



## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 1, 2023**  
Virtual Meeting: Zoom

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**Executive Committee Members Present:** Greg Abbe, Commissioner Mahony, Emmett Lyne, Kyle Murray, William Rose, Dennis Villanueva

**Executive Committee Members Absent:** (None)

**Other Attendees:** Adrian Caesar, Ina Dasso, Jo Ann Bodemer, Gretchen Calcagni, Elliott Jacobson, Paul Johnson, Alyssa Vargas, Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Alec Conte, Bernetta Morton, David Lyons, Kate Peters, Rachel Evans, Steve Menges, Benjamin Silverman, Sam Nigro, David Lyons, Jerrold Oppenheim

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

Bodemer, acting on behalf of the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

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

Bodemer announced that the Council may need to vote to appoint members to the Executive Committee given potential changes in EEAC membership. Bodemer said that the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) received statements of interest for most of the positions held by Councilors who will require reappointment at the end of 2023, but some current Councilors will need to submit statements of interest if they want to retain their seats.

Jacobson asked if he needed to submit a statement of interest in order to remain on the Council. Evans confirmed that Jacobson must submit a statement of interest and the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) will appoint Councilors based on EEAC recommendations.

Villanueva joined the virtual meeting at 10:09 AM.

Bodemer suggested that the Executive Committee revisit the process for conducting EEAC meetings in 2024. Bodemer said that EEAC meetings should have a collaborative, solutions-based structure and tone, and while the program administrators (PAs) must present updates on

program planning and implementation, the Council is an advisory body that can create a more productive relationship with the PAs if it facilitates solutions-based dialogue.

Lyne agreed with Bodemer and said that the PAs would consider how to improve the structure of EEAC meetings.

Abbe asked Bodemer to share an example of changes that would enable more solutions-based conversations. Bodemer indicated that the PAs and EEAC Consultants will conduct a detailed discussion on evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V) in February. Currently, there is tension between current EM&V policy and program goals, so the Council may invite subject-matter experts beyond the PAs and EEAC Consultants to propose additional solutions to such challenges.

Johnson asked Bodemer to explain the tensions between EM&V policy and program goals, and said that Council meetings should include the same levels of discussion as the EEAC Workshops on the 2025-2027 Plan, which were packed with dialogue. Johnson added that the Council should leverage previous work done with Jonathan Raab to review potential process improvements. Bodemer replied that the current EM&V framework is predicated on a traditional approach to energy efficiency, but requirements and goals for building-sector decarbonization can conflict with energy efficiency. Johnson suggested that the Council review potential process improvements during the December EEAC meeting. Bodemer said that the Executive Committee should discuss EEAC meeting formats then make recommendations to the full Council.

Bodemer noted that the Executive Committee Charter calls for the Executive Committee to enhance efficiency in Council activities, but review of the EEAC process does not necessitate that the Council implement any changes.

### **3. November EEAC Meeting – Finalize Agenda**

Bodemer stated that the November EEAC Meeting agenda would include updates on 2022-2204 mid-term modifications (MTMs), active-demand management, clean-energy efforts led by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center, and feedback on the EEAC Workshops on the 2025-2027 Plan.

### **4. December EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda**

Bodemer announced that the December EEAC Meeting agenda would include votes on 2022-2024 MTMs and EEAC recommendations for the 2025-2027 Plan, review of the third-quarter Mass Save data report, and discussion of draft EEAC priorities for 2024.

Lyne stated that National Grid, Eversource, and Unitil would file MTMs before the November EEAC meeting and anticipated that the PAs would provide brief presentations to inform Council votes on each MTM in December.

Bodemer said that the DOER administered a survey to identify key priorities for 2023 and asked if DOER should repeat this process to support development of 2024 EEAC priorities.

Abbe said that review of the 2023 priorities would be helpful, including an update on progress toward fulfilling the 2023 priorities. Abbe said that Councilors may want to reemphasize key priorities if sufficient progress has not been achieved, and a survey is a great tool to determine top priorities. Bodemer responded that the EEAC Consultants can review the 2023 priorities to inform development of 2024 priorities.

Commissioner Mahony recommended that the Council connect its priorities to development of the 2025-2027 Plan and the EEAC Resolution on the 2025-2027 Plan, given statutory changes to the process for developing three-year plans.

Jacobson said that review of 2023 priorities and development 2024 priorities needs to consider both quantitative and qualitative information.

Lyne noted that the PAs use the Council priorities as a reference point for the quarterly reports. At the start of each quarterly report, the PAs provide updates on the priorities with both quantitative and qualitative observations. Lyne said the PAs are exploring how to effectively present and disseminate information through the quarterly reports since the PAs take the Council priorities very seriously.

Murray agreed with Commissioner Mahony that the 2024 priorities should consider recent statutory changes. For example, the statute prohibits the continuation of incentives for fossil-fuel equipment, but income-eligible customers are allowed to use fossil-fuel systems for backup heating. Murray said that this exception to the rules barring fossil-fuel equipment will account for a significant use of fossil fuels.

Johnson commented that the PAs have been doing a good job with the quarterly reports and that they provide useful updates on the Council priorities.

Evans said that the 2024 priorities and EEAC meeting schedule will consider the DPU Order on the 2022-2024 Plan and new requirements for filing three-year plans. Bodemer noted that 2024 is unique in that it marks the final year of the current term and the transition into the 2025-2027 term.

Dasso listed potential topics for EEAC meetings in early 2024 including review of market potential studies, a vote on 2024 EEAC priorities, a deep dive on EM&V, and review of goals for greenhouse-gas-emissions reductions. Bodemer said the PAs will file the first draft of the 2025-2027 Plan at the end of April and the Council will file a final resolution on the Plan in July. Bodemer reiterated that the Council will have a condensed timeline to review the 2025-2027 Plan.

Bodemer suggested that the Executive Committee reduce its meetings to one hour instead of 90 minutes.

Johnson requested that the PAs provide breakdowns of home-energy assessments and weatherization projects completed by home-performance contractors (HPCs) and independent-

insulation contractors (IICs) in the monthly reports to the EEAC. Bodemer highlighted the increasing need for IICs to partner with other types of contractors such that they may offer comprehensive, bundled services to customers. Johnson said that the PAs have not allocated enough weatherization jobs to IICs. Lyne clarified that the breakdown of HPC and IIC projects and assessments is included in the October EEAC meeting materials.

## **5. Adjournment**

Bodemer, acting on behalf of the Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:35 AM.

### **Meeting Materials**

- Official Meeting Notice
- Agenda