



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 6, 2024
Virtual Meeting: Zoom

Executive Committee Members Present: Greg Abbe, Commissioner Mahony, Emmett Lyne, Kyle Murray, Donald Boeke (for William Rose)

Executive Committee Members Absent: (None)

Other Attendees: JoAnn Bodemer, Ina Dasso, Gretchen Calcagni, Alyssa Vargas, Kate Peters, Rachel Evans, Brian Beote, Joe Dorfler, Elliot Jacobson, Kaetlyn Mazura, Steve Menges, Paul Johnson, Maggie Downey, Jerry Oppenheim, Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Sarah Yates

1. Call to Order

Bodemer, acting on behalf of the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

Virtual Meeting Procedure

Bodemer reviewed the virtual EEAC meeting procedure:

1. The Council meeting would be recorded.
2. All attendees except for Councilors and presenters would remain muted for the duration of the meeting.
3. Councilors would hold comments until the end of presentations, but Councilors and other participants should speak instead of using any chat function.
4. Councilors who disconnect from meetings need to announce when they rejoin.
5. All Council votes would be taken by roll call.

2. Executive Committee Updates and Business

Bodemer described a proposed change to the EEAC meeting format that will improve efficiencies by allowing the Council to approve meeting minutes without a roll-call vote. Bodemer said that the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) will present meeting minutes and issue corrections prior to approval by the EEAC Chair.

Bodemer indicated that Executive Committee elections will be held during the March EEAC meeting.

Commissioner Mahony joined the meeting at 10:07am.

3. March EEAC Meeting – Finalize Agenda

Bodemer presented the proposed agenda for the March EEAC meeting, which includes review of the 2025-2027 Plan greenhouse-gas (GHG) Goal Letter (from the Secretary of Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs), the Fourth Quarter (Q4) 2023 results, and an overview of cost-effectiveness and rate/bill-impact calculations. Bodemer said that the Council will schedule public comments for the end of the March EEAC meeting to ensure time for all agenda items. Bodemer added that the Council will host public-listening sessions on the 2025-2027 Plan in April, May, and June.

Bodemer reviewed proposed changes to the EEAC Equity Working Group (EWG) Charter, allowed by the recent amendment to the Bylaws. The EWG will now be a standing committee of the EEAC rather than have a two-year limit.

Evans noted that the Council revised its Bylaws about two years ago and most of the latest changes align the document with recent statutory changes. Previously, Councilors were able to designate anyone to represent them at EEAC meetings, but the Department of Public Utilities has stated that it will only allow voting members to ask other voting members to vote on their behalf. Evans explained that Councilors can still appoint designees to represent them in discussions, but only voting Councilors may vote as their proxy.

Bodemer stated that the updated EWG Charter and Bylaws reflect that the group is a standing subcommittee of the EEAC and broadens the scope of membership for the non-Councilor members of the EWG.

Commissioner Mahony asked for clarification about the ability of non-Council members to vote at the EWG and wanted to ensure that Charlie Harak could continue participating in the group. Evans responded that the EWG is an advisory group to the Council and does not vote, whereas the Council is authorized to vote and make decisions.

Bodemer said that the impetus for broadening the membership of the EWG was to ensure advocates for underrepresented and disadvantaged populations could participate.

4. April EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda

Bodemer announced that the April EEAC meeting will focus on presentations on the April Draft 2025-2027 Plan. Bodemer said that the Council must finalize its recommendations for the 2025-2027 Plan before July 1, after which the PAs will have 45 days to respond to recommendations. In addition, if the Council approves the modified EWG Charter at the March meeting, then the Council will elect new members of the EWG during the April EEAC meeting.

Johnson asked if the Council should have continued discussion on evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V) topics from the February EEAC meeting. Bodemer responded that the PAs and EEAC Consultants may summarize study results once finalized, but the Council will not have further discussion until the final study results become available.

Abbe asked how the 2025-2027 GHG goal compares to the goal for the 2022-2024 Plan. Bodemer responded that the current goal is 845,000 metric tons and the Letter for the 2025-2027 Plan is framed in terms of two objectives: 1 million metric tons of GHG-emission reductions and a \$5-billion budget. The Letter also requests that the PAs model how much it would cost to achieve a reduction of 2.2 million metric tons of GHG, which is consistent with the objectives of the Clean Energy and Climate Plan.

Commissioner Mahoney added that the 1 million metric tons number was calibrated to represent a realistic and achievable number and takes into consideration the budget and equity impacts.

Abbe asked that the PAs send a reminder when they release the April Draft 2025-2027 Plan. Lyne replied that the PAs will share the Plan with each Councilor on April 1, but the PAs are still digesting the 2025-2027 GHG goal and Secretary's Letter. Evans reminded Councilors that email communications must not deliberate substantive matters and should be compliant with Open Meeting Law.

Bodemer noted that Steve Menges had shared a potential topic as a future agenda item and that DOER is in the process of planning agendas for the remaining 2024 EEAC meetings.

Lyne proposed that Synapse, the organization that conducted the Avoided Energy Supply Component Study, present their results at a 2024 EEAC meeting. Lyne noted that the Secretary's GHG Letter recommended that the PAs use a 1.5% discount rate for the social cost of carbon.

Murrey recommended that the Council discuss the Clean Heat Standard, which could impact budgets and achievable reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions. Bodemer responded that she is unsure how the Clean Heat Standard would impact the 2022-2024 Plan but agreed that the Council should discuss it later in the year.

Beote thanked Commissioner Mahony for her recent testimony before the Massachusetts Legislature.

5. Adjournment

Bodemer, acting on behalf of the Chair, adjourned the meeting at 10:33 AM.

Meeting Materials

- Official Meeting Notice
- Meeting Link
- Agenda
- EEAC Equity Working Group Charter (Tracked Changes)

- EEAC Bylaws (Tracked Changes)
- March 1 Mass Save Greenhouse Gas Goals (GHG Letter)