



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Friday, May 5, 2023
Virtual Meeting: Zoom

Executive Committee Members Present: Greg Abbe, Jo Ann Bodemer, Kyle Murray (for Amy Boyd), Emmett Lyne, Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony

Executive Committee Members Absent: Dennis Villanueva

Other Attendees: Eric Belliveau, Adrian Caesar, Gretchen Calcagni, Rachel Evans, Paul Johnson, Elliott Jacobson, Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Ina Dasso, Margie Lynch, Sam Nigro, Chris McClellan, Angela Kent, Benjamin Silver, Steve Menges, Joseph Dorfler, Brandy Chambers, Liz Berube

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Mahony, as Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

2. Executive Committee Updates and Business

Commissioner Mahony stated that there were no Executive Committee updates.

3. EEAC Management

Data Review Process

Commissioner Mahony stated that the Department of Public Utilities issued an order on April 6th regarding EEAC data requests to the program administrators (PAs), which placed limitations on the process for data requests established by Council and PAs in 2021. Commissioner Mahony said that the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) filed a motion for clarification in order to understand requirements for data requests and EEAC responsibilities in development of the 2025-2027 Plan. Commissioner Mahony added that the Office of the Attorney General filed a letter in support of the DOER motion for clarification.

Dorfler asked if a procedural schedule for the DPU Order was released. Commissioner Mahony replied that the schedule was not yet available.

EEAC Ground Rules

Commissioner Mahony reviewed the EEAC Ground Rules and meeting procedures.

Johnson said that Senator Barrett filed a bill which would establish a clean heating initiative in the Commonwealth and reorganize the energy-efficiency program known as Mass Save. Johnson asked if DOER had any updates since the bill would have significant impacts on the 2025-2027 Plan. Commissioner Mahony replied that there were several bills proposed in the legislative session which DOER would review in detail. Commissioner Mahony anticipated that building decarbonization through Mass Save would be a topic of interest during the legislative session. Murray noted that the proposed bill would establish an oversight board for Mass Save.

4. EEAC Planning

Updated Timeline for Development of Three-Year Plans

Commissioner Mahony listed key dates within the timeline for the 2025-2027 Plan including the establishment of greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals on March 1, 2024 and release of the Draft Plan by March 31, 2024. Commissioner Mahony said that the accelerated timeline will require that all deliverables and workshops for the Three-Year Plan be completed sooner than in the past.

Jacobson suggested that the Low-income Energy Affordability Network (LEAN) should be a member of the Executive Committee and asked that the EEAC decide before development of the 2025-2027 Plan. Commissioner Mahony said that DOER can discuss the matter with LEAN.

Workshop Facilitator Procurement

Dasso described the timeline for the workshops on development of the 2025-2027 Plan, in addition to the procurement schedule for a workshop facilitator. Dasso also listed potential topics for the Three-Year Plan Workshops.

Dorfler asked if the workshops would be held in person. Dasso replied that any in-person workshops would allow for remote participation. Dorfler asked if electrification would be covered within each sector-specific workshop. Dasso said that DOER is developing a list of more detailed topics. Dorfler asked if the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) would discuss workforce development since it receives \$12 million annually from the Mass Save budget. Commissioner Mahony confirmed that MassCEC would participate in the appropriate workshops.

Bodemer asked if the Executive Committee would support the workshop facilitator procurement and whether the scope of the workshops is to solicit community feedback or foster dialogue between the Council and PAs on desired content for the Three-Year Plan. Bodemer suggested that one workshop focus on community-based topics, such as the Community First Partnerships, to encourage public participation and hear from Community First Partners. Dasso said that the

Executive Committee will help select a workshop facilitator and Commissioner Mahony requested comments on the draft procurement documents by May 10.

Jacobson proposed that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) present on their workforce development efforts funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Johnson requested that briefing documents be provided one week prior to the Workshops, as was the case during 2022-2024 Plan development.

Lynch indicated that the EEAC Consultant (C-Team) planned a sector-specific approach to electrification since each customer segment requires different strategies. Lynch said that the workshops should enable the Council to conduct strategic discussion with the PAs and recommended that the Council discuss workforce development with MassCEC and DHCD separately.

Belliveau highlighted the listening sessions for public comment as opportunities to garner public feedback and said that the workshops are Council-focused. Commissioner Mahony said that there are six planned workshops and additional workshops can be scheduled subject to timeline constraints.

Bodemer said that the listening sessions may be informed by the workshops and suggested that the Council host listening sessions in January and February. Commissioner Mahony added that it is important to let the public contemplate findings and discussion from the workshops.

Dorfler asked if the EEAC Resolution on the 2025-2027 Plan will be developed at a sooner date. Commissioner Mahony said the EEAC schedule for planning will address the accelerated timeline for Plan development.

5. May EEAC Meeting – Finalize Agenda

Commissioner Mahony stated that the May EEAC meeting agenda would include continued discussion on Commercial & Industrial (C&I) strategies presented in the April EEAC Meeting, review of moderate-income programs, and updates from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (Mass-CEC).

Abbe appreciated that the Council would be allotted additional discussion time on C&I strategy. Commissioner Mahony replied that time management during EEAC meetings is important to allow for Council discussion.

Bodemer seconded Abbe's comment and said that the Council should also have time to discuss moderate-income strategy and workforce development updates presented by Mass CEC.

Johnson concurred with Abbe and Bodemer and emphasized the importance of exploring disconcerting updates that were presented during the April EEAC Meeting. Johnson asked if all presenters from the April EEAC Meeting would be able to answer questions during the May

EEAC Meeting. Lyne confirmed that the appropriate staff will attend and encouraged Councilors to share questions in advance.

Commissioner Mahony stated that many Councilors have requested a break during EEAC meetings. Johnson said that the timer for public comment was effective for time management. Commissioner Mahony said that the three-minute limit for comments also applies to Councilors, so everyone should be respectful of time while sharing their perspectives and asking questions.

6. June EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda

Commissioner Mahony announced that the June EEAC meeting agenda would include review of the 2023 First Quarter Report, C&I New Construction and Deep Energy Retrofit programs, and a lunch-and-learn on the process for developing Three-Year Plans.

Abbe said that the lunch-and-learn should clarify that the timeline for development of the 2025-2027 Plan is accelerated and lay out the associated EEAC planning schedule.

Bodemer recommended that both the C-Team and PAs present their assessment of the process for the 2025-2027 Plan. Bodemer said that the PAs, Council, and C-Team collaborate and new Councilors will benefit from orientation on Three-Year Planning.

Belliveau suggested that during the lunch-and-learn the Council provide input on briefing materials and Workshop topics that will help fulfill Council priorities. Belliveau said that the C-Team planned to cover the accelerated timeline for Plan development, goals for greenhouse-gas-emissions reductions established by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and other planning considerations. Belliveau said that the Council should provide feedback on the 2025-2027 Plan as soon as possible due to the timeline.

Lyne said that the PAs are glad to collaborate and have shared a detailed calendar for the 2025-2027 Plan with the C-Team.

Johnson requested an update on funding from the Inflation Reduction Act. Commissioner Mahony responded that DOER is exploring all available funding to support energy-efficiency projects. Commissioner Mahony said that customers can directly access other funds, which will impact both current offerings and measures included in 2025-2027 Plan. Johnson asked how non-ratepayer funds will complement program funds without confusing customers. Commissioner Mahony said that there are statewide efforts supported by MassCEC to lay out funding opportunities for customers.

7. Adjournment

Commissioner Mahony, as Chair, adjourned the meeting at 2:51 PM.

Meeting Materials

- Official Meeting Notice

- Meeting Agenda
- 2023 Workshop Facilitator Procurement Overview