EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 5, 2025
Virtual Meeting: Zoom

Executive Committee Members Present: Jo Ann Bodemer (for Commissioner Elizabeth Mahony), Kyle Murray, Emmett Lyne, Brian Beote, Mary Gardner (for William Rose), Greg Abbe

Executive Committee Members Absent: (None)

Other Attendees: Jordan Galluzzo, Ina Dasso, Jerrold Oppenheim, Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Gretchen Calcagni, Griff Keating, Hayley Kallfelz, Kyle Cabral, Rachel Evans, Rohan Ganesan, Steve Menges

1. Call to Order

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

Virtual Meeting Procedure
Bodemer reviewed the virtual EEAC meeting procedure:

1. The Council meeting would be recorded, for administrative purposes only.
2. All attendees except for Councilors and presenters would remain muted for the duration of the meeting.
3. Councilors should 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 reminded the Executive Committee that the state legislature had not yet extended the exemption to the Open Meetings Law, which allows for hybrid and virtual open meetings. Bodemer said that if the legislature does not extend the exemption, the EEAC and its subcommittees must resume in-person meetings, beginning with the April Executive Committee

Meeting. Bodemer said that the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) has reserved space for each meeting if this is the case. Evans added that DOER will post official meeting notice one week prior to any in-person meetings to accommodate translation services if needed.

Murray said that Governor Healey filed a bill that included extending the exemption to the Open Meetings Law. Bodemer asked when Governor Healey filed the bill. Eidelman replied that Governor Healey filed the bill last Friday as part of the Municipal Empowerment Act. Bodemer expressed optimism about the extension of the exemption to the Open Meetings Law given the Governor's support.

3. February EEAC Meeting – Finalize Agenda

Bodemer announced that the February EEAC Meeting will include an EEAC Councilor Subject Matter Expert (SME) segment from Murray, EEAC Consultant Team Introductions, a Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Sector Update from the Program Administrators (PAs), a presentation from DOER on Air Source Heat Pump Refrigerants, a presentation on Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification (EM&V) Studies, and a presentation on the Massachusetts Building Decarbonization Clearinghouse.

Murray asked for clarification on the length of his Councilor SME segment. Bodemer replied that the agenda allocated ten minutes for Murray's presentation and five minutes for Council discussion. Murray said that he planned to present how the EEAC's work, the Acadia Center, and other proceedings relate to decarbonization. Bodemer said that Murray should also describe his areas of interest and expertise.

Bodemer asked if the PAs' presentation on the C&I Sector would be a joint presentation with the EEAC Consultants. Lyne said that the PAs will present separately from the EEAC Consultant and focus on new C&I initiatives if the DPU approves the 2025-2027 Plan, how the PAs are preparing to roll out the new initiatives, progress on 2024 initiatives, and customer success stories that highlight themes in the C&I Sector. Lyne said that there may be some adjustments to the presentation based on feedback from the EEAC Consultants at the upcoming C&I Management Committee Meeting.

Abbe said that it would be useful for Councilors to understand the program impacts of the updated refrigerant regulations such as changes in the marketplace, the degree to which contractors have been trained to handle more flammable refrigerants, the availability of equipment, and any cost implications. Bodemer suggested that Abbe ask those questions after the C&I presentation. Lyne asked Abbe to contact him with specific questions such that the PAs can prepare answers in advance. Abbe said that designers have contacted housing authorities with concerns about equipment availability and cost differences. Abbe said that he would like to understand all of the potential ripple effects of transitioning to more flammable refrigerants. Lyne said he would ask the PAs to assess how the regulation changes are manifesting in the field.

Keating said that Ralph Prahl would only be present for the first half of the meeting and Bodemer replied that Prahl's EM&V Presentation will take place during the first half of the meeting to accommodate his availability.

Beote asked if the Massachusetts Building Decarbonization Clearinghouse presentation would include a synopsis of the feedback from public listening sessions. Bodemer said that the presentation will include overviews of the high-level process, feedback from the public, and stakeholder input.

4. March EEAC Meeting – Draft Agenda

Bodemer announced that the March EEAC Meeting will include a presentation on Cost-Effectiveness, a presentation on the 2024 Mass Save Q4 Performance Report, a discussion of the DPU Order on the 2025-2027 Plan, and a Councilor Spotlight segment from Beote.

Bodemer asked the Executive Committee for suggestions on what content the EEAC Consultants should include in the Cost-Effectiveness presentation. Lyne suggested that Keating present the basics of cost-effectiveness to refresh Councilors' memories and Beote agreed. Beote added that the presentation should touch on the updated Social Cost of Carbon and additional non-energy impacts (NEIs) that are ascribed to certain measures. Bodemer suggested that the presentation include any pain points in cost-effectiveness that might necessitate revisions to barrier-mitigation policy. Menges also suggested that the presentation explain the different layers of cost-effectiveness; there are measures that are marginally cost-effective but important for achieving decarbonization goals. Bodemer suggested that the presentation explain the role of cost-effectiveness at the initiative, program, and measure levels, and at which point there are reviews in each level. Bodemer said that it is important to maintain transparency with the Council about the vulnerabilities in cost-effectiveness to ensure that they are not blindsided if issues arise in the future. Menges said that scale plays a significant role in cost-effectiveness as well.

Lyne said that the DPU Order presentation will be a joint presentation with the C-Team, DOER, and the PAs. Lyne said that the PAs will focus on highlighting any compliance issues.

Menges asked if the PAs are expected to deliver the Q4 Report in February, then give a presentation in March. Bodemer confirmed this was the case.

Beote asked if he was still scheduled to do a Councilor Spotlight in March. Dasso confirmed and said that she would share questions in advance so Beote could prepare.

Murray said that DOER should mention their request for the DPU to investigate seasonal-heat-pump rates at the February EEAC Meeting. Bodemer asked if Murray would prefer a brief update at the February EEAC Meeting or an extensive presentation from a DOER policy staff member at the March EEAC Meeting. Murray said that a detailed presentation in March would be helpful. Bodemer said that this would be a good opportunity to educate Councilors on DOER's work in rate design and electrification issues. Murray agreed and suggested adding a section on the Short-Term Rate Reform Docket.

5. Adjournment

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

Meeting Materials

- Official Meeting Notice
- Meeting Link
- Agenda