, Alyssa Vargas, Ina Dasso, Chris McClellan, Michael Hershberg, Steve Menges, Katelyn Mazuera, Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Sam Nigro, Maggie Downey, Margie Lynch, Jerrold Oppenheim, David Lyons, Bob Eckel, Mark Tajima, Chad Ihrig

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

McCarey, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:37 AM.

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

McCarey announced that Elizabeth Mahony, a former attorney at the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and Office of the Attorney General, was instated as the Commissioner of the Department of Energy Resources.

### **3. EEAC Management**

#### ***Follow-Ups from February EEAC Meeting***

Caesar listed three follow-up items from the February 8<sup>th</sup> and February 16<sup>th</sup> EEAC Meetings:

1. Councilor Paul Johnson questioned the fact that only 2% of customers with pending HEAs rescheduled them to take advantage of earlier openings and requested supporting data from the PAs.
2. Councilor Paul Johnson asked when the next weatherization pricing request for quotes (RFQ) would be released.

3. Commissioner Woodcock requested a copy of the email correspondence shared with Residential ConnectedSolutions participants.

McCarey noted the Council process, which requires data request to be submitted to the Chair in writing, rather than directly to the Program Administrators (PAs). Lyne responded that the PAs have noted each follow-up item and that they may provide updates on the weatherization pricing RFQ in March.

#### ***Councilor Term Updates***

McCarey stated that there are two expired seats on the Council. DOER will soon make a recommendation to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) for the representative of cities and towns. McCarey said that the election for the representative of Energy Efficiency Small Businesses has closed and DOER is reviewing results of the election, before making a recommendation to the DPU.

#### ***EEAC Technical Consultant Procurement Update***

McCarey announced that the Executive Committee held a closed session in February to review bids for the consultant services contract. McCarey said that DOER would announce the selected respondent following execution of a contract which would begin in April.

### **4. EEAC Planning**

#### ***2023 Budget***

McCarey stated that the 2023 EEAC Budget must be filed with the DPU by April 1<sup>st</sup> and described the Consultant Budget and the Operating Budget components of the EEAC Budget. McCarey noted that the Operating Budget covers costs for EEAC-commissioned studies, meeting costs, or other expenses for Council support. McCarey said that the Council and PAs would initiate development of the 2025-2027 Three-Year Plan during the fall, so costs for meeting facilitators and workshops for the Three-Year Plan were included in the 2023 EEAC Budget. McCarey added that the 2023 EEAC Budget exceeded the 2022 EEAC Budget due to Three-Year Plan development activities.

Evans indicated that it is unclear whether the exemption to Open Meeting Law which has enabled virtual public meetings will be extended beyond March 31<sup>st</sup>. If the exemption expires, then physical meeting spaces would be required for the remainder of 2023 and voting Councilors would be expected to attend meetings in person.

Bodemer asked if the 2023 Consultant Budget included the extension of the current Consultant Team (C-Team) contract. McCarey replied that the 2023 Consultant Budget includes both the three-month extension of the current C-Team contract and the budget from the selected consultant's RFR response.

Villanueva joined the virtual meeting at 9:57 AM.

### **5. March EEAC Meeting – Finalize Agenda**

McCarey stated that the March EEAC meeting agenda would include a lunch-and-learn on Mass Save Data, Council updates and business, a vote on the 2023 EEAC Budget, a Mass Save contractor panel, review of the 2022 Fourth Quarter (Q4) Report, and discussion of performance on 2022 Equity Targets.

Bodemer encouraged people to participate in the lunch-and-learn on Mass Save Data, as there are helpful data tools available.

Boyd expressed frustration that contractor pricing is still a recurring issue and asked how a solution could be implemented. McCarey said the contractor panel will describe experiences and key challenges for contractors. Lyne agreed that the panel should ensure that perspectives from lead vendors, small contractors, large contractors, independent insulation contractors, home performance contractors, and contractors that are minority- and women-owned business enterprises are all represented. Lyne added that Bob Eckel will reach out to potential panelists to support diversity in perspectives.

Bodemer asked how the PAs and C-Team would present 2022 Q4 results. McCarey said that their presentation would focus on key performance indicators (KPIs) for each sector. Lyne said that the C-Team and PAs would coordinate on presentation content to avoid redundancy.

Bodemer suggested that review of the 2022 Equity Targets occurs before review of 2022 Q4 results to ensure equity results are discussed and McCarey agreed.

Johnson requested that the PAs release the date for the next weatherization pricing RFQ. Johnson said that no actions to ameliorate contractor pricing issues were taken beyond the emergency 10% pricing increase and suggested that proposals be put forth during EEAC meetings. Johnson said that DOER should help assemble the contractor panel to guarantee fair contractor representation. McCarey agreed that contractor representation is a priority and asked for Johnson's feedback on potential panel members.

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

McCarey announced that the April EEAC meeting agenda would include updates on the following programs or efforts:

- Small Business Direct-Install Programs
- Greater Lawrence and Merrimack Valley
- Income-Eligible Services **OR** Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Electrification

Dasso noted that the Low-income Energy Affordability Network (LEAN) has a meeting conflict and may need to delay a detailed presentation on Income-Eligible Services. Lyne said that the C&I Management Committee, which holds monthly meetings to discuss C&I program strategy, wants to present lessons-learned from C&I electrification during the April EEAC Meeting. Lyne anticipated that the presentation and Council discussion would require at least 30 minutes.

McCarey said that updates on Income-Eligible Services should be provided throughout the year and asked what updates LEAN would be able to provide in April. McCarey also said that deep energy retrofits should be included in the updates on C&I electrification.

Bodemer agreed that Income-Eligible Services is a priority, so LEAN should provide a brief update on topics of interest. Bodemer said that this would allow time for updates on both Income Eligible Services and C&I electrification. McCarey replied that the C&I updates would include the Small Business program, C&I electrification, and deep energy retrofits. McCarey suggested that updates on Greater Lawrence and Merrimack Valley could be covered in May to enable more discussion time in April, in addition to a vote on the EEAC Consultant Workplan for 2023.

McCarey stated that the April EEAC Meeting would need to be held in-person if the Open Meeting Law exemption is not extended.

Johnson agreed that the April EEAC Meeting should include as much discussion as possible and asked if the C-Team would present on the Small Business program. McCarey responded that the PAs would focus on recent program performance and strategies to support greater adoption of non-lighting measures, while the C-Team would present forward-looking recommendations. Johnson hoped that the PAs and C-Team would share data to supplement the presentations. Johnson suggested that the PAs assess the degree to which small-business customers are interested in non-lighting measures since many customers have only been made aware of lighting offerings. McCarey said that the 2022 Q4 KPIs and 2022 Equity Targets include metrics for small businesses.

Abbe said that a recent study which quantified the non-energy impacts (NEIs) of Residential gas-to-electric fuel switching for cooking equipment produced interesting results. Abbe commented that the study effectively quantified the monetary benefits of reducing pollution, for use in cost-effectiveness screening. Abbe hypothesized that this methodology could be applied beyond gas-to-electric fuel-switching for cooking equipment and recommended that additional NEI studies be conducted. McCarey said that other studies have been conducted to quantify NEIs, many of which are applied to Income-Eligible measures. Menges said that NEIs and the Social Cost of Carbon, which will be updated in the next Avoided Energy Supply Component (AESC) Study will support cost-effectiveness screening. Menges said that the PAs have been allowed bandwidth to evaluate more societal NEIs, which aligns with Abbe's recommendation. McCarey said that the PAs and C-Team will discuss important evaluation studies for the 2025-2027 Three-Year Plan. Abbe said that it was unclear whether NEIs for pollution reduction were currently included in the Plan's Benefit-Cost Ratio Models and suggested that the PAs quantify all applicable NEIs to improve the cost-effectiveness of electrification projects. McCarey said the C-Team and PAs would provide a future briefing on the AESC Study.

Johnson commented that he had a profound experience using Chat GPT, a chat bot driven by artificial intelligence, to conduct research. Johnson said that Chat GPT quickly found an answer after he spent two weeks conducting research and said that artificial intelligence could support Council work.

Jacobson confirmed that LEAN could provide specific updates on Income-Eligible Services during the April 12<sup>th</sup> EEAC Meeting.

## **7. Adjournment**

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